

the urbana park district Mission

To improve the quality of life of Urbana’s citizens through a responsive, efficient and creative park and recreation system.

5 CREATING A VISION

The Urbana Park District’s mission is to “improve the quality of life of Urbana’s citizens through a responsive, efficient and creative park and recreation system.” The Urbana Park District Strategic Plan formulated six “big moves” to maintain and enhance connectivity of area trails, one of which is to “continue with the collaborative development of a trail system including strong connections between present and future Urbana Park District parks, loop trails within parks and linkages with the regional trail system.” These elements provide important focus and direction for preparing specific goals and objectives for this master plan within its broader vision to obtain a more integrated, better connected trail system for walking and bicycling within the community.

Each of the goals is under a specific theme. In addition to Goals and Objectives, a list of Performance Measures is included to evaluate achievements of the proposed objectives. All the Themes, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures are shown on the following tables.

A **theme** is the subject of a goal.

A **goal** is defined as an end state that describes an outcome the Urbana Park District wishes to achieve by implementing the Urbana Trails Master Plan.

Objectives are sub-goals that help organize the implementation of the plan into measurable and manageable parts.

Performance measures will help the Urbana Park District to track the progress of each objective over time.

Each of these elements, carefully crafted by the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan steering committee, represent clear and concise directions for continued development of the trail system within the Urbana Park District.

Appendix B includes sheets for Urbana Park District staff to track the performance measures listed in this chapter.

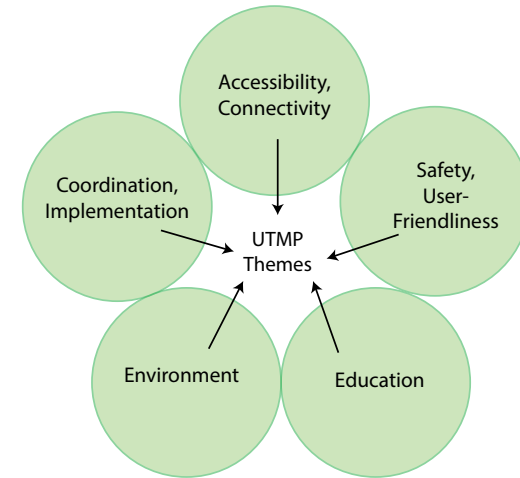


Figure 15 This diagram illustrates the themes used to define Goals and Objectives of the Urbana Trails Master Plan

Goal 1: Continue with the collaborative development of a district-wide / regional trail system including strong connections between present and future UPD parks, loop trails within parks, and linkages within the regional trail system.

Goal 2: Develop a system of trails that is user-friendly by providing amenities that make parks accessible to all residents and visitors.

Goal 3: Educate residents about the benefits and availability of trail facilities.

Goal 4: Preserve and enhance the natural environment through the development and operation of greenways coinciding with Urbana Park District trails.

Goal 5: Coordinate the planning and implementation of all Urbana park trails system projects with the City of Urbana’s Bicycle Master Plan and proposed sidewalk improvements, as well as the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan in a manner that emphasizes rational and cost-effective measures.

THEMES: ACCESSIBILITY, CONNECTIVITY

Goal 1: Continue with the collaborative development of a district-wide / regional trail system including strong connections between present and future UPD parks, loop trails within parks and linkages within the regional trail system.

Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
1. Provide regional trail connections from UPD trails to the Kickapoo Rail Trail by 2020.	a. Number of trail connections made to the regional trail network	<p>i. Include connections to designated regional trails within Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan development.</p> <p>ii. Continue working with regional partners to develop and implement the Urbana Trails Plan.</p>	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, developers
2. Provide trail connections between parks and major destinations: - By 2020: - Downtown to Crystal Lake Park - By 2030: - Crystal Lake Park to Chief Shemauger Park - Chief Shemauger Park to Perkins Road Site - Weaver Park to Prairie Park	<p>a. Number of trail connections made between parks and major destinations</p> <p>b. Number of trail connections made between parks</p>	<p>i. Include connections to designated parks within Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan development.</p> <p>ii. Continue working with local partners to develop and implement the Urbana Trails Plan.</p>	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, developers
3. Provide loop trails in parks: Crystal Lake Park by 2020; and AMBUCS, Prairie, and Weaver Parks by 2030.	a. Number of loop trails	i. Include loop trails in designated parks within Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan development.	Urbana Park District
4. Implement all of the short-term projects proposed in the Urbana Trails Master Plan by 2020.	a. Number of miles of new trail facilities	<p>i. Create routes that connect to and through all UPD parks designated within the UTMP.</p> <p>ii. Take advantage of opportunities to develop off-street shared-use paths, using methods including but not limited to: working with railroads to develop bicycle facilities on or along rights-of-way, and acquiring property for trail facilities.</p>	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, developers, CUMTD, railroad companies
5. Complete a continuous trail/bikeway loop around Urbana by implementing the Urbana Green Loop by 2030.	a. Miles of loop trail infrastructure constructed	<p>i. Take advantage of opportunities to develop off-street shared-use paths and trails, using methods including but not limited to: working with railroads to develop trail facilities on or along rights-of-way, and acquiring property that provides off-street connections between trail facilities.</p> <p>ii. Contribute to creating a continuous loop in the Champaign-Urbana urbanized area.</p>	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, developers, University of Illinois, railroad companies, City of Champaign

