

VI. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

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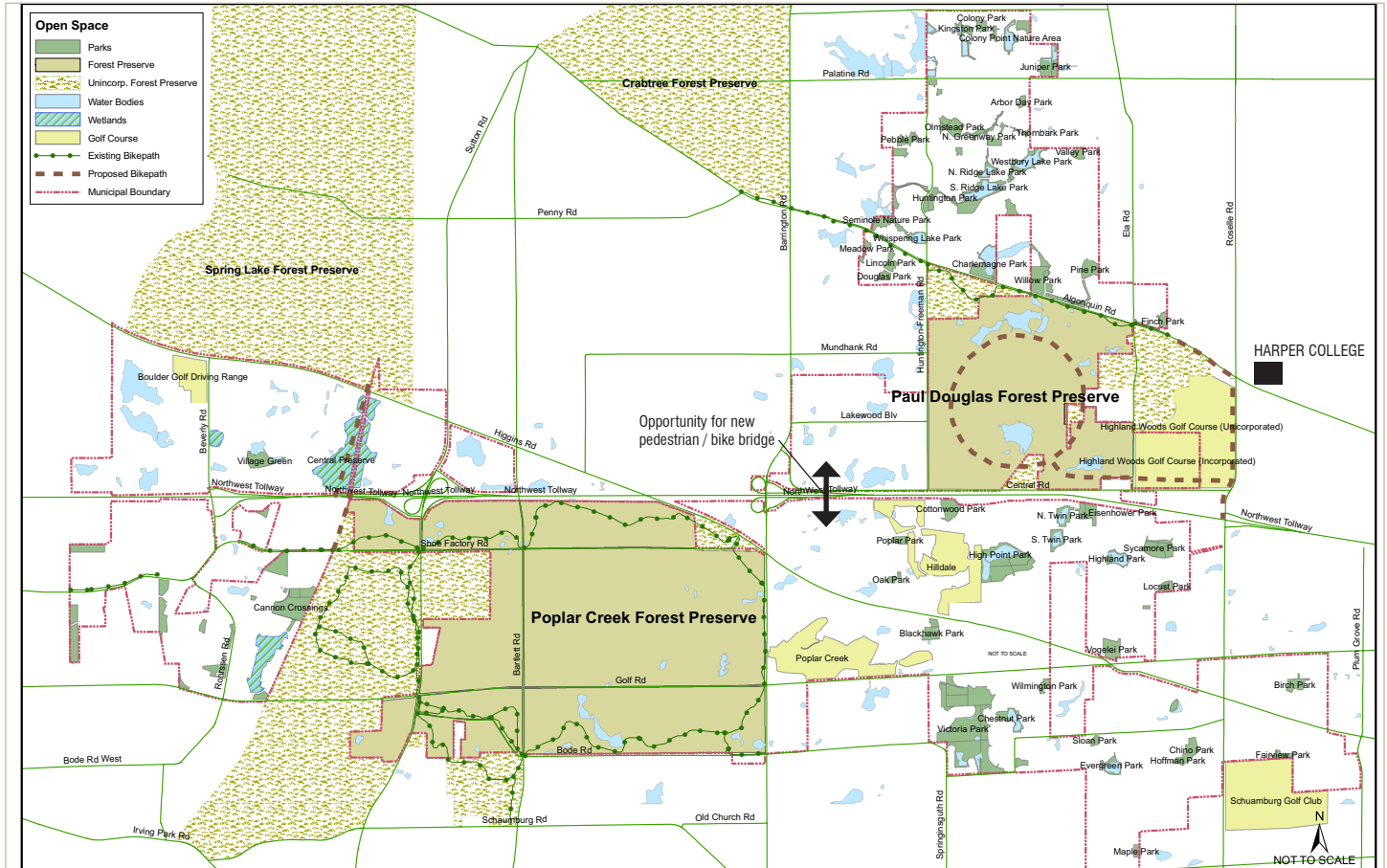


Figure 6.01: Hoffman Estates open space

Parkland in and around Hoffman Estates is recognized for its high quality and diversity of park resources. Within the context of the Comprehensive Plan, park land and recreational facilities play a key role in shaping the visual landscape and the quality of life within the Village. In planning for the future it is important to conserve the natural and cultural resources, protect environmental quality, and provide recreation, leisure and public facilities.

