

Gladstone Parks & Recreation

Evaluation



Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide safe, efficient, quality recreational opportunities
and the best quality of life in our community.
We see ourselves achieving this by involving our citizens and maximizing our natural resources.
To never settle for past accomplishments, always striving for improvement.

Gladstone Park & Recreation Department
Administration
2010

Administrative Personnel

Nicole Sanderson- Director of Parks and Recreation, CPRP, CPSI, APO,
Jon Swenson- Assistant Director Parks & Recreation BS in Recreation Administration

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee-

The Recreation Board is diverse assembly of residents that have personal knowledge and deep roots in Gladstone. This group generates ideas and programs that serve Gladstone's entire population.

Dan Wydra, Chairperson
Russ Hall
Anne Pfothenhauer
Roger Humpula
Bob Bosk
Jim Tochterman
Matt Houle

History of Department

In 1984, the City of Gladstone hired a full-time Recreation Director thus establishing the Gladstone Parks & Recreation Department. Ordinance No. 486, adopted on October 2, 1994, repealed existing ordinances and created new sections that created a Parks and Recreation commission, established general rules for the City's parks, public lands and adopted special regulations for activities in the City's special use parks.

Upon review of the minutes of the 1994 Recreation Board, it was interesting to note that sixteen years ago the Recreation Board was discussing the same issues we are today. I have highlighted some interesting points.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GLADSTONE RECREATION BOARD

PRESENT: Hall, Pfothauer, Movalson, Lindberg, and Sjoquist

ABSENT: None

Introduction of Kathy Rosner: Kathy is a new arrival to our area. She has a degree from Illinois State University. She has been hired part time to help set up programming and organize a beautification program.

By general acclamation the Board has requested that meeting times be changed to the 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall -starting in May.

Basketball Program:

Discussed a proposal to institute a summer 2 on 2-basketball program. Motion by Movalson; supported by Lindberg to recommend trying the program this summer and to set a \$5/team registration fee to help offset equipment and supervision costs.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Seasonal Reports:

Reviewed annual operation reports from ski park and ice rink.

Beach Slide:

Motion by Lindberg; supported by Pfothauer to recommend the city include the purchase of a new water slide for the beach in the 94/95 F.Y. budget.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Summer User Fees:

Reviewed current user fee schedule regarding summer recreation activities. Recommended Joe Dehlin contact the YMCA to discuss facility use agreements.

Ball field Usage:

Dialogue has started between Gladstone, Escanaba, and Wells Township regarding ball diamond usage policies. An intergovernmental meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Wells Township.

Sports Park Project

Steve Robinson of U.P. Engineering was present to update the Board on the Sports Park project.

Motion by Pfothauer; supported by Sjoquist to adjourn meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In the last 20 years Gladstone has not changed drastically, populations have stayed flat, job opportunities are scarce, and Gladstone has been considered an economically depressed area by national standards. Sounds grim-- but it is not, because of what is important to us. We value family, sense of community, pride in our endeavors and our overall perception of belonging.

We as a city are experiencing new challenges in regards to state funding, post retirement compensation, employee cost and medical cost. These obstacles need to be resolved. While making decisions and finding solutions we must be cautious not to lose sight of our core values.

We know that wanting to live here and being able to, is not always possible. Attracting business to our area is a high priority and the benefits will be far reaching. Parks and Recreation play a role in attracting business and new homeowners; it also retains current occupants.

Attracting Investment (A nationwide study of the perceptions of the American Public)

- Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
- Corporate CEOs say that employee quality of life is the third most important factor in locating a new business.
- Small company owners say recreation, parks, and open space are the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business.
- Arizona's "outdoor lifestyle and recreation opportunities" was cited as the reason for the location or expansion of 70 firms in that state.
- In Salem, Oregon, land next to a greenbelt was found to be worth approximately \$1,200 per acre more than land just 1,000 feet away.
- In Oakland, California, a 3-mile greenbelt around a lake at the city's center added \$41 million to the surrounding area's property values.
- Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California, increases the value of nearby property from \$500 million to \$1 billion while generating \$5-\$10 million in annual property taxes.
- Across the U.S., access to parks and open spaces has become a measure of community wealth - a tool for attracting businesses and residents by guaranteeing quality of life and economic health.

