

St. Joseph County Parks

Master Plan Update • 2009 – 2013



Section O:

Glossary



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Glossary of Park & Recreation Terms

The following is a glossary of terms based on *Glossary of Terms* as defined by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (1975), *Glossary of Recreation and Park Terms* (Sessoms, 1972), the glossary in *Urban Recreation Planning* (Gold, 1973), *The Language of Cities* (Abrams, 1971), *Encyclopedia of Urban Planning* (Whittick, 1974), and the accepted common use of selected terms.

ADA – American Disabilities Act.

Activity-Day – Twelve activity hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

Activity-Hour – An accumulation of 60 minutes by one or more persons for a special recreation activity.

Activity-Occasion – Participation by one person in an activity without relation to the duration of such participation.

ATB – All Terrain Bicycle.

ATV – All Terrain Vehicle: four or six-wheeled vehicle with a wheel base of less than 40 inches.

Backpacking – Hiking in combination with primitive camping, carrying camping and food materials in a backpack.

Benefit-Cost Ratio – An economic indicator of efficiency derived from dividing benefits by costs.

Carrying Capacity – The natural, physical, or social capability of a recreation area to withstand use and provide a desired quality of recreation experience, or the amount of recreation use of a resource which is most appropriate for the protection of the resource and satisfaction of the participant.

Central City – The largest city of a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA), which gives the SMSA its name and has a population of 50,000 or more.

Commercial Recreation – Recreation conducted by a business enterprise for profit and open to the public on a fee or charge basis.

Community Park – An area that provides recreation opportunities for two or more neighborhoods.

Comprehensive Plan – An official document adopted by a local government that describes general policies for the desirable physical, social, and economic development of a city.

Concession – An authorization granted by a government agency to a commercial enterprise to operate visitor facilities and services.

Cross Country Skiing – Skiing Nordic style across country, not downhill, powered by leg and arm movements.

Cycle Cross Bicycle – Competitive off-road bicycling.

DNR – Department of Natural Resources.

Dual Sport Motorcycles – Motorcycles capable of on-road and off-road travel.

Ecosystem – An interdependent community of living organisms and their environment.

Environment – The aggregate of surrounding space, conditions, and influences affecting the life and development of an organism, society, or individual behavior.



- Equestrian** – Horseback riding.
- Expressed Demand** – Use of existing recreation opportunities conditioned by factors such as access, cost, information, and experience.
- Extensive Recreation** – Activities that are usually dispersed over a large area and require few or no facilities.
- Four-wheel Drive Vehicle** – Vehicle with wheel base greater than 40 inches, engine power transferred to all four wheels. May or may not be street legal.
- Greenway** – Uninterrupted corridor of vegetation which may or may not include public access for recreation.
- Hiking** – Walking on extended trips for pleasure.
- Horse-drawn Vehicle** – Vehicle, such as a wagon, pulled by horses.
- Horseback Riding** – Riding for pleasure of transportation on horseback.
- IDNR** – Indiana Department of Natural Resources.
- INDOT** – Indiana Department of Transportation.
- In-line Skate** – Skates with a single line of four or five wheels.
- Inner City** – Neighborhoods which surround the central business district of a metropolitan area and are generally in the geographic core of the central city of an SMSA.
- Intensive Recreation** – Activities that can take place in a limited amount of space.
- ISTEA** – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991: Federal transportation bill which includes funding passed through to state departments of transportation.
- Landscape** – An outdoor area with man-made and natural characteristics.
- Latent Demand** – Recreation demand inherent in the population, but not reflected in the use of existing facilities; additional participation will occur if opportunities are available.
- Leisure** – Any portion of individual's time not occupied by employment or essential activities.
- LWCF** – Land and Water Conservation Fund: federal matching assistance program which provides grants for 50 percent of the cost for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities.
- Mountain Bicycle** – Bicycles designed for off-road travel.
- Multiple Use Trail** – A trail that accommodates more than one trail use. Trail uses could include, but not necessarily limited to: walking, hiking, backpacking, bicycling, mountain bicycling, horseback riding, in-line skating, off-highway vehicle riding, all terrain vehicle riding, motorcycling, snowmobiling, jogging, running, etc.
- Multiple Use Trail Network** – A series of trails that interconnect to form a system that, as a whole, allows for more than one use. The individual trails may be single use or multiple use.
- Neighborhood** – A residential area with a social, physical, and political identity.
- Neighborhood Park** – An area that provides recreation opportunities within walking distance of residents.
- Nordic Ski** – Cross country ski.
- NPS** – Natural Park Service.

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NRC – Natural Resources Commission: policy making body to the Department of Natural Resources.

NRTF – National Recreation Trails Fund: federal funding program for non-motorized and motorized trails, using gasoline taxes collected from vehicles used off roads.

Objective – An aim or end of action, a point to be reached.