Park District

There are approximately 735 acres of park land under the jurisdiction of the Hoffman Estates Park District and 820 acres of golf courses and other open space areas in the Village. The Park District is a separate governmental entity, established in 1964 to provide parks, indoor and outdoor recreation areas and facilities for the residents of the Hoffman Estates. In 2004, the Park District adopted the Comprehensive Master Plan which outlines a detailed description of the capital improvements, management

programs, facility assessments, anticipated programs and services, potential land acquisition and community awareness and participation methods.

Cook County Forest Preserve

Hoffman Estates is in the unique position of being adjacent to three forest preserves with over 3900 acres of natural open space. As a result, a large portion of open space accessible to Hoffman Estates residents is within the County Forest Preserve areas including an extensive recreational trail system, as well as wetlands, streams and wildlife habitats. The forest preserves are regional resources that were established to conserve open space. Today more than ever the forest preserves play an important role to protect the natural environment, wildlife habitat, biodiversity of species and water quality.



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Recreation Programs

A majority of the community recreational programs are provided by the Hoffman Estates Park District which is explained in detail on their website. The 2004 Park District Master Plan outlines the current facilities and proposed improvements for accommodating today and future recreation programs. The proceeding pages have a detailed list of parks and facilities within the Village.

Additional Programs Needs

The Village, Park District and St. Alexius Medical Center recognize the growing need for senior and teen recreational programs and are expanding programs at the renovated Black Hawk Community Center. Also the St. Alexius Medical Center has expanded their recreation and wellness programs for seniors.

Future Facility Improvements

Some anticipated recreational facility improvements are listed below, however specific details and improvement locations are managed and are under the jurisdiction of the Park District.

- Bike and walkway enhancements and extensions
- Additional park amenities and updates
- Park restrooms
- Open air park shelters for picnicking
- Nature trail rest areas
- Additional and improved playground areas
- Sunshades for playground areas
- Passive recreation areas, including seating and gardens
- In-line skating areas
- Ice Rink improvements
- Dedicated dog parks

Private Facilities

Many of the recreational needs of the community are provided by private facilities such as the numerous golf courses, health clubs and ice rinks. The Village and Park District seek to maintain a balance between providing public and private recreational facilities.

Figures 6.06 and 6.07 on the following pages is an inventory of Hoffman Estates Park District park land.