Our lake frontage has provided us a guarantee that Gladstone could be a destination. The fishery, Campground, Sports Park and Marina all have the potential to expand our tourism. Our local events, city charm and the safety of Gladstone provide the tools that can promote tourism.

Boosting Tourism (A nationwide study of the perceptions of the American Public)

Open space boosts local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation.

- Across the U.S., parks, rivers, scenic lands, wildlife areas, and open space help to support the \$502 billion tourism industry.
- According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, outdoor recreation generated at least \$40 billion in 1996, creating 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion in annual wages.
- Because tourists cite natural beauty and quality of view to be the most important criteria in selecting a destination, many communities are now striving to protect scenic views and vistas by moving utility wires underground and protecting trees and historic buildings.
- In 1993, the National Park Service estimated that national park visitors contributed more than \$10 billion in direct and indirect benefits to local economies.
- According to the National Park Service, the tourism/leisure industry will soon become the leading U.S. industry of any kind at its present rate of growth.

- Trail such as the MKT and Katy Trails in Columbia that have been built along former railroad corridors stimulate tourism. The federal government has invested \$300 million in recent years for more than 9,500 miles of rail trails in 48 states. It has paid off in communities similar to Columbia. In Iowa, Florida, and California, trails contributed between \$1.2 million and \$1.9 million each year to host communities.
- Wildlife enthusiasts visiting our nation's parks also contribute significantly to the economy. Sport fishing generated \$108.4 billion in 1996, supporting 1.2 million jobs. Sport fishing produced \$2.4 billion in state taxes (nearly 1% of all state tax receipts) and \$3.1 billion in federal income taxes. People interested in birds and wildlife photography contributed another \$85.4 billion to the U.S. economy.

For over 25 years, the community has determined Parks and Recreation as a high priority adhering to our motto of “Year-Round Playground.” The benefits are well documented. In 1967, the first Recreation Plan was written, since this time the plan is continually updated every five years. This plan is important because it is a compilation of community input and community needs. This document provides direction for the seven (7) member Recreation Board and Parks & Recreation employees.

- ❖ Stress management - the mild stress of leisure activity can reduce overall negative stress by contributing to relaxation.
- ❖ Self-esteem - especially in children and seniors, mild exercise, group activities, and hobbies and crafts will help create positive self-images.
- ❖ Positive lifestyle development - contributing to society, social interaction, development of leaders, being part of organized sports all encourage good lifetime activities.
- ❖ Personal satisfaction - any creative outlet will enhance personal satisfaction. Being part of the leadership offers self-satisfaction, and those who work in the recreational areas can feel the pride in keeping these areas vital and available to others.
- ❖ Quality of life - fresh air, sunshine, social interaction, health benefits and self-esteem all will improve quality of life.
- ❖ Preventative health - regular exercise, physiological benefits from mild exercise, and stress reduction all are made easier by having leisure and recreational activities readily available.
- ❖ Since the future seems to be headed for a shorter work week and more extra time, support of leisure and recreational outlets and locations would be prudent, and benefit all involved

Of course, Parks & Recreation has a cost and this cost is acceptable. We have successfully created a department that is efficient as can be seen by the continual decrease or flat years as shown in the budget sheets.

I am confident that the challenges of today will be met and our quality of life will remain.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Municipal Harbor



Location: Lakeshore Drive
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R, Director 3 Seasonal
Budget Revenue: \$71,580.00
Budgeted Expense: \$50,395.00

Description: The Gladstone Marina is located within Van Cleve Park. The harbor has 17 fixed finger piers (34 slips) 17 primitive slips, 1 combination harbormaster/restroom/shower facility, 1 wall-side fuel dock facility, 8 outdoor grills, picnic tables, 1 mast hoist, bicycles and 30 car parking lot.

