North Beach Park Master Plan – Creating a More Sustainable, Inclusive, and Engaging Park Environment

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Background

In November 2010 the City of Racine was in the process of developing a park management plan to improve the quality of North Beach. Brunner et al. (2014) undertook a needs assessment and benchmarking of surrounding beach areas in the United States and the survey results were incorporated into the planning process. The goals of the planning process were to create a more sustainable, inclusive and engaging park environment.

Planning Process

Through a collaborative process, the park team identified three focus areas to address in the planning process. These focus areas included Access & Connectivity, Design & Amenities, and Environmental Sustainability.

Access & Connectivity

The project team identified improving on site and off site access as critical in making the park more sustainable and engaging. The survey results from the 2015 season were analyzed to determine the areas that needed improvement.

Design & Amenities

The project team identified the need to improve the visitor experience at the North Beach Park. The survey results from the 2015 season were analyzed to determine the areas that needed improvement.

Environmental Sustainability

The project team identified the need to improve the environmental sustainability of the park. The survey results from the 2015 season were analyzed to determine the areas that needed improvement.

Implementation

Developed over a four-month period, including initial focus group meetings and public input, the final planning document established as the foundation for improvements to the park. The survey results were used to prioritize the recommendations for the park.

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Figure 1. A matrix showing the anticipated impact for the proposed recommendations for each focus area.

Figure 2. The site plan above shows the full implementation of site improvements at the North Beach Park.

Figure 3. The site plan above shows the full implementation of site improvements at the North Beach Park.