Figure 6.02: Park shelter with picnic tables



Figure 6.03: Golf course in Hoffman Estates



Figure 6.04: Biking trails through Forest Preserves



Figure 6.05: Inline skating areas within parks



LIST OF PARKS

#	Date	Name	Acres	Current Use	Improvements
1.	1966	Highland park	11	Shelter, playground, retention lake, ice skating in winter	Updated 2003
2.	1966	Locust park	6	Play area, wetlands and large open area	
3.	1966	Evergreen Park	11	Shelter, playground, baseball field, basket ball, pathway and retention lake, ice skating in winter	Updated 1998
4.	1967	Highpoint Park	43	3 play apparatus, 3 baseball diamonds, 2 soccer fields, sand volley ball, parking lot, retention lake for fishing/ winter ice skating.	Updated in 1985, 1996,2000
5.	1969	Vogelei Park	10	Park District offices and program space	Update 1986,2003
6.	1969	The Field Park	0.5	Informal play area. gazebo shelter, horseshoe pits, butterfly garden, fountain, accessible walkway	Updated 2000
7.	1970	North Twin Lake	12		
8.	1970	South Twin Lake	11	Passive recreation interest, fishing boating	
9.	1970	Cottonwood Park	13	Play equipment picnic area, football/soccer area	
10.	1971	Sycamore Park	8.5	Baseball/softball fields, play apparatus, football field, home to HE Athletic Assoc.	
11.	1971	Community Pool	3	Includes small tot-lot adjacent	Removed 1992
12.	1971	Hoffman Park	1.75	Baseball/football field, play apparatus	
13.	1972	Valley Park		Baseball field, play apparatus, shelter multipurpose/basketball area	
14.	1972	Pine Park	9	Baseball/softball field, football/soccer area, ice rink.	
15.	1972	North Greenway Park Site	3.5	Natural, passive recreation interests	
16.	1972	Willow Park	25	1 acre with shelter, play apparatus area, multipurpose/basketball. 6.5 acre passive interests area, 17 acres unimproved.	
17.	1972	Birch Park	3	Baseball diamond and playground area. Updated to include playground accessories, 8' picnic tables, 36' therapeutic ramp.	Updated 1989
18.	1972	Fairview School-Park	3.5	Baseball/softball field, play equipment area and basketball standard	
19.	1972	Maple Park	3		
20.	1973	Poplar Park	3.5	Play apparatus area and a baseball diamond	
21.	1973	Oak Park/ Cemetery Site	2.5	Natural, passive area	
22.	1973	Sloan Park	2.5	Baseball diamond	
23.	1978	New Brittany Park	5	Soccer practice area and play apparatus	
24.	1978	North Ridge Park	5	Retention lake	Updated 1999
25.	1978	South Ridge Park	31.6	Retention lake with ice skating in winter	Updated 1999
26.	1978	Westbury Lake	17	Creek and retention lake. Updated to include trail system, fishing piers, playgrounds, shelters basketball, volley ball, tennis courts, benches, bleachers, boat dock, safety lighting shoreline stabilization.	Updated 1985, 2003
27.	1978	Sundance Park	1	Playground area	
28.	1978	Thornbark Park	1		
29.	1978	Whispering Park/Lake	6	Retention lake site	
30.	1978	Olmstead Park	7.5	Updated includes baseball fields, playground, tennis courts, basketball court, shelter, parking lot and pathway.	Updated 1991
31.	1978	Sheffield Park	1	Play site	
32.	1979	Blackhawk Park	9	Lighted softball fields. Updated, site of rec. admin center including fitness club, gym, preschool rooms, multi-purpose rooms, indoor track sauna and whirlpool. Outdoor walking/jogging track.	Updated 1986, 1996, 1997
33.	1979	Eisenhower Park	9	Athletic park with baseball/softball fields, basketball areas, football fields, football practice area and running path.	

