



Chapter 14

Implementation Strategy



Implementation Strategy

Implementation of the “Munster Matters” Plan is dependent on several key factors. First and foremost is commitment to the plan. It is critical that the Parks Department and the Park Board get behind the plan and the findings presented in the plan. Without their collective devotion to the plan, the document will not be a living breathing document, but will only sit on the shelf and collect dust. The second factor is the funding of the recommendations promulgated in the plan. Many of the recommendations do not require significant funding, but primarily a change in the culture of the way things are done and modification of the management processes. It will be important in some cases to stray from the “way we’ve always done it” to trying a different way. If the Department is looking for different results, then trying alternative ways may provide those different results. Another factor and not the last, is the regular and frequent review and updating of the plan to ensure it stays current. As issues change, situations evolve, circumstances are modified the business and operational climate must change and the plan be updated and modified to “keep it relevant and current”.

Program recommendations fall into two categories, 1) those that will require additional funding to implement, and 2) those that do not require additional funding for implementation. Those that do not require additional funding would be those that would require a change in practice, such as changing day of week or time of day. Those requiring additional funding should be evaluated against the Department’s annual goals and existing programs to determine if the program should go forward in addition to the existing program menu (additional funding may be necessary) or a strategy for the program to be self-sustaining (generating sufficient program revenue to offset program expenses and meet the cost recovery goals identified).

The “Munster Matters” Plan included significant public participation and input. It is important that the Department continue to solicit public input and participation. Keeping the public engaged through social media, exit questionnaires, follow-up surveys, etc. shows the public that they are important. Should the need arise

to reach out to the public for additional capital funding (referendum) the support base can already be engaged and the need for the project or program well known and defensible. This would make efforts to market and sell the need for the project or program in any referendum effort.

Capital improvements should be reviewed for their potential impact on existing operational resources. Improvements that can reduce maintenance and operational inputs should be prioritized and implemented as soon as financially feasible, as these improvements will pay dividends for years to come. Additionally, it is important to develop control plans for each park site so as conditions change or opportunities arise the control plan for each park can be reviewed to determine if that particular site is suitable for the opportunity at hand. Each park’s activities and programs should be reviewed to ensure the appropriate relationships are developed and maintained between the activities, adjacent land uses (neighbors), parking, water bodies, athletic fields, security lighting, playgrounds, shelters to activity areas, etc. These control plans can be schematic in nature and provide direction so as playgrounds reach their expected useful life the park can be reviewed and if appropriate the playground relocated/re-purposed/age appropriateness changed based on demographics of the service area/reconstructed.

The “Munster Matters” Plan should be reviewed, at a minimum, each year during the budget planning phase of the Department’s annual budget. Priorities for capital improvements are a policy decision that should be made by the Park Board based on the needs of the individual neighborhoods and recommendations from the professional parks and recreation staff of the Department.

Planning Resources will return and revisit the “Munster Matters” Plan with the Department 12-months following the plan adoption or following the first fiscal year following adoption. This review will discuss what has been accomplished and what may have been deferred, and develop a brief updated white paper to integrate the Department’s first cycle activities.

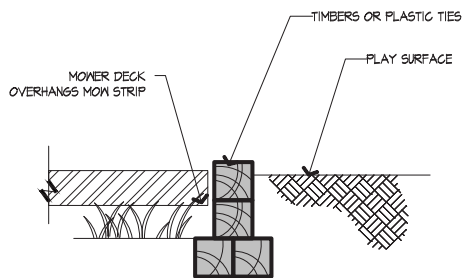
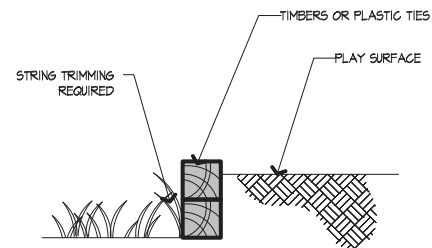
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Reference: Mow Strip Types

The following details relate to edging and containment of playground spaces. They are intended to serve as samples for the Munster Parks and Recreation Department in the future development of their playgrounds, both existing and proposed. The details serve for aesthetic as well as maintenance benefits.

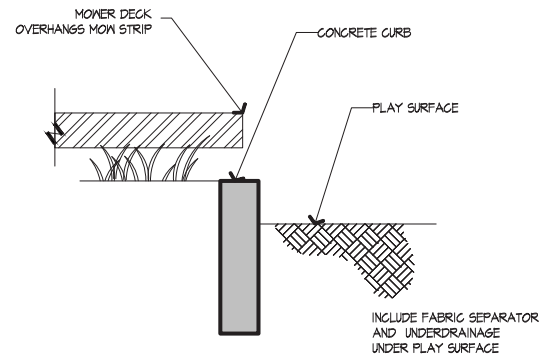
For more information, please contact the consultant landscape architects with Planning Resources Inc.



1 EXISTING PLAYGROUND CONTAINMENT

1" = 1"

02 -01



2 OFFSET TIMBER MOW STRIP

1" = 1"

02 -02

3 CONCRETE CURB CONTAINMENT MOW STRIP

1" = 1"

02 -03

