Parks and Recreation Asset Management Planning

September 26th 2019 Detroit, Mi

Paul Reinhold, PLA, LEED AP
Collin Manns
Background

Prein & Newhof is a multi-disciplinary civil engineering firm founded in 1969. Headquarters in Grand Rapids, MI. Holland / Kalamazoo/Cadillac/Muskegon/Traverse City.
Introduction

Communities across the state have invested millions to preserve and develop our favorite parks.

Grant money is collected leveraging the often dwindling parks and recreation budgets. What happens when you realize you can no longer afford to replace or even maintain the parks your community has grown to love?

We will show you how a detailed, data driven Parks & Recreation Asset Management Plan is developed and how it can help you understand and anticipate future expenditures before it’s too late.
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- Benefits of Parks for Communities
- What is a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan?
- Why is a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan Important?
- How is a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan Made?
- Would a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan benefit you?
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Economic Benefits

America’s local and regional public park agencies generated nearly $140 BILLION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY and supported almost 1 MILLION JOBS from their operations and capital spending alone in 2013.

**SMALL COST, BIG IMPACT**

The Park Service budget is $1/14th of 1% of the nation’s budget. Slashing it would have a serious impact on the 258,000 Jobs in surrounding communities.

**ONE GEORGE = TWO ABES**

Every dollar invested in park operations generates about $10 for local communities, and every two Park Service jobs yield one job outside the park.
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Economic Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Economic Activity (Transactions)</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Employment (Jobs)</th>
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**Property Values**
Homes near parks can sell for up to $2,262 more than homes without parks nearby.

**The Wrong Direction**
In today's dollars, the budget for the Park Service is $465 million less — or 15 percent below what it was 10 years ago.
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Health Benefits

**active kids learn better**

Physical activity at school is a win-win for students and teachers

- **20%** more likely to earn an A in math or English
- **6%** over 3 years

Just one physically active lesson creates:

- **13%** increase in students’ physical activity for the week
- **21%** decrease in teachers’ time managing behavior

Physically active kids have more active brains

**BRAIN SCANS OF STUDENTS TAKING A TEST:**

- After 20 minutes of sitting quietly
- After 20 minutes of walking

More results:

- After 20 minutes of physical activity:
  - Students tested better in reading, spelling & math
  - And were more likely to read above their grade level
- After being in a physically active afterschool program for 9 months:
  - Memory tasks improved 16%

Sources:
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Environmental Benefits

- Parks preserve our most valuable and unique natural spaces.
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Environmental Benefits

- They provide wildlife places of respite in urban areas.
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Environmental Benefits

• Improves air quality
• Improves water quality by buffering rivers, lakes, and streams.

Parks play a huge role in the quality of life for our communities!
Benefits of Parks for Communities

Essential vs Non-Essential Services

- **Essential Services** - Services that would endanger the life, health, or personal safety of the population if not provided.
- Examples include water, electricity, and public security.

Parks may not be considered an “essential service” within our governments, but perhaps the discussion should begin. As research proves the positive impacts that parks can have on the health and well-being of the general public.
What is a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan?

It is a data-driven detailed plan for identifying, evaluating, and managing park assets in order to deliver and maintain an agreed upon standard of service.

**Two Primary Objectives**

- **Justification** - to give visibility of the costs and benefits associated with providing the agreed standard of service.

- **Optimization** - To minimize the whole-life cost, including the operation, maintenance and replacement or disposal of each asset in the system. Helps optimize the whole life cost of an asset.
Why is a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan Important?

Communities across the state are unsure of the quantity and value of their park assets.

Park systems can consist of millions of dollars worth of assets, purchased annually through various budgets and funding options.

These budgets include:

- General Budget
- Dedicated Parks Budget
- Utility Department
- Parks Millages
- Grants- Local, State, Federal
- Foundations
- Etc.
Why is a Park Asset Management Plan Important?

Communities have many different assets spread out over several parks that are often many miles apart. It’s easy to lose track of the little things, and they add up!
Why is a Park Asset Management Plan Important?

