

# Ortonville Park Plan Workgroup

July 19, 2016 – 4:30 p.m. at the Ortonville Public Library's Media Center

The assignment from the May meeting was to bring three to five recommendations for the Ortonville Parks. The recommendations were to be based on the information/input that had been provided through the Park Survey. The recommendations are listed below in the order that they were discussed (without including duplicate project recommendations) with a summary statement following.

1. The first presenter started with an overview of how the fish cleaning station came to be in the Parks. There was a group that had interest in making this a priority, they provided a cash donation of \$500 and other in-kind contributions. The Fish Cleaning Station eventually became the City's responsibility. This was a preface to the recommendation of a Dog Park which has been in the planning and request stages for the past few years with various fund raising efforts over this time to assist with the creation of a Dog Park. There are currently funds available and volunteers with equipment and expertise to assist. **Consensus of the group was that although this was not identified as a top priority in the Park Survey, it was an activity of interest listed and the workgroup recommends support of this project.**
2. The next recommendation was also based on the fish cleaning station process. An amphitheater in Central Park. The presenter noted the Friday night music events that had been held in this Park across from Big Stone Therapies; the funds that have been raised for the restoration efforts in this park; and that the people interested have been working for years to raise money and awareness for this Park. **There was interest from the workgroup to see this Park reviewed further for uses and opportunities.**
3. Signage. A large digital (Daktronics) sign at the Highway 75/12 intersection along with another electronic sign near the Holiday Gas Station intersection. The signage should be designed with a uniform look which would follow through for all of the future signage in Ortonville (the base of the sign of similar design and materials). **Consensus was that many groups (County Connect, Ortonville EDA, etc.) have also identified this as a significant need in Ortonville and would recommend that this be moved forward for cost and design review.**
4. The next presenter noted that the survey data shows a strong walking and jogging interest. They recommended markings and/or route signs be established for walking/jogging/biking routes and ask the public for assistance in establishing the routes which could be accessed through a website. The group discussed the Neilson Park paths for their connectivity and the need for maintenance. **After discussion on possible routes and connections, consensus was that this should be a top priority and was an excellent way to bring short-term successes and engage the community in creating the routes.**
5. The next presenter recommended signs throughout the parks that could be utilized for identification markers, scavenger hunts and other activities that could also utilize changeable QR Coding to change up the activities. Also noting the possibility of more Pokeman Go opportunities in the Parks.
6. Disc Golf in Central Park. Consensus was that this is a relatively inexpensive activity, fits with the survey by expanding park use for a family friendly activity and would easily fit within the Doable List.
7. Little free libraries – kiosks in the parks. This recommendation fits with the survey by expanding park use with a family friendly activity and they would also easily fit within the Doable List. There may be local organizations such as Early Childhood that would have funds to assist.
8. The next page lists recommendations (prefaced with survey reference support data) from the next presenter.

# Reviewing the Park Survey (Residents & Non Version)

Assignment: Park recommendations based on information provided by the Survey

## Supporting Data taken from the Survey (for recommendations listed below)

Most Used Park	Occasionally	Regularly
Lakeside Park	74%	33%
Bike Path	47%	22%
Golf Course	30%	22%
Neilson Park	52%	10%
Pool	40%	18%

**Top 5 Rated Parks**  
as to the importance to the community

1. Lakeside Park
2. Pool
3. Bike Path
4. Golf Course
5. Northside Ballfields

What Do in Park
Walk/Jog
Playgrounds
Tied: Pic nic/relax & Special events

Activities:	Some Need	Strong Need	Total:
Outdoor Basketball Court	51%	28%	79%
Playgrounds	28%	50%	78%
Canoe & Kayak Rental	41%	37%	78%
Disc Golf	58%	15%	73%
Volleyball Court	53%	12%	65%

**Q15.** Do you think recreational opportunities should be expanded for any of the following groups in Ortonville?

**Highest ranked answer at 66.52%: Families**

**Projects:** (Recommend per last meeting’s assignment basing recommendations on the input received on the Survey)

1. Lakeside Park, Playground – add a camo type covering over the playground (or part of the playground) to make this a more comfortable place for young families to gather.
  2. Lakeside Park, Outdoor Basketball Court – near the playground area & restrooms – activity for the older kids.
  3. Disc Golf – across from Lakeside Park in old Otter Tail property
  4. Lakeside Park/foot of the lake area, sand Volleyball
  5. Canoe & Kayak Rental – encourage an organization or private to open a rental near Lakeside Park
  6. Bike Trail – benches & resting areas along the Path (funding opportunity)
- Focus on making a statement at the foot of Big Stone Lake in Ortonville (our County consistently names this Lake as the number one amenity – we could use it as our flag piece in Ortonville)
  - Bring together as many of the items noted as high needs from the survey as possible near the Lake – which provides more opportunity to bring different people together – or cross paths. – Grow our sense of Community.
  - Also, consolidating the various activities that the community has noted that they want near the Lake would provide for easier maintenance by the City.

Oakes provided park suggestions that had recently been shared with her. 1) A large installation of art that would provide the history of Big Stone County – possibly in a new building on the Museum grounds; and 2) to move the zero to five playground equipment from Lakeside Park to the School in order to provide playground equipment for all ages in one location.

The Ortonville swimming pool was discussed along with the new pools that are now in Madison and Appleton.

**In summary, the group's consensus was:**

Identify Lakeside Park area as a focus in the plan.

Items to include in the Doable List (Could be accomplished June 2016 through June 2017)

- Dog Park
- Sand Volleyball near the foot of Big Stone Lake
- Identifying and creating a walk/jog/bike routes' list
  - Reach out to the community for input on "favorite" routes – with an explanation as to why they like that route and also providing the length of the route.

Identify who will be facilitating the meetings: Vicki Oakes

The next meeting will be set based upon the availability of Brian Leaders of the National Park Service.