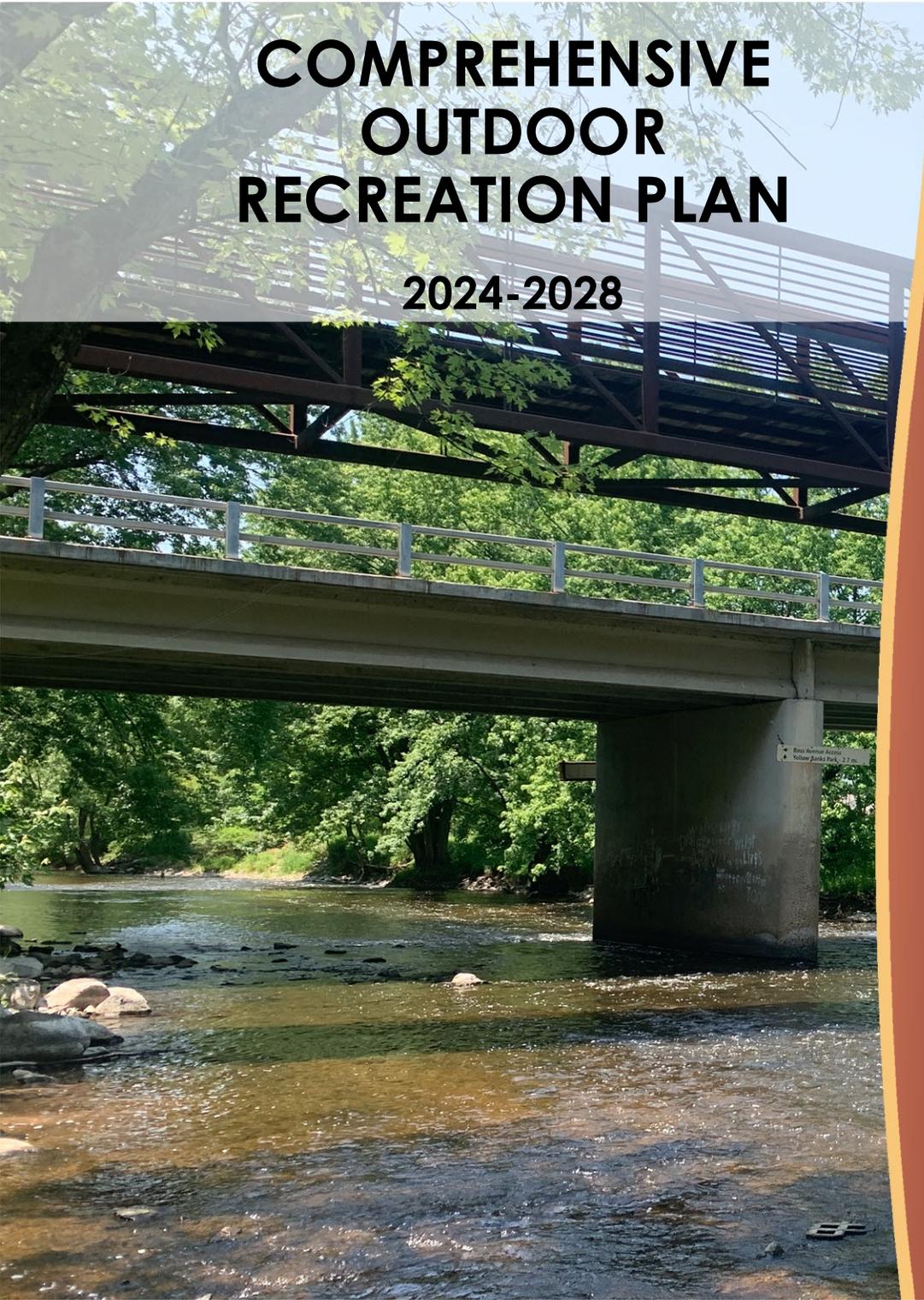




VILLAGE OF WESTON  
WISCONSIN

**COMPREHENSIVE  
OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PLAN**

**2024-2028**



OCTOBER 2023  
PROJECT No. 22.062



## Acknowledgements

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# Chapter 9: Parks and Recreation (Weston Comprehensive Plan Vol. 1)

## 9.1 Overview

Originally, the land in what is now the Village of Weston was heavily wooded and inhabited by Native Americans.

1836: The Menominee Indians sign a treaty giving European settlers title to a strip of land six miles wide along the Wisconsin River as far north as Wausau. The first commerce in the town consisted almost exclusively of hunting and fur trading.

1839: Lumbermen begin cutting the virgin pine trees and sending them down the Wisconsin River to mills in Mosinee and Stevens Point. After the virgin forests are clear cut, agricultural and business develop as the Town's main form of commerce.

November 12, 1856: The Marathon County Board officially incorporates the Village as the Town of Eau Claire.

1859: The Town's boundaries are reduced and the name changed to the Town of Weston.

1996: The Town's boundaries are changed again when the urban center is incorporated as the Village of Weston, leaving the rural sections of the township as the Town of Weston.

While the Village of Weston has changed over the years and many developments have taken place to enhance the village, one thing remains the same: Weston's park system continues to be an integral part of our quality of life.

### Parks and Recreation Summary

- Combined with the community information found in parts of Chapters 2-8 in the **Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan Volume 1: Conditions and Issues**, and Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation in the **Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan, Volume 2: Vision and Directions**, this chapter meets WDNR requirements for a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- The D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, the State of Wisconsin, neighboring municipalities, and various private providers are important contributors to the recreational land and facility base in Weston.
- Weston has an adequate supply of park acreage as a whole, although that does not necessarily reflect actual and emerging demand for particular types of parks or specific recreational amenities and activities.



### 9.1.1 Introduction and Summary

As of 2023, the Village owns roughly 358 acres of parkland, falling into one of four different categories: Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Conservancy Parks, or Undeveloped Parkland.

Additional area outdoor recreation facilities can be found in facilities owned and maintained by the D.C. Everest School District, several privately owned and managed recreation areas, park facilities owned by nearby municipalities, and State and County-owned parks, trails, and recreation areas.

These areas, while not owned by the Village nor included in the acreage or facility analysis, are still mentioned in the book and shown on some maps as they help to fill gaps and provide further opportunities for Village residents.

### 9.1.2 Community Description

Please refer to the previous eight chapters in the **Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan Volume 1: Conditions and Issues** for a thorough review of the Village’s history, regional context, demographics and trends, population projections, land use, economic development, housing and neighborhood data, and natural and cultural resources.



## 9.2 Parkland Inventory

### 9.2.1 Village Parks

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Robinwood Park</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	Neighborhood Park
<b>Address:</b>	6412 Teagan Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Located near the center of the Village, just north of Highway 29.
<b>Size:</b>	5.12 acres
<b>Parcel #:</b>	19228082220001 19228082220003
<b>Amenities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Open Space</li><li>▪ Playground Equipment</li><li>▪ Softball/Little League Field</li><li>▪ Basketball Court</li><li>▪ Benches</li><li>▪ Grills</li><li>▪ Off Street Parking</li><li>▪ Picnic Tables</li><li>▪ Restrooms</li><li>▪ Shelter (open)</li></ul> <p>Robinwood Park was built in 1996 and named for the subdivision around it.</p>



**Name:** Sandhill Meadows Park

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Address:** 2500 Parkway Lane

**Location:** Located on the far southwest corner of the Village, next to Shorey Ave.

**Size:** 1.99 acres

**Parcel #:** 19228083220137

**Amenities:**

- Open Space
- Playground Equipment
- Soccer Field
- Volleyball (sand)
- Basketball Court
- Benches
- Grills
- Off-street Parking
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- Shelter (open)

Built in 2001, Sandhill Meadows is currently the only park serving the southern section of the Village.



**Name:** Williams Park

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Address:** 5500 Von Kanel Street

**Location:** Located near the center of the Village, just north of Highway 29.

**Size:** 2.63 acres

**Parcel #:** 19228081630960

**Amenities:**

- Open Space
- Playground Equipment
- Volleyball (sand)
- Benches
- Grills
- Off-street Parking
- Picnic Tables



**Name:** J.F. Kennedy Park

**Classification:** Community Park

**Address:** 6002 Alderson Street

**Location:** Located on the west-central part of Weston between Neupert and Jelinek Avenues and near D.C. Everest Junior and Senior High Schools.

**Size:** 34.51 acres

**Parcel #:** 19228081840977  
19228081840976

**Amenities:**

- Stream
- Open Space
- Playground Equipment
- Babe Ruth Baseball Field
- Batting Cages
- Hockey Rink (ice)
- Lacrosse Field
- (2) Soccer Fields
- (2) L. League/Softball Fields
- (2) Volleyball (sand)
- Aquatic Center
- Horseshoe Pits
- Skating Rink (ice) and Warming House
- Sledding
- Skate Park
- Concessions
- Benches
- Drinking Water
- Grills
- Picnic Tables
- Off Street Parking
- Restrooms
- Shelter (open)



J.F. Kennedy Park is the most developed and heavily used park in the park system.

The Weston Aquatic Center was constructed in Kennedy Park in 1999 and has a capacity of 867 people. The facility features a 300-foot water slide, a speed slide, a large drop slide that dumps into the deep end of the pool, zero-depth entry, a one-meter diving board, lap swimming lanes, water play structures, a children's sand play area, sand volleyball court, sunbathing area, bathhouse, and concession area. The facility is open from June through August and attracts approximately 50,000 swimmers each year.

Kennedy Park also contains a variety of organized athletic fields that receive heavy public use and use from nearby D.C. Everest High School and Junior High School students. There are three baseball diamonds: two irrigated Little League diamonds and an irrigated Babe Ruth diamond that is used by the D.C. Everest Junior Varsity baseball team. Additionally, there is a lacrosse field and two irrigated regulation sized soccer fields used by the D.C. Everest Youth Soccer Association, as well as other area soccer organizations.

Additional facilities include a volleyball court, two horseshoe pits, a lighted hockey rink, and a lighted open skating rink. A warming house with restroom facilities serves both rinks. In the spring of 2008, the Village constructed an 8,000 square foot concrete skate park with several grinding obstacles, a bowl, and a pool.

Kennedy Park also possesses a number of passive and support facilities that complement the active use facilities in the park. The park has an open sided shelter building, and two freestanding permanent restroom buildings. There are two children's play equipment areas in the park and an unstructured open play area that is used for a variety of activities: Frisbee, golf, kite flying, school physical education, and model airplane flying. Two small sledding hills are located on a north-facing slope adjacent to a creek on the south side of the park. There are also numerous picnic tables, grills and benches throughout the park. Finally, there are approximately 250 parking stalls divided among four paved parking lots and two unpaved lots in the park.



**Name:**

**Yellowbanks Park**

**Classification:**

Community Park

**Address:**

3903 Northwestern Avenue

**Location:**

A distinctive park located along the Eau Claire River in the northcentral part of the Village.

**Size:**

52.77 acres

**Parcel #:**

19228080810970  
19228080810997

**Amenities:**

- Trails
- Nature Area
- River
- Open Space
- Playground Equipment
- Disc Golf
- Volleyball (sand)
- Horseshoe Pits
- Kayak/Canoe Launch
- Benches
- Grills
- Picnic tables
- Off-street Parking
- Restrooms
- (2) Open-sided Shelters

Yellowbanks, formerly known as Sandy Beach Park, used to be a Marathon County Park before the County transferred ownership and maintenance Weston in 1993. It is now one of the most popular parks in the Village.



**Name:**

**Kellyland Park**

**Classification:**

Community Park

**Address:**

6100 Rogan Lane

**Location:**

Located in the northcentral part of the Village, north of Schofield Ave.

**Size:**

117.54 acres

**Parcel #:**

19228081520987  
19228081530999  
19228081520972  
19228081540991  
19228081540993

**Amenities:**

- Trails
- River
- Open Space
- Nature Area
- Playground Equipment
- (4) Soccer Fields
- Volleyball (sand)
- Basketball Court
- Horseshoe Pits
- Dog Park
- Benches
- Grills
- Picnic Tables
- Off-Street Parking
- Pet Watering Station
- Restrooms
- Shelter (open)

Kellyland Park, formerly Rogan Park, lies mostly within the floodplain of the Eau Claire River. It is adjacent to the Eau Claire River Nature Center and the Weston Dog Park.



**Name:** Machmueller Park

**Classification:** Community Park

**Address:** 7200 Quentin Street

**Location:** Located in the northeast part of the Village along Ross Ave.

**Size:** 31.49 acres

**Parcel #:** 19228081010991  
19228081010992

- Amenities:**
- Trail
  - Open Space
  - Nature Area
  - Playground Equipment
  - Soccer Field (with bleachers)
  - Softball/Little League Field
  - (3) Tee Ball Fields
  - Born Learning Trail
  - Fitness Equipment (on trail)
  - Benches
  - Grills
  - Picnic Tables
  - Off Street Parking
  - Restrooms
  - Shelter (open) w/ Electricity

Acquired in 2002, Machmueller Park is composed of land acquired from Sandy Lane subdivision developers and land purchased by the Village, with support from the Town of Weston.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	Conservancy Park
<b>Address:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Location:</b>	Located in the east-central part of the Village along Weston Ave.
<b>Size:</b>	27.38 acres
<b>Parcel #:</b>	19228082340020
<b>Amenities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails (gravel)</li> <li>▪ Pond</li> <li>▪ Observation Tower (17-feet high)</li> <li>▪ Benches</li> <li>▪ Picnic Tables</li> <li>▪ (2) Open Shelters</li> </ul> <p>In 2007, the Village acquired a 30-acre parcel, which was undevelopable due to wetlands, and designated the area a conservancy. The park is accessible via gravel walking paths off Progress Way. Crane Meadows Golf Course is located 1/8 of a mile from the Waterfowl Refuge.</p>



**Name:** Prohaska Family Memorial Park

**Classification:** Undeveloped Park

**Address:** 7403 Ryan Street

**Location:** Located near the center of the Village, just north of Highway 29.

**Size:** 84.32 acres

**Parcel #:** 19228082240990  
19228082330953

**Amenities:**

- Trails
- Lakes
- Open Space
- Off Street Parking

In 2016, the Village acquired approximately 90 acres east of Ryan Street and north of Weston Ave, most of which had been known as the Prohaska Tree Farm.



### 9.2.1.1 River Access Points

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Ross Avenue – Eau Claire River Public Access</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	River Access Point
<b>Location:</b>	Adjacent to the Ross Avenue Bridge, on the corner of Ross Avenue and Babl Lane
<b>Amenities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Off Street Parking</li> <li>▪ Drinking Water</li> <li>▪ Portable Toilets</li> </ul>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Silver Creek Farm Memorial Access</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	River Access Point
<b>Location:</b>	Silver Creek Farm
<b>Amenities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails</li> <li>▪ Lakes</li> <li>▪ Open Space</li> </ul>



## 9.2.2 School Recreation Areas

Below is an inventory of recreational areas owned, provided, operated, and maintained by the D. C. Everest School District. These are open to the public during non-school hours or when otherwise not being used for school-related purposes.

### D.C. Everest Idea School

- 4704 Camp Phillips Rd, Weston, WI 54476
- DC Everest's Idea School is a charter school that uses project-based learning as an alternative to traditional instruction. DCE Idea Charter School shares a building with Odyssey Elementary. The school grounds include green space, play equipment, and off-street parking.

### D.C. Everest Middle School

- 9302 Schofield Ave, Weston, WI 54476
- Opened in 2002, the middle school site includes a 20-acre recreation area with soccer fields, a soccer stadium, two softball fields with dugouts and bleachers, playgrounds, open green space, and off-street parking.

### D.C. Everest Junior High School

- 1000 Machmueller St, Weston, WI 54476
- The Junior High School maintains a 20-acre recreation area, including a lighted stadium with a running track and synthetic turf football field, seven tennis courts, a baseball diamond with dugouts and bleachers, soccer fields, open green space, and off-street parking. This track and field are not available to the public for use, due to their high cost of maintenance and replacement.

### D.C. Everest Senior High School

- 6500 Alderson St, Schofield, WI 54476
- D.C. Everest High School is located at the corner of Jelinek Avenue and Alderson Street, due south of J. F. Kennedy Park. The high school site includes a 34-acre recreation area and contains tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, softball fields, a baseball diamond and an open play area. High school teams are the primary users of the baseball and softball diamonds, which includes bleachers, dugouts, batting cages, and pitcher's warm-up areas. The tennis courts, volleyball courts, and open play area are available for use by community residents when they are not being used for school related purposes.

### Eau Claire River Nature Center

- The Eau Claire River Nature Center is a 48-acre conservancy area located east of, and adjacent to Kellyland Park. The nature center is operated mainly as an environmental-interpretive center for students. The Eau Claire River Nature Center has one picnic shelter, picnic tables and grills and a variety of hiking and interpretive trails. The Eau Claire River Trail passes through the school property on the south side of the Eau Claire River.



### **Greenheck Field House**

- 6400 Alderson St, Schofield, WI 54476
- The Greenheck Field House is located at the D.C. Everest High School. The 100,000+ square foot facility hosts ice-skating, hockey, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Greenheck also has racquetball courts, a fitness center with aerobic and strength training equipment, and a multi-use field house.

### **Mountain Bay Elementary School**

- 8602 Schofield Ave, Weston, WI 54476
- Mountain Bay Elementary facilities include five soccer fields, a softball backstop, several playgrounds, green space, and off-street parking.

### **Odyssey Elementary School**

- 4704 Camp Phillips Rd, Weston, WI 54476
- Odyssey Elementary puts a 21st-century spin on a one-room schoolhouse. Our K-5 students learn in a mixed-grade, collaborative, open space where they are engaged in standards-driven instruction and hands-on, project-based learning under the guidance of our teacher leads. Odyssey Elementary shares a building with the DCE Idea Charter School. The school grounds include green space, play equipment, and off-street parking.

### **Rudolph Environmental Center (REC)**

- 3113 Mallard Ct, Weston, WI 54476
- The Newman Catholic School's outdoor classroom is a 33-acre parcel of land in the Village of Weston with diverse topography, flora, and fauna. From bottomland, flood-prone forest, marsh, and oxbow to dry, upland and field areas, students can explore many of the biological and physical processes that occur all over Wisconsin. Opportunities to help control invasive species and monitor deer overgrazing provide Newman students with important immersion into real problems. Conservation clubs at Newman Catholic High School and Middle School, elementary classes, and Eagle Scout candidates have all provided projects to clean-up or improve the property with signs, a bridge, a building with composting toilet, trails, and other improvements.

### **Weston Elementary School**

- 5200 Camp Phillips Rd, Weston, WI 54476
- The Weston Elementary School site includes four soccer fields, a softball diamond (that overlaps with one soccer field), basketball court, an open play space, and a large children's play equipment area.



### 9.2.3 Additional Area Resources

Below is a partial list of non-Village owned suppliers of recreation facilities located within the community area. Some are privately owned; others are owned by other governmental entities. All facilities are available to the public on a non-discriminatory basis, either for free, by paying a fee, and/or joining an organized team or membership.

#### **The Aspirus YMCA**

- 3402 Howland Ave, Weston, WI 54476
- Affiliated with the Woodson YMCA in Wausau, this facility offers a variety of activities, including aquatics and gymnastics programs for youth and general health & wellness activities and facilities for all ages and abilities. Community garden space is also available.

#### **Bluegill Bay Park**

- 3800 Bluegill Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
- This park offers access to Lake Wausau on its west shore. The park has double boat launch ramp with courtesy piers. Bluegill Bay Park is heavily used by boaters and by ice fisherman to gain access to Lake Wausau year-round. Its north section provides a boat landing, benches, picnic area, well, open shelter, flush toilets, walking trails, volleyball court (no net provided), dumpster, paved path.
- In its south section there are two open shelters. One large open shelter (#4) can be reserved, has no electricity and has a capacity of 75 people. There is also a picnic area, well pump, vault toilets, volleyball court, hiking trails, horseshoe pits, dumpster, grills-scattered, play equipment, recycling center, fishing pier, limited parking, play equipment, recycling station.

#### **Crane Meadows Golf Course**

- 8103 Weston Avenue, Weston, WI 54476
- Since 1992, Crane Meadows Golf has offered the general public affordable golf in beautiful Weston, Wisconsin. Located only 3 miles southeast of Wausau in Central Wisconsin, our scenic nine-hole course provides a challenging experience in a pleasant atmosphere. Crane Meadows has matured into a challenging course with a good mix of hazards. Our low-key nature makes it a comfortable fit for the novice and the recreational golfer, while the woods, water, and sand provide plenty of challenges for the most experienced and sophisticated golfer. We are committed to providing a beautiful golf course at an affordable price.