Figure 6.06: List of Parks, Hoffman Estates Park District Master Plan 2004



#	Date	Name	Acres	Current Use	Improvements
34.	1979	Victoria Park	52.5	Partially wetlands. Baseball/softball fields, play apparatus areas, shelter building, basketball court, tennis courts, accessible playground, soccer field and pathway system.	Updated 1991
35.	1980	Colony Park	3.5	Play apparatus small detention area	
36.	1980	Colony Point Nature Area	2.1	Natural area	
37.	1980	Kingston Park	3.5	Detention area	
38.	1981	Willow Recreation Center	18	Community center with racquetball courts, health club, gymnasium, whirlpool, sauna and multipurpose rooms. Tennis courts, playground apparatus area and outdoor running track.	
39.	1981	Huntington Park	8.4	Baseball/softball fields, basketball court, play apparatus, shelter and pathway	
40.	1981	Seminole Nature Area	13	Natural, detention area	
41.	1981	Douglas Park	3.1	Detention area	
42.	1981	Lincoln Park	4.8	Play apparatus, detention area	
43.	1981	Meadow Park	3	Open neighborhood park	
44.	1988	Wilmington Park	4	Detention area	
45.	1990	Lombardy Park	1	Open space	
46.	1990	Pebble Park	3.5	Soccer practice area	
47.	1990	Poplar Creek Golf Course	150	18 Hole championship golf course, updated with new clubhouse.	Updated 1992, 1996
48.	1991	Chestnut Lake Park	10.5	Retention lake, open space plus soccer practice field and ice skating.	Updated 2000
49.	1993	Cannon Crossings Park	26.3	Renamed from Kelley Park. Updated to include accessible playground, basketball area, baseball/softball fields, bleachers, soccer fields, tennis court sand volley ball court, shelter, rollerblading rink, parking lot, cross country ski trail.	Updated 1999
50.	1993	Poplar Creek Country Club		Air supported sports complex (the Dome) indoor driving range. Updated/converted driving range to golf learning center.	Updated 2001, 2003
51.	1995	Seascape Family Aquatic Center		Pool complex including sandy play area, open grassy lounging areas. Man-made ice rinks and sled hill for winter.	
52.	1997	Charlemagne Park	20	Wetland natural habitat. Includes path, basketball and tennis courts, accessible playground, picnic shelter, fishing areas interpretive signs and parking lot.	
53.	2000	Prairie Stone Sports & Wellness Center	12.09	Sports facility with swimming pools, activity pool, whirlpool, basketball courts, gymnasium, climbing wall, indoor walking/running track, sauna and tennis courts.	
54.	2000	Canterbury Park Place	16.5	Soccer fields, baseball field, playground and wetland areas	
55.	2001	Princeton Park Place	2.7	Neighborhood park with playground equipment, path and parking lot.	
56.	2001	Princeton Wetland	4.67	Wetland site	
57.	2001	Hunters Ridge Wetland	14.6	Linear Wetland	
58.	2001	Tall Oaks Park	10.6	Neighborhood playground, open air shelter and path	
59.	2001	Golf Road Basin	1.7	Detention area	
60.	2001	Hunters Ridge Basin	1	Detention area	
61.	2001	Canterbury Fields Park	10	Development plans included baseball fields, playground, open air shelter and parking lot	
62.	2002	Cipri Park		Playground	
63.	2003	Willow Recreation Center		Gymnasium, racquetball courts, recreation rooms for adults and teens, game room. Exercise room with weight training equipment, TVs.	
64.	2003	Armstrong	2		

