



# COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE 2016

The Council Grove City Lake Association is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers serving our membership.  
"Striving to grow Council Grove, the business community and the lake community--together."



# **COUNCIL GROVE CITY LAKE PARK**

## **Master Plan Update 2016**

### **Council Grove City Lake Association**

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**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

*Forward thinking. World ready.*

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**THE MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE**  
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## **Council Grove City Lake Park**

Council Grove City Lake was originally built in 1942 by the City of Council Grove as its primary water source. Soon after its construction local folks began leasing resident lots from the city and building small waterfront cabins for weekend and recreational use.

The smaller of Council Grove's twin lakes (434 acres), Council Grove City Lake is located 3.5 miles northwest of Council Grove, Kansas. Through the years the landscape around the lake has changed. Over the past ten to fifteen years beautiful year-round homes have been built next to quaint seasonal cabins, making this a truly unique community. The Council Grove City Lake Park boasts 350 permanent and part-time residences, five public park areas, boat ramps and city-owned commons areas. This is a place where families and friends gather to enjoy water sports, fishing, wildlife and beautiful scenic views.



## **Council Grove City Lake Association (CGCLA)**

The Council Grove City Lake Association is a "not-for-profit organization of volunteers serving our membership---striving to grow Council Grove, the Business Community and the Lake Community together". The Association is an advocacy group that promotes, advises and recommends policies that affect the Council Grove City Lake Park. The Association is represented on the Lake Advisory Committee, which serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council and helps guide ordinances and policies and set priorities for lake area priorities and improvements.



## Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of a Master Plan is to serve as a guide for future area improvements. This plan is not a detailed construction document, but rather a set of priorities that establish a general direction for the future. A Master Plan is a "work in progress". An effective planning document is never done. Planning, because of change and progress, means this is a process without a finish line. Seeking improvement is more of a state of mind than ideas on paper.

More than anything, this Master Plan Update encourages the continuing development of a "public/private partnership" between the lake residents and the City of Council Grove, where private sector activity is matched by increased public investment. Together, these resources can be used to make substantial improvements to the City Lake Park. It is the belief of the Lake Association that an improved City Lake Park will spur additional economic development as well as **improve the quality of life for all area residents**.

The plan is divided into six key strategic issue areas. Each has been identified by the Association membership as an area needing improvement. Action steps, strategies and a timeline provide additional details for each initiative. Short-term timeframe refers to improvements in years one and two; intermediate-term refers to improvements over years three thru five; and long-term is years five thru ten. The strategic issues are:

- Financial Stability, Governance and Ownership
- Infrastructure
- Beautification and Lake Area Improvements
- Water Quality, Environmental Issues and Water Level
- Recreation, Public Safety and fishery Management
- Community Involvement, Public Relations and Community Stewardship



## Master Plan Process

The initial planning process was facilitated by Dr. Curtis Brungardt and conducted from September 2005 to February 2006, and involved more than 40 volunteers from the Lake Association and the community of Council Grove. It included an orientation meeting, three forums, a comprehensive survey administered to all lake residents, vision statement development, identification of key strategic issues, topic research and analysis and task force development of action steps and strategies. Accomplished initiatives have been replaced with new proposals and others have been revised with new strategies.

A Comprehensive review was completed, published and distributed to the membership in 2007.

Again, in 2015, Dr. Brungardt facilitated a meeting with the CGCLA Board of Directors, followed by a meeting with the Association membership, where key strategic issues were identified and action steps and strategies were outlined and discussed. The entire planning process has been conducted in an open manner where all interested parties have been encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas. Additionally, the Lake Association has utilized the local newspaper, the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, email and the Association newsletters and website to keep the membership and all area residents updated on all the latest developments and collaborative efforts.

## Vision Statement

Ultimately, it is the goal of the Lake Association to insure that the Council Grove City Lake Park continue to be a quality lakefront living community. This includes both a multi-use lake for recreation and a friendly residential living environment with its blend of historic fishing cabins and modern lake homes. The Council Grove City Lake Park provides the surrounding region with substantial economic activity and provides its residents with a quality of life unmatched anywhere else in Kansas. Above all, the lakefront community lifestyle is a place where families and friends congregate and memories are created.