Condition: The overall condition of the fixed docks is poor. The docks are over thirty years old and the sliding pole construction is deteriorated due to ice damage. The decking is wood and is spongy and in need of replacement. The utilities at the docks are antiquated and do not meet code, however the electric is grandfathered in with regards to GFCI. The west end Bulk Head is in need of replacement. The sheet piling that walls the marina is in good condition. The fuel tanks and monitoring system are in good working condition. The fuel pumps and sewage waste pump out are in need of replacement. The building is aging and is in need of substantial maintenance and repair.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: The Harbor serves a small population; however, it was felt that it was Gladstone's "Greeting Card" and could be appreciated from both land and water. The marina represents recreation and is associated with prosperity. It is picturesque and adds worth to the community by offering visual enhancement to the park. The marina brings outside visitors to Gladstone, which might not have come otherwise. The Harbor is revenue producing. The average priority rating was a seven.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The Transient traffic in the last 4 years has continued to increase. This summer to-date we have had 54 visitors. The harbor capitalizes on our water frontage and is becoming a trend to Door County residents. The harbor is in need of extensive restoration within the next 3 years. A significant amount of funds will have to be allocated towards the restoration. It is my opinion that seeking funds through the Waterways Commission in phased amounts would allow the marina to absorb the cost and thus limiting the general fund contribution. Receiving these funds is slow and should be considered well in advance. I would suggest \$100,000.00 annually until restoration is complete.

The other option would be to phase in the minimum work to satisfy safety concerns. This cost would have to be absorbed from user fees and general fund, at this time no other granting sources are available outside Waterways.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Ski Park



Location: North Bluff Drive
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 23 Seasonal
Revenue: \$72,000.00
Expense: \$93,000.00

Description: The Gladstone Sports Park ski hill is located atop of North Bluff Drive overlooking Little Bay de Noc. The property measured is approximately 27 acres. The lodge building is equipped with license kitchen/appliances, AV equipment, and Ski Patrol room/equipment, concession appliances,

20- 8 foot tables, 150 folding chairs, fireplace and outdoor grill. The garage is 20x 60-pole building. The hill has three (3) rope tows, two (2) wire cable tows, four (4) control shacks, two (2) storage buildings, one (1) warming hut and 100 snow tubes. The pump house is 10x 20 cinder block building. Snow making/grooming equipment inventory consisted of three (3) fan snow makers, snowmobile, hoses, 1976 Snow Cat groomer and large power receptacles/cords.

Condition: The Lodge is rustic, simple in nature, and is not air-conditioned. The relatively small size of the building is inadequate for large banquets and energy inefficient by design. The building requires scheduled above average maintenance and repair to be determined as needed i.e.: an efficient heating system, updated kitchen and rebuilding of observation deck, are the repairs that will need consideration in the near future. The outbuildings and tows are in acceptable condition. Equipment including tables, chairs and snow tubes are replaced when needed. The pump house will need the roof repaired and electrical outlets repaired as needed. The snowmaking equipment is in good working condition. The groomer is the correct machine for our hill needs. The groomer requires above average maintenance and should be replaced in the near future. Extensive work has been done to the groomer and if it is replaced this groomer would make an excellent back up. Concession equipment is in excellent condition and is extensive.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: The Park is unique with the tubing. The tubing brings people to town making Gladstone a destination. Tubing is an activity for most all ages and requires little skill or equipment. On a local level, the hill offers winter recreation. By offering winter recreation, it supports our love of winter. Programming to encourage exercise daily is needed to keep people active. This facility offers many part time jobs. An average priority rating of seven (7) was given.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The hill is attractive to parties and was booked 80% last year. The programming will continue to grow and will help offset the cost. The lodge weekend rental was 75% this summer. I would imagine that the lodge should be updated or replaced. A larger lodge would allow for additional rentals. Continued additional revenue streams should be considered. Currently this facility is modestly subsidized by the general fund; budgeted amount is “worst case scenario.” I would recommend that an overall facility plan be developed.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Bay Campground