#### **Dells of the Eau Claire Park**

- County Hwy Y, Aniwa, WI 54408
- This 214-acre County Park, located about 10 miles northeast of the Village of Weston, is famous for the rock outcroppings and rapids along the Eau Claire River.
- The Dells of the Eau Claire Park provides a variety of support facilities, including restrooms, picnic tables, grills, benches, drinking fountains, and children's play equipment. The Eau Claire River is dammed east of the County Road Y bridge, and has a swimming beach and shower building. An on-site ranger resides in the campground during the summer. A large rentable shelter is situated to the west of the highway, north of the River. Campgrounds are provided on both sides of the highway, north of the River. Additionally, there is an extensive trail system throughout the park, including a section of the Marathon County Segment of the Ice Age Trail and a marked nature trail through the state scientific area that affords access to many natural features of the area.



### **Gymsport Gymnastics**

- 6909 Rickyval St, Schofield, WI 54476
- Gym-Sport Gymnastics provides private gymnastics instruction for all age groups in a 10,000 square foot facility with state-of-the-art equipment.
- Programs include preschool gymnastics, recreational gymnastics, competitive girls & boys artistic gymnastics, trampoline & tumbling and cheerleading.

### **Kelly Athletic Club**

- 4810 Ross Ave, Schofield, WI 54476
- The Kelly Athletic Club is located at the corner of Ross Avenue and Felch Road. This private facility includes a lighted softball diamond, two sand volleyball courts, four horseshoe pits and restrooms that support several adult softball, volleyball, and horseshoe leagues. Facilities are open to the public on a user fee basis.

### **Kronenwetter County Forest Unit**

- Martin Rd, Kronenwetter, WI 54455
- The Kronenwetter County Forest Unit is a 5,075-acre County Forest located in southeast Marathon County, about five miles south of the Village of Weston. The Unit, which has multiple timber and recreational uses, contains five parking lots, two pit toilets, and a variety of year-round trails, including six and one-half miles of the Ice Age Trail, snowmobile/ATV trails, equestrian trails, hunter/walking trails, and six miles of dog sled trails.

### **Marathon Park**

- 1201 Stewart Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
- Marathon Park is one of the county's most popular and heavily used parks. It is a 78-acre special use county park that is located on the west side of the City of Wausau, about five miles to the northwest of the Village of Weston. Marathon Park is well known for being the home of the Wisconsin Valley Fair, having a large stand of second-growth White Pine, and houses numerous historic exposition buildings that provide area residents variety of specialized recreation facilities that also attracts visitors from a multi-county area.

### **Nine-Mile County Forest Unit**

- 221700 Red Bud Rd, Wausau, WI 54401
- The Nine-Mile County Forest Unit is a 4,894-acre County Forest located in central Marathon County, about 10 miles southwest of the Village of Weston. The unit, which has multiple timber and recreational uses, contains seven parking lots and a variety of year-round trails, including; cross-country ski trails, snowmobile/ATV trails, hunter/walking trails, Boy Scout hiking trails, and mountain biking trails. The Nine Mile County Forest Unit is known in particular for hunting, mountain biking, cross-country skiing facilities (including trails, toilets, and a year-round chalet), and the 440-acre wetland that it contains. The cross-country skiing events of the Badger State Winter Games are held on the trails of the Nine-Mile County Forest Unit. Within the Forest Unit boundary is the Shooting Range County Park. This park contains a variety of pistol and rifle ranges, an archery range, a trap skeet area, and a police firing range.



### **Rib Mountain State Park**

- 149801 State Park Rd, Wausau, WI 54401
- Rib Mountain State Park is a 1,600-acre state park located on Rib Mountain in central Marathon County, approximately five miles west of the Village of Weston. In addition to picnic areas, trails, and scenic overlooks, the state park leases about 400 acres to Granite Peak Ski Area, a privately operated downhill ski resort, through a concessionaire agreement.

### **Sunny Vale Park & Sunny Vale Softball Complex**

- 1000 S 66th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401
- This is a well-used 300-acre park located on the west side of Wausau. Popular activities at this park include snow biking, swimming, fishing, picnicking, pond hockey, and using the model airplane flying area called Sunnyvale RC Park. There is a roped off swim area, 2 open shelters with grills & tables, vault toilet, water pump & 2 shelters, 2 volleyball courts, hiking trail around lake, fishing pier, paved paths, dumpster, and recycling station. The Big Rib River flows through the park however, there is no developed access provided to the river.
- Within the park boundaries is the five diamond Sunny Vale Softball Complex, a 71-acre recreation area that provides facilities for organized softball activities. Facilities include 5 lighted softball fields each with dugouts, bleachers, score boards, and press box, concession stand with restrooms, centrally located parking lot, and open sided shelters. The fields and lights are available for a fee.

### **Dale's Weston Lanes**

- 5902 Schofield Ave, Weston, WI 54476
- Weston Lanes is the second largest bowling facility in the State of Wisconsin with 60 lanes. This facility hosts many bowling leagues and competitions, such as the Badger State Games, the High School State Tournament, and Men's & Women's National Tournaments. Weston Lanes also offers beach volleyball leagues during the summer months.

### **Weston Hit and Miss Trap Club**

- 9105 Zinser St, Weston, WI 54476
- Weston Trap Club offers clay target shooting. The facility has six trap fields and offers instruction, as well as youth programs. It is located on Zinser Street, just north of Shorey Avenue.

### **Wiggly Field**

- 2005 Schofield Ave, Schofield, WI 54476
- Wiggly Field is a private athletic field that is located south of, and adjacent to Schofield Avenue in the western section of the Village. This private facility includes four outdoor lighted volleyball courts, an indoor volleyball complex, and restrooms. These facilities support several volleyball leagues that are open to the public on a user fee basis.



## 9.2.4 Bicycles and Pedestrian Facilities and Trails

Two well-known and often-used trails run through Weston. The Eau Claire River Trail is entirely contained by Weston and maintained by the Village while the Mountain Bay Trail runs 83+ miles, connecting a number of different municipalities. The section within of Mountain Bay Trail within Marathon County is maintained by the county.

### **Eau Claire River Trail**

- Constructed in 2003, this 1.25-mile walking and biking trail winds along the beautiful Eau Claire River in the heart of the Village. No fees are required.
- The trail can be accessed from trailheads on Ryan Street, Brook Court and Tricia Avenue. At the Ryan Street trailhead, bikers can also access the 77-mile Mountain Bay Trail which heads east to Green Bay.
- Amenities include park benches, picnic tables, and water access. Grab your walking shoes or bike and experience nature at its finest.

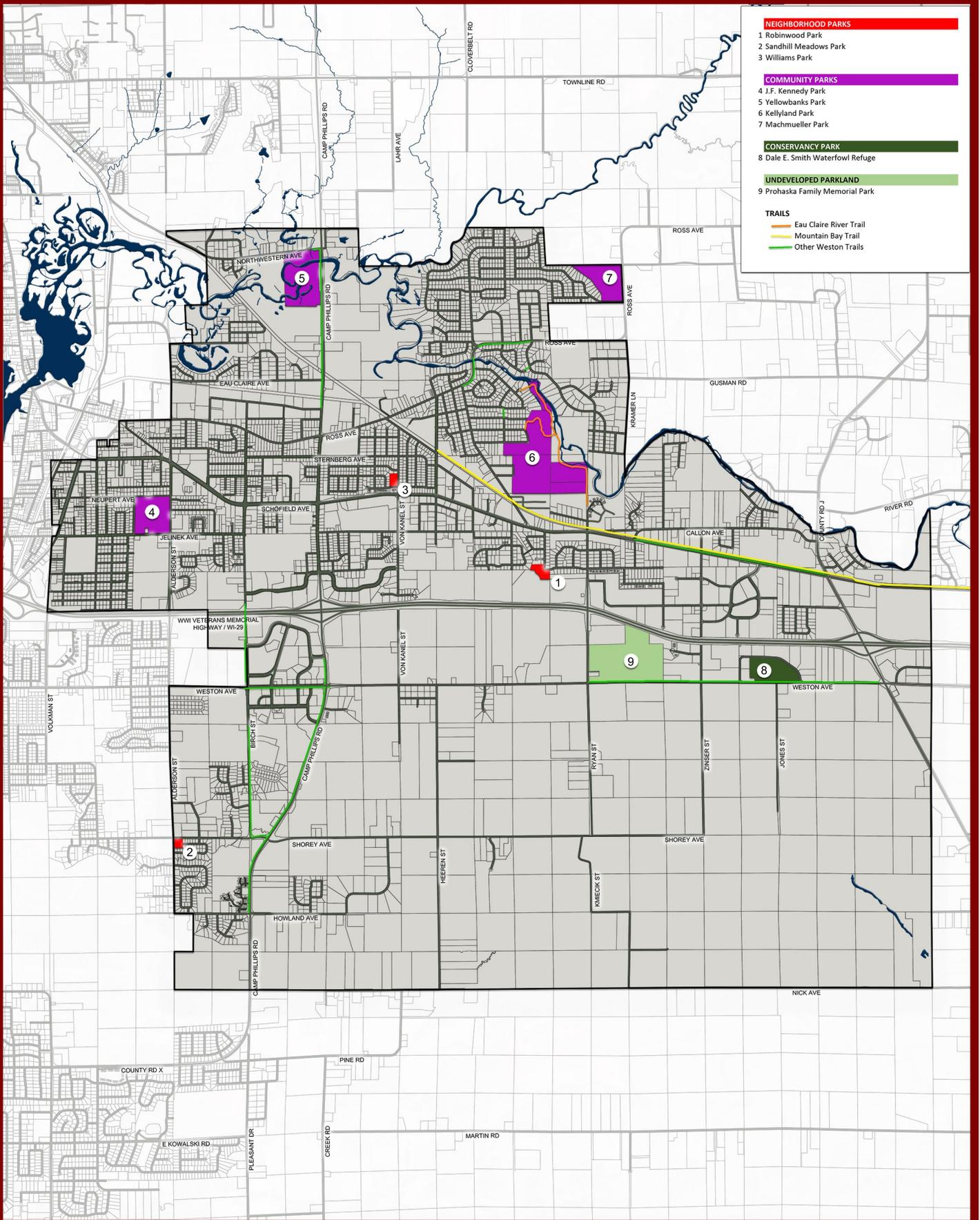
### **Mountain Bay Trail**

- The Mountain-Bay State Park Trail is an 83-mile trail running from the Village of Weston in Marathon County, passing through Shawano County and ending in the Village of Howard in Brown County. The trail right-of-way, the former Chicago Northwestern Railroad right-of-way, is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) except the western 3.5 miles, which is owned by the Village of Weston. The respective counties through which the trail passes are responsible for operation and maintenance of the trail. Marathon County manages approximately 17 miles of the Mountain-Bay Trail from within the County boundaries. The trail consists of a crushed stone trail tread placed over existing railroad ballast. Allowed uses of the trail in Marathon County include bicycling and hiking during non-snow cover periods and ATV and snowmobiling during snow cover periods. A trailhead in the Village of Weston provides a parking area, restrooms, drinking water, and rest area.
- A State of Wisconsin Trail Pass is required and may be obtained at the Trail Head or at any State DNR office. Daily or seasonal passes are available.

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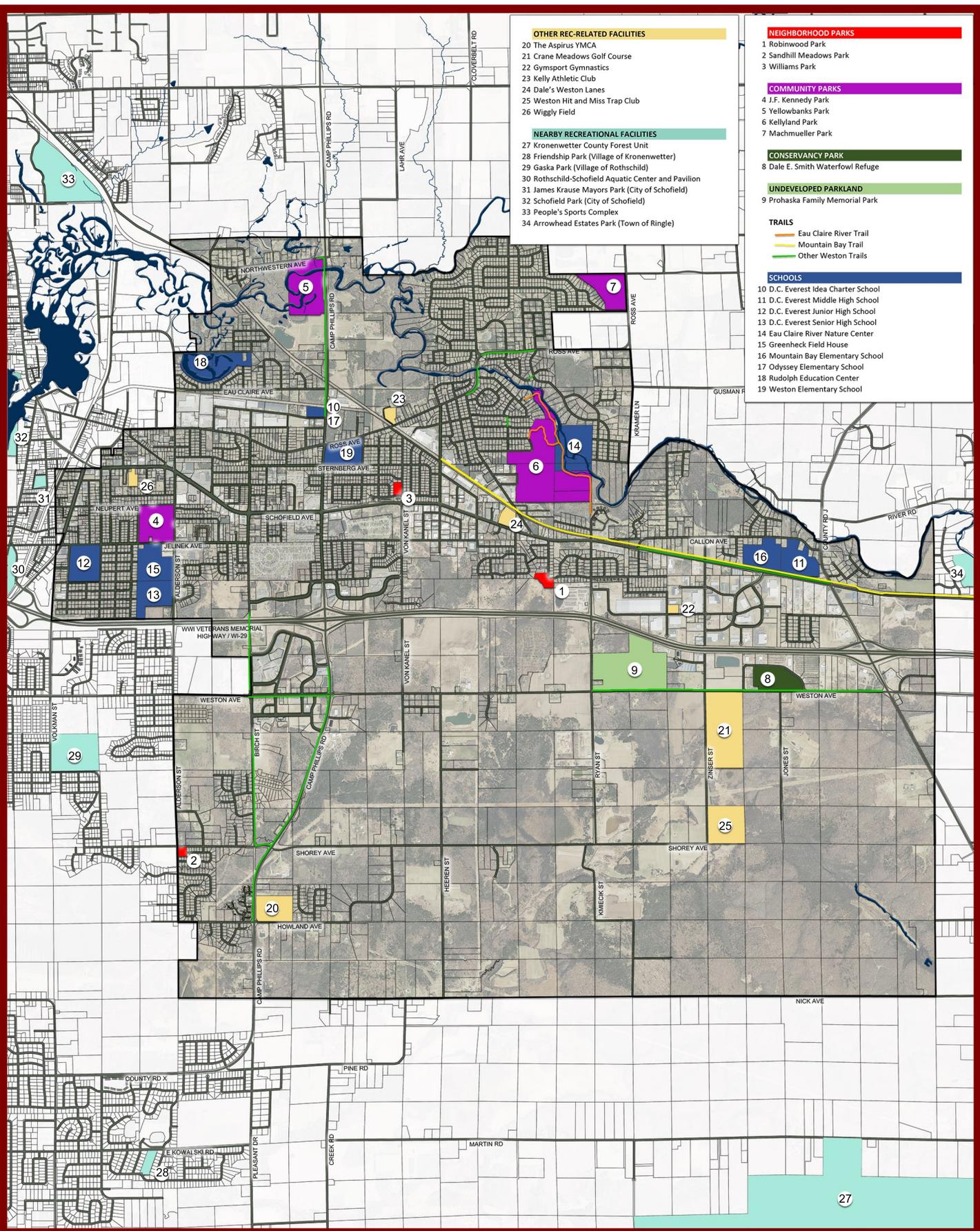
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
- 1 Robinwood Park
  - 2 Sandhill Meadows Park
  - 3 Williams Park
- COMMUNITY PARKS**
- 4 J.F. Kennedy Park
  - 5 Yellowbanks Park
  - 6 Kellyland Park
  - 7 Machmueller Park
- CONSERVANCY PARK**
- 8 Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge
- UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND**
- 9 Prohaska Family Memorial Park
- TRAILS**
- Orange Eau Claire River Trail
  - Yellow Mountain Bay Trail
  - Green Other Weston Trails



**VILLAGE OF WESTON**  
**PARK LOCATION MAP**  
**(VILLAGE-OWNED)**



**RETLER**  
 corporation  
 3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
 STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

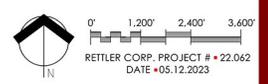


- OTHER REC-RELATED FACILITIES**
- 20 The Aspius YMCA
  - 21 Crane Meadows Golf Course
  - 22 Gymsport Gymnastics
  - 23 Kelly Athletic Club
  - 24 Dale's Weston Lanes
  - 25 Weston HIT and Miss Trap Club
  - 26 Wiggly Field
- NEARBY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**
- 27 Kronenwetter County Forest Unit
  - 28 Friendship Park (Village of Kronenwetter)
  - 29 Gaska Park (Village of Rothschild)
  - 30 Rothschild-Schofield Aquatic Center and Pavilion
  - 31 James Krause Mayors Park (City of Schofield)
  - 32 Schofield Park (City of Schofield)
  - 33 People's Sports Complex
  - 34 Arrowhead Estates Park (Town of Ringle)

- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**
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- 4 J.F. Kennedy Park
  - 5 Yellowbanks Park
  - 6 Kellyland Park
  - 7 Machmueller Park
- CONSERVANCY PARK**
- 8 Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge
- UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND**
- 9 Prohaska Family Memorial Park
- TRAILS**
- Eau Claire River Trail
  - Mountain Bay Trail
  - Other Weston Trails
- SCHOOLS**
- 10 D.C. Everest Idea Charter School
  - 11 D.C. Everest Middle High School
  - 12 D.C. Everest Junior High School
  - 13 D.C. Everest Senior High School
  - 14 Eau Claire River Nature Center
  - 15 Greenheck Field House
  - 16 Mountain Bay Elementary School
  - 17 Odyssey Elementary School
  - 18 Rudolph Education Center
  - 19 Weston Elementary School



**VILLAGE OF WESTON**  
**PARK LOCATION MAP**  
**(AREA RECREATION FACILITIES)**

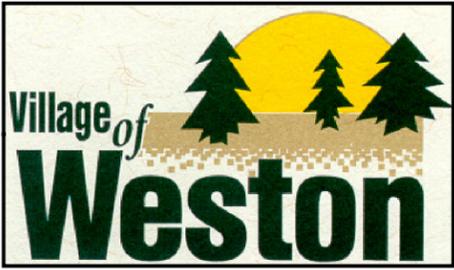


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 corporation  
 3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
 STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

# Eau Claire River Trail

## August 19, 2004

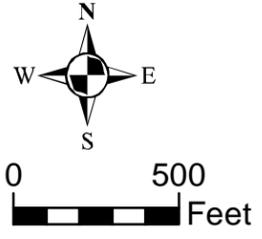
### Village of Weston, Wisconsin



T28N R8E - Section Location =

### Legend

- Trail Bridges
- Trail Access Points
- Eau Claire River Trail
- Village Streets
- Village Property Boundary
- Water
- WDNR Wetland Boundary
- ESTIMATED 100-yr Flood Boundary (FEMA)
- Mountain Bay Trail



### Bridge Dimensions

- Bridge #1 - 8 foot W x 20 foot L
- Bridge #2 - 8 foot W x 20 foot L
- Bridge #3 - 8 foot W x 20 foot L
- Bridge #4 - 8 foot W x 30 foot L
- Bridge #5 - 8 foot W x 30 foot L
- Bridge #6 - 8 foot W x 60 foot L

Map Revision Date : 08/19/04

## 9.3 Parkland Analysis

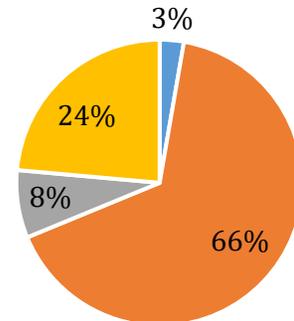
The Village of Weston owns and maintains eight maintained park sites totaling 273.4 acres. In addition to that, the Parks Department owns one undeveloped parkland parcel of 84.3 acres, bringing the grand total to 357.8 acres.

These parks tend to be generally distributed throughout the developed community, with a somewhat greater density in the more developed northern parts of the Village along Schofield Ave and WI-29.

Determining if community open space needs are being met can be a complex task with a number of variables and is best approached from a variety of angles. To obtain a more comprehensive picture, this section examines the existing Weston park facilities from several different angles:

- Acreage Standards Comparison
- Service Area Evaluation
- NRPA Recreational Standards Comparison
- Community Input Summary
- Regional and State Trends

**Weston Parks by Type**



- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Conservancy Park
- Undeveloped Parkland

### 9.3.1 Acreage Standards Comparison

The Acreage Standards Comparison compares the acres of Village owned parkland to the number of residents in an “acres per 1,000 persons” format.

*The 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide CORP (in Appendix F: Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans) recommends that park classifications and standards “usually correspond to the National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) recreation, park, and open space standards guidelines.” Additionally, per the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Community Assistance, it is recommended that local communities provide at least 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons.*

The NRPA, while historically recommending 7-10 acres per 1,000 residents, currently encourages each community to evaluate level of service (LOS) in coordination with citizen input and adapt the recommendations to develop their own customized standards.