New dock being towed across the lake to its home.

*Working together, this public/private partnership can provide an environment where new permanent and weekend residents will bring even greater economic activity to the entire region.*



## City Lake Park and Economic Development

The economic impact of lake residents on Council Grove and Morris County over the last several decades has been substantial. Currently there are 66 permanent families located at the lake and roughly another 200 cabins/families who regularly visit on weekends. In fact, on summer weekends the population of the City Lake Park swells to between 750-1500, making the City Lake Park the second largest community in Morris County. These “weekenders” come from all corners of our state, as well as the surrounding states of Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Iowa. Both weekenders and permanent residents spend many dollars in Morris County. They buy building materials, automobiles, fuel, insurance, groceries, clothing and banking services here. They eat at local cafes and restaurants. When the economic multiplier is considered, lake residents provide millions of dollars to the local economy. Two recent economic studies have shown that City Lake residents and visitors contribute to the local economy second only to agriculture.

The Council Grove City Lake Park periodically experiences a home construction boom. In 2004 and 2005 alone, 14 new homes were constructed. Now, again, a building boom is taking place at the City Lake Park. In 2015, 87 building permits were secured for new construction, remodeling, docks, patios, and boathouses. Clearly, the City Lake Park is evolving from the 1940’s and 1950’s seasonal fishing cabins to modern lake homes. This “re-development” of the City Lake Park has encouraged more permanent residents and regular weekenders. Recent survey data showed that 60 weekend home owners are considering moving to the lake permanently to retire or bring their work and careers with them (thanks to the internet).

The Lake Association is a strong advocate for the continuation of the public/private partnership to help guide and encourage this re-development. The private sector is moving in the right direction and the public is moving in concert with the Association. To create and enhance the economic potential of the City Lake Park, public improvements are needed. This Master Plan Update calls for the public to invest in one of Morris County’s largest industries. Working together, this public/private partnership can provide an environment where new permanent and weekend residents will bring even greater economic activity to the entire region.





## City Lake Park and Quality of Life

Our surveys show that lake residents choose to live and visit the City Lake Park for its lakefront lifestyle and waterfront tranquility. The Council Grove City Lake provides residents with a unique waterfront living atmosphere rarely found in Kansas. All cabins and lake homes have direct access to the water, where numerous water sports, fishing and related hobbies and activities are readily accessible. The City Lake Park community is a place where families, extended families and friends come together, discard the rush of the workday world and relax and rejuvenate. It is a place where multi-generational activities are commonplace and the generations learn to respect and enjoy one another. The City Lake Park has a sense of place, a sense of community. It is a place where memories are created.





*By itself, a Master Plan means very little unless the Association membership acts to carry out and implement the ideas.*

## Implementation of the Master Plan

This Master Plan Update provides the Lake Association with a general outline and a set of priorities for improvements. By itself, a Master Plan means very little unless the Association membership acts to carry out and implement the ideas. Almost every initiative listed in this plan has been discussed, debated and even proposed over the last several decades. Where things stall is at the implementation stage. Most of the plans suggested are not new issues. Therefore, implementation efforts and strategies are what will make this planning process successful. The following items are recommendations which may assist in the implementation process as the Lake Association moves forward.

The Lake Association must move from the general proposals listed in this Master Plan Update to more detailed working documents on the various initiatives. This plan, therefore, should encourage another dozen or so plans.

- Lake Association members will need to step forward and volunteer their time and efforts to implement the plan. It will take a small committee or at least one person to “champion the cause” for a particular issue.
- At various times over the next several years, a larger group of Association members will need to be mobilized for action. The lake residents will be called on to vote, lobby and provide direct action when needed
- For many of the initiatives to become reality, federal and state grant dollars are going to be needed to offset local investment. The Lake Association, City and County should begin laying the ground work for such grant proposals.
- To be successful, all involved partners will need to work together and collaborate. The Association leadership, membership, City of Council Grove, City Council, Morris County Commissioners, and the various state agencies will need to work together to benefit the entire region.
- Finally, those who implement this plan will need to look for creative solutions to many of the complex problems facing the City Lake Park. It may take unconventional approaches to address some of these issues.