Location: 37 Michigan Avenue
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 3 Seasonal
Budget Revenue: \$76,000.00
Budgeted Expense: \$75,000.00

Description: The Gladstone Bay Campground is located at the far east of town and encompasses 40 acres of wooded parkland, 3000 feet of pristine shoreline. The restroom/shower /office building can accommodate 80 sites; the park has 63 sites, cable TV, Broadband service, 63 picnic tables, 58 ADA fire pits, playground equipment and play area, and addition pump out service.

Condition: The condition of the building is in excellent shape and is efficient. The power and utility infrastructure is in good working condition. The grounds including play equipment are in excellent condition. The grounds meet all codes and maintenance of entire facility is routine.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: The campground serves and benefits a large population. It has a direct impact on local business. It supplies lodging in a needed market. It is unique and enhanced by the water frontage. The average priority rating was an eight.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The campground is revenue producing and will continue to be. The facility support building could accommodate an expansion of additional sites. Weekend usage is at capacity an average of 40% of the season.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation

Gladstone Beach House/Beach



Location: Lake Shore Drive
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 14 Seasonal
Budgeted Revenue: \$ 500.00
Budgeted Expense: \$ 29,000.00

Description: The Gladstone Beach and Beach House is located in the center of Van Cleave Park. The beach house is equipped with a license kitchen/equipment, a small meeting room/restroom, guard room/equipment, public restrooms/showers; the beach is equipped with a lake stand, raft, slide, benches and guard stand. A roped in swim area and swim maker buoys are installed yearly.

Condition: The building is 13 years old and requires normal routine maintenance to include mostly painting. The roof, infrastructure and structure are sound. The Tongue and Groove paneling in the foyer will require sanding and refinishing to remove mold. The building meets all code requirements.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments:

The beach serves a large population and needs to be fully funded. It is a big reason people come to Gladstone. Communities away from the water edge realize the asset Gladstone has. The beach offers extraordinary swimming. The shallow warm water lends itself to slide and raft opportunities. A guarded beach, clean restrooms and concessions truly make a resort atmosphere. From the land, it represents the city's commitment to preserve while utilizing the natural landscape. The average priority rating was an eight.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The beach is a recreational item that will cost money and have little revenue. A large population has noted that employing lifeguards is deemed necessary for safety. That area of the park benefits from having personnel on duty. The cost was adjusted by eliminating concession, special events and taking in the raft. It is my opinion that this summer we adjusted the personnel and limited the services to an acceptable level; any additional cuts would be detrimental.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Van Cleve Park/City Park



Location: Lake Shore Drive/Minneapolis
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 4 Seasonal
Revenue: \$ 4,000.00
Expense: \$ 49,000.00

Description: The Gladstone park system is 85 acres. For this evaluation, we will describe the grounds, general maintenance and ground keeping. The park has three bathroom facilities, 2 pavilions, volleyball courts, basketball court, gazebo, 15 benches, 50 picnic tables, 2 outdoor grills, fitness trail, lagoon treatment area, Lighthouse, Bay Shore Ball Diamond and ADA fishing pier.