Based on population numbers provided by the Village Clerk’s office, the Village of Weston currently provides 15.65 acres of NRPA LOS classified Village parkland (parkland categories with NRPA level of service categories and recommended ratios) per 1,000 residents. Total parkland per 1,000 residents reaches 17.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

<b>WESTON COMPARISON TO NRPA PARK ACREAGE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Recommended Acres per 1,000 Residents</b>	<b>Weston Acres per 1,000 Residents</b>
Mini Parks	0.25 – 0.5 acres	0.00 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1 - 2 acres	0.62 acres
Community Parks	5 - 8 acres	14.95 acres
Special Use Parks	N/A	0.00 acres
Natural Park Areas	N/A	1.73 acres
<b>TOTAL NRPA LOS CLASSIFIED PARKLAND</b>	<b>6.25 – 10.5 acres</b>	<b>15.65 acres</b>
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPED PARKLAND</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>17.30 acres</b>

As can be seen above, the Village is lower than the recommended acreage metrics in Neighborhood Parks, but exceeds the recommendations in Community Parks. While the Village has no Mini Parks, many communities are choosing to limit these types of facilities in the interests of efficiency, so long as the total parkland meets or exceeds the recommended ranges.

### 9.3.2 Service Area Evaluation

A Service Area Evaluation projects a specified distance around each NRPA classified park (Mini, Neighborhood, and Community) based on Level of Service (LOS) classification and guidelines adopted by the Village in previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. This section also looks at the land usage within the service areas.

The 1-to-2-mile service radii of the six Community Parks cover most of the Village, particularly the older northeastern areas. However, there are a growing number of residentially zoned areas in the south and east that are not currently within the desired radius. Please see the Service Area Maps at the end of this section.

A Neighborhood Park’s service area is a ¼ to ½ mile distance, uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers. Some of the barriers that infringe on and limit Neighborhood Park service areas are major roadways, waterways, wetlands, and railroad tracks.

Two of Weston’s three Neighborhood Parks are located toward the center of the Village near Schofield Avenue. The third is in the southwest part of the Village. A number of areas remain underserved, particularly in the south, far north, far west, and far east.



Weston has no Mini Parks, however it is not unusual for municipalities to focus on neighborhood parks as the smallest unit of the park system rather than Mini Parks for maintenance and efficiency reasons.

Weston does have a Conservancy Park and an Undeveloped Parkland Area that is currently undergoing master planning. While lacking certain amenities, these two properties augment the service areas above.



### 9.3.3 Suggested Recreation Standards Comparison

Another method of determining recreational needs within a community is to compare existing facilities and equipment to NRPA standards. Below are some of the more commonly used facilities.

NRPA Recreation Facility Development Standards						
Facility/Activity	No. of Units per Population	Weston Population	No. Units Needed	Units in Park System	Meets Standards?	Other Area Providers
<b>Baseball Diamonds</b>	1 per 5,000	15,732	3.15	1	No	Local schools.
<b>Basketball Court</b>	1 per 5,000	15,732	3.15	2.5	Close	Indoor option in Greenheck Field House.
<b>Football</b>	1 per 20,000	15,732	0.79	0	No	Local schools and numerous informal "playfields."
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Indoor – 1 per 100,000. Outdoor depends on climate.	15,732	0.16	1	Yes	Outdoor ice hockey rink in Kennedy Park. Indoor rink is available in the Greenheck Field House.
<b>Outdoor Pool</b>	1 per 20,000	15,732	0.79	1	Yes	Weston Aquatic Center.
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	1 per 10,000	15,732	1.57	8	Yes	Also local schools.
<b>Softball/Little League</b>	1 per 5,000	15,732	3.15	7	Yes	Also local schools.
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	1 court per 2,000	15,732	7.87	0	No	D.C. Everest High and Junior High offer 25 courts between them.
<b>Trail System</b>	1 system per region	15,732	1	1	Yes	Eau Claire River Trail, part of the Mountain Bay Trail, and numerous local off-street walks.
<b>Volleyball</b>	1 court per 5,000	15,732	3.15	6	Yes	

Selected from *Recreation Facility Development Standards* from Appendix 11 of the *WDNR Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans*



The full list of Outdoor Recreation Facility Development standards is included in the References section of this plan. These standards were reviewed during the development of the Needs Assessment. However, it should be noted that these standards have been developed primarily for urban communities and assume the needs and wants of individuals are similar in all areas. Additionally, these standards do not take into account local demographics, user preferences, and physical barriers between actual park locations. All standards should be subject to the locally gathered data in the Needs Assessment section in prioritizing and justifying real needs for the community.

### 9.3.4 Community Input Summary

*“A standard for parks and recreation cannot be universal, nor can one Village be compared with another even though they are similar in many respects.” -NRPA Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines.*

The most important gauge of how well the park system is meeting the needs of the community is by studying input gained directly from community residents, officials, and staff.

Community Input reveals the three most popular parks are Kennedy, Machmueller, and Yellowbanks. Sixty-six percent of survey respondents are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the park system and thankful for the hard work that the parks department puts in. Comments and requests focused on maintenance, specifically ballfield, infrastructure, trail, and amenity improvements to existing features.

The following section, *Section 9.4: Needs Assessment*, will examine this data in much more depth. Please refer to the Appendix for actual survey responses.

### 9.3.5 Regional and State Trends

#### 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Data

While not directly derived from the Weston community, this data from the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is useful for a larger Wisconsin perspective.

Overall, 95% of Wisconsin Adults participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Wisconsin residents’ top five favorite nature-based outdoor activities were: walking/hiking, fishing, hunting, bicycling, and camping.

The SCORP divides the state of Wisconsin into eight regions. The Western Sands region (of which Weston is a part) “provides outdoor recreation for those looking for a mix of developed recreation facilities. Much of what recreationists look for can all be found here—regional trail networks for various forms of trail use, large properties for migratory bird and big game hunting, state and county park properties with camping, picnic areas and hiking trails, as well as waterways for boating and canoe/kayak use.”

In the Regional Recreation Needs section, activities rated highly by respondents in the Western Sands region included:

- Bicycling (all kinds)
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping (developed and primitive)
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting (big game)
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming in lakes and rivers



Identified gaps and needs in existing recreation opportunities state-wide were listed as:

- Outdoor recreation facilities near population centers
- Trails
- Water access (such as shoreline and boat launches)
- Camping opportunities
- Dog parks and exercise areas
- Target shooting ranges

The following list is based on the methods suggested in the SCORP to boost outdoor recreation participation:

- Increase promotion and marketing of outdoor recreation areas.
- Improve mapping and online information.
- Continue upgrading and developing recreation facilities to meet demand.
- Evaluate visitor usage at the various facilities and locations.
- Identify and implement strategies to improve access and reduce barriers.
- Expand efforts among federal, state, county, and local governments to coordinate and collaborate on providing recreational opportunities.

### 9.3.6 Future Park Lands

The Wisconsin Department of Administration's *Wisconsin Municipal Projections, 2010-2040*, prepared in 2013, depicts Weston's population as increasing slowly through the study period. The following charts compare the median NRPA recommended park acreage per 1,000 persons listed above with the existing and projected population numbers to give a rough sense of the amount of new parkland, if any, that may be desired in the future.

The State of Wisconsin is currently working on updated projections. If community growth patterns differ significantly, parkland changes should be re-evaluated.

#### Population Projection and Parkland Projection Analysis

Neighborhood Parks											
Year	Population Projection	÷	1,000	=	NRPA Standard Benchmark/1,000	=	Median Acreage Recommended	-	Existing Acreage	=	Acreage Over Or Under Median
2020	15,723	÷	1,000	=	15.7 x 1.5	=	23.6	-	9.7	=	(13.8)
2030	18,890	÷	1,000	=	18.9 x 1.5	=	28.3	-	9.7	=	(18.6)
2040	20,330	÷	1,000	=	20.3 X 1.5	=	30.5	-	9.7	=	(20.8)

Community Parks											
Year	Population Projection	÷	1,000	=	NRPA Standard Benchmark/1,000	=	Median Acreage Recommended	-	Existing Acreage	=	Acreage Over Median
2020	15,723	÷	1,000	=	15.7 x 6.5	=	102.2	-	236.3	=	134.1
2030	18,890	÷	1,000	=	18.9 x 6.5	=	122.8	-	236.3	=	113.5
2040	20,330	÷	1,000	=	20.3 x 6.5	=	132.1	-	236.3	=	104.2

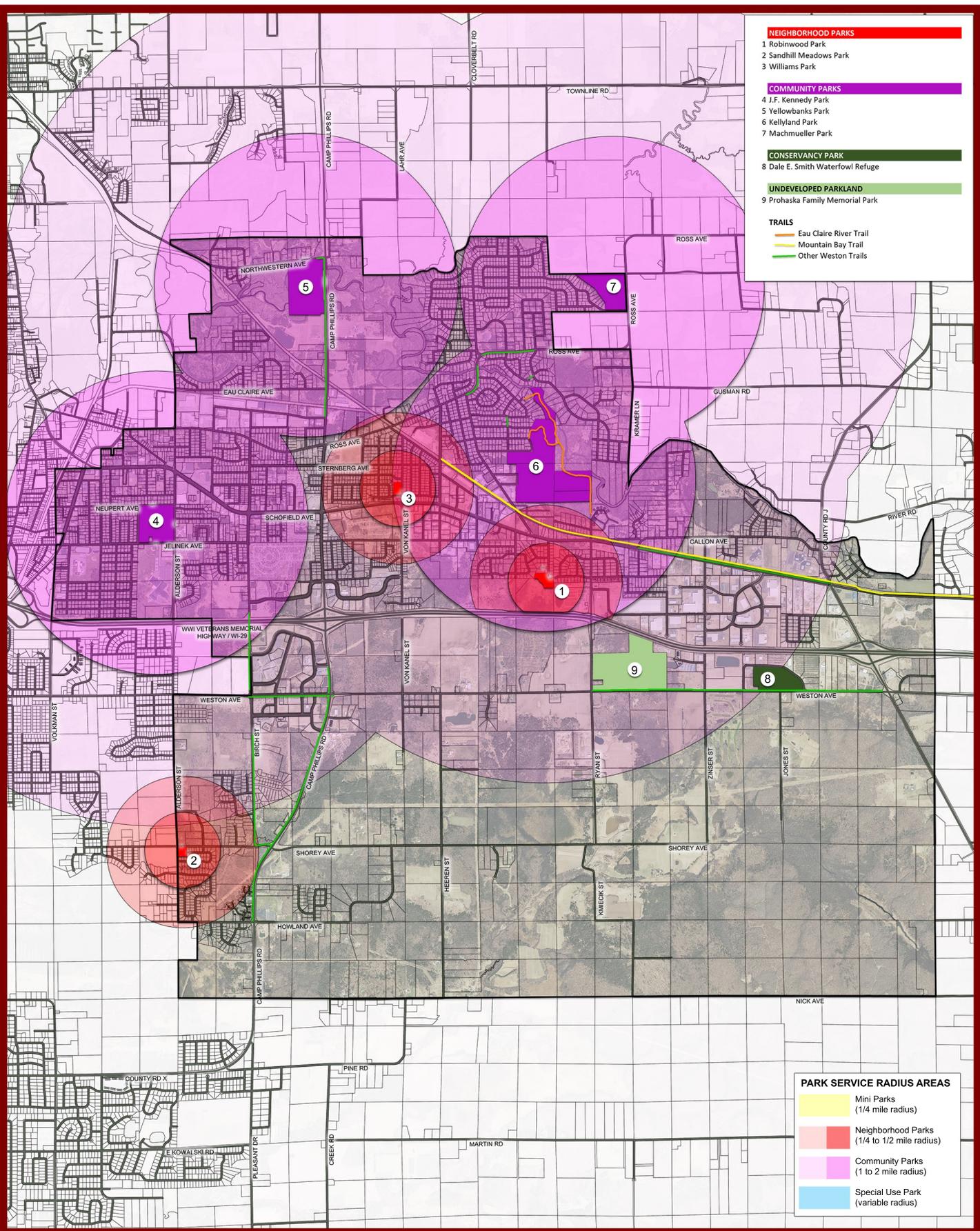
According to the Village Comprehensive Plan, "demographics suggest steady growth in the fringe areas of the Village," including "on and beyond the Village's current east side" "north of State Highway 29 and north of Ross Avenue" and "in the south and southeast sections of the Village. These areas include east of Camp Phillips Road (County Road X) and south of State Highway 29."

As the Village expands, future park locations should be assessed and acquired ahead of time and developed as needed. It is recommended that local needs and desires, Village staffing capabilities, and budgets be carefully examined before developing or acquiring additional parkland.



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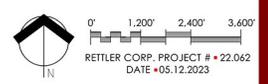


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- Eau Claire River Trail
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  - Other Weston Trails

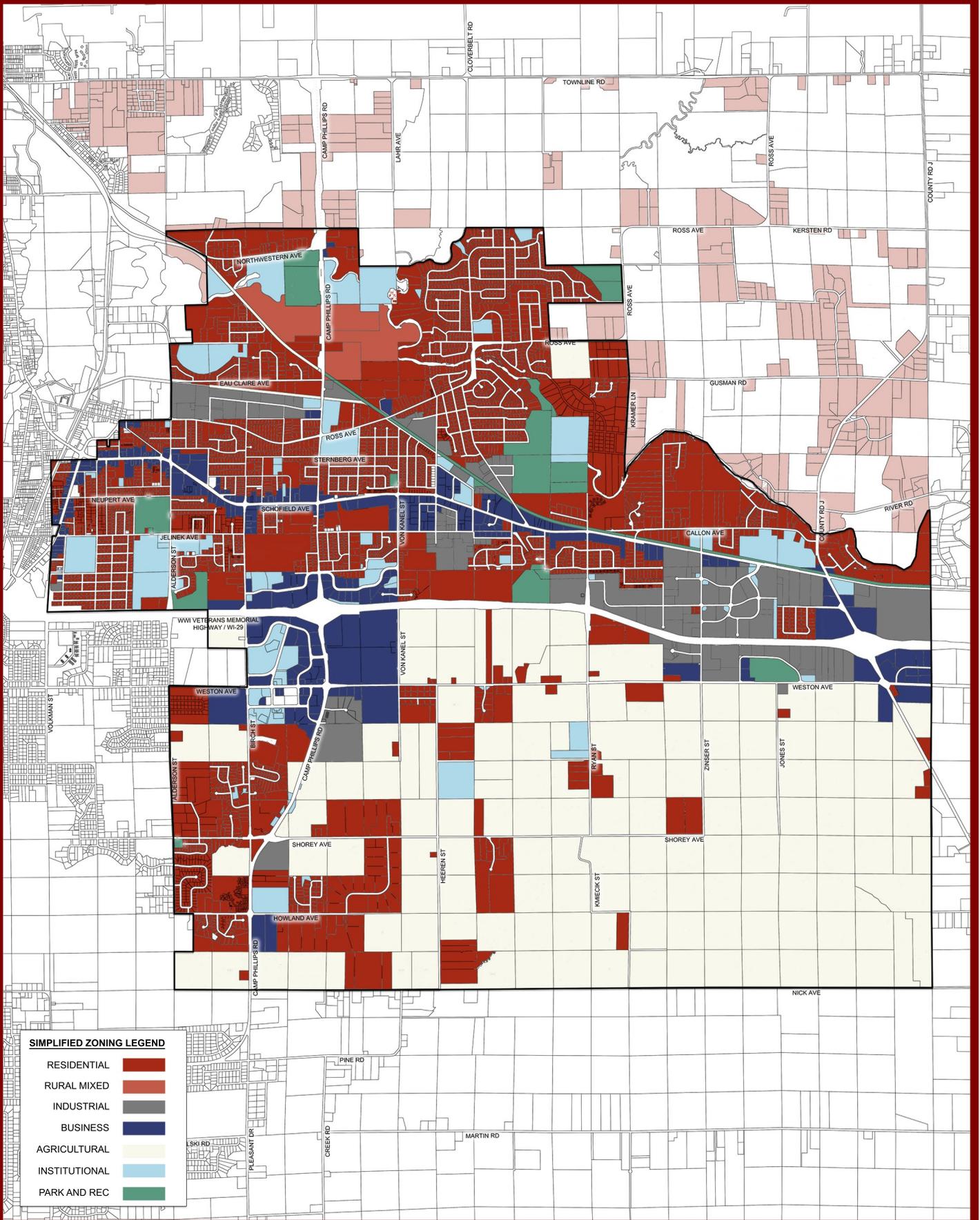
- PARK SERVICE RADIUS AREAS**
- Mini Parks (1/4 mile radius)
  - Neighborhood Parks (1/4 to 1/2 mile radius)
  - Community Parks (1 to 2 mile radius)
  - Special Use Park (variable radius)



## VILLAGE OF WESTON PARK SERVICE RADIUS MAP



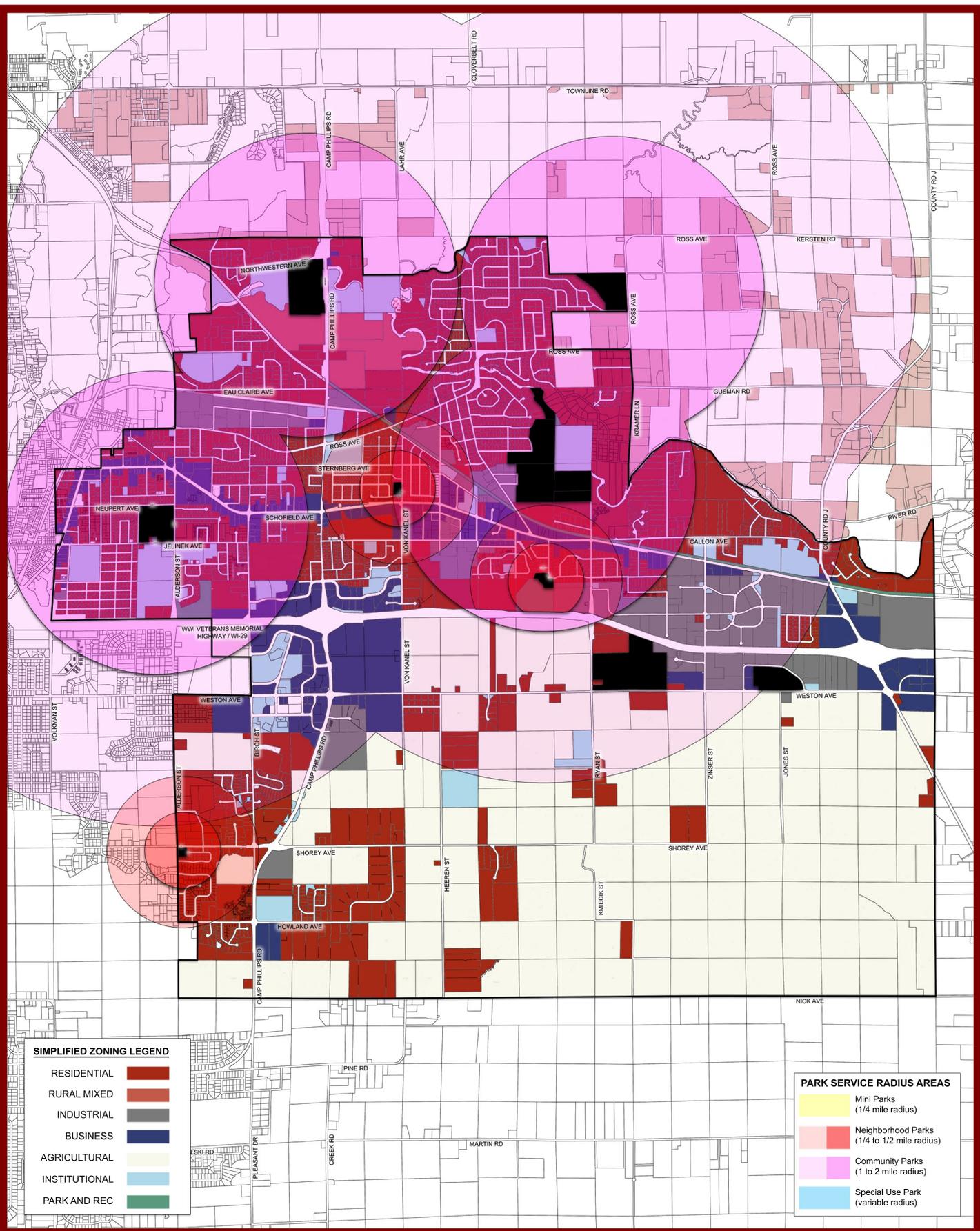
3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54482



## VILLAGE OF WESTON SIMPLIFIED ZONING MAP



3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54482



**SIMPLIFIED ZONING LEGEND**

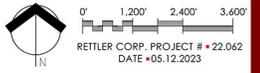
- RESIDENTIAL
- RURAL MIXED
- INDUSTRIAL
- BUSINESS
- AGRICULTURAL
- INSTITUTIONAL
- PARK AND REC