## **Progress Made Since the Master Plan Review in 2007**

### **Governance, Financial Stability and Ownership**

A perpetual (renewable) 30-year lease replaced the previous 15-year lease. This lease gives the Association the right of first refusal on purchase of the lots. All boundary lines and endcaps have been identified, platted and recorded.

Incorporation of the Council Grove City Lake Association has given the leaseholders a unified voice. The lease recognizes the CGCLA as the legal representative of the leaseholders.

The Lake Advisory Committee has been implemented and structured to assist in writing of ordinances and present issues that affect leaseholders before the City Council. The lease also recognizes the Lake Advisory Committee as an advisory entity to the City Council for action regarding issues that affect lake residents.

Two economic development studies have been done in the past five years and both have shown that this lake population is second only to agriculture as an economic contributor to Morris County.

### **Infrastructure**

In 2009 the CGCLA Board of Directors had an engineering study done for sewer systems to serve lake residents. The proposal had three options.

After many years of having no inspections done on the dam, an inspection was completed by the state, which now requires an inspection every three years and follow-up inspections are done to assure required maintenance on the dam has been completed.

A CIF (capital improvement fund) has been established to reserve 10% of the lease funds for long-term major improvements to infrastructure.





## **Progress Made Since the Master Plan Review in 2007**

### **Beautification and Lake Area Improvements**

Major clean-up of the commons areas and the old dump area has been completed and the city has contracted for ongoing maintenance. An ordinance was established for maintenance of septic and water well systems. Lots are now maintained per city ordinance and owners are notified if not maintained and enforcement follows per ordinance.

Enhanced 911 road signs have been installed. The City has placed residence street number signs.

Both boat ramps have been greatly improved. Two new docks have been installed at the ramps. Unwanted/illegal restrooms have been removed. Shelters have been reroofed. Dam area parks have been cleaned and are being maintained. Vegetation on the dam has been removed. Shore area at dam has been cleaned and maintained.

### **Water Quality, Environmental Issues and Water Level**

The City is currently working to establish an online chemical certification class.

The annual PRIDE cleanup has helped immensely with keeping the commons areas better maintained.

Kansas University conducted a bathymetric and sediment survey, the results which show very little silting.

Extensive Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) education programs have been developed and brochures distributed to all lake residents and new purchasers. ANS certification program online must be completed prior to operating a boat or fishing on the City Lake.

A new committee has been formed to look into various options, explore technologies that measure and record options to maintain constant water level, and improve water quality.

## Progress Made Since the Master Plan Review in 2007

### Recreation, Public Safety and Fishery Management

Communications regarding these areas have greatly improved. All ordinances covering boat safety and operation are on the CGCLA website. An electrical/water safety training program has been given. The city and the Lake Advisory Committee are working together on a new ordinance which will cover electrical connections at the waterfront.

Expansion of the "high speed" boating area is now being studied.

We are now enrolled in the Community Fisheries Assistance Program, (CFAP), which is administered by KDWPT who stocks the lake with differing varieties of fish on a regular basis.

### Community Stewardship

This is a new area just added to this Master Plan Update. This plan emphasizes improving communications with Morris County and Council Grove residents and expanding the participation and visibility of lake residents in Morris County. Already, articles in the newspaper and conversations with area residents are leading to greater understanding of some of the issues affecting both lake residents and residents of Morris County and Council Grove.



The KDWPT at work stocking the lake with fish



1. Governance, Financial Stability and Ownership	
Action Steps and Strategies	Time Frame
<p><b>1a. <u>Lake Residents be given the opportunity to purchase their current leaseholds</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the Council Grove City Lake Association (CGCLA) negotiate on behalf of the homeowners the purchase of the city-owned residential real estate around the lake at a reasonable price. Once the transaction is completed, each homeowner will be encouraged to purchase their own residential lot. This process would guarantee long-term financial stability and encourage further private sector investment. Platting and recording of boundary lines has been completed, and this is the first step toward being able to purchase the lots. A City Lake Association Task Force should be formed and, with the help of legal counsel, negotiate this transaction.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> The CGCLA Board of Directors should discuss thoroughly the ideal process in detail including who, when and how to proceed. The Task Force should include members of The Council Grove City Council and members of the Council Grove business community in addition to members of the CGCLA. Advantages and disadvantages to all parties should be identified and the economics to each should be reviewed. A majority of council members and Lake Association members would then need to ratify the agreement.</p>	Long-term
<p><b>1b. <u>Upon ownership, Establish an “Improvement District” for Self- Governance</u></b></p> <p>Establish an Improvement District for self-governance and/or a Homeowners Association. CGCLA incorporated. Lease recognizes CGCLA as the legal representative of leaseholders. The current lease recognizes the Lake Advisory Committee as the advisory entity to the Council Grove City Council for action regarding issues that affect lake residences.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> Study a model for governance such as improvement districts, homeowners associations and other alternatives.</p>	Long-term