THEMES: SAFETY, USER-FRIENDLINESS

Goal 2: Develop a system of trails that is user-friendly by providing amenities that make parks accessible to all residents and visitors.			
Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
1. Add 2 new miles of trail facilities that provide the minimum number of amenities: benches, bike parking, drinking fountains, lighting, maps, mile markers, trail signs, and waste receptables.	a. Miles of new trails built with the minimum number of amenities	i. Seek grants for new trail facility construction and development.	Urbana Park District
2. Retrofit at least 1 mile of existing trails with the amenities listed in UTMP Chapter 4: Park Inventory and “Gap” Analysis, adhering to Champaign County Greenways and Trails Design Guidelines where applicable, by 2020.	a. Miles of existing trails retrofitted to meet minimum amenity standards	i. Set aside funding within the Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan for trail retrofits.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana
3. Install trail signs and markings on all new trail facilities according to the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines by 2020.	a. Miles of trail infrastructure projects built with signs according to the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines	i. Provide consistent trail signage and pavement markings.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana
4. Provide covered bike parking at at least 3 designated parks and facilities by 2020.	a. Number of designated parks with covered bike parking installed	i. Seek grants to provide covered bike parking. ii. Set aside funding within the Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan for covered bike parking.	Urbana Park District
5. Partner with the Urbana Police Department to promote safety and security of existing and proposed trail facilities by 2016.	a. Police reports related to vandalism on park trails b. Police reports related to personal safety on park trails	i. Initiate a bicycle education program that includes information on personal safety.	Urbana Police Department, Urbana Park District, City of Urbana

THEME: EDUCATION

Goal 3: Educate residents about the benefits and availability of trail facilities.			
Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
1. Produce and distribute a regularly updated map that includes existing trail facilities in Urbana at least every 3 years.	a. Frequency of map publication and distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Collaborate with mapping and distribution efforts of Champaign County Bikes (CCB). ii. Include Urbana Park District facilities. iii. Include facilities listed in the Champaign County Greenways and Trails (GT) Plan inventory. 	Urbana Park District, Champaign County Bikes, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission
2. Distribute educational, encouragement, and enforcement materials focusing on trail accessibility and proximity at a minimum of 2 new public events per year by 2016.	a. Number of events with materials available	i. Distribute materials at annual events such as the Jazz Walk, Strawberry Jam, Turkey Trot, and MLK Jettie Rhodes Neighborhood Day.	Urbana Park District
	b. Number of materials distributed	ii. Distribute materials at weekly or seasonal events, such as Neighborhood Nights.	
3. Provide 3 educational and encouragement programs for all ages about the benefits of walking, biking, and appreciation of green space by 2020.	a. Number of educational and encouragement programs provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Partner on providing a Bike 101 class (up to 1 per semester) with Champaign County Bikes (CCB). ii. Provide specific programs for toddlers, youth, teens, seniors, etc. 	Urbana Park District, Champaign County Bikes, University of Illinois
	b. Portion of all age ranges served	iii. Establish a presence at U of I Quad Day to reach out to students.	
4. Distribute a biennial survey to Urbana residents to identify trail system priorities to be included in the Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan by 2016.	a. Number of surveys distributed	i. Make the survey available at events such as Neighborhood Nights and the Sweetcorn Festival.	Urbana Park District
	b. Number of surveys collected	ii. Make the survey available at UPD parks, facilities and website.	
5. Make 3 new trail education, encouragement, and enforcement materials available on the UPD website by 2016.	a. Number of materials available on website	i. Provide materials for a wide variety of park users	Urbana Park District
6. Make available trail education, encouragement, and enforcement materials in at least 1 language besides English by 2020.	a. Number of multilingual materials	i. Maps, brochures	Urbana Park District