Condition: The restroom buildings are ADA compliant and are cinder block style. They are in good condition, 2 currently require routine repair to include new shingles, The 2 pavilions are in good condition, currently require routine repair to include shingles. The other amenities are really inexpensive and require routine maintenance. The grounds require daily maintenance and monitoring. The system requires annual tree planting and pruning. The lagoon system could be improved, water levels should be raised and quality of water should be considered. Maintenance on the ball field requires annual seeding fertilizing, watering and lighting needs.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: Parks bring the community together and give a common place to interact or participate in their favorite outdoor activity. Parks serve all age groups seniors to infants. The quality of the parks is a direct reflection of the city. The average priority rating was a 10.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The park system in Gladstone is natural in nature and inviting. The parks are well rounded and offer something for everyone. My first trip to Gladstone brought me down Lakeshore Drive and I remember vividly thinking this is so peaceful, simple and beautiful. The parks system is not a revenue producer; the value of the system cannot be measured. The parks are a recreational element that cost money; however, it serves all ages' visitors and locals. The system is a 7-day a week operation and requires employees from 8am to dusk.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Recreational Programming



Location: Lake Shore Drive/Minneapolis
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 4 recreations, 6 lifeguards Seasonal
Revenue: \$ 5,800.00
Expense: \$ 6,000.00

Description: The Gladstone Recreational programming consists of the summer programs, T-Ball, peanut, soccer, pram, swimming lessons, flag football, Fun Friday and summer picnic. These programs are conducted Monday- Friday and typical serve an average of 300 youth. The programs require sport equipment, trained lifeguards and recreational personnel.

Condition: The equipment is in excellent condition and is replaced as needed, field surface is maintained and require little financially support.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: It is a service that is a luxury or bonus. This activity should pay for itself. If it is cashing than it should continue, it supports our children and creates a few summer jobs. Programs are part of a complete recreation program. The average priority rating was a seven.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The programs we offer are relatively limited as compared to other cities. The programs are associated with growing up in Gladstone and Summer time. The programs are attached with user fees, these fees can be adjusted as needed. This service should continue; the General Fund supports it very little.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Sport Complex/Ball Fields



Location: North Bluff Drive
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 2 Seasonal
Budgeted Revenue: zero
Budgeted Expense: \$ 7,000.00

Description: The Gladstone Sports Park ball fields and recreational land represents 30 acres. Additional land reserved for recreation is adjacent to the field area. The facility has three playing irrigated fields with one being lighted. A concession /restroom facility, two support out buildings, two picnic tables and six sets of bleachers. The field is equipped with three press boxes two have sound systems and three lighted scoreboards.

Condition: Two of the fields are in adequate condition; one field needs to address soil conditions. Dug outs, scoreboards and fences are in good condition. Irrigation system needs above normal maintenance but can be rectified by routine part replacement and monitoring. Safety and inadequate parking is being addressed by addition parking being developed on the ball field side of the road. Concession/restroom facility is old and antiquated. Restrooms are not ADA compliant and are insufficient as compared to usage. Plumbing needs to be addressed to eliminate backups in the restroom. Restrooms/ concession facility need to be updated or replaced. Bleachers on two fields need replacement and addition seating in the forms of picnic tables and bleachers are needed. Shade trees, playground equipment and an overall usage plan would be extremely useful. A major obstacle for the fields is water cost; the plan should include an action plan to find an alternative water source.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: Baseball represents a form of “Americana”. It is extremely popular and is typical a family recreational sport. It teaches teamwork and fundamental values. Has proven to boost local economy. It is a spectator sport, which serves a large population. The time and money put into the parks by volunteers and local business shouts “we are about the children” Average priority rating was nine

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The ball fields are relatively low cost. I can appreciate the wide range of age groups. It is my opinion that adjusted user fees and proper allocation of funds could improve the facility without causing a greater burden on the general fund. A master plan and seeking outside funding sources should be considered.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Downtown/Beautification



Location: Multiple Areas/DDA District
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 4 Seasonal
Budgeted Revenue: zero
Budgeted Expense: \$ 16,000.00

Description: These areas encompass the parks, downtown and other areas within the city.

Condition: The Beautification and Downtown Concierge personnel are able to keep the properties at an above average appearance. Minimal equipment is needed.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: The board did not prioritize or make comment.

Parks & Recreation Option: These two areas work closely together. Beautification is funded through the General Fund and Downtown Concierges are funded through the DDA. If either of the two areas are not funded the workload would shift to the remaining position. Both of these positions are utilized in other areas to temporarily assist when workloads within the parks system require extra personnel. The downtown concierges have eliminated complaints from business downtown in regards to loitering and have significantly helped with concerns with the skate park.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Special Events



Location: Throughout the City
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 2 Seasonal

Description: Special Events are identified events that are not directly covered by a recreational program. 1-Complete City Function (4th of July, Crazy Daze, Old Fashioned Christmas) 2-Partnered Function (MWC, Jig It, Century Ride, Duck Races, Ride for the Red, Ball Tournaments) 3-Independent (Hunger Walk, YAP Golf Outing, 5K Runs,)

Condition: The lake access allows us to accommodate a wide range of events. We do not have adequate lodging within the city. The restaurant capability is limited. The Campground has proved to be an asset and a small solution to the lodging limits.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: The board made no comment or rating.

Parks & Recreation Option: Gladstone has historically been an inviting venue for special events. Our lake frontage and extensive park system has allowed for a variety of events. Easily attracting events can also be contributed to the minimal “red tape” that the City is known for. The most desirable events are the “partnered” or “individual” functions, these require fewer resources. The “city” functions have become a tradition; however with personnel capabilities at their limit the resources allocated to these events take away from typical Parks and Recreation duties.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Outdoor Ice Rink/Recreation Center



Location: 500 South 10th Street
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 2 Seasonal
Budgeted Revenue: zero
Budgeted Expense: \$ 7,500.00

Description: The Gladstone Outdoor Ice rink is operational typically December 20 thru the end of February. The equipment is basic, includes hoses, a broom, and requires plowing. The skates that are provided are either purchased at a discounted price or donated.

Condition: The condition of the rink is weather dependent. When the ice is not safe, the rink is closed until the ice can be made safe therefore, condition of ice is usually good. The warming hut is in good condition and recent updates have made it more energy efficient. No expected additional expense is foreseen.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: Ice rink embraces our winter culture. It is a skill and recreation opportunity. It offers a wintertime area for all ages to socialize. It greatly serves a population in the downtown area (walking distance). Provides our citizens a cost free way to help with obesity and portrays a well-rounded city. The average priority rating is an eight.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: It is my opinion that some recreational services should be offered as a service. The ice rink is an inexpensive form of physical, social, and family activity. The cost could be absorbed through the Cretens Endowment. It is important that activities and play areas be offered in the winter to offset the typical play areas that are not available year round.

Gladstone Parks & Recreation
Recreational Programs and Facility Evaluation
2010

Gladstone Neighborhood Playgrounds



Location: Throughout the city
Management: P&R Director
Staff: Assistant P&R Director, 1 Seasonal
Budgeted Revenue: zero
Budgeted Expense: \$ 4,200.00

Description: The city has seven Playgrounds. They encompass approximately 12 acres of play area. The equipment consist of six slides, 2 merry-go-rounds, 3 composite units, 1 wooden composite unit, seven swing sets, numerous climbing apparatuses and independent play pieces. The playground areas are treed, have tables, trash receptacles and are surfaced.

Condition: All playgrounds are audited annually. All playground meet ASTM standards with an exception with two slides. Addition items that are being phased in are signs, benches and a continual replacement of surfacing. Routine maintenance and minor equipment replacement is needed annually. Maintenance is daily during the summer and weekly during spring and fall.

Recreation Board Rating and Comments: It is felt that playgrounds show a community that cares about youth and a well-maintained playground represents a well-rounded and operated city. Playgrounds directly affect housing value and help the consumer decide an area to move. The average priority rating is seven.

Parks & Recreation Opinion: The City playgrounds meet ASTM standards and are relatively in expensive to maintain. Significant amounts of resources have been utilized in the past five years to bring the playgrounds up to code. An annual amount should be allocated to maintain and keep the playground current.