<b>1c. <u>Economic Impact Study</u></b>	<p>This plan recommends that the Lake Association and the City of Council Grove have an economic impact study conducted detailing the economic activity and contributions the lake residents have on Council Grove and Morris County. This data may be extremely important to the Lake Association and the City as they pursue state and federal grant dollars for the City Lake Park Improvements.</p>	Short-term
<i>Strategy:</i>	<p>This plan encourages the Lake Association, City of Council Grove, Morris County, Council Grove Chamber of Commerce and Morris County Economic Development Corporation to join together and study the feasibility and contract with a rural economic development consulting firm for the study in 2016. Important resources will also be searched from county, state, municipal and college databases. The study may also include research of local sales during periods of time when the City Lake has low water level and its impact on community sales tax revenues</p>	
<b>1d. <u>Monitor To Insure Fair Governance And Tax Policies In Accordance With State Law.</u></b>	<p>The CGCLA Board of Directors and their legal counsel will continue to monitor the property appraisal of the lake properties to insure that the resulting tax is strictly in accordance with state laws.</p>	On-going
<i>Strategy:</i>	<p>The CGCLA Board of Directors should appoint a committee to continue to monitor this process including any court conflicts of interest.</p>	
<b>1e. <u>Resolutions and Enforcement Practices and Policies</u></b>	<p>The Lake Advisory Committee implemented and structured a plan to present issues before the city council and to assist in writing ordinances.</p>	On-going
<i>Strategy:</i>	<p>This process should continue as ordinances adopted by the city council are modified, revised or added which can impact lake properties. Any request for action or adoption changes should be reported to the CGCLA Board of Directors and dispersed to the membership.</p>	

2. Infrastructure	
<i>Action Steps and Strategies</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>
<p><b>2a. <u>Hard Surface for County Lake Arterial Roads</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that some, if not all, of four county roads (1200 Rd., 1250 Rd., 1300 Rd., and U Rd.) be asphalted or similar hard surfacing. These high traffic county roads are important arterials to the City Lake Park's south side which are now served only by gravel roads. After an initial meeting with the Morris County commissioners, a preliminary study was conducted by a civil engineering firm. In addition, KDOT officials had discussed various options. There has been no recent activity or progress. Seventy-two percent of the survey responses were neutral or in favor of this project.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A project team of 2-3 members should be convened to work on this proposal. This plan recommends that the Morris County Commissioners be formally requested to include these roads in the county's capital road construction plans. A traffic volume study should be performed on these roads to support this proposal with comparison to traffic volume on other county hard surfaced roads and to establish a priority for hard surfacing of the subject county roads. Possible funding sources should be investigated such as the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Department of Commerce, Morris County or other means.</p>	Short-term to intermediate term
<p><b>2b. <u>Hard Surface for City Lake Park Roads</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the CGCLA develop a comprehensive plan for asphaltting, or similar hard surfacing, of interior City Lake Park roads for dust control and lake water quality improvement and protection. In the interim, dust reduction products and methods should be researched and applied if feasible.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A project team of 2-3 members should be convened to work on this proposal and perform a feasibility study for City Lake Park road improvements. This should include researching grant dollars and how Lake tax and/or lease dollars might be leveraged. Other lake communities (with hard surface roads) like Wabaunsee should be consulted. Discussion with the City should be initiated through the Lake Advisory Committee for possible inclusion of this project into the Capital Improvement plan for possible funding as well.</p>	Intermediate-term