**PARK SERVICE RADIUS AREAS**

- Mini Parks (1/4 mile radius)
- Neighborhood Parks (1/4 to 1/2 mile radius)
- Community Parks (1 to 2 mile radius)
- Special Use Park (variable radius)



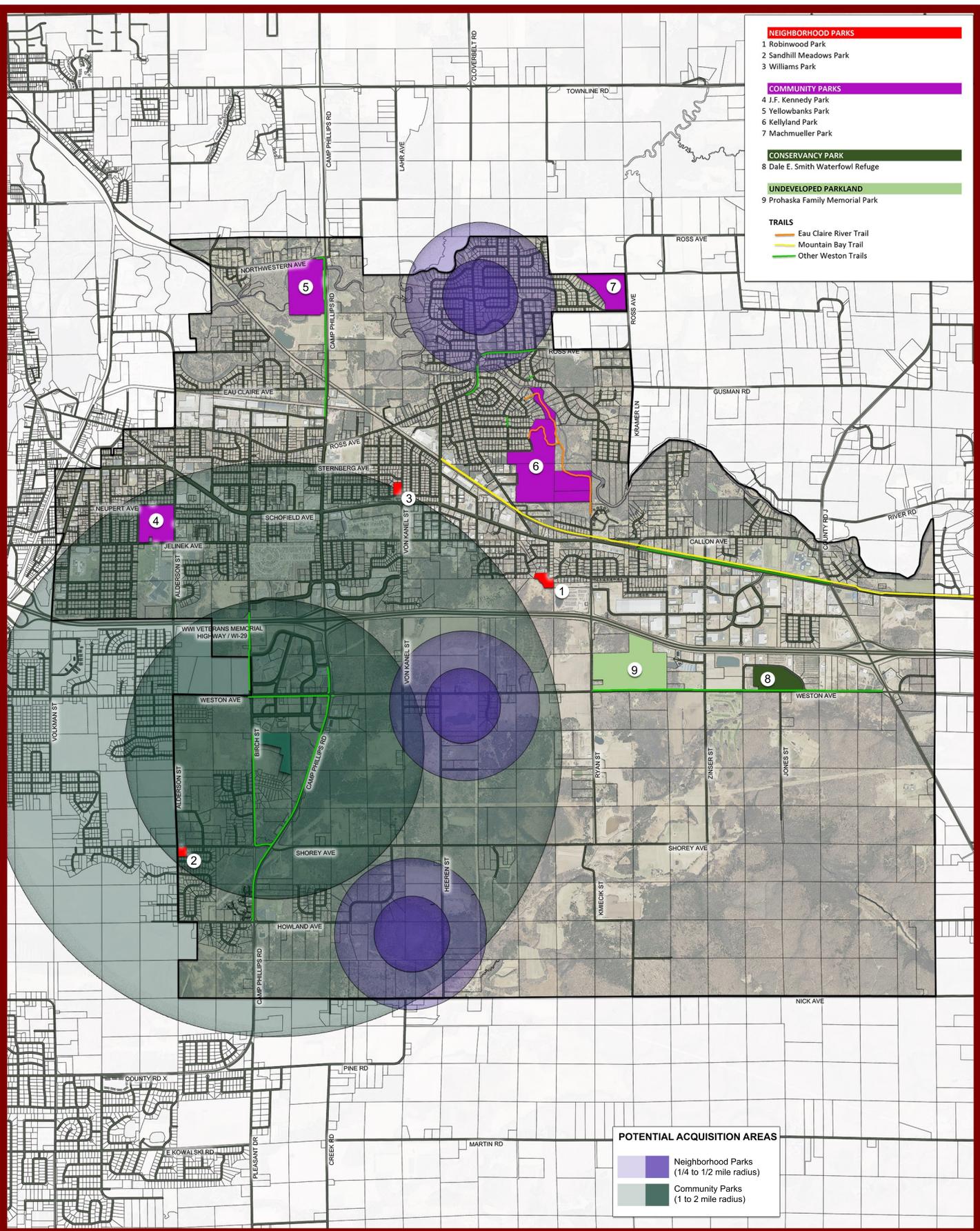
**VILLAGE OF WESTON**  
**SERVICE RADIUS OVER SIMPLIFIED ZONING MAP**



RETTLER CORP. PROJECT # • 22.062  
 DATE • 05.12.2023



3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
 STEVENS POINT, WI 54482



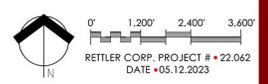
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- UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND**
- 9 Prohaska Family Memorial Park
- TRAILS**
- Eau Claire River Trail
  - Mountain Bay Trail
  - Other Weston Trails

- POTENTIAL ACQUISITION AREAS**
- Neighborhood Parks (1/4 to 1/2 mile radius)
  - Community Parks (1 to 2 mile radius)



# VILLAGE OF WESTON

## POTENTIAL PARK ACQUISITION MAP



3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

## 9.4 Needs Assessment

Guidelines and recommendations are important metrics, but the best way to get a true picture of community needs and opportunities is to obtain input directly from the people who live there.

Online surveys, public input meetings, and emails provide direct information on how existing facilities and services are being utilized- or not- and the reasons why. There is no better way to determine needs and opportunities and to create customized solutions than to listen to what the community is saying.

In the course of updating this plan, online Public Input Survey and User Group Survey links were made available for a month. In-person public input, user group, and park staff input meetings were held. Site visits with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry provided further input.

### 9.4.1 Online Community Survey

The Weston Parks and Recreation Department conducted an online community survey from May 12, 2023 to the end of June 10, 2023. The survey contained eighteen questions regarding location of residence, preferred information sources, park and trail usage, satisfaction with existing facilities, the importance of various amenities, rental experiences, park safety perceptions, ease of reaching parks on foot or by bicycle, a question about the aquatic center, and an option for general comments.

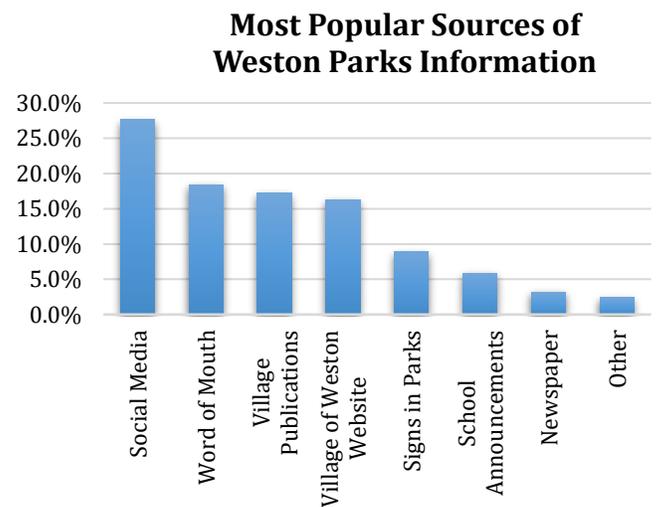
Efforts to promote the online survey included a writeup and links on social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, and Constant Contact) and the Village website, a media press release, and direct emails to user groups. The result was a total of 292 completed surveys. The following is a summary of the information shared. Please see the appendix for a complete list of responses.

#### *Residential Location*

Most (70%) of the online survey responses came from Weston. Other substantial contributors were Kronenwetter, following somewhat distantly at 8.6%, Rothschild at 6.5%, and Wausau at 3.8%.

#### *Information Sources*

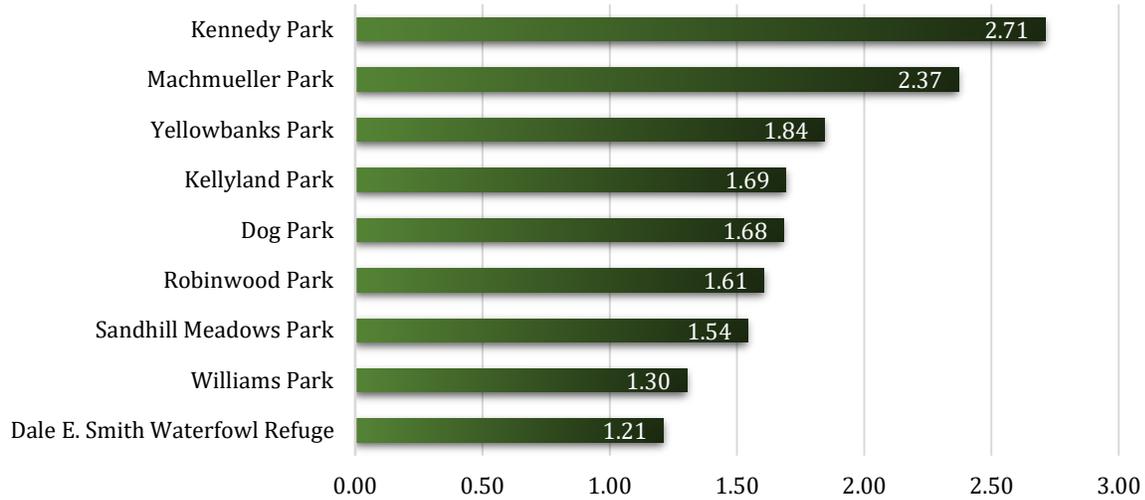
The most popular source of information was Social Media, with 27.6% of responses. Word of Mouth followed with 18.4%, Village Publications with 17.2%, and the Village Website with 16.3%.



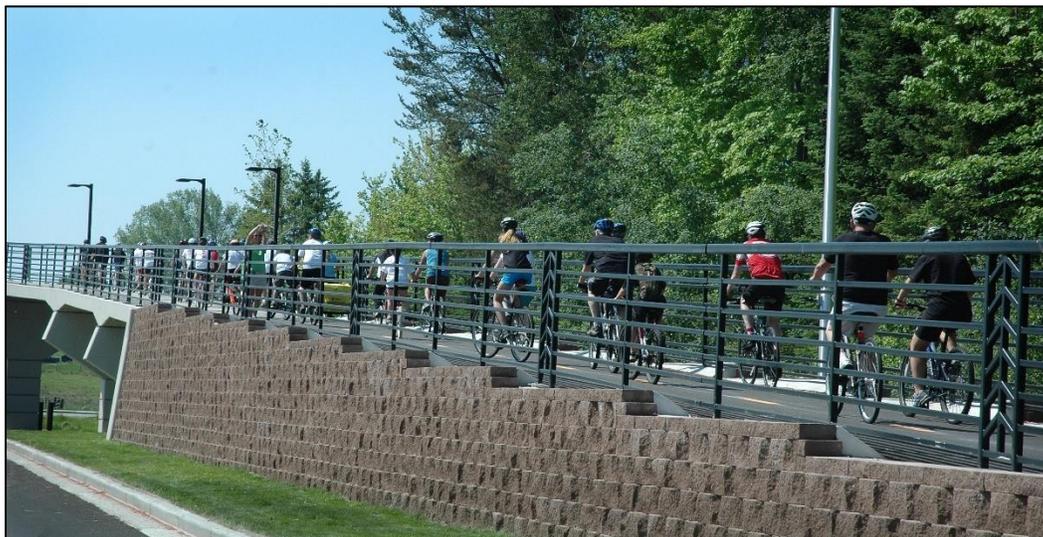
*Usage*

A list of Weston parks was presented along with the question “How often have you visited the following parks in the past twelve months?” Options included: “Often,” “Occasionally,” “Rarely,” and “Never.”

**Most Visited Parks  
(by weighted average)**



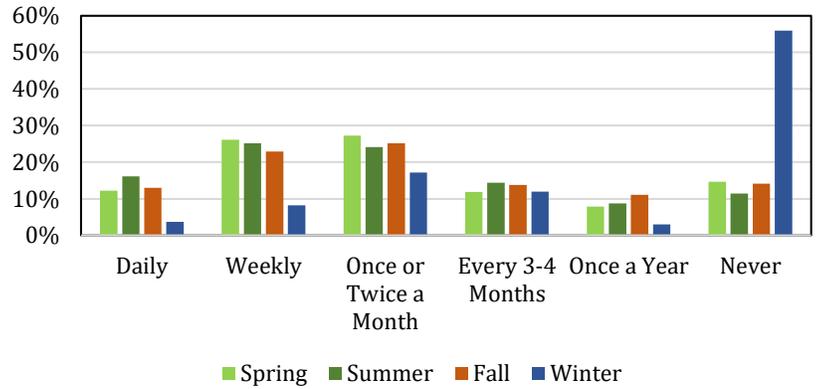
The top five most popular parks (in order) are: Kennedy Park, Machmueller Park, Yellowbanks Park, Kellyland Park, and the Dog Park (in Kellyland Park).



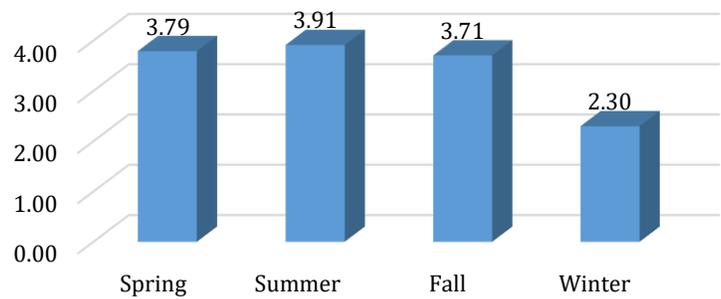
When asked how often they utilize the trail system, several things became apparent.

- Highest trail usage occurs in summer, followed closely by spring and fall.
- More people use the trails once or twice a month or weekly than daily.
- Daily usage peaks in the summer, while weekly usage predominates in spring, summer, and fall.
- In winter, "never" usage predominates, rising to 56% from an average of 13% during the rest of the year.
- Most trail useage is due to leisure or a desire for exercise.

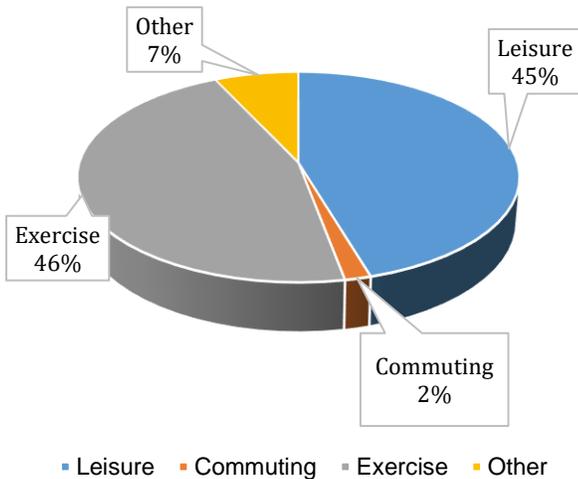
**Weston Trail Usage  
(by frequency across the seasons)**



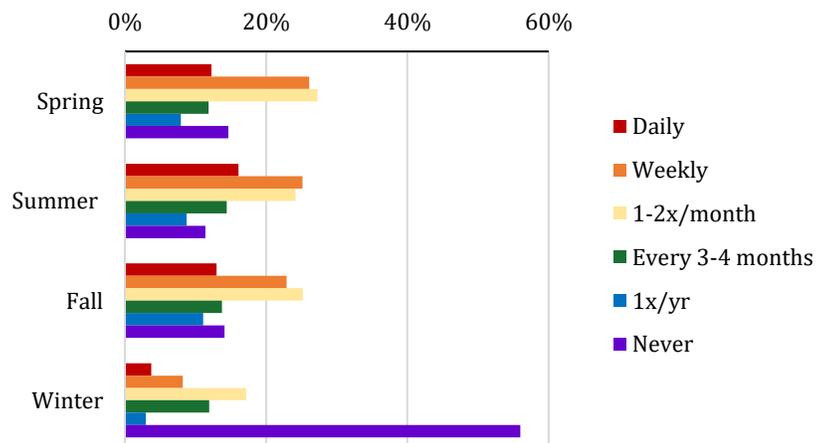
**Weston Trail Usage  
(by weighted average)**



**Main Reasons for Using  
Weston Trails**



**Weston Trail Usage  
(by season)**



When asked what factors keep them from utilizing the Village parks and trails more often, the overwhelming response was simply a lack of time. Thirty-eight persons added further data in the comments. When these were tallied, other reasons for not utilizing the available recreation facilities emerged. About a third of the comments mentioned amenity issues. Another 20% were about trails. Respondents wanted more trail connectivity and more paved trails. Roughly 17% noted a lack of information. They didn't know where all the parks and trails were or how to access them.

*Satisfaction*

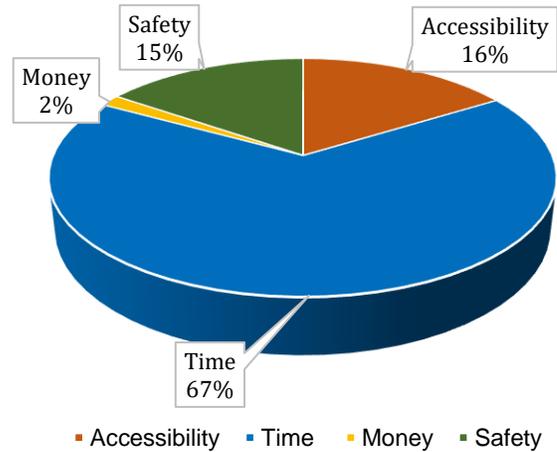
Park satisfaction levels are relatively middling with 66% of those surveyed describing themselves as “satisfied” or “very satisfied.”

Of suggestions for specific parks, top requests were for: kayak launch maintenance at Yellowbanks, restroom improvements and lighting at the Kennedy Park ballfields, and paving the Eau Claire River Trail.

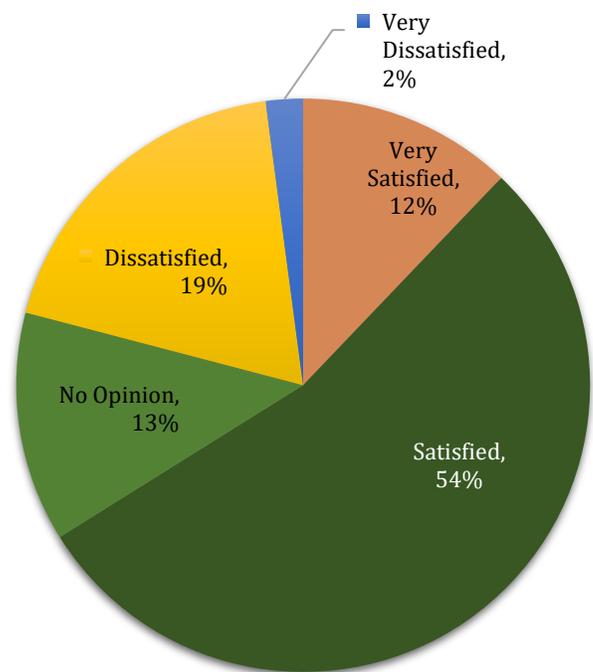
The two biggest topics in the general suggestions category were calls for an increase in general maintenance and playground-related requests. Desired playground improvements consist of updated equipment and more age and ability-inclusive equipment options. A number of people mentioned going to Wausau parks for more diverse playground options, particularly for younger children.

Other top requests were for restroom improvements, ballfield improvements, graffiti and vandalism complaints, and requests for tennis or pickleball. Safety related issues were mostly regarding concerns about old and cracked playground equipment.