Figure 6.07: List of Parks, Hoffman Estates Park District Master Plan 2004



RECREATIONAL TRAILS

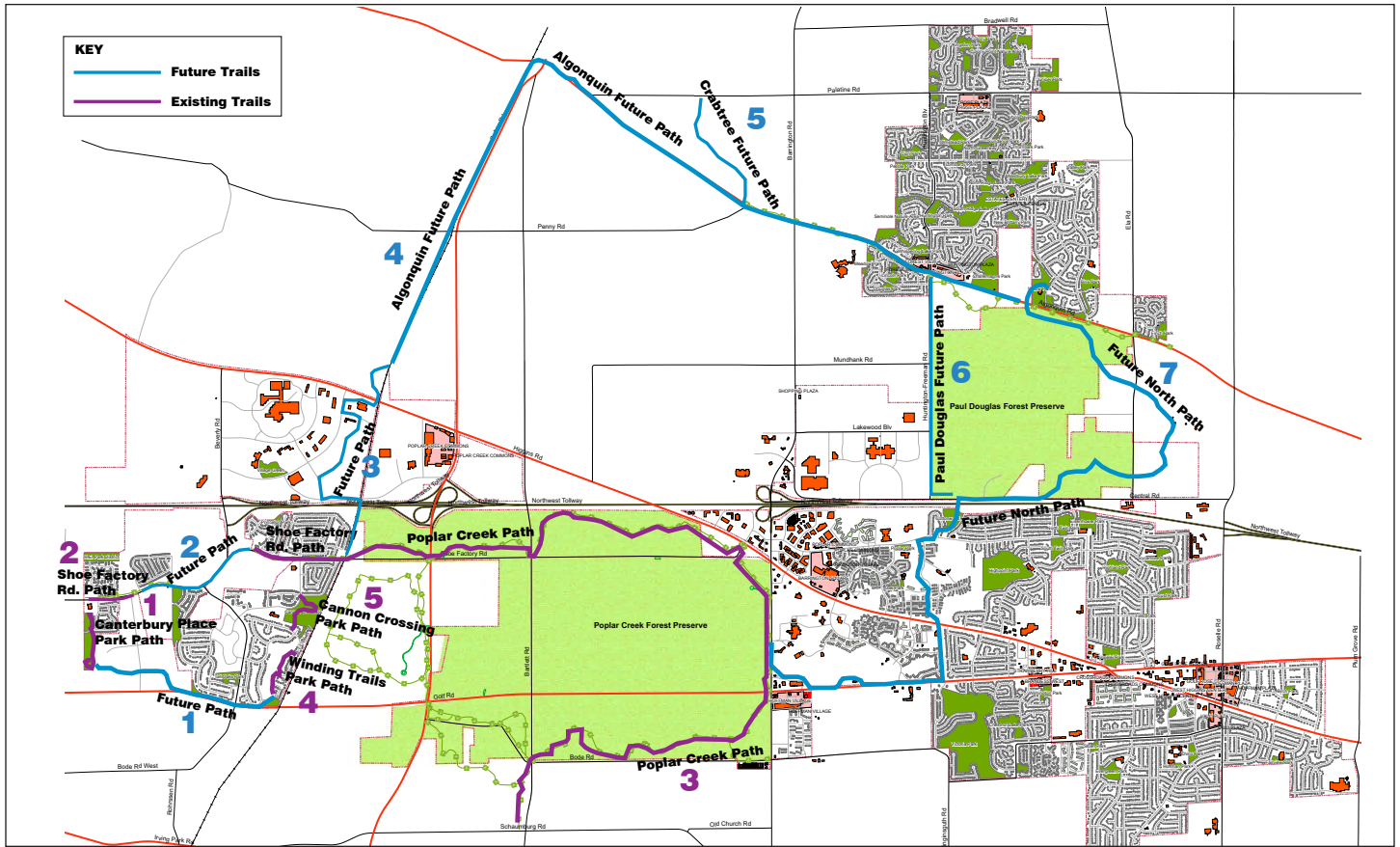


Figure 6.08: Hoffman Estates existing and future bike trail system

Integrated Open Space System

One of the shared goals of the Village, the Park District and County is to create an integrated open space network by linking public access, trails and community facilities.

Existing Trails

Existing trails are marked in purple on Figure 6.08. A majority of the existing trails are concentrated in the Poplar Creek Preserve and have been completed within the last few years. Below are the different segments of the existing trail system. The numbers below correlate to the purple numbers in Figure 6.08. A larger scale trail map in the Poplar Creek Forest Preserve can be seen in Figure 6.09.

- 1. Canterbury Place Park - 0.55 miles
- 2. Shoe Factory Road Path - 0.42 miles
- 3. Poplar Creek Path - 7.38 miles

Future Trails

Several new trails marked in blue on Figure 6.08, are being planned to connect with existing trails in Hoffman Estates. These future trails will establish a network of new paths connecting the Poplar Creek, Paul Douglas and Crabtree Preserves. These bike trails were originally identified in the 1992 Northern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan. In addition, new trail development is planned to connect with existing trails in the Poplar Creek Preserve and Prairie Stone Business Park. Below is a listing of the proposed bike trail extensions. The numbers correlate to the blue numbers in Figure 6.08.

- 1. Golf Road Future Path - 1.5 miles
- 2. Shoe Factory Road Future Path - 0.72 miles
- 3. Future Path - 1.92 miles
- 4. Algonquin Future Path - 6.80 miles
- 5. Crabtree Future Path - 1.0 miles
- 6. Paul Douglas Future Path - 1.84 miles
- 7. Future North Path - 6.96 miles





Figure 6.09: Poplar Creek existing bike trial system

Figure 6.09 is a detailed map of the Poplar Creek Forest Preserve showing the extensive network of new trails and links.

A new 5.8 mile trail is being planned for the Paul Douglas/ Crabtree Preserve and is anticipated to be constructed by 2008.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Culture and History

Cultural identity and history are a valued resource of every community. The original settlers of the Village were farmers. Today there are just a few vintage farmsteads in the Village still in existence. Like most communities, Hoffman Estates seeks to recognize the past and preserve its history. Restoration of the buildings and grounds are a Village goal but will be dependent on creating a viable plan to reuse these historic buildings and properties. Any proposal will require developing a financial plan for implementation.

Three historic farmhouse properties still exist in Hoffman Estates. These historic properties are representative of the cultural heritage within the Village. The following is a brief overview on the current conditions of these properties.