<b>2c. <u>Development of a City Lake Park Sewer System</u></b>	Long-term
<p>This plan recommends that the CGCLA develop a comprehensive plan to add a sewer system or systems to the City Lake Park to protect and assure lake water quality. It further suggests that alternative or unconventional methods and other new creative solutions to sewer treatment be researched.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A project team of 2-3 people should be convened to investigate this proposal. Using the 2002 and 2009 feasibility studies as a starting point, this plan recommends researching both sewer systems and possible funding sources. Significant new technologies have evolved and merit the forming of a task group to research and study these systems.</p>	
<b>2d. <u>Development of a Water District System</u></b>	Intermediate-term
<p>This plan recommends that a comprehensive plan for a water system (rural water district) at the City Lake Park be developed. Using the 2002 feasibility study as a starting point, a water distribution system should be investigated. Two rural water districts serviced by the City water system are currently under consideration and/or construction and provide a model to investigate as well.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A project team of 2-3 people should be convened to investigate this proposal. This plan recommends that the various options of implementing a comprehensive water distribution system for the City Lake Park be investigated including cost and funding possibilities.</p>	
<b>2e. <u>Engineering Study and Improvements for the Dam</u></b>	Ongoing
<p>As a result of CGCLA contact with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, an initial inspection was completed, which required several actions by the City. The City is now required to have regularly scheduled inspections which are monitored by the state.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan recommends that CGCLA closely monitor maintenance actions and inspections utilizing the Lake Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the City Council.</p>	



**2f. Improve the Safety of City Lake Park Roads**

This plan recommends that safety improvements be made to City Lake Park roads on an ongoing basis. This may include adding signage (speed limits, turns, reflectors, etc.), guard rails and lighting at important intersections and other potentially dangerous locations. Although the city of Council Grove has made substantial improvements to south Lake Road Dr., there is always more that could/should be done, such as possibly installing a guard rail along the dam.

*Strategy:* This plan recommends working through the Lake Advisory Committee to secure a traffic-safety study of the City Lake Park region by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Short-term/ongoing

3. Beautification and Lake Area Improvements	
Action Steps and Strategies	Time Frame
<p><b>3a. <u>Vegetation and Tree Control</u></b></p> <p>City Lake residents are responsible for mowing the grass and controlling weeds on their leased property and septic system areas, in compliance with city ordinance. This plan recommends that the City continue to be responsible for mowing and weed control in all public park areas, interior commons areas along all roadways.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> Division of responsibility between individual residents and the City and City ordinances covering height/frequency requirements (which are enforced by the City) will help keep vegetation under control.</p>	Short-term/ongoing
<p><b>3b. <u>Signage</u></b></p> <p>The City has installed a City Lake Park identification sign on US Highway 56 at the intersection of 1200 Road. The State has had a City Lake Park sign on US Highway 56 at the intersection of 1300 Road for years. The four City Lake Park entrance signs have been completely refurbished by Lake Association volunteers, who also landscaped around the signs. To comply with City ordinance, all residencies now have a sign visible from the road and a sign visible from the lake side stating the cove and lot number. In accordance with the requirements of E911, the City has placed street signs and street numbers for each residence.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> Recognizing the importance of having the enhanced 911-emergency/first responder signs in place, lake residents are responsible for reporting any discrepancy, missing or damaged signs to the Lake Advisory Committee for action.</p>	On-going

