



Section C:

Foreword



St. Joseph County Parks

Master Plan Update • 2009 – 2013



Foreword

C•1

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Master planning of any project takes time, energies, and a team effort in processing a guideline for future implementation of goals and objectives. In his book *Recreation Planning and Design*, Seymour M. Gold writes about the area of recreation planning as follows:

“Recreation Planning is a process that relates the leisure time of people to space. It is an art and a science that uses the concepts and methods of many disciplines to provide public and private leisure opportunities. In practice, recreation planning blends the knowledge and techniques of environmental design and the social sciences to develop alternatives for using leisure time, space, energy, and money to accommodate human needs.”

“Recreation planning deals with the future and develops alternatives for rational decisions by the public and private sector. It should be representative of what people want, imaginative in projecting what might be, and realistic in recognizing what is possible.”

“The purpose of recreation planning is to meet events we expect to happen, accomplish things we want to happen, and prevent things we do not want to happen.”

The previous statement represents a sound basis and challenge for meeting the end product of a Recreational Master Plan. Such a master plan should not be static or rigid. Rather, it needs to be dynamic and flexible for issues not anticipated.

While this master plan is a five (5) year plan for St. Joseph County Parks, it should be used as a tool and a guideline for implementation of the action steps contained herein. The plan should be used throughout the next five years as a basis for decision-making for the St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department. The plan should be kept up to date and reviewed annually, thus keeping the department in a perpetual state of “the first year of a five-year plan.”

— Charles F. Lehman, ASLA, FRSA
President, *Lehman & Lehman, Inc.*



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