Bergman Farm

The Bergman Farm is located at the corner of Algonquin and Ela Road and covers an extent of approximately 37 acres. The farm is active and still remains family owned by the Bergmans. The house and farmstead are over 100 years old and in excellent condition. The farm is bordered by the Village of Hoffman Estates to the east and west, by the forest preserve to the south and the Village of Inverness to the north. The farm is located in unincorporated county land and will remain in that status until the owners request to be incorporated as part of the Village.

Lindbergh School House

The Lindbergh School House is located in the western portion of the Village, at the southwest corner of Shoe Factory Road and Essex Drive. The building is 77 years old, in disrepair and will require substantial renovations. The school house recently came to the attention of the Village Board, because it is located on the property of a proposed housing development. In March 2006 the fate of the school house came within a few votes of demolition when the Village Board reviewed the status of this historic building.

In response to the goals of the Village the developer of the proposed housing development offered \$100,000 to partially restore the building, which has suffered from repeated acts of vandalism over the years. During deliberations over the property Village officials have discussed the possibility that Lindbergh School House could be transformed into local history museum, but that would



Figure 6.10: View of the Bergman Farm from Ela Road

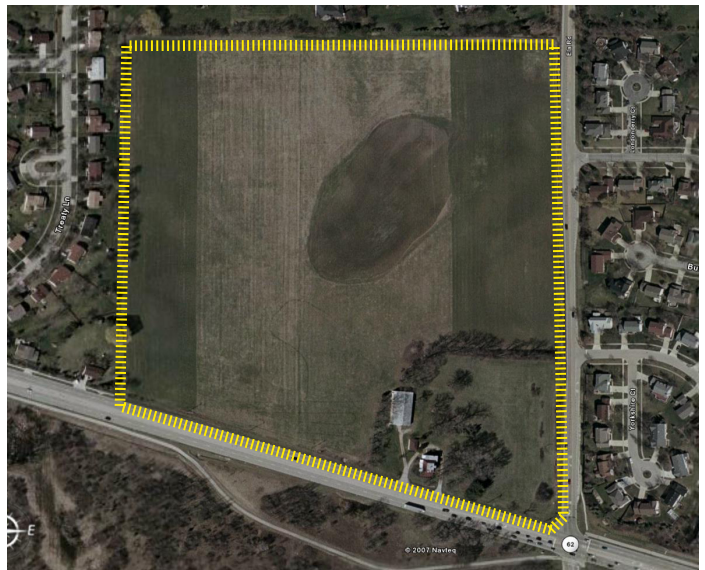


Figure 6.11: Aerial View of the Bergman Farm



Figure 6.12: Aerial View of the Lindbergh Schoolhouse



require significant funding. The renovation of the school house has received support among area residents who seek opportunities to preserve Hoffman Estates history.

Sunderlage Farmhouse

Sunderlage Farmhouse is a 150-year old farmhouse located at Volid Drive and Vista Walk in Hoffman Estates. This property is currently owned and maintained by the Village and is used as a community center. The farmhouse is located in the middle of several apartment buildings and has been preserved through the years by the advocacy of Village residents. On the site, fifty feet from the house, is a smokehouse. Careful investigation of the smokehouse revealed that it was built in 1845, one of the oldest surviving buildings in Cook County. While the farmhouse was adapted and partially restored so it could be used as a community center, the smokehouse was restored immaculately and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980.

The farm house was built in 1856 for the family of Johann Sunderlage by Hiram Thurston, a master carpenter. The farm was owned and operated by the Volkening family in the early 1900’s. The Volkenings were cousins of the Sunderlages. In the 1940’s, Lila Harrell bought the farmhouse and modernized it. She named it “Angelus Farm”.



Figure 6.14: Aerial view of the Sunderlage Farm House

Peter Volid, the President of King Korn Stamps and Campfire Marshmallows, purchased the farm in the 1950’s. In 1978, the Village of Hoffman Estates purchased the property from Al Robin, the developer of Moon Lake Apartment Complex. The farm was purchased by the Village of Hoffman Estates and it was designated as a historic site.



