

The Built Environment Work Group met via teleconference on April 10, 2008 at 10 am. Participating: Rick, Brenda, Ann, Brian, Elaine, Teresa, Tim, Lindsay, Scot.

The WG members each tested the inventory tool at a park/place in their county. They did this to see if what was missing before the tool was released for volunteers to use. Comments:

- Thought tool worked well
- Pretty easy
- Need a comment area
- Need a spot for “other features” like horseshoe pits, or special features
- Add town or location within community
- Ask “What winter activities can be done here? “
- Differentiate between Walking paths vs. biking trails
- Differentiate between Water hydrant vs. water fountain, decorative fountain
- Shelters should indicate whether they are enclosed or have electricity
- Add contact information/phone of surveyor.
- Add size of park

Discussion turned to the difference between recreation/activity centered features and amenity features. The group decided to group the recreation elements on top of form with amenities and non-rec items in another part (memorials, trash containers, shelters, picnic tables, bathrooms on down)

- Should we have a space for nearby attraction item for visitors?
- Proximity to:, within walking distance of historical markers or memorials, special features
- Could also include walkability to schools, downtowns, residence areas
- We could mark locations on a map of area or in Google maps
- Would help us learn about gaps in locations
- If things don't fit, people need to mark in “comments” or “other” and WG will categorize.

Discussion turned to the purpose of the inventory and what we should focus on at this time.

What do we know? What do we have? What can we build on?

We want to inventory anyplace in county that has playground equipment or place to be active. The group talked about narrowing the focus for this assessment to Outdoor recreational & activity opportunities.

Schools will be an important piece to the activity discussions. The group discussed how to work with the school wellness policy teams and School WG on more specifics at a later date. Schools might want to change policies to make them more accessible.

It was also decided to brainstorm with the county planning teams at their May meeting the indoor places for recreation and contact names. BE WG members will follow-up with contacts to collect hours of operation and fees for these facilities. We will be collecting this information to give us a better idea of accessibility for all.

Teresa will update the tool and the instruction sheet to hand out at the April County Planning Team meetings. These will also be posted on the website. Copies can be made at the county Extension offices. Please send information as it is collected to Teresa. Final date to send information is May 15. The data will be compiled and ready for review by the WG members at the Regional Team meeting in May.

County contacts: Allamakee—Teresa, Clayton—Tim, Fayette—Scot, Howard—Elaine, Winneshiek-- Rick