**Factors Inhibiting Park and Trail Usage**

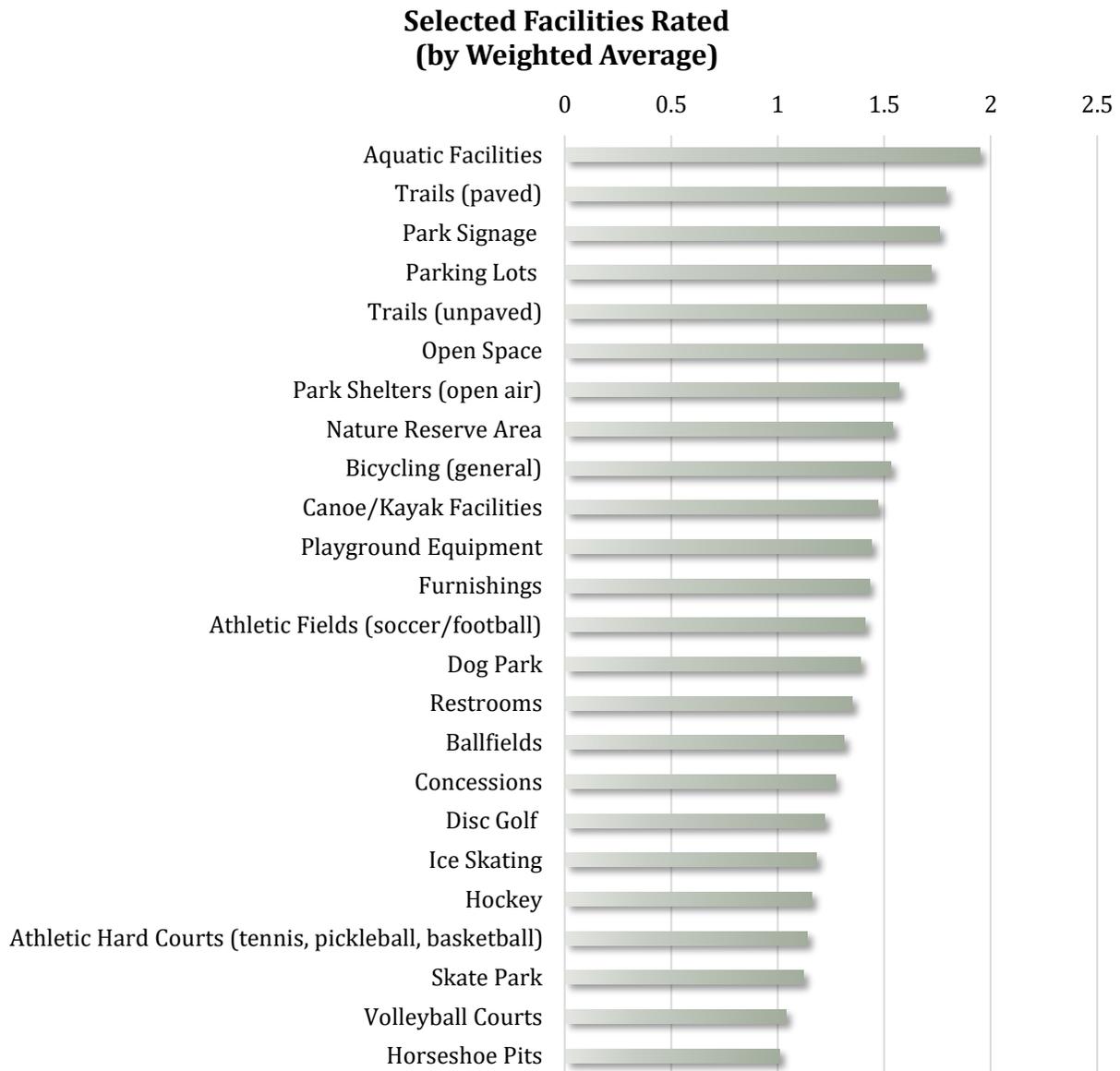


**Satisfaction with Parks Visited**



Respondents were then asked to rate a list of specific Village facilities using the options “Great,” “Satisfactory,” “Needs Improvement,” “Inadequate,” or “Never Use.”

The following chart depicts the weighted average results of selected amenities. The higher the number, the higher rating it received.

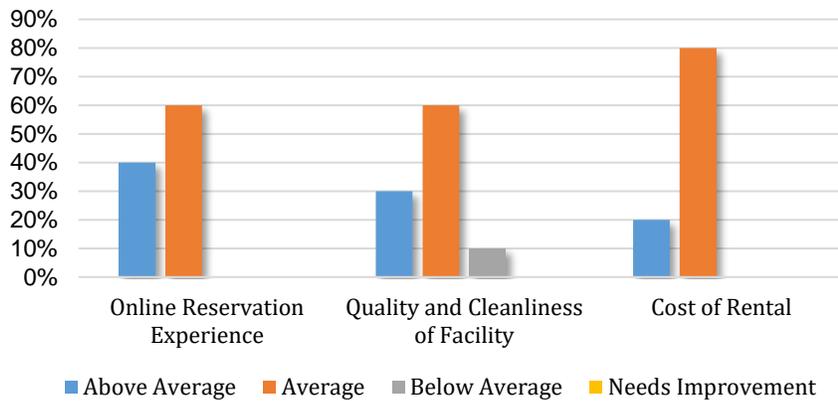


Sixty-four persons left comments. Roughly one third of them were regarding specific parks. Top suggestions were for (1) a better restroom/concession building, lights on ballfields, and more ballfields at Kennedy Park, (2) surface improvements for the Eau Claire River Trail, and (3) requests more trail connections throughout the Village. Another sixty percent were general requests such as restroom improvements, a ballfield complex, existing sports field upgrades (particularly lighting), and playground improvements.

**Rentals**

Five percent of the survey respondents had rented a Village park facility within the past twelve months. Most of these rentals were for either a family event or sports practice. Of those who rented, most rated their "Online Reservation Experience" and "Quality and Cleanliness of Facility" as "Average" or "Above Average." "Cost of Rental" was rated the lowest.

**How would you rate your rental experience?**



*Facility Planning*

The survey then asked respondents to indicate which facilities on a list were important, which they were neutral about, and which they did not find important.

The top ten most important rated facilities by weighted average and in descending order are as follows: restrooms, aquatic facilities, playground equipment, trails (paved), trails (unpaved), park furnishings, baseball/softball fields, bicycling facilities, canoe/kayak facilities, and a sledding hill.

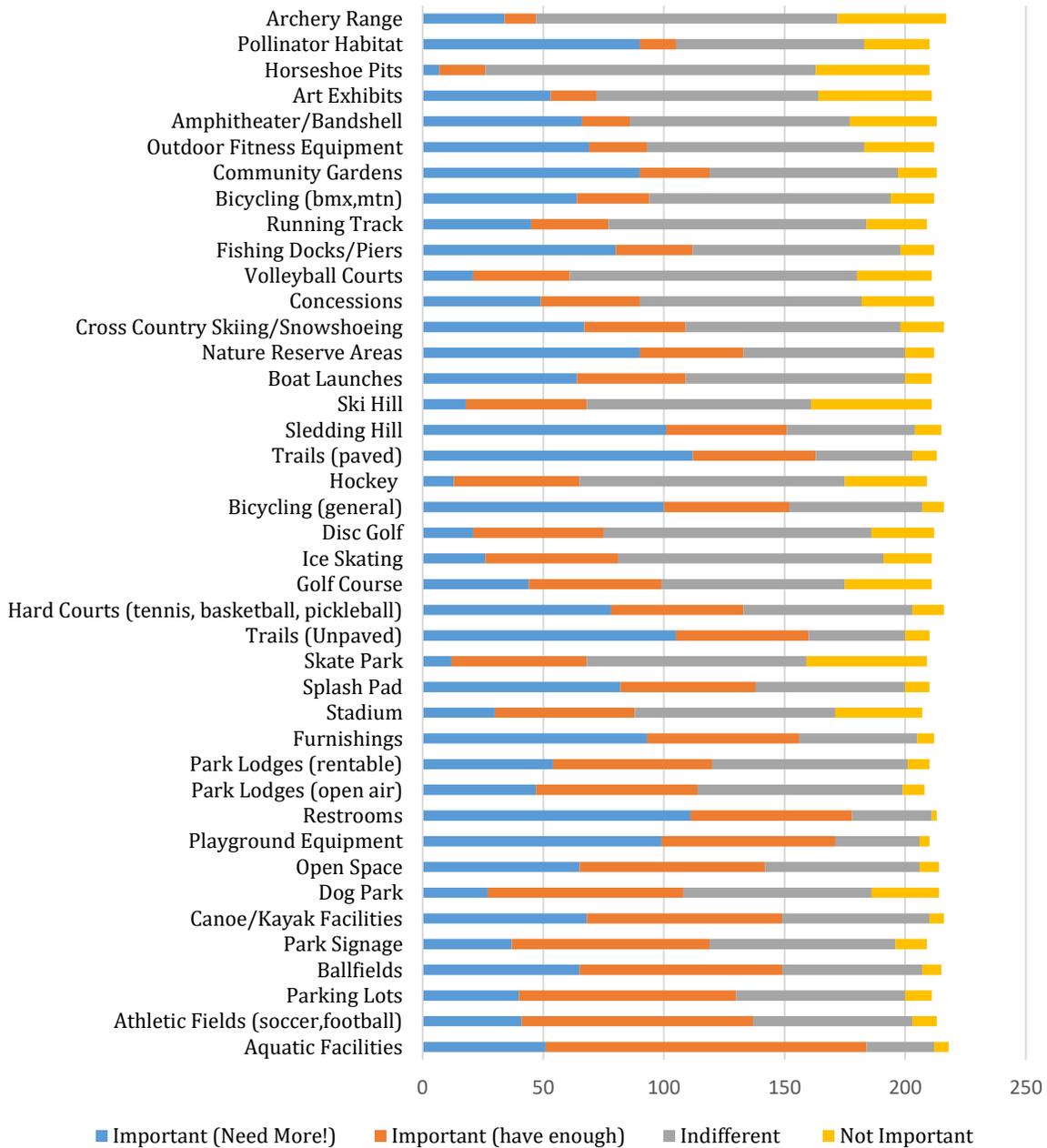
The question also included a way to rate an amenity as important but adequate in number throughout the community versus important and in need of some or more.

The most requested amenities (or additional amenities) and services included: restrooms, playground equipment, trails (paved and unpaved), park furnishings, splash pad, nature reserve areas, hard courts (tennis and pickleball), and community gardens.

The facilities from other communities that respondents chose to use most often are, in descending order: trails, playgrounds, pickleball/tennis courts, and aquatic facilities. The most popular communities are the City of Wausau, the Village of Rothschild, and the Village of Rib Mountain.

Importance Of Park Amenities by Weighted Average	
Restrooms	1.83
Aquatic Facilities	1.82
Playground Equipment	1.80
Trails (Paved)	1.72
Trails (Unpaved)	1.71
Furnishings	1.70
Ballfields	1.66
Bicycling (general)	1.66
Canoe/Kayak Facilities	1.66
Sledding Hill	1.65
Open Space	1.63
Splash Pad	1.61
Athletic Fields (soccer/football)	1.60
Nature Reserve Areas	1.57
Hard Courts (tennis, basketball, pickleball)	1.56
Parking Lots	1.56
Park Lodges (rentable)	1.53
Park Signage	1.51
Park Lodges (open air)	1.50
Community Gardens	1.48
Fishing Docks/Piers	1.46
Boat Launches	1.46
Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing	1.42
Dog Park	1.37
Pollinator Habitat	1.37
Bicycling (bmx,mtn)	1.36
Golf Course	1.30
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	1.30
Ice Skating	1.29
Concessions	1.28
Running Track	1.25
Stadium	1.25
Amphitheater/Bandshell	1.23
Disc Golf	1.23
Hockey	1.15
Volleyball Courts	1.14
Art Exhibits	1.12
Skate Park	1.09
Ski Hill	1.09
Archery Range	1.01
Horseshoe Pits	0.90

## Park Amenities Rated by Importance



### Safety

Roughly 26% of park users indicated they feel “Very Safe,” and 62% feel “Generally Safe,” when visiting Weston parks. About 9% said they felt “Somewhat Unsafe at Times.” No one noted that they felt “Very Unsafe.” 3% had no opinion.

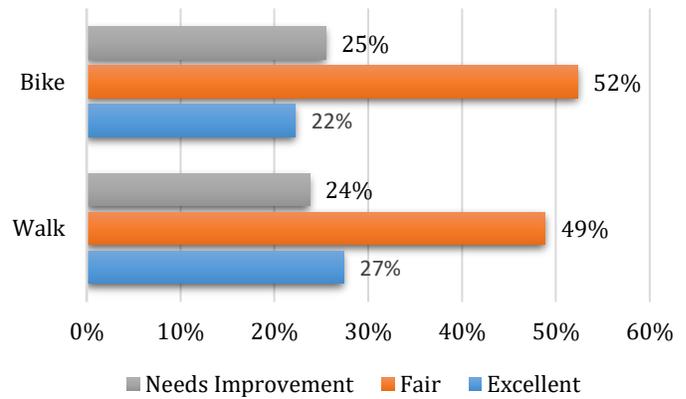
Twenty-four respondents shared additional information in the comments section. Factors that led to feeling safe were: park cleanliness, good lighting, open situation, visible areas, and park staff presence. Listed factors that led to feeling unsafe were: homeless persons in the area, seeing potential drug exchanges, dogs running off-leash, and people hanging out in cars or in the woods.

**Park Access**

The majority of respondents rated their ability to bike or walk around Weston as "Fair." Fifty-six persons shared comments. Most centered on a desire for more off-road bike paths and sidewalks as well as increased connectivity with neighboring trails and communities.

Most persons who responded to the survey (61%) live within a mile of a Village park. Another quarter live within 1-2 miles of a park. According to the comments, many residents who live near parks enjoy walking to them. Machmueller and Sandhill Meadows parks were mentioned most often.

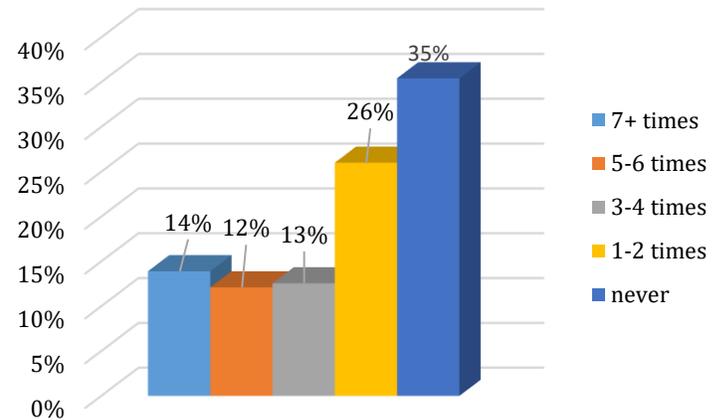
**Rated Ability to Walk or Bike Around Weston**



**Aquatics Center**

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how often they, or a member of the family, used the Aquatic Center within the past year.

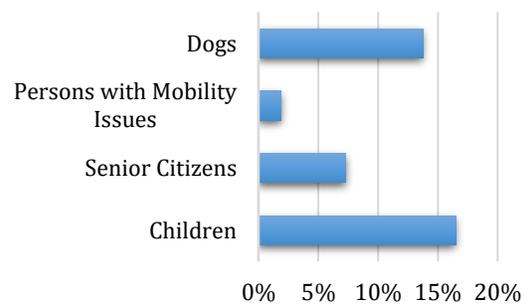
**Respondent Aquatic Center Use within the last 12 Months**



**Demographics**

Survey respondents were also asked to indicate which of the following types of park users they had in their homes- or to add others in the comments. Respondents were able to choose multiple categories.

**Does your household include one or more of the following?**



### *General Comments*

Seventy-two people chose to share open comments and suggestions. About half of them were, or included, compliments on the park department's hard work.

Of the comments related to specific parks, the most mentioned was a desire for ballfield and related infrastructure improvements (restroom, lighting, parking, concessions) at Kennedy Park. Among general comments, top requests for the Village to invest in park updates, for restroom improvements, tennis/pickleball courts, and a ballfield complex.

### **9.4.2 Online User Group Survey**

The Parks Department conducted an online User Group Survey concurrently with the Community Input Survey. Six user groups responded. Three were DC Everest youth sports programs; one was not sports related, and two did not identify what group they were representing. The following are some of the highlights.

Events conducted by the baseball and softball-related user groups take place primarily in Weston, but involve attendees and spectators from outside the community.

Kennedy, Machmueller, and sometimes Robinwood are the most-used parks.

All groups are using the park facilities they would like to use. However, when asked to number a list of amenities in order of importance, lighting and restrooms were chosen by all, followed by parking, spectator seating, accessibility, field types and sizes. More fields and improved concession stands were also listed in the comments.

### **9.4.3 In-Person Community Input Meeting**

The Parks Department and the consultant held an in-person public input meeting at the Weston Municipal Center to obtain public perspectives on the future needs of the park system. Two main questions were posed:

- What do you like about the Weston Park system?
- What improvements or changes would you like to see in the Weston Park system?

Attendees discussed the Village parks, their placement, needs, usage, and potential updates. Interest was expressed in playground replacement and upgrades, more kayak launches, increased security, shelter and restroom upgrades, and improved trail conditions.



#### 9.4.4 In-Person User Group Input Meeting

A user group meeting was also held at the Weston Municipal Center later that week. Representatives from groups including DC Everest Youth Baseball, High School Athletics, and the Weston Park Board attended.

A major focus was the Kennedy Park ballfields, particularly the feasibility of more sports fields and infrastructure improvements.

Other topics discussed included plans for the new Prohaska Park, updated amenities such as new garbage cans, benches, and play equipment parkwide, the skate park, outdoor basketball usage and improvements, security issues in general, and shelter upgrades.

#### 9.4.5 Additional Feedback

##### *Park Staff*

An in-person input meeting was held on July 7th to solicit staff perspective and hands on knowledge of park use and specific park needs- particularly maintenance aspects. The CORP team was introduced and then the floor was completely open to observations and comments.

Quite a number of ideas were shared and discussed, including the focus and goals for the park system as a whole as well as future park placement. Other issues are listed below:

- Shelters and restrooms, particularly the challenges, the need for updates and difficulties in finding new components.
- Playground replacement has already been looked into and vendors are already submitting pricing and concepts. These will be included in the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- The Eau Claire River Trail, its maintenance, and potential expansion
- Kennedy, the most used park in the system, generated quite a bit of discussion. Focus areas included existing buildings, ballfields, the aquatic center, seating, and the need for shade structures.
- Ideas for the future Prohaska Park.
- Vandalism and security concerns in many of the parks.
- Maintenance and employee numbers.
- Yellowbanks Park and river access.
- Non ballfield sports, such as disc golf, mountain biking, and hockey.

##### *CORP Review Team*

Input and oversight for the project was provided by the Village of Weston Parks & Recreation Committee.

Please refer to *Appendix A: Community Input* for detailed survey responses.



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## 9.5 Implementation Strategies

The list of recommendations in Chapter 7.2, which consists of repairs, upgrades, corrections, and desired additional amenities, is intended to provide guidance to decision makers.

In this section, estimated costs are provided for each of these improvements to assist the Village in organizing funding. Typically, these costs include furnishing and installation as well as appropriate allowances for demolition, mobilization, and permitting. These estimates are based on 2020-2023 costs from similar bid projects and do not necessarily reflect inflation, regional price differences, and potential future material cost increases. Quantities are based on County aerial photography.

These items may be funded through a combination of Village capital improvements budgets, public-private partnerships, grants, volunteer opportunities, and donations. Any Village-funded improvements would have to be presented to and approved by the Village as part of its annual Capital Improvements Program. Various grant and alternate funding sources are listed in the second half of this section.

For ease of reference, this section also provides a plan for implementing those recommendations over the next ten to fifteen years. The improvement information is organized into a spreadsheet matrix of short-, mid- and long-term strategies that are based on time increments of 1-5 years, 6-10 years, and 10+ years and beyond. This section should be viewed as a planning tool. Projects not completed in the hypothetical time frames identified should simply be considered future opportunities.

It is recommended that the Village monitor, review, and prioritize the improvement strategies on an annual basis.



9.5.1 Capital Improvements

## Capital Improvement Schedule



Multiplier

\*Note: A 3.5% construction inflation multiplier to be added per year to the current estimated cost.

