

# Development of a Plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space in Benton County **Public Participation & Feedback Form**

**Please identify the group that most closely represents your primary purpose for responding to this survey –**

<u>  </u> Elected Official	<u>31</u> Citizen
<u>  3</u> Community or Business Leader	<u>  4</u> Youth (< 18 yrs)
<u>  </u> Environmental Organization	<u>  3</u> Senior (>65 yrs)
<u>  3</u> Civic Organization	<u>  </u> Other (please specify) _____

**Do you believe the county park system should be improved or expanded?**

 28 Yes   2 No

### ***Why or why not?***

1. Use the Kandiyohi County park system often – would like to see the same in Benton County.
2. We could use more park and recreational areas with better maintenance. (+5)
3. We need places where you can do more than have a picnic.
4. Area is growing, not enough parks or protected areas. (+2)
5. This needs to be done before the area becomes to populated.
6. More children’s safe facilities, equipment, and skating rink separate from school activities for those who just want to enjoy a day of recreation. Recycled rubber is a good protection for little ones.
7. Quality of life in this day of “Sprawl”
8. There should be more natural area parks with prairie, woods, etc. that represent pre-settlement vegetation.
9. Would like to see more hiking/biking trails linking cities, towns, historical sites and scenic natural resources. (+5)
10. Horse trails
11. Would like to see more interconnected hiking/walking/biking trails linking cities, towns, and historical and scenic natural resources.
12. We need more parks for our youth
13. The County has spent too much money foolishly, we need to elect more intelligent commissioners - priorities should be youth and community not spending money
14. Improved not expanded until all parks are full of capacity (+1)
15. Benton County should look to Stearns County as an excellent example of a County Park system that benefits many people in the tri-county area. I use their County parks all the time because their parks appeal to my desire to “be with/experience nature”. Benton County parks seem to be primarily cleared/mowed land that seems to have little purpose except to employ a full-time person.
16. Provide a canoe access and hiking trails at the Graves Farm Park site.
17. Consider lighting the trails at the Sauk Rapids/Mayhew Creek Park site for evening hiking and skiing.

**How often do you currently use Benton County parks/facilities?**

- 4 Often (16 or more times per year)                      9 Occasionally (6-15 times per year)  
15 Seldom (1 – 5 times per year)                      4 Never

**Please place a check next to each county park that you have visited. If you have any comments, or suggestions for improvements to these parks, please indicate.**

*COUNTY PARK*

*COMMENTS:*

*Benton Beach*

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>24</u> Benton Beach  | 1. Visited with Benton County Economic Development                         |
| <u>18</u> Mayhew Lake   | 2. Bike trails; shoulders on some  |
| <u>2</u> RoseAnna Beach | 3. The beach is terrible   |
| <u>6</u> St. Regis      | 4. Excellent parks, excellent staff on hand to help out                    |
|                         | 5. Need trails and landscaping, etc.                                       |
|                         | 6. Can be a nice place with more improvements                              |
|                         | 7. Benton beach has a lot of dog droppings                                 |
|                         | 8. Swim about 2 times/summer   |
|                         | 9. Why mow such a large area? Are people really using all that field area. |

*Mayhew Lake*

1. Needs a fishing pier
2. Canoe practice with kids – could there be a beach on this lake?
3. Roads for biking
4. Good fishing and picnic area
5. Shoreline protection (from erosion) for lake parks with native vegetation would be good to do on park property, not just private property.

*RoseAnna Beach*

1. Never heard of RoseAnna Beach, is it a swimming area (+1)
2. Old railway that goes through Foley

*St. Regis*

1. Never head of St. Regis
2. Unaware of the parks – do not know what they have to offer
3. For bike trail, similar to Wobegon Trail
4. Dirt bike trails or skateboard park
5. This park’s natural features were destroyed when all the trees were cleared (5 or so years ago) apparently to make more parking space for ice fishing. The rest of the year it seems so vacant with no purpose.

Mowed/cleared to the shore creating erosion problems. If it is just going to be a mowed piece of land with no proper parking (it seems that all the sand from the sand bags of 2001 flood were dumped at the entrance) is difficult and the sand makes it difficult to even enter on a bike. Since the natural area that it once was- was clear cut and now mowed to the shoreline it would be nice to at least have a simple playground for children to play on. I am not an advocate of mowed parks that provide little shade and void of much habitat for wildlife. The St. Regis park is a thorn in my side since the only time it seems to be actively used is during the ice fishing season and it seems as if it was “groomed” just for that. It seems a shame that it lacks features to make it usable the other nine months of the year. Or for that matter, features to make it usable to non-ice fisherman.

**Place a check next to each park component/feature that you would use or that you believe the county park system should provide. Then circle your top three priorities.**

<u>18</u> picnic sites	<u>23</u> bicycle trails	<u>14</u> cross-country ski trails
<u>13</u> boat launch areas	<u>10</u> equestrian trails	<u>12</u> environmental education
<u>9</u> canoe access	<u>24</u> hiking/walking trails	<u>11</u> historic interpretation

16 swimming  
15 fishing piers

21 nature observation  
13 camping

other: Archery Range  
Skateboard park  
Golf Course – for revenue  
Youth Activities

**Would you use the county park system more often if additional recreational features were provided?** 31 Yes 3 No

*COMMENT:*

1. Especially if there were more trails
2. Fishing piers on the north end of Little Rock lake, so that you don't have so many people dangerously fishing off the bridge.

**In your opinion, what is the MOST IMPORTANT issue the county park system should address?**

29 protection/preservation of the county's natural resources and unique features  
9 increased recreational opportunities

*COMMENTS:*

1. Protection with appropriate recreation
2. Roads need blacktopped shoulder
3. Both issues need to be considered
4. A good balance of the two would be nice
5. Because of development growth the window of opportunity for protection/preservation is so limited.

**Please review the county map on the back of this page.** Consider identifying your top three choices to locate new parks, trails or protection of open space.

*COMMENTS:*

1. Huge tree on east side of Mayhew Creek where it crosses County 8 – this is County property but homeowners are using as part of lawns
2. Back 9 of the Fairways
3. Granite Ledge area
4. Anywhere, add youth education programs