Figure 6.13: View of the Sunderlage Farm House



Figure 6.15: Front view of the Sunderlage Farm House



OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES

Hoffman Estates is in the unique position of having a significant amount of open space within the Village and access to the major regional assets of the adjoining forest preserves. As Hoffman Estates looks to the future, it is important to provide policy to protect the quality of the natural environment for future generations. Protecting and enhancing the natural landscape can be an opportunity not only to improve the environment now and in the future but also to sustain the quality of life in the Village. This is an opportunity for the Village to improve and market the natural assets as a critical component in creating a great place to live and raise a family.

Conserving the natural environment and enhancing the recreational opportunities in the landscape for all residents is a key objective of the Comprehensive Plan. The Village supports the conservation of appropriate land areas in a natural state to preserve, protect and enhance stream valleys, meadows, woodlands, wetlands, farmland, and plant and animal life. Small areas of open space should also be preserved in already congested and developed areas for passive neighborhood uses, scenic value, and screening and buffering purposes.

Environmental Protection

Natural resources are limited and irreplaceable assets. New development in Hoffman Estates should be sensitive to the natural setting, in order to prevent degradation of the natural environment and preserve natural resources with the intent to meet or exceed federal, state and local standards for water quality, air quality and other environmental standards.

Civic Gathering Places

As the Village looks to the future, there are opportunities to develop private and public civic spaces (small pocket parks or plazas) as part of mixed use developments for shopping centers, TOD and/or other gathering places. This type of open space will be an important element in providing needed public outdoor space for civic uses and passive recreation.



Figure 6.16: Example of a biking trail



Figure 6.17: Hiking, biking and rollerblading trails



Figure 6.18: Preserved wetlands within Prairie Stone Business Park

OPEN SPACE POLICIES

Open Space Polices

The following is a list of open space policy considerations for the future.

1. Manage Existing Open Spaces

- Protect the natural environment and work with the Hoffman Estates Park District and Cook County Forest Preserve to enhance the natural areas within and adjacent to the Village.
- Designate the Village's natural areas and create management plans for all natural sites within the Village.
- Improve volunteer programs for management of local natural areas.
- Use Village infrastructure to improve biodiversity where appropriate.
- Integrate the park and open space system with the bike trail and the stormwater management systems to expand trail recreation and nature study opportunities. Maximize the use of the recreational trail system to provide open space and recreation areas, as well as to carry stormwater.

2. Expand the Trail Network

- Increase the trail network to connect to natural areas. Identify future connections between neighborhoods, parks, open space and forest preserves through the extension of recreation trails.
- Develop a system of public access easements for multiuse recreational trail purposes that developers will be required to extend when contiguous to or co-located with other required easements.

3. Provide for Community Recreation Needs

- Work with the Hoffman Estates Park District and Cook County Forest Preserve to provide programs and facilities that meet today and future recreation needs of the community.

4. Increase Public Awareness of Ecological Issues

- Increase public awareness of the importance of ecological issues, such as water and air quality, and biodiversity conservation.
- Develop outreach plans to particular population groups, such as homeowners, pet owners, gardeners and others.
- Create sustainability policy for the reduction of energy consumption by residents, businesses and municipal facilities.
- Develop a stormwater management plan that improves the ecological environment and water quality throughout the Village.

5. Preserve the Village History

- Establishing public/private partnerships to restore historic places within the Village.
- Create financially viable plans to restore structures and develop community programs for adaptive reuse of the facilities.
- Restoration of the buildings and grounds will be considered on a case by case basis as development is proposed.

6. Develop Open Space Implementation Plans

- Consider joint public private support efforts, endowments and user fees for acquisition and maintenance of very small parks or consider specialized park facilities or programs whose high costs or limited potential usage make full public support not feasible.
- Require proposed residential developments to dedicate land or pay a fee in lieu thereof for public park, recreation and open space acquisition. In addition require developer to pay a fee to develop park facilities to serve the added population.
- Work with the school districts in Hoffman Estates and adjacent communities to provide joint school park sites and programs wherever possible.