1.035 to 1.188	1.229 to 1.411	1.460+
<b>Short Term (1-5 Years) 2024-2028</b>	<b>Mid Term (6-10 Years) 2029-2033</b>	<b>Long Term (11+ Years) 2034+</b>

PARK NAME	CURRENT ESTIMATED COST			
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<b>Robinwood Park</b>				
Playground with Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads	\$119,500	X		
Accessible Connecting Walks (concrete)	\$30,300	X		
Shade Structure Allowance	\$20,000	X		
Basketball Restriping Allowance	\$800	X		
Basketball Hoop Replacement Allowance	\$800	X		
Building Maintenance Allowance (Restroom)	\$25,000		X	
Building Maintenance Allowance (Shelter)	\$25,000		X	
Softball/Little League Improvements (Dugouts)(Gameshade with Vinyl Fencing)	\$40,000		X	
Softball/Little League Improvements (reskin infield)	\$30,000	X		
Softball/Little League Improvement (Backstop)	\$30,000		X	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$321,400</b>			

<b>Sandhill Meadows Park</b>				
Playground with Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads	\$111,100	X		
Sand Volleyball Renovation Allowance	\$10,500	X		
New Restroom Building	\$189,000		X	
Basketball Restriping Allowance	\$1,500	X		
Shelter Building Upgrade Allowance	\$20,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$332,100</b>			



<b>Williams Park</b>				
Playground with Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads	\$92,600	X		
Shade Structure Allowance (10'x10')	\$15,000	X		
Sand Volleyball Renovation Allowance	\$10,500		X	
Restroom/Shelter with Plaza and Sidewalk	\$491,000		X	
Parking Lot (9 spaces)	\$39,000	X		
Accessible Connecting Walks (concrete)	\$8,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$656,100</b>			

<b>Kennedy Park</b>				
Refer to Master Plan	TBD			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>			

<b>Yellowbanks Park</b>				
Playground Replacement (w/Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads)	\$135,600	X		
New Playground (w/ Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads)	\$135,600		X	
Parking and Access Drive to Launch	\$94,000			X
ADA Kayak Launch Allowance	\$50,000			X
Lighting Allowance (second shelter)	\$120,000		X	
Perimeter Walk Allowance (crushed stone)	\$16,400	X		
Connecting Walks (asphalt and gravel)(east side to west playground)	\$16,000	X		
Volleyball Court Removal Allowance	\$5,000	X		
Security Allowance	\$10,000	X		
Building Removal Allowance	\$25,000		X	
Restroom Allowance	\$236,300		X	
Open Shelter Replacement Allowance (@25'x30')	\$210,000		X	
Park Master Plan Allowance	\$10,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,063,900</b>			

<b>Kellyland Park</b>				
Playground with Perimeter Walk and Bench Pads	\$136,200	X		
Accessible Connecting Walks (concrete)	\$4,100	X		
Dog Park Shade Structure Allowance	\$25,000	X		
Water to Dog Park Allowance	\$20,100		X	
Building Update Allowance (Shelter and Restroom)	\$50,000	X		
Drainage Issues Allowance	\$50,000		X	



Dog Park Agility Course Allowance	\$24,000		X	
Dog Park Lighting Allowance	\$50,000	X		
Park Amenity Allowance	\$8,000	X		
Park Security Allowance	\$10,000	X		
Park Master Plan Allowance	\$10,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$387,400</b>			

<b>Machmueller Park</b>				
Pickleball Courts (16 courts with viewing areas)	\$745,000	X		
Restroom/Shelter Building	\$545,000		X	
Playground Perimeter Walks	\$15,100	X		
Accessible Connecting Walks	\$32,600	X		
Accessible Walk/Maintenance Drive and Bleacher Pad (to ballfield)	\$12,000		X	
Existing Building Upgrade Allowance (2 structures)	\$75,000	X		
Outdoor Fitness Equipment Upgrade Allowance	\$55,000	X		
Ballfield Updates and Irrigation Allowance	\$80,000		X	
Park Master Plan Allowance	\$10,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,569,700</b>			

<b>Dale A. Smith Refuge</b>				
Parking Lot (10 spaces)	\$60,000	X		
Unpaved Trail Allowance	\$7,000	X		
Existing Structure Updates Allowance	\$12,000	X		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,000</b>			

<b>Prohaska Park</b>				
Refer to Master Plan	TBD			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>			

<b>Trails</b>				
Northwestern Avenue Trail Allowance (asphalt)	\$350,000		X	
Eau Claire River Crossing near Northwestern Trail (refer to Eau Claire River Bridge Study by MSA)	TBD		X	
Mountain Bay Parallel Trail Allowance (Asphalt)(Ryan to Camp Phillips) (rough est.)	\$672,000		X	



Mountain Bay Parallel Trail Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations Allowance	\$10,000		X	
Eau Claire River Crossing Study and Structure Allowance (Kellyland Park area)	TBD		X	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,032,000</b>			

<b>TOTALS</b>	
<b>Short Term</b>	\$1,997,100
<b>Mid Term</b>	\$3,300,500
<b>Long Term</b>	\$144,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,441,600</b>

### 9.5.2 Funding

There are several common funding methods that communities can use to help acquire, develop, operate, and maintain park systems. Each have potential benefits and drawbacks. The specific method or combination chosen will depend on the particulars of the situation. They are as follows:

- **General Funds/Local Taxes:** commonly used for park system administration, park operations, maintenance, and some park acquisition and development.
- **Impact Fees:** Wisconsin State Statute §66.0617 permits Villages, municipalities, and counties in Wisconsin to impose impact fees on developers. This legislation specifies what standards that an impact fee ordinance must meet, as well as establishing procedural requirements that must be satisfied before a governmental entity may enact such an ordinance, including the completion of a needs assessment study and the holding of a public hearing. Used for parkland acquisition and development within a specified district and designed to meet recreation needs created by the new development.

The Village of Weston has chosen to adopt to following fees:

- Single Family Residence \$300.00/Residential Unit
  - Two-Family & Multiple family Residence \$250.00/Unit
- **Philanthropy/Donations:** used for park acquisition, development, and management. “Friends” groups, foundations, conservancies, benevolent individuals, and even local businesses can provide a way for public parks to receive ongoing support from private funding.
  - **Volunteer Participation:** used for park development, operations, and management. If volunteer participation is utilized for park development and management, it must be properly administered to be effective. Volunteers must be trained, equipped, and supervised to work in an effective, safe, and legal manner. Please note that some grant-in-aid programs do not recognize donated labor as a local match.
  - **Loans:** used for park acquisition and development.
  - **Grant-in-Aid Programs:** Used for park acquisition and development. The chart below lists some potential Grant Funding Sources.

#### Potential Grant Funding Sources



<b>STATE OF WISCONSIN GRANTS:</b>
<b>WI Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</b>
Acquisition & Development of Local Parks (Stewardship)
Acquisition of Development Rights (Stewardship)
ATV Enhancement
ATV Patrols
ATV Trails
Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants (now Surface Waters Grant)
Boat Patrol Grants
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program
Clean Water Fund Program
Clean Vessel Act
Friends of State Lands (Stewardship)
Gypsy Moth Suppression Program
Habitat Area (Stewardship)
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Grants (Multiple)
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*
Surface Water Grants
Motorized Stewardship Grants
Municipal Flood Control
Municipal Water Safety Patrols State Assistance
Natural Areas (Stewardship)
Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program
Recreational Boating Facilities Grant Program
Recreational Trails Program
River Protection and Planning Grant Programs
Shooting Range Grant Program
Snowmobile Trail Aids
Sport Fish Restoration
Stamp Funds
State Trails (Stewardship)
Streambank Protection (Stewardship)
Urban Forestry Assistance Grants
Urban Green Space Program (Stewardship)
Urban Non-Point Source and Storm Water Grant Program
Urban Rivers Grant Program (Stewardship)
Utility Terrain Vehicle Trails
<b>WI Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)</b>
Brownfields Grant Program
Brownfield Site Assessment Grant
Community Development Investment Grant
Community Based Economic Development Program (Multiple)
Community Development Block Grants (Multiple)
<b>WI Department of Administration (DOA)</b>
Coastal Management Grants
<b>WI Department of Transportation (DOT)</b>



Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program
Harbor Assistance Program
Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program
Safe Routes to School Grant Program (SRTS)
Surface Transportation Program – Urban
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA)
Wisconsin State Infrastructure Bank (Loan Program)
<b>FEDERAL GRANTS:</b>
<b>US Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
<b>US Department of the Interior</b>
National Park Service Land & Water Conservation Fund
<b>US Environmental Protection Agency</b>
Brownfield Clean Up Grant
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
EPA Environmental Education Grant Program
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
<b>US Fish and Wildlife Service</b>
State Wildlife Grants Program
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
<b>PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT GRANTS:</b>
<b>American Academy of Dermatology</b>
AAD Shade Structure Grant Program
<b>Bikes Belong Coalition</b>
Bikes Belong Grant Program
<b>Eastman Kodak, etc.</b>
Kodak American Greenways Program
<b>Dr Pepper Snapple &amp; KaBOOM!</b>
Let's Play Imagination Playground Grant
<b>Major League Baseball</b>
MLB Baseball Tomorrow Fund
<b>Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin</b>
C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant (small grants only)
<b>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</b>
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program
Bring Back the Natives
Sustain our Great Lakes Program
<b>US Soccer Foundation</b>
US Soccer Foundation Grant

It should be noted that although it is desirable to acquire funding from grants and other non-local sources, the Village should also consider its ability to:

- Submit the necessary grant application materials.
- Administer the grant.
- Maintain the necessary documentation as required by the grant.
- Fund any required match.



- Maintain the improvement or program.
- Accept any long-term obligations or restrictions on the Village property where the funding is used.

Further information can be obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Community Services Specialist for the appropriate state district.

### **Wisconsin DNR Projects**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notes that: “Eligible local governments are only those towns, cities, counties, and tribal governments that have a Department approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or Master Plan, which has been approved by resolution by the local governing unit or a plan of a higher unit of government. Local governments with qualifying plans receive eligibility to apply for grants for five years.”

### **Eligible Projects**

In general, eligible projects include land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for “nature-based outdoor recreation” purposes. Decisions by the DNR as to whether a particular project activity is categorized as “nature-based outdoor recreation” are made on a case-by-case basis. A DNR listing of some eligible projects and/or reasons are as follows:

- Acquisition of a conservation easement (including the acquisition of development rights) that enhances or provides nature-based outdoor recreation. Because of the complexity of easements, the department has developed separate guidelines, including a model easement to explain the requirements for eligibility for Stewardship funding. Contact your DNR region Community Service Specialist for additional information.
- Land purchases to preserve scenic or natural areas, including areas of physical or biological importance and wildlife areas. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land within urban areas for such uses as open natural space, undeveloped play areas, bicycling trails, walking and horseback riding trails, and day-use picnic areas.
- Areas that preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature based outdoor recreation activities.
- Development and renovation projects for the purpose of nature-based outdoor recreation – e.g., trails, camping areas, picnic areas, water recreation areas, and educational facilities where there is a permanent professional naturalist staff and the facilities are for nature interpretation, etc.
- Development and renovation of support facilities for the above – e.g., access roads, parking areas, restroom facilities, utility and sanitation systems, permanent landscaping, park signs, fences and lighting for the protection of park users, etc.
- Shoreline habitat restoration projects that serve public recreation or resource conservation purposes and is dependent on being on a shoreline.
- Riparian buffer rehabilitation including establishment of native vegetation, which may include slope and site preparation, and control of exotic plant species.
- Shoreline stabilization, which may employ bioengineering practices, and other environmentally beneficial stabilization techniques.

### **Ineligible Projects**



- Land acquired through condemnation by the applicant; development of facilities on lands that were acquired through condemnation by the applicant.
- Purchasing land for and development of recreation areas that are not related to nature-based outdoor recreation – e.g., sports that require extensively developed open space such as dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, skateboard parks, hockey rinks, indoor horse arenas, golf courses, and motorized recreation.
- Lands dedicated through a local park land dedication ordinance.
- Restoration or preservation of historic structures.
- Buildings primarily devoted to operation and maintenance.
- Indoor recreation facilities.
- Construction or repair of seawalls, dams and lagoons.
- Construction of lodges, motels, luxury cabins or similar facilities.
- Environmental remediation or clean-up of site contamination.

Please refer to the Wisconsin DNR *2023 Grant Program Guidance* (at [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Stewardship/2023\\_Grant\\_Program\\_Guidance\\_Booklet.pdf](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Stewardship/2023_Grant_Program_Guidance_Booklet.pdf)) and the *2023 Surface Water Grant Program Applicant Guide* (at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>) for the latest information on various grants and grant assistance.



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## 9.6 References

### 9.6.1 Bibliography

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Village of Weston, with the assistance of MD Roffers Consulting LLC. *Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan Volume 1: Conditions and Issues and Volume 2: Vision and Directions*. Adopted October 3, 2016.

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Village of Weston. Shawn Osterbrink, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, and other Village staff and members provided important information regarding the current needs and recommendations for the Weston Parks.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, April, 2021.

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>
- [https://data-wi-dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/original-vegetation-polygons?selectedAttribute=LUC\\_LEVEL\\_2\\_CODE](https://data-wi-dnr.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/original-vegetation-polygons?selectedAttribute=LUC_LEVEL_2_CODE)
- <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/naturalareas/index.asp?SNA=2>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Community Assistance.

- *Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans*. PUBL-CA-010.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023*. March 2019.



## 9.6.2 Parks and Open Space Classifications

The list and chart below are intended to define key terms and identify the existing system resources.

The following definitions used in this plan are imported from the previous 2016-2021 Weston CORP and the *Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans* published by the Wisconsin DNR, which are in turn based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) terms.

Village of Weston Outdoor Recreation Facilities Terminology			
Classification	General Description	Preferred Size	Service Area
<b>Mini Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs in a residential setting.</li> <li>Often contains landscaping, seating areas, and central focus feature such as a gazebo, fountain, play area, or historical marker or art project.</li> <li>Often created on a single urban lot or remnant parcel.</li> </ul>	1 acre or less	1/4-mile radius
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic unit of the park system.</li> <li>Recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.</li> <li>Informal active and passive recreation.</li> <li>Typical amenities include: shelters, picnic areas (with tables and grills), drinking fountains, and pathways.</li> </ul>	5-15 acres	1/4 to 1/2-mile radius
<b>Community Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designed to serve several neighborhoods.</li> <li>Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs and/or preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.</li> <li>Provides a combination of intensive and non-intensive development. In addition to the facilities provided at neighborhood parks, community parks may provide natural features, trails, swimming pools, picnic areas, elaborate playfields, game courts, ice skating, shelters, or sanitary facilities and ample off-street parking.</li> </ul>	20+ acres	1 to 2-mile radius
<b>Special Use Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use.</li> </ul>	Varies	Varies
<b>Natural Resource Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, or visual aesthetics/buffering.</li> <li>Used for natural-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, conservation, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, boating, etc. May include play area.</li> <li>Main usage is to protect and manage the natural environment with recreation as a secondary objective.</li> </ul>	Varies	Varies



### 9.6.3 NRPA Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards

As shown in the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Community Assistance.

Activity	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17’x44’	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
		Doubles – 20’x44’				
Basketball	Youth: 2400-3036 sq. ft.	46-50’x84’	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
	High School: 5040-7280 sq. ft.	50’x84’				
	College: 5600-7980 sq. ft.	50’x94’				
	with 5’ unobstructed space on all sides					
Handball	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall	20’x40’ – Minimum of 10’ to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20’ overhead clearance	Long axis north-south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
	1000 for 3-wall		Front wall at north end.			
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85’x200’ (minimum 85’x185’) Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.



Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 2000	¼- ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball	Official: 3.0-3.85 acres minimum	Official: Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
	Little League: 1.2 acres minimum	Little League: Baselines -- 60', Mound Distance 46', Foul lines Min. 2000', Center Field 200' to 250'		Lighted 1 per 30,000		
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 acres	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5 acres	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 acres	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 acres for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minute travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.

¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 acres	Overall width – 276’ Length – 600.02’ Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32’.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 acres	Baselines – 60’, Pitching distance - 46’ min. 40’ women. Fast pitch field radius from home plate - 225’, Slow pitch -- 275’ (men), 250’ (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9, 840 sq. ft.	120’ x 80’	Long axis of courts with primary use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10’ width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65 acres	300’ Length x Minimum 10’ wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30’, clear space behind targets minimum of 90’x45’ with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minute travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.



Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	Minimum 30 acres	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minute travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex
Golf	Par 3 (18 hole), 50-60 acres	Average length vary 600-2700 yd.	Majority of holes on north-south axis	1/25,000	½ to 1 hour travel time	9-hole course accommodate s 350 people/day. 18-hole course accommodates 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, and not be over 20 miles from population center.
	9-hole standard, Minimum 50 acres	Average length – 2250 yards				
	18-hole standard, Minimum 110 A	Average length 6500 yards		1/50,000		
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 acre site.	Teaching- minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft.  Competitive – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None- although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (should accommodate 3-5% of population at a time.)	15 to 30 minute travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.



Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.
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*Source: National Recreation and Park Association (1990)*



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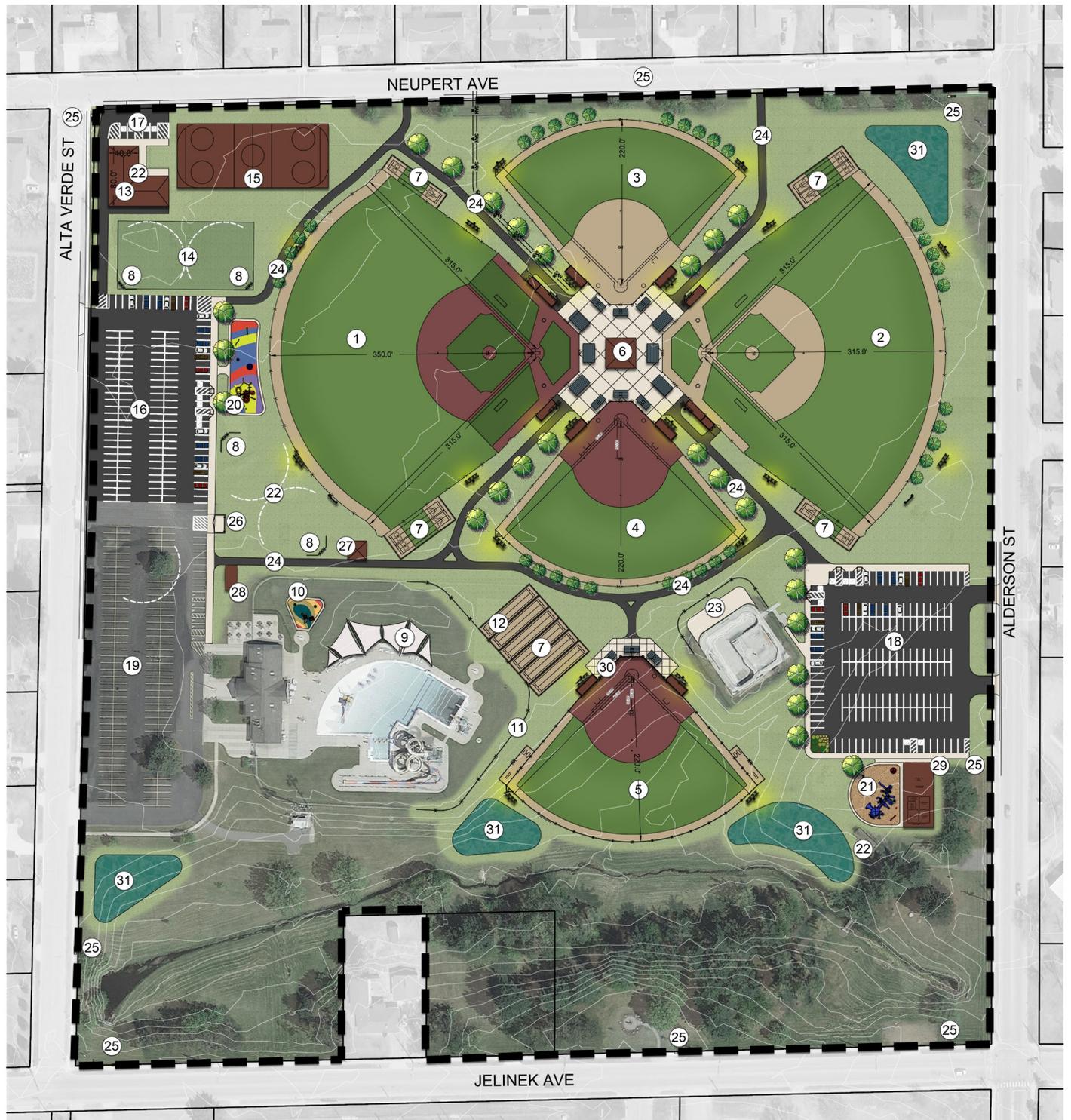


**9.6.4 Kennedy and Prohaska Park Master Plans**



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**KEYNOTES**

- |  |  |   |   |                               |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 315/350/315' BASEBALL FIELD WITH SYNTHETIC TURF INFIELD, DUGOUTS, UNDERDRAIN, SCOREBOARD, LIGHTING, AND BLEACHERS  | 6 CONCESSION/RESTROOM/PRESSBOX (1,600 SF GROUND FLOOR) | 13 MULTIPURPOSE PARK BUILDING (4,800 SF)    | 20 ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND                        | 27 STORAGE BUILDING (25'x25') |
| 2 315/315/315' NATURAL TURF BASEBALL FIELD WITH DUGOUTS, UNDERDRAIN, SCOREBOARD, LIGHTING, AND BLEACHERS   | 7 (6) BATTING CAGES                                    | 14 ICE SKATING AREA (90'x180')              | 21 UPGRADE EXISTING PLAYGROUND                  | 28 UPGRADE EXISTING RESTROOMS |
| 3 200' SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD WITH DUGOUTS, UNDERDRAIN, SCOREBOARD AND LIGHTING, AND BLEACHERS   | 8 TEE BALL BACKSTOPS                                   | 15 ICE HOCKEY AREA                          | 22 REMOVE EXISTING BUILDING/S                   | 29 RESTROOM/SHELTER BUILDING  |
| 4 200' SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD WITH MULTIPLE BASE PATHS (60/70), SYNTHETIC TURF INFIELD, DUGOUTS, UNDERDRAIN, SCOREBOARD AND LIGHTING, AND BLEACHERS    | 9 POOL AMENITIES: SHADE STRUCTURES                     | 16 PARKING LOT EXPANSION (143 SPACES)       | 23 SKATE PARK BEGINNER AREA ADDITION            | 30 RETAINING WALL             |
| 5 200' SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD WITH MULTIPLE BASE PATHS (46/50/70), SYNTHETIC TURF INFIELD, DUGOUTS, UNDERDRAIN, SCOREBOARD AND LIGHTING, AND BLEACHERS | 10 POOL AMENITIES: RUBBERIZED SURFACE PLAYGROUND       | 17 PARKING LOT REDEVELOPMENT (4 ADA SPACES) | 24 CONNECTING WALKS                             | 31 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AREA |
|  | 11 POOL AMENITIES: RELOCATED FENCING                   | 18 PARKING LOT REDEVELOPMENT (180 SPACES)   | 25 BENCHES WITH COMPANION AREA ON CONCRETE SLAB |                               |
|  | 12 POOL AMENITIES: REMOVE EXISTING VOLLEYBALL          | 19 EXISTING PARKING (approx. 167 SPACES)    | 26 DUMPSTER AREA (15'x25')                      |                               |



