



# COMMUNITY-WIDE PARK & RECREATION SYSTEM PLANNING

To meet residents' recreational needs and support healthy lifestyles, communities should create or update park system plans every 10 years; in some cases, it's required by state statute. Parks, trails, and open spaces are critical components to livable, vibrant, and sustainable communities as they contribute to our physical, social, and psychological well-being. Park system planning helps communities determine where to invest resources to provide the best network of parks and recreational amenities to meet current and future community needs.

## Why Bolton & Menk

The planning process typically involves a customized approach broken into four primary phases: system inventory, needs analysis, recommendations, and implementation. Engaging the public for input and feedback throughout the process is critical to success, including plan adoption and implementation. Our park and recreation system planning team includes a diverse group of professionals with a background of planning for, implementing, and maintaining park and rec facilities. We bring both private and public sector backgrounds and have proven experience

helping communities get projects off the ground, starting from a solid foundational plan.

## Benefits

Having a park system plan in place can be a differentiator for positioning a park and rec agency for grants and other funding opportunities. A current system plan also allows city/department staff to accurately budget and prioritize facility improvements, plan and schedule maintenance operations, manage operational budgets, and align projects with a city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

## Key Outcomes

- Outline a 10-Year CIP for park and trail improvements
- Reflects community concerns, aspirations, and needs
- Supports active lifestyles and open space/natural resource conservation that is critical to maintaining healthy and sustainable communities