Growing Competition for Park Money

• “If you don’t count, you don’t count”
• There is growing competition for parks money, and not having a clear understanding of assets can hinder a communities ability to acquire the proper amount of funding when needed.
• Having an up to date and detailed park asset report allows for proper planning and funding.
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

- **Inventory and Assessment Process**
  - Community Info and Data Gathering
  - GPS/Photo Inventory Database
  - Condition Assessment

- **Data Analysis**
  - Database Development
  - Cost Projections

- **Communicate Results**
  - Use Visuals
  - Make it Intelligent
  - Present The Findings
  - Publish & Print Maps
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Inventory and Assessment Process

- Community Info and Data Gathering
  - Discuss current improvement plans, budget, and goals.
  - Establish the level of service.
  - Gather available data through existing maps, aerial photography, GIS data, and record plans.
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Inventory and Assessment Process

- GPS/Photo Inventory Database
  - Items inventoried:
    - Site Amenities-Benches, Trash Cans, Signs, etc.
    - Buildings/Shelters
    - Parking Lots/Drives
    - Asphalt and Concrete Paths
    - Boardwalks/ Stairs/ Decks
    - Playgrounds/Courts/Ballfields
    - Miscellaneous Assets- Skate Park, Dog Park
    - Fencing
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Inventory and Assessment Process

- 6 parks
- 355.6 acres
- 142 picnic tables
- 107 benches
- 76 waste receptacles
- 38 pet waste baskets
- 13 scoreboards
- $1,711,076 in amenities
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Inventory and Assessment Process

- Condition Assessment
  - Use a number scale of 1 to 5 representing the existing condition
  - “New to very good condition” up to “failed or unserviceable”.

Score: 1
Score: 2-3
Score: 4-5
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Data Analysis

Database/Map Development:

• ArcMap
• Link photos to asset points
• Add items difficult to GPS in the field
• Individual park mapping
• Export data to excel for further analysis & cost projection
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Data Analysis

• To explore further in Excel we must do the following:
  • Establish a cost/installation year
  • Establish the life cycle of the item
  • Complete and input the condition assessment
  • Assess the consequence of failure of the asset item
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Data Analysis

• Establish Current Value/Installation Year
  • Cost will be determined by the level of service set by the community.
  • Will the community look to replace what is existing or upgrade.
  • The installation year is gathered by looking at past projects, proposals, plans, and even old aerial images.

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<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Asset Item</th>
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<td>Amenity</td>
<td>Bench</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>1 Ea.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 1,500</td>
<td>$ 1,500</td>
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<td>Community Center Park</td>
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<td>10’ Aluminum Chain Link</td>
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How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Data Analysis

- Establish the life cycle of the item
  - Life cycle varies between items based on material, use, environment, and the level of service determined by the community.

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</tbody>
</table>
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Data Analysis

- Complete and input the condition assessment
- Review notes and photos taken in the field.
- Can be added in ArcView as well for visualization on a map.
Data Analysis

- Determine the Consequence of Failure
- Consequence of failure tries to determine the impact of an asset item failing.
- A playground or bridge will have a higher consequence of failure than an info sign.

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Communicate Results

- Use Visuals to Help Communicate Ideas
  - Charts and graphs are an easy way to represent the data and can be easily customized.
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Communicate Results

- Use Visuals to Help Communicate Ideas
- 5-10 years for better accuracy and budgeting purposes.

Total Expense per Park (2018-2022)

<table>
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<th>Cost ($)</th>
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<td>Helder Park</td>
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<td>Jim Kaat Ball Park</td>
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<td>Dunton Park Boat Launch</td>
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<td>Beechwood Park Natural Area</td>
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<td>Hawthorn Pond</td>
<td>$282,641</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookwood Park</td>
<td>$38,480</td>
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</table>
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Communicate Results

• Make it Intelligent
  • Compile all charts and graphs into an easy to read customizable dashboard or sortable table
How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?

Communicate Results

• Present The Findings

Develop a Report/Plan

• Introduction
• Provide an executive summary of high level data for boards and other leaders.
• Include Tables/Charts/Maps
Communicate Results

- Publish & Print Maps
  - Parks Operations Managers
  - Park Planners and Directors
  - Get the Maps Online
  - Use Maps Trailheads

How is a Park Asset Management Plan Made?
Now that you know....What do you do?

- Incorporate/Inform 5-Year Rec Plans
- Revise and Improve Maintenance
- Budgets Informed & Updated
- Park Millages Developed/Modified
- Tell the Public how prepared you are!
- Make Better Purchasing Decisions
Would you benefit from a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan?

Recreation providers such as Counties, Townships, Cities, and Villages.

Other Recreation Providers

- Schools/Universities
- Recreational Authorities
- State and Federal Parks
Would you benefit from a Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan?

If you’re still not sure....Ask yourself these three simple questions:

1. Have we ever measured and counted everything in our park system?
2. Do we know how old our parks are and when they need to be replaced?
3. Does our current parks budget meet the expectations of the public and can it provide for the needs of the future?

If you answered “no” to any of these questions you may want to consider your very own Parks & Rec Asset Management Plan!
Questions?

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Thank you!