<p><b>3c. <u>Boat Ramps and Public Docks</u></b>  CFAP funds assisted in replacing both the north and south boat docks. However, both boat docks are unusable on a consistent basis due to large quantities of goose feces on the docks. Capital improvement funds were used to make improvements to the boat ramps. The north boat ramp is a state-of-the-art ramp and goes far into the water to accommodate lower water levels. The south boat ramp is non-standard, with a 30 degree turn after entering the water. The ramp has sharp edges and causes considerable tire damage.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> Grant monies are available through both Federal and State programs. These programs should be researched and included in the boat ramp improvement program. A solution to the boat dock/goose feces problem should be researched.</p> <p><b>3d. <u>Marina on Lake</u></b>  This plan recommends that the City Lake Association negotiate a contract with the marina owner at the Council Grove Federal Reservoir to add fuel services at the Council Grove City Lake boat dock area.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan encourages the Council Grove City Lake Association to work through the Lake Advisory Committee. Once a contract is negotiated, the Lake Advisory Committee will present it to the City Council.</p>	<p>Short-term</p> <p>Intermediate-term</p>
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4. Water Quality, Environmental Issues and Water Level	
<i>Action Steps and Strategies</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>
<p><b>4a. <u>Lake Water Level Management and Control</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the City of Council Grove establish a <u>supplemental</u> water source and back up from the federal reservoir in conjunction with a pool level control procedure to proactively manage and regulate the City Lake water pool level. It is envisioned that a pipe line and pump would be installed between the reservoir and the City lake water line to, not only source city water from the reservoir during low pool level periods but also, provide capability to replenish/pump water to the City lake from the reservoir in extreme cases. With the future addition of rural water districts sourcing water from the City, City Lake pool level control will be increasingly more critical, making this project critically important.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A project team has been established to study feasibility and requirements for this proposal. A comprehensive project proposal will be delivered to the City via the Lake Advisory Committee when complete.</p>	Short-term
<p><b>4b. <u>Precautions Against Harmful Chemicals and Application of Chemicals</u></b></p> <p>This plan endorsed and supports the chemical use and application ordinance adopted by the City. This ordinance prohibits the use of restricted chemicals and requires persons applying approved chemicals to have proper training and certification.</p> <p><i>Strategy.</i> The City ordinance has been placed on the CGCLA website for viewing. An online chemical application certification class is also being developed and will be available online in the near future to alleviate the issue of infrequent training classes.</p>	Ongoing



<p><b>4c. <u>Residential Environmental Issues</u></b>  This plan recommends that lake residents be good stewards of their own property. This means residents should avoid disposing of unwanted substances in the lake. Residents should also properly dispose of old batteries, gasoline, paint, etc. at the Morris County landfill. Through various City Lake communication networks and the Annual PRIDE cleanup day, the Lake Association continuously encourages lake residents to be good stewards of the land and to dispose of waste materials in a responsible manner. The Lake Association also supports the City’s required chemical application certification classes for Leaseholders.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan encourages the continued participation of CGCLA in developing environmentally-related resolutions and enforcement practices for the City Lake Park</p>	Ongoing
<p><b>4d. <u>City Lake Park Environmental Study</u></b>  This plan recommends that the City hire a qualified environmental biologist to study the entire lake and drainage watershed. A comprehensive study could provide lake residents and surrounding landowners with a list of “best practices” that, if adopted, would help stabilize the water level and maintain water quality. To date, a Bathymetric and Sediment Survey has been completed by Kansas University. The Lake Water Level Management and Control task force might also interface with this study.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> The CGCLA through the Lake Advisory Committee should contact the appropriate state and federal agencies to assist with this issue.</p>	Short-term
<p><b>4e. <u>Wildfowl Control</u></b>  This plan recommends action to control the resident Canada Goose population at the lake. This population is increasing and causes fouling of docks, boat ramps and lawns. <b>Leaseholders should not feed these geese or provide breeding habitat for them.</b> The lake is increasingly becoming a refuge in the winter for large numbers of waterfowl, especially geese.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan recommends further study in conjunction with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to evaluate the water quality and what control measures, if any, are warranted. A capture and transfer function by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism is an option.</p>	Short-term

<p><b>4f. <u>Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANS)</u></b>          Though Zebra mussels are present now in the Council Grove City Lake, it is still important to continue education and protective measures to guard against introduction of other ANS including other more aggressive species of Zebra mussels currently found in neighboring water bodies. An ANS certification is required before placing any watercraft in the City Lake and state law requires a “clean, drain, and dry” procedure before doing so. Any boots, boats, minnow buckets, tools and anything that has touched the water of another water body should be washed in hot water, with a chlorine or salt solution, and away from boat ramps, and all bilge and live wells pumped out.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan strongly recommends continuation of ANS education with reminders through the CGCLA communication networks about the importance of ANS containment procedures.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>4g. <u>Aquatic Vegetation Control</u></b>          Several species of nuisance water vegetation are showing up in Kansas lakes, including the City Lake, in part due to the clear water generated from the Zebra Mussels. The City Lake is seeing appearance of Coon Tail Moss in some coves that is becoming a problem for swimming and boating. Other lakes have seen appearance of the even more problematic and dangerous Blue Green Algae. This plan recommends a proactive approach to detect and control these possible nuisance vegetations.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A one or two person team should be assigned to research, through the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism or other appropriate agencies, the identification, cause, and available control measures for the various vegetation that are appearing or could appear in the Lake.</p>	<p>Short-term/ongoing</p>