**VILLAGE OF WESTON**  
**KENNEDY PARK ■ PREFERRED MASTER PLAN**



3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
 STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

**KEYNOTES**

- ① MAIN ENTRANCE/EXIT (WITH SIGNAGE AND LIGHTING)
- ② MAIN DRIVES (24'W ASPHALT)
- ③ SOUTH PARKING LOT (24 SPACES)
- ④ RESTROOMS/SHELTER/SHOWER BUILDING WITH DRINKING WATER
- ⑤ NORTH PARKING LOT (52 SPACES)
- ⑥ SHELTER/RESTROOM BUILDING (WITH COVERED PICNIC AREA)
- ⑦ PLAYGROUND WITH BENCHES
- ⑧ ACCESSIBLE OVERLOOK AREA (WITH BENCHES)
- ⑨ ACCESSIBLE TRAIL TO WATER
- ⑩ GAZEBO WITH CONCRETE ACCESS
- ⑪ ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIER
- ⑫ OPEN GREEN SPACE AREA
- ⑬ VIEWING PLATFORMS
- ⑭ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY
- ⑮ MULTIUSE TRAIL & MAINTENANCE ACCESS (12W ASPHALT)
- ⑯ TURN-AROUND AREA
- ⑰ (12) RV CAMPSITES (WITH SEWER AND WATER)
- ⑱ MAINTAIN EXISTING BLACK WALNUT TREES
- ⑲ ALTERNATE EXIT
- ⑳ EXISTING FARM STRUCTURES
- ㉑ POTENTIAL ACQUISITION
- ㉒ EXISTING VILLAGE TRAIL
- ㉓ DISC GOLF AREA (18 HOLE)
- ㉔ MULTIUSE TRAILS (UNPAVED)
- ㉕ EXISTING PIPELINE EASEMENT (APPROX. LOCATION)
- ㉖ BAG TOSS AND GAGA BALL PIT AREA

**WETLANDS LEGEND**

	DELINEATED WETLAND
	DELINEATED MOSAIC WETLAND



**VILLAGE OF WESTON**  
**PROHASKA FAMILY MEMORIAL PARK**  
**MASTER PLAN**



**RETTLER**  
 corporation  
 3317 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE  
 STEVENS POINT, WI 54482

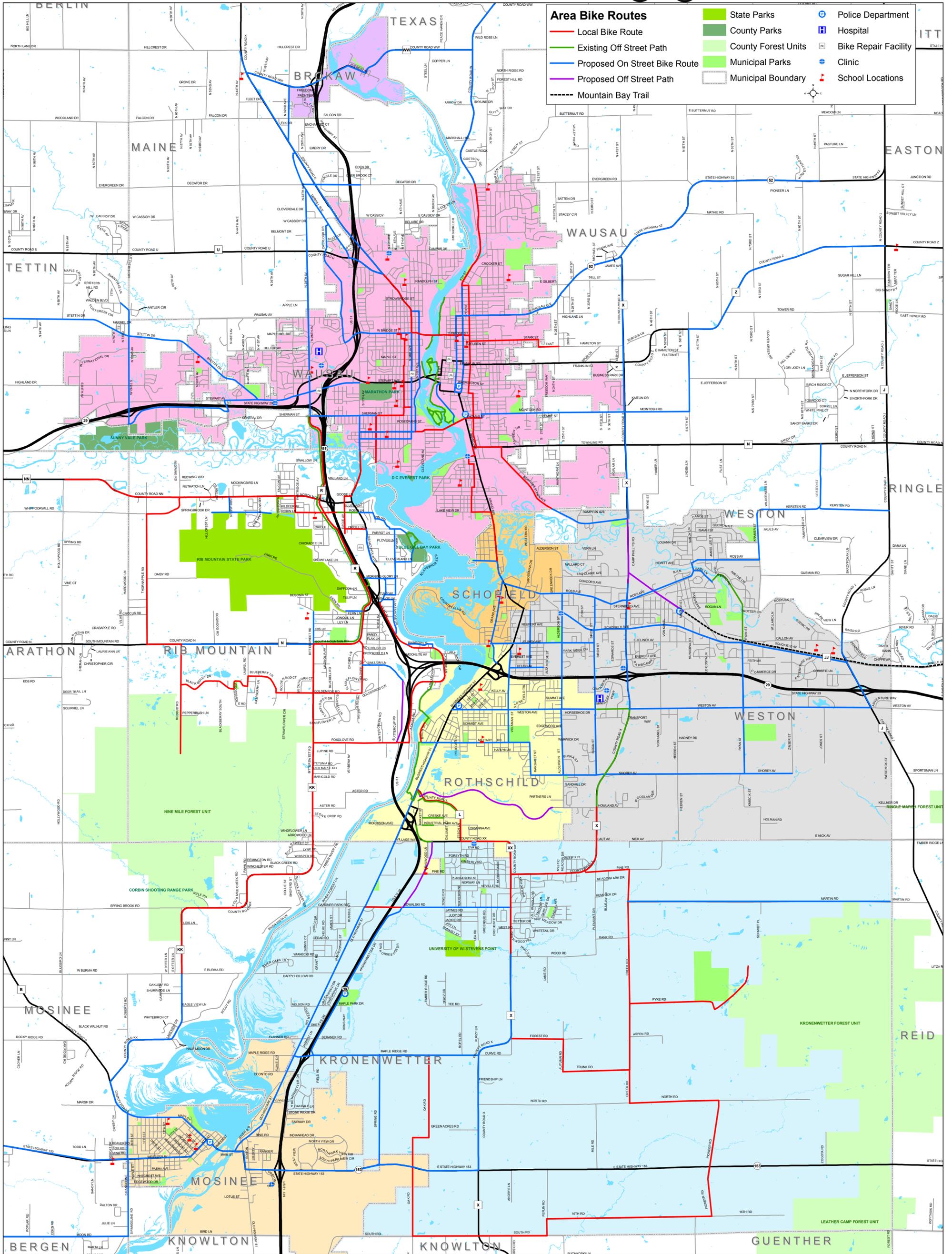
**9.6.5 Wausau Area Bike and Ped Map**



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# Wausau Area Bike/Ped Map



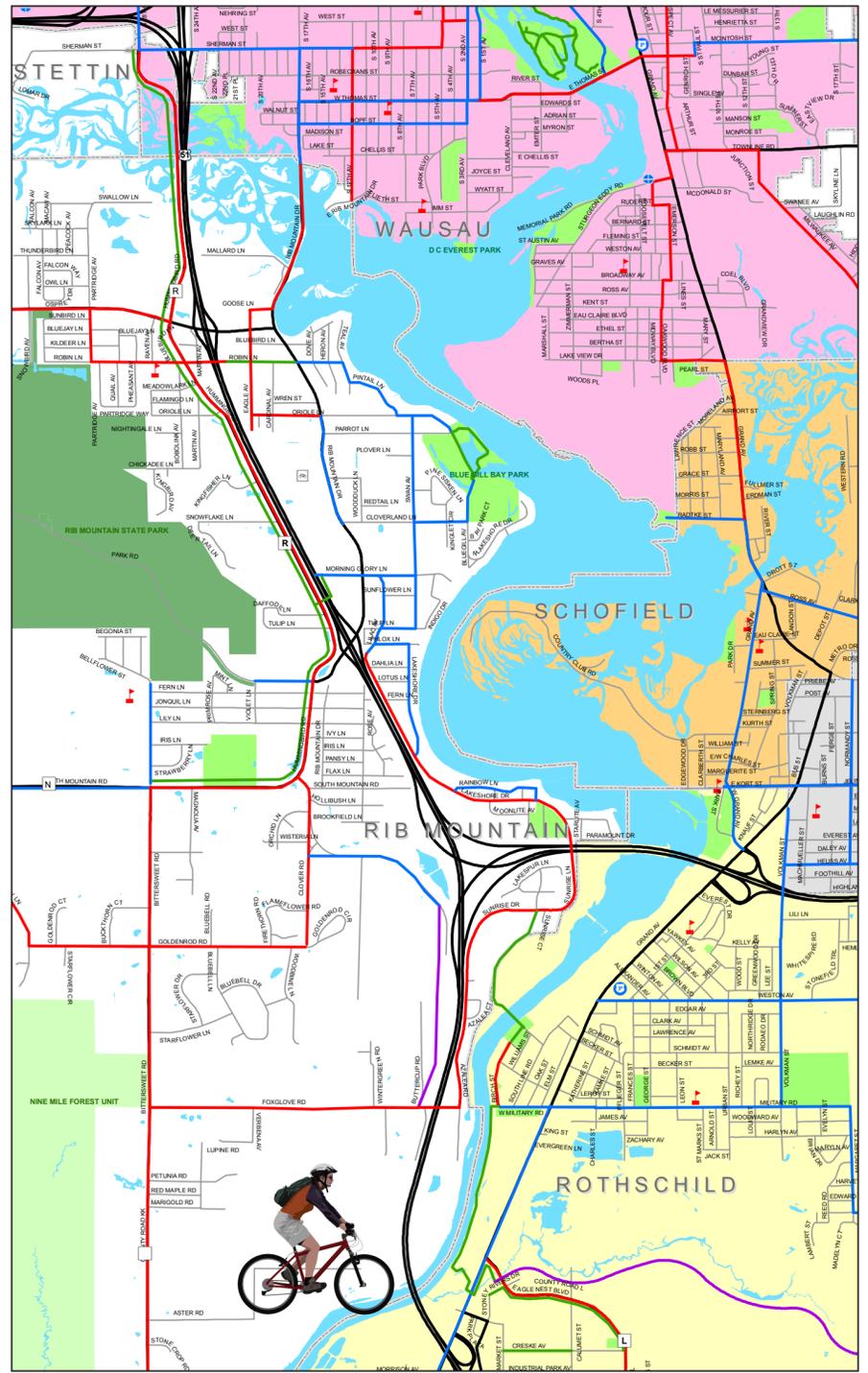
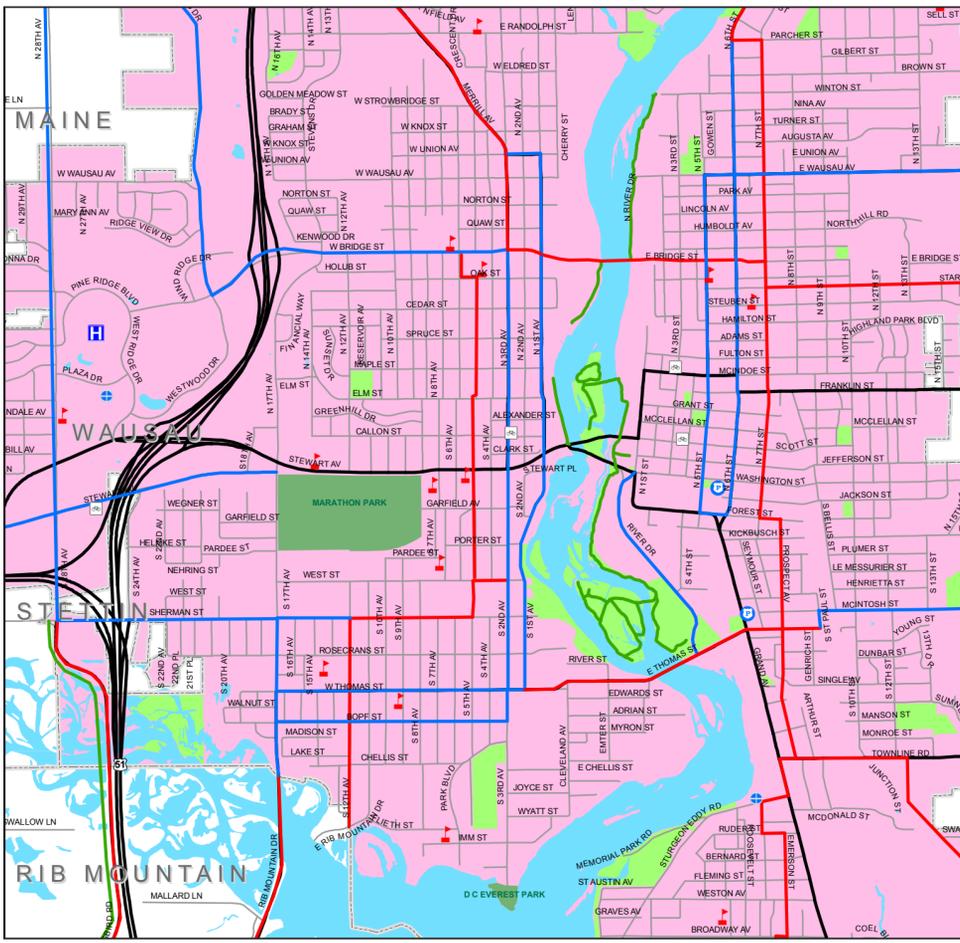
## Area Bike Routes

- Local Bike Route
- Existing Off Street Path
- Proposed On Street Bike Route
- Proposed Off Street Path
- Mountain Bay Trail

- State Parks
- County Parks
- County Forest Units
- Municipal Parks
- Municipal Boundary

- Police Department
- Hospital
- Bike Repair Facility
- Clinic
- School Locations

# Wausau Area Bike/Ped Map



## Wisconsin Bicycle Laws • Wear a Helmet

Wisconsin Department of Transportation • Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Program  
Summarized from State Statutes

### 1. Vehicular Status

The bicycle is defined as a vehicle. The operator of a vehicle is granted the same rights and subject to the same duties of the driver of any other vehicle.

### 2. Lane Positioning

Always ride on the right, in the same direction as other traffic. Ride as far to the right as practicable – safe and reasonable, not as far right as possible.

There are situations when it is not practicable to ride far to the right:

- When overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction.
- When preparing for a left turn at an intersection or driveway.
- When reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions, including fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or substandard width lanes – a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

### 3. One Way Streets

Bicycles on a one-way street with two or more lanes of traffic may ride as near the left-hand or right-hand edge or curb of the roadway as practicable; and in the same direction as traffic.

### 4. Use of Shoulders

Bicycles may be ridden, but are not required, to ride on the shoulder of a highway unless prohibited by local ordinance.

### 5. Riding Two Aboard

Riding two aboard is permitted on any street as long as other traffic is not impeded. When riding two aboard on a two or more lane roadway, both bicycles have to ride within a single lane.

### 6. Hand Signals

Bicyclists are required to use the same hand signals as motorists. Hand signals are required within 50 feet of your turn. It is not required continuously if you need both hands to control the bicycle.

### 7. Passing

A motorist passing a bicyclist in the same lane is required to give the bicyclist at least 3 feet of clearance, and to maintain that clearance until safely past.

A bicyclist passing a stopped or moving vehicle is also required to give at least 3 feet of clearance when passing.

### 8. Use of Sidewalks

State Statutes allow local units of government to permit vehicles on sidewalks through local ordinances, e.g., Grand Avenue in the City of Wausau.

When bicycles are allowed to be operated on sidewalks, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and give an audible warning when passing pedestrians traveling in the same direction. At intersections and other sidewalk crossings (alleys, driveways), a bicyclist on the sidewalk has the same rights and duties as pedestrians.

### 9. Bicycling at Night

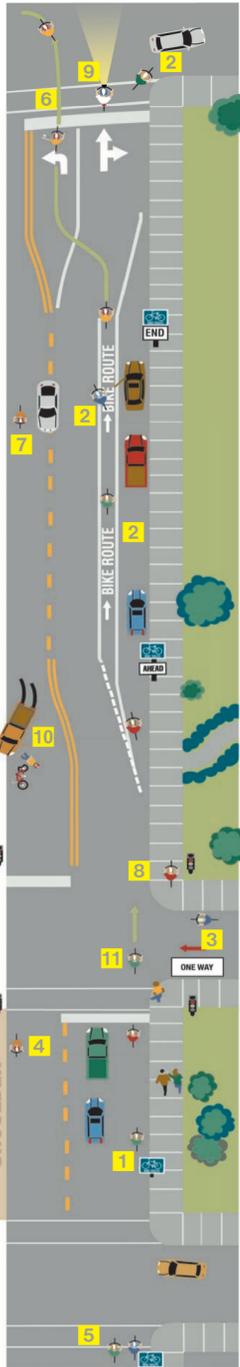
Bicycling at night requires at least a white front headlight and a red rear reflector. The white front light must be visible to others at least 500 feet away. The red rear reflector must be visible to others between 50 and 500 feet away. A red steady or flashing rear light may be used in addition to the required reflector. These are required no matter where you ride – street, path or sidewalk.

### 10. Duty to Report Accident

The operator involved in an accident resulting in injury to or death of any person, or total property damage owned by any one person of \$1,000 or more shall immediately give notice of such accident to the police. Injury means injury to a person of a physical nature resulting in death or the need for first aid or attention by medical personnel, whether or not first aid or medical treatment was actually received. This section does not apply to accidents involving only vehicles propelled by human power.

### 11. Red Traffic Signals

A new state law allows a bicyclist facing a red signal at an intersection, after stopping as required, for not less than 45 seconds, to proceed cautiously through the intersection before the signal turns green if no other vehicles are present at the intersection. The bicyclist shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicular traffic when proceeding through the green signal at the intersection.



## Come Ride With Us

We invite you to join us bicycling and walking in the Greater Wausau Area.

For more information contact:  
**Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
 888.WI.VISIT (888.948.4748) – [visitwausau.com](http://visitwausau.com)  
**Wausau Wheelers Bike Club** – [wausauwheelers.org](http://wausauwheelers.org)  
**Friends of the Mountain Bay Trail** – [mountain-baytrail.org](http://mountain-baytrail.org)

## Ride in Our Communities

**Marathon County** – [co.marathon.wi.us](http://co.marathon.wi.us)  
**City of Mosinee** – [mosinee.wi.us](http://mosinee.wi.us)  
**City of Schofield** – [cityofschofield.org](http://cityofschofield.org)  
**City of Wausau** – [ci.wausau.wi.us](http://ci.wausau.wi.us)  
**Village of Kronenwetter** – [kronenwetter.org](http://kronenwetter.org)  
**Village of Rothschild** – [rothschildwi.com](http://rothschildwi.com)  
**Village of Weston** – [westonwisconsin.org](http://westonwisconsin.org)  
**Town of Maine** – [townofmaine.com](http://townofmaine.com)  
**Town of Rib Mountain** – [townofribmountain.org](http://townofribmountain.org)  
**Town of Stettin** – [townofstettin.org](http://townofstettin.org)  
**Town of Wausau** – [www.tn.wausau.wi.gov](http://www.tn.wausau.wi.gov)  
**Town of Weston** – [townofwestonwi.com](http://townofwestonwi.com)

## Wausau Area Bike Repair Shops

**Shepherd & Schaller Sporting Goods, Inc.**  
 215 South 3rd Avenue  
 Wausau, WI 54403  
 842.4185

**City Bike Works**  
 908 North 3rd Street  
 Wausau, WI 54403  
 845.1656

**Rib Mountain Cycles**  
 3716 Rib Mountain Drive  
 Wausau, WI 54401  
 359.3925

**Trek Store of Wausau**  
 2601 Stewart Avenue  
 Wausau, WI 54401  
 845.7433

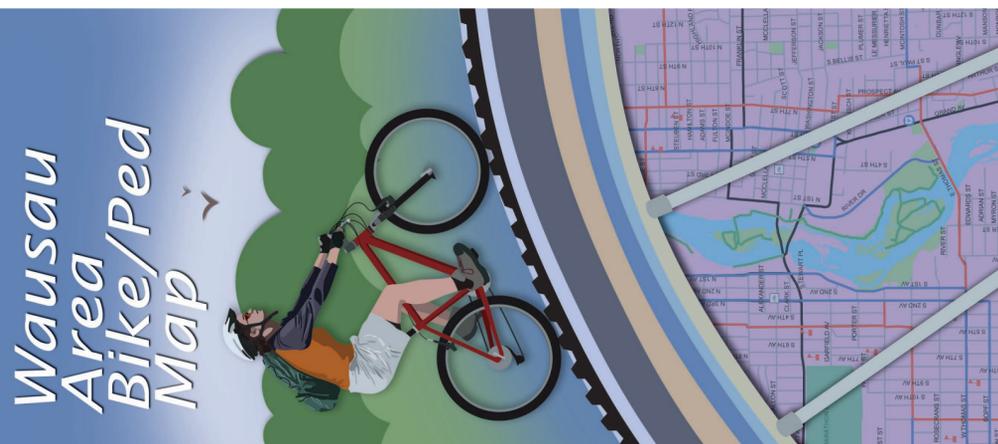
**Thank you**

This map was produced by the Marathon County Comprehensive Planning Commission – The Wausau MPO – and its Bike Ped Committee.

Funding was provided by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health from The Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future, and the Marathon County Health Department.

Funding for the development of the Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was provided by the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Plan development consultants were Schreiber Anderson Associates, Inc., Madison, with sub consultants The Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Bike Ped Committee organizations and participants include the cities of Mosinee, Schofield and Wausau; villages of Kronenwetter, Rothschild and Weston; the towns of Bergen, Maine, Mosinee, Rib Mountain, Stettin, Texas, Wausau and Weston; Healthy Eating Active Living – HEAL – Coalition; Marathon County Health Department; Aspirus Heart and Vascular Institute; Wausau Wheelers Bike Club; Wausau Area Runners Club; Aging and Disabilities Resource Center; Friends of the Mountain Bay Trail; City of Wausau River Edge Commission and Commission for a Green Tomorrow; Central Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau; Central Wisconsin Engineers; Rib Mountain Cycles; D. C. Everest and Wausau School Districts; Wisconsin Department of Transportation; Wausau/Marathon County Park Department; North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Everest Metro Police; Kronenwetter Police Department; Marathon County Sheriff's Department; Mosinee Police Department; Rothschild Police Department; Wausau Police Department and Wisconsin State Patrol.

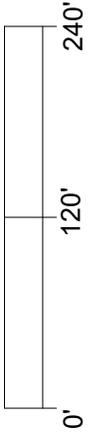
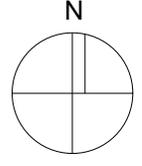
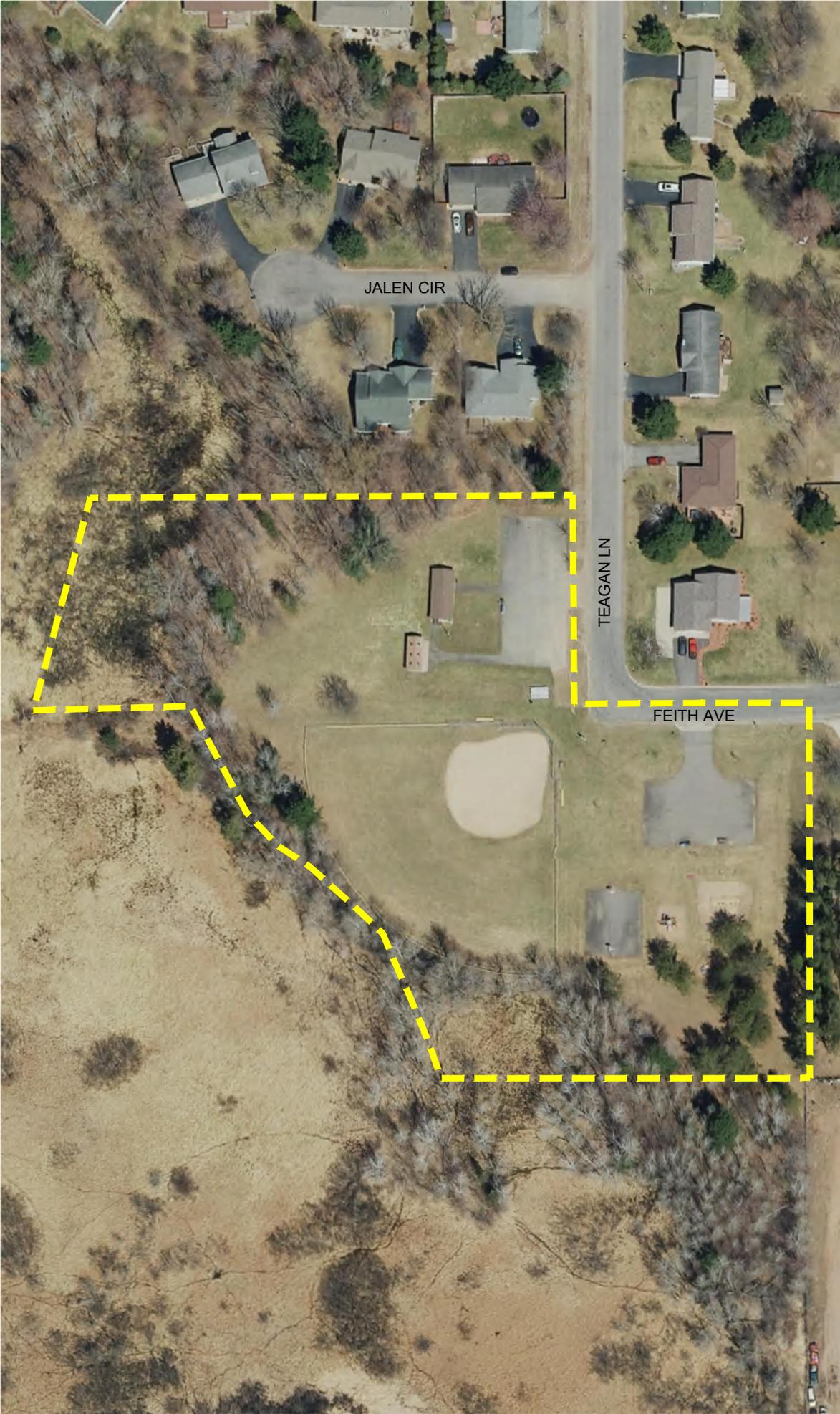


**9.6.6 Park Aerial Maps**



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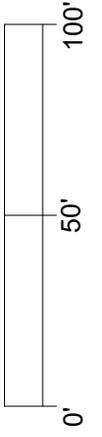
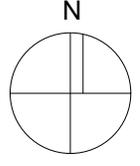


**ROBINWOOD PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON**





SHOREY AVE



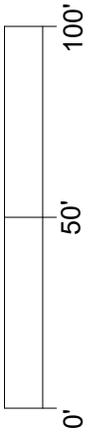
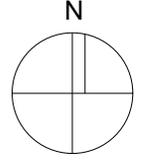
**SANDHILL MEADOWS PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON**





HOLLY AVE

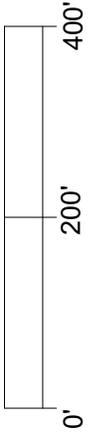
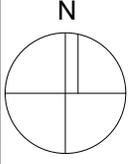
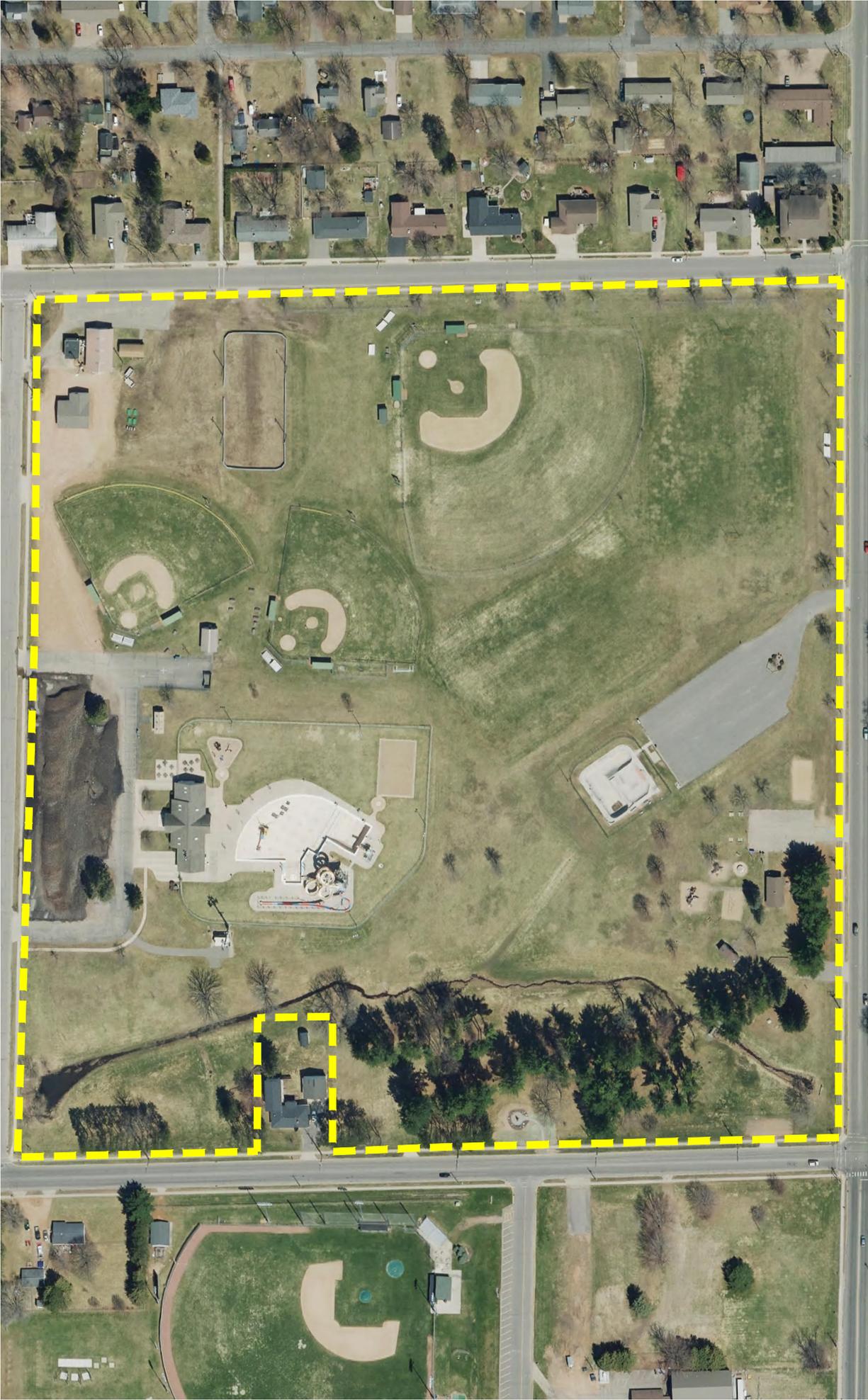
VON KANEL ST



**WILLIAMS PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON**



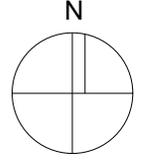
**SM-03**



# WILLIAMS PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON



SM-04

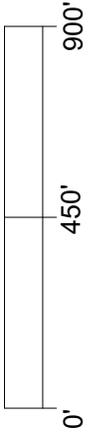
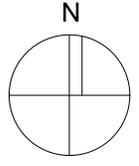


0' 250' 500'

# YELLOWBANKS PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON



SM-05



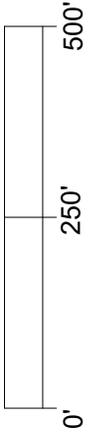
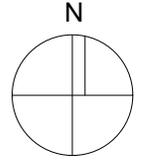
**KELLYLAND PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON**





ROSS AVE

QUENTIN ST



**MACHMUELLER PARK | VILLAGE OF WESTON**

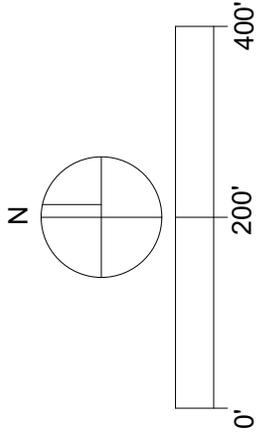


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PROGRESS WAY

WESTON AVE



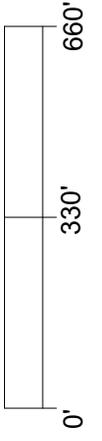
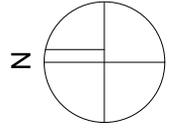
**DALE A. SMITH WATERFOWL REFUGE**  
 VILLAGE OF WESTON





WWI VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY / WI-29

WESTON AVE



# PROHASKA FAMILY MEMORIAL PARK

VILLAGE OF WESTON



SM-09

# Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation (Weston Comprehensive Plan Vol. 2)

## 7.1 Introduction

- Nine in ten people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government.
- 84% of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.
- 83% of survey respondents, the equivalent of 275 million people in the United States, visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the 12-month period ending May 2022. Sixty-two percent visited at least once a month during that same timeframe, and forty percent visited at least once within the prior week.
- Many of the most active park users are parents.

The items listed above are just some of the findings of the National Recreation and Park Association’s *2022 Engagement with Parks Report*.

<b>A WELL-DESIGNED PARK SYSTEM...</b>	
<b>SOCIAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improves mood and enhances mental wellness.</li> <li>▪ Facilitates social interaction and community cohesion.</li> <li>▪ Provides locations for organized activities for all ages</li> <li>▪ Provides a buffer and respite from continuous suburban development.</li> <li>▪ Is open and offers opportunities for citizens from all classes, ages, and abilities.</li> <li>▪ Can connect and educate the next generation in local community history.</li> </ul>
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helps communities to retain and attract new residents.</li> <li>▪ Increases the value of nearby properties.</li> <li>▪ Can generate tourism that benefits local community.</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourages physical activity.</li> <li>▪ Provides habitat for plants and animals, preserves carbon-reducing landscapes, and promotes a connection to nature.</li> <li>▪ Includes plenty of strategic vegetated areas to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Absorb and filter stormwater.</li> <li>○ Increase air quality and reduce the “urban heat island” effect created by hard surfaces in the summer.</li> <li>○ Provide wildlife habitat.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

According to the *2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, Wisconsin's urban population has more than tripled in the last 100 years. Meanwhile, over 95% of Wisconsinites enjoy some sort of outdoor recreation. Parks and open space can now be viewed as essential to the public good in much the same way as roads, sewers, and other public infrastructure.

### **7.1.1 Plan and Purpose**

The Village of Weston recognizes the importance of providing quality recreational experiences for its residents and visitors.

To achieve this objective, park sites must be conveniently located, interconnected, provide a variety of recreational opportunities, and possess natural and constructed characteristics that allow these opportunities.

In contrast, the parks department must navigate issues such as changing recreation trends and desires, limited fiscal and staffing resources, rising costs, update code and legal requirements, security issues, extreme weather conditions, and more.

A major key to meeting these challenges is good planning. Thinking toward the future is essential in making sure outdoor recreation facilities and services are developed and maintained in a logical, efficient, and cost-effective manner. As the Village grows and changes, it is important to periodically review and re-examine goals, direction, selection of amenities, and recreation offerings. The Village of Weston's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is a planning document designed to assist with this task.

Specifically, the plan provides:

- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities.
- A list of Village goals and objectives as well as past accomplishments.
- A review of physical and environmental resources and constraints of the planning region as well as demographic trends.
- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs based on several metrics, including the guidelines set by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), with a strong emphasis on community input.
- An updated look at community needs and desires, obtained through online surveys, in-person meetings, and other opportunities for sharing input.
- General recommendations based on the above data regarding park and open space facility planning and maintenance.
- Park-specific recommendations, including locations, sketches, and general, high level estimated costs for various park and recreational features.
- A list of implementation strategies, including funding programs, both existing and potential.

The implementation of this plan's recommendations will depend on the collective efforts of elected officials, public agencies, private organizations and, most importantly, residents.



Historically, the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was a standalone document, separate from its Comprehensive Plan. However, starting in 2016, the Village elected to combine these plans into a single multi-volume document. This chapter, in combination with parts of the first ten chapters of the Village Comprehensive Plan Volume 1- most particularly *Chapter 9: Parks and Recreation*- is intended to serve as the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

This 2023-2028 update to the Village of Weston's Comprehensive Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan (CORP) is a cooperative effort based on previous CORPs, other adopted Village plans, and input from Village staff, municipal groups, and citizens. This plan is intended to guide the Village in continuing to meet the open space and recreation needs of its citizens over the next five years. Approval of this plan by the Village Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will maintain Village eligibility to apply for and receive federal and state grants over the next five years.

### 7.1.2 Mission and Vision Statements

#### **Mission:**

To provide a park and recreation system that will meet the needs of our existing citizens and future generations, preserve and protect the Village's open space, water, historical, cultural, natural, and economic resources; and provide a park and recreation program that is designed to enhance the Village's economy and quality of life.

#### **Vision:**

Become the leader in providing a variety of parks, recreation facilities and programs throughout the community that enhance the quality of life, promote health, create environmental awareness, form partnerships and meet the recreation needs of participants. Therefore, ensuring a high quality of life for the citizens of Weston.

### 7.1.3 Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

#### **Objectives:**

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive park use based on current demand, projected demand and environmental significance as recommended by the action plan of the Village Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Stress the importance of acquiring appropriate, developable land for active recreation facilities in areas targeted for future park development.
- Provide places for traditional summer sports, along with alternative and all-season recreational opportunities.
- Correlate park and recreational opportunities with community growth and evolving interests and demographics.



**Goal:** Provide adequate facilities at all parks within the Village’s park system as dictated by park use and type (i.e., neighborhood vs. community park facilities).

**Objectives:**

- Community park facilities should begin to be developed to meet current needs and should continue as additional needs are identified.
- Neighborhood park facilities should begin to be developed when 25% of the proposed park’s service area is residentially developed.
- Park site development shall coincide with the growth of the population located within the park service area.

**Goal:** Coordinate development efforts and the use and maintenance of recreational facilities among the Village of Weston, the D.C. Everest School District, and public recreation associations.

**Objectives:**

- Encourage increased public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative Village/school/association development projects to help improve and expand recreation opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements among the Village, the School District and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain recreation facilities in the Village.

**Goal:** Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks, which provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and mini parks.

**Objectives:**

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks in annexations or if zoning changes occur.
- Utilize park service area criteria to help determine the location of future park sites.

**Goal:** Encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas.

**Objectives:**

- Identify and incorporate historical entities in the development of Village parks.
- Encourage the appropriate use of natural features such as floodplains, wetlands and woodlands as passive recreation areas.
- Encourage the preservation and appropriate development of environmental corridors.
- Encourage the designation and preservation of local historic landmarks.



**Goal:** Provide residents with safe and reliable recreation equipment throughout the Village park system.

**Objectives:**

- Replace old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all Village parks and school sites.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.
- Identify and replace park facilities that do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.
- Identify and replace all playground equipment that does not meet CPSC or ASTM safety guidelines.

**Goal:** Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village's park system.

**Objectives:**

- Pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase or development of desired park system improvements.
- Recognize the potential, which exists with other public and private organizations for donations to aid in park system development.
- Update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.
- Collaborate with other public, non-profit, private entities on recreational facilities.

**Goal:** Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

**Objectives:**

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before subdivision plats are approved.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of Village residents.



**Goal:** Maintain a Village-wide urban forestry program, which will manage the Village’s urban forest.

**Objectives:**

- Maintain the urban forestry ordinance and management plan that regulates the planting, removal and management of trees on public lands in the Village and makes the Village eligible for state and federal urban forestry grant-in-aid programs.
- Remove dead trees and/or treat diseased trees on public lands within the Village.
- Establish and maintain a continuous tree planting and tree maintenance program for public lands in the Village.
- Maintain “Tree City USA” status for the Village.

**Goal:** Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address the existing park hazards, allow for future parkland acquisition and future park facility development.

**Objectives:**

- Utilize the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan’s capital improvements program as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- Invest funds to develop facilities, which will maximize existing park and recreation areas and increase park use.
- Link park and recreational system development with community, economic, utility, transportation, and tourism development for mutual benefit.

**Goal:** Provide residents with multi-purpose trail systems that utilize environmental corridors and provide linkages between parks and other appropriate features within and outside of the Village.

**Objectives:**

- Secure additional lands along environmental corridors to ensure public control.
- Develop trail systems, which have multiple uