

Parks, Trails and Open Space (PTOS)

Citizens Advisory Committee

March 11, 2008

Annual Meeting Report to Citizens

Agenda

- Origination of Committee
- Activity
- Progress Report
- Priorities

Starting Point

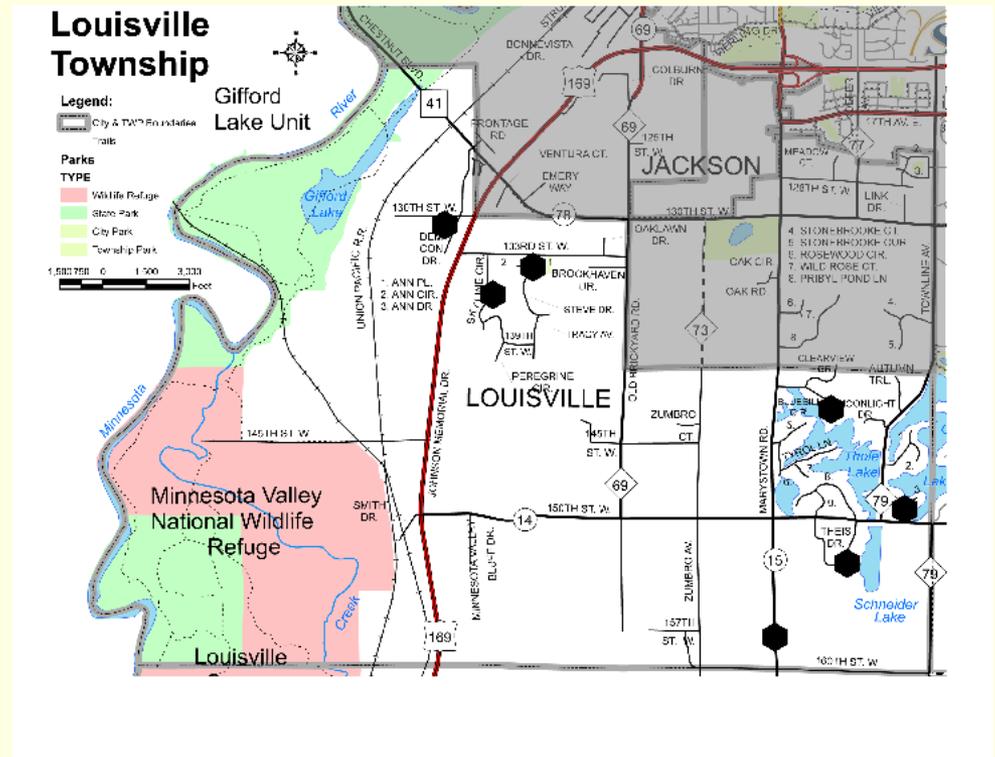
Louisville Township Board commissioned PTOS
October, 2007

- Direction to the Town Board to undertake this study came from citizens at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting
- Louisville Opinion Survey confirmed importance of PTOS resources for Town Residents

- Board took action October 2007
 - Foresight to plan ahead
 - Act upon citizen interest

Advisory Board Members

- Kim Busho
- Jennifer Eisenbarth
- Gary Mayer
- Mark Pahl
- John Steger
- Mike Thelen
- Neil Tollefsrud
- Staff: Mike Cronin



Committee Evaluation

Each member made an individual choice to invest and live in a community outside of the urban/city setting. We believe in the preservation of this over the next 25 years.

- Diverse group
 - Geographically
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Employment
- Seven is the right number

Task Assigned, Specific Requests:

- A. **Assess existing Parks** and Open Space assets
- B. **Town Hall Recommendation**
- C. **Acquisition Opportunities**
- D. Identify and **Prioritize Recommendations**
- E. **Identify Funding Sources** outside the Township
- F. **Capital Improvement Plan** to Implement recommendations

PTOS Activity

7 Meetings beginning November, 2007:

■ Information Gathering (4 meetings)

- Reviewed Opinion Survey results
 - Louisville Township
 - Scott County
- Visited each town park
- Met with Scott County Parks Staff regarding their plans
- Met with Scott County Public Works staff on trail development
 - 10 year plans
 - 2030 plan

■ Developed priority and consensus of Committee (3 meetings)

- Reviewed and prioritized 25-30 major activities related to PTOS
- Further defined direction on highest priorities
- Re-evaluated our objectives
- Discussed future action

Main Recommendations

- Trail System
- Park Recommendations
- Standards for Park Dedication
- Future Direction of the Committee

Trails

Development of a system of roadside walking / bicycle trails (commuter/connector trails) adjacent to County and connecting Town roads.

- Citizen priority would be served:
 - Most mentioned needed amenity in the Township 2007 survey
 - 2004 County wide survey, 92% of residents identified this as the priority
- A roadside trail system would provide these amenities
 - Safe recreation and connection for residents of all ages
 - Safe connection to the future school and other public facilities
 - Provide links to a focal point provided by a Louisville Town Park
 - An opportunity to work on a shared priority with the County
- Identifying an estimate of this investment
 - The Town has approximately 14.5 miles “connector” roads
 - Feasibility studies needed
 - Potential sources of assistance and cost sharing for planning
 - Implementing a trail system will be one of the major tasks of the Committee’s work this year.

Town Park

Acquisition (from a willing seller) and improvement of a Town Park area should be pursued. The intended size of the Town Park would be 50-80 acres. The park could provide:

- An interesting and safe place for individuals and families to gather
- Walking / bicycling / fitness trails within a natural park setting (for example: Lake Harriet, Wood Lake, Normandale Lake)
- An efficient and supportable central location
- A focal point or destination for roadside trail system
- No buildings, other than rest rooms and or a picnic shelter, are envisioned at this time.

Town Park Options

- Acquisition, even from a willing seller, and development of a Louisville Town Park would be a significant investment in its future.
 - Reduce the acquisition cost by seeking land donation:
 - As a memorial to their families
 - Offering “naming rights”
 - With dedications installed in the park
 - The Committee will investigate potential sites for a park.
- An alternative, if Jackson Township is interested, would be providing a trail improvement around the pond and wetland at the present Jackson Town Park.
 - This would be an improvement to a park facility Louisville residents may currently be using.
 - It would avoid acquisition costs and allow additional utilization of the present parking and other facilities in the Park.
 - It would probably be the fastest way to implement a natural walking trail.
 - There are lots of uncertainties that need to be investigated

Park Dedication Standards

- **Formal Policy needed**

The Town's four present park parcels indicate the need.

- **Provide guidance for dedications or payments**

- Louisville Board decides, not developer
- That will contribute to implementing a park, trails and recreation system for the Town.
- Provide a balance between the fair value of the required dedication and the demand of the subdivision.

- **It is imperative we establish standards now**

- before significant development takes place.

Town Hall, Community Center

Per the Board's request, we have a recommendation:

A Town Hall is not a priority

- Many opportunities for meeting places are available:
 - Scott County Government Center and Conference Center
 - Jackson Town Hall
 - Church Facilities
 - Marystown
 - Others
 - New High School
 - Businesses
- Limited need
 - Monthly Meetings
 - Storage (rent)
 - No near term plans to be growing city
- High cost per capita to build with today's population
- Community Center opportunities are available nearby

Existing “Park” Properties

Recommendation:

- **Not pursue development of these properties at this time**
 - Severe barriers to practical development
 - Leave them in current state allowing informal public use

Inventory (Grade)

- Louisville Township Owned:
 - Green Acres, D - Power Lines, Narrow
 - Antler Park, D - Low wetland, small
 - Engelhaven, F - Very small, constrained, low
 - Highland, C -Our greatest potential but challenges
- Others:
 - Thole DNR Boat Landing site, C— Lake, close to Highland etc...
 - Louisville Swamp, B—Fed Govt., non-central location
 - Jackson Town Hall, B—other township, close

The Township Board

1. Confirmed the committee's direction:
 - Priorities of the Committee
 - Trails
 - Town Park
 - Standards
 - Not pursue
 - Develop a town hall
 - Further investment in existing park parcels at this time
2. Requested the PTOS committee continue to get feedback from citizens:
 - Web site: www.louisvilletownship.com
 - Utilize suggestion/comments box tonight