5. Recreation, Public Safety and Fishery Management	
<i>Action Steps and Strategies</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>
<p><b>5a. <u>Water Safety - Rules, Regulations, and Enforcement</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the CGCLA review, update, consolidate and endorse the current safety-related rules and regulations in the City Ordinances.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> This plan calls on the CGCLA to work closely with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) to research more effective boat safety regulations. The plan also encourages increased lake patrol and enforcement of safety rules (especially during summer weekends).</p>	Short-term/ongoing
<p><b>5b. <u>Water Safety - Public Education</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the CGCLA continue the active water and boating safety education programs for lake residents and continue to publish rules, regulations and water safety articles on a frequent basis. Lake residents should be constantly reminded that they are personally responsible for ensuring that their families and visitors are in compliance with all state laws and city ordinances.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> First, invite the KDWPT and CG police department to present and moderate a water safety seminar on an on-going basis for all lake residents. Second, the plan recommends that a running summary of citations issued on City Lake waters be publicized through newsletters and web site.</p>	Short-term/ongoing
<p><b>5c. <u>Study the High-Speed Boat Area</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that busy weekend boating may pose a safety issue due to the increased number of boaters. The City of Council Grove and the CGCLA should be proactive in this area and not delay until a severe or fatal accident occurs.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> The CGCLA, in conjunction with KDWPT, conduct a comprehensive study on water depth and boating density to determine the best wake area for the City Lake.</p>	Short-term/ongoing

**5d. Fishery Management**

KDWPT is currently doing an excellent job of fishery management for the Council Grove City Lake. Annual population surveys are completed and results published by KDWPT. As a general rule, approximately 4000 channel catfish are stocked annually and 500,000 walleye fry are stocked bi-annually, which provides above average fishing opportunities for users of the City Lake.

*Strategy:* The CGCLA may want to conduct a survey of lake residents asking them about their preferences for fishery development. Additionally, the CGCLA, working through the City Lake Advisory Committee, encourages the City to take advantage of competitive grants for facilities improvements available through the community fisheries assistance program.

Ongoing



6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP	
Action Steps and Strategies	Time Frame
<p><b>6a. <u>Stewardship</u></b>  The CGCLA and its members understand the importance of being good stewards of the lake property and members of the City and County Community. We understand the importance of having a vibrant community and strive to become more involved in working with local government, businesses and civic organizations. This is a Win-Win for all parties and organizations, cooperating to realize common goals to make our communities grow and be successful.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> There is an abundance of talent throughout the community and the region and tapping into and utilizing this talent would be beneficial to all parties. A task force should be established to solicit and maintain a listing of volunteers for various projects.</p>	Ongoing
<p><b>6b. <u>Active Participation</u></b>  The CGCLA is concerned about the growth of the region and is willing to participate with the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Greater Morris County Development Corporation, the City Economic Development Committee and other organizations to assist in the further development of the area.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> An economic development committee has been established with a CGCLA member as one of the representatives to work to bring new businesses into Council Grove and Morris County.</p>	Ongoing

<p><b>6c. <u>Communication and Marketing Program</u></b></p> <p>This plan recommends that the Lake Association continue to develop multiple ways to improve communication among lake residents. This may include additional meetings, newsletters, bulletins, emails, an expanded website, and other forms of electronic mail. In addition, the Lake Association should develop marketing materials and methods to promote the Council Grove City Lake Park.</p> <p><i>Strategy:</i> A Communication and Marketing Committee has been established to further advance these important issues of keeping CGCLA members and area residents informed. This includes the Lake Association's comprehensive and thorough web-site and a monthly newsletter to share critical information to the lake and area residents. In addition, weekly and sometimes daily e-mails are sent out by the Lake Association to lake residents to keep them updated on current events. This network of communication has assisted in keeping the lake residents informed as well as helped build a stronger community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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