OHV – Off-highway vehicle: a motorized street-legal vehicle, with limited off-road capabilities used off-pavement, and with a wheel base greater than 40 inches.

Open Space – Land and water in an urban area that is not covered by cars or buildings; or, any undeveloped land in an urban area which has value for park and recreation, conservation of natural resources, historic, or scenic purposes.

ORM – Off-road motorcycle: motorcycle, not street legal, designed to be driven cross country off of roads.

ORV – Off-road vehicle: motor driven vehicles capable of cross country travel; without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

Outdoor Recreation – Land and water resources capable of providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

Park – Public or private land set aside for aesthetic, educational, recreational, or cultural use.

Participation Rate – The number of times a person takes part in a given recreation activity over a specific period of time.

Pedestrian – A person traveling on foot.

Personal Watercraft – Small, self-propelled watercraft with in-board, water-jet type propulsion; designed for single and multiple passengers.

Plan – A course of action which can be implemented to accomplish stated objectives and which someone intends to implement.

Planning – The systematic collection, organization, and processing of information to facilitate decision making.

Policy – A governing principle or course of action; or a general guide to conduct which is subject to modification.

Program – A time-phased plan for resource allocation and specifying how to achieve stated objectives.

Program Objective – Specific results to be attained by the planned commitment of resources.

Rational Decision – One which considers all possible courses of action to attain desired ends, identifies and evaluates the consequences of each alternative, and selects the preferred alternatives in terms of most valued ends.

Recreation – Any leisure time activity pursued for its own sake or what happens to a person as a result of a recreation experience.

Recreation Area – Any public or private space set aside or primarily oriented to recreation uses.

Recreation Demand – The amount and kinds of recreational opportunities an individual or population subgroup desires (latent demand) or uses (expressed demand) in a given time period, place, or planning unit.

Recreation Facilities – Buildings and other physical features or improvements designed, constructed, and managed for recreation use.



- Recreation Need** – The difference between current recreation demand and the existing supply of opportunities expressed in terms of land, facilities, or programs.
- Recreation Planning** – A process that relates the leisure time of people to space. The use of information to facilitate decision making that results in the allocation of resources to accommodate the current and future leisure needs of a population and planning area.
- Recreation Programs** – Recreation opportunities which result from the organized or planned use of recreation resources that normally require scheduling, facilities, and supervision or leadership.
- Recreation Resources** – Land and water areas and associated facilities, people, organizations, and financial support that provide opportunities for recreation.
- Recreation Standard** – The measure of quantity and quality considered as a desirable goal for the provision of recreation areas and facilities.
- Recreation Supply** – The quantity, quality, and effectiveness of existing or potential recreation resources.
- Road Bicycle** – Bicycle capable of riding only on paved or hard-packed surfaces.
- Rollerblade** – Brand name of in-line skate product.
- Roller Skate** – Skates with two rows of wheels.
- SCORP** – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Self-Generated Park** – A recreational space primarily initiated, planned, designed, developed, and managed by the users.
- Skateboard** – Board with two rows of wheels.
- Snowmobile** – Motorized sled used for traveling on snow.
- Social Indicator** – A measure of human welfare in terms of the opportunity or accommodation for a public or private good or service.
- Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV)** – Street legal vehicle with wheel base greater than 40 inches, usually with four-wheel drive, capable of limited off-road travel.
- Suburb** – An incorporated residential area outside the existing political boundaries of the central city.
- Standard** – A measure for relating an allocation of resources to existing or potential needs as determined by stated goals, objectives, and policies.
- Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA)** – An integrated social and economic unit which contains at least one central city of 50,000 or more inhabitants.
- Supplier** – A public agency or private firm that provides park and recreation spaces, facilities, or services.
- TEA** – Transportation Enhancement Activities: activities that enhance transportation facilities are eligible for funding through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.
- Touring Bicycle** – Road bicycle.
- Trail** – Corridor, on land or in water, with public access for recreation or transportation, and is protected from development.
- Urban Area** – A city or town having a population of 2500 or more persons.
- Urbanized Area** – A central city and surrounding settled area as defined by the Bureau of the Census in 1980.

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USDA – United States Department of Agriculture.

User Preference – The voluntary choice of an activity, area, or experience to fulfill a recreation desire or need.

User Satisfaction – The fulfillment of a recreation desire and preference normally conditioned by the user's background, activities available, facilities, and design or management.

Visit – The entry of one person into a recreation area or site to carry on one or more recreation activities.

Visitation – The total number of persons entering and using a recreation area over a specified period of time.

Visitor – One who enters a recreation area for enjoyment of the opportunities provided.

Visitor-Day – Twelve visitor hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

Visitor-Hour – The presence of one or more persons on lands or waters, generally recognized as providing outdoor recreation for continuous, intermittent, or simultaneous periods of time aggregating 60 minutes.

WRHCF – Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund: matching assistance program which provides up to 75 percent of the cost for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation sites along the Wabash River or its viewshed.



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