THEME: ENVIRONMENT (NATURAL)**Goal 4: Preserve and enhance the natural environment through the development and operation of greenways coinciding with Urbana Park District trails.**

Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
1. Use the Urbana trail system to connect 2 natural features such as bodies of water, wooded areas, and open spaces by 2030.	a. Number of new connections between natural areas	i. Connect Chief Shemauger Park with Crystal Lake Park via Saline Branch trail.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, developers
		ii. Connect Chief Shemauger Park with AMBUCS Park via Saline Branch trail.	
		iii. Connect Weaver Park marsh with Weaver Park Woods.	
2. Develop at least 2 miles of trail facilities that allow users to interpret and experience the natural environment along greenways through signage and/or trail creation by 2030.	a. Number of miles of trail facilities developed with minimum signage and natural area requirements	i. Meadowbrook Park	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana
		ii. Perkins Road / Judge Webber Park	
3. Implement 1 new annual trail cleanup event for greenways and natural areas by 2016.	a. Number of trail cleanup events implemented	i. Create a rotating list of designated areas to clean up (e.g. Crystal Lake, Perkins Road / Judge Webber, new areas as developed, etc.)	Urbana Park District

THEME: COORDINATION, IMPLEMENTATION

Goal 5: Coordinate the planning and implementation of all Urbana park trails system projects with the City of Urbana’s Bicycle Master Plan and proposed sidewalk improvements, as well as the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan in a manner that emphasizes rational and cost-effective measures.

Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
1. Recognize the significance of prioritized projects listed within the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan by implementing 3 High Priority projects that are also listed in the Urbana Trails Master Plan by 2020.	a. Number of projects implemented that are listed as High Priority in the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan	i. Combine projects that can be geographically linked for implementation.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), developers
2. Develop a coordinated review process between the City of Urbana and the Urbana Park District for development proposals where park trails are proposed by 2016.	a. Number of new development projects receiving trail evaluations	i. Work with City of Urbana and other government agencies to prioritize proposed UPD trail linkages within the review process for trail connections.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana
		ii. Identify any negative impacts found during evaluation though design changes, geographic location, or other options.	
		iii. Work with the City of Urbana on reviewing development proposals linked to trail development.	
3. Promote and establish at least 1 connection from Urbana parks to future statewide systems of greenways and trails by 2040.	a. Number of trail connections leading outside Urbana	i. Pursue connections along abandoned railroad rights of way which offer significant rail-to-trail possibilities.	Urbana Park District, City of Urbana, City of Champaign, rail companies, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, developers
		ii. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to acquire and develop abandoned railroad rights of way.	
4. By 2020, 3 different grant applications will be submitted by the Urbana Park District for trail projects funding as part of new trail development projects as appropriate.	a. Number of grant applications submitted	i. Keep abreast of upcoming transportation projects and how they could contribute to the trails system.	Urbana Park District
		ii. Advocate for the inclusion of trails in new road projects and roadway repairs.	
		iii. Apply for funding to enhance road repair and construction aside from allocations from local agencies.	
5. Dedicate at least 5% of the Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) money allocated for trail construction and maintenance projects annually.	a. Percentage of Urbana Park District CIP dedicated to trail improvements	i. Incorporate into budgeting policy and strategies.	Urbana Park District

Objectives	Performance Measures	Strategies	Responsible Parties
6. Produce a list of completed and current trail facility construction projects at the end of each construction year to 3 groups/boards/commissions.	a. List of completed trail facility construction projects	i. Make presentations ii. Post website materials	Urbana Park District
	b. List of current trail facility construction projects	iii. Use other communication measures	
7. Provide UPD funding for at least 1 trail facility along new or existing roadways adjacent to parks by 2020.	a. Miles of new roadway projects with trail installation	i. New roadway construction ii. Existing roadway reconstruction	Urbana Park District
	b. Number of existing roadway reconstruction projects with trail installation	iii. Development proposals	
8. Assign at least the equivalent of 0.5 FTE staff from UPD to work on the implementation of the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan including planning, design, engineering, education, enforcement, and encouragement by 2016.	a. Staff time allocated to implementation of the Urbana Trails Plan	i. Assign staff time to designate a trails coordinator for the plan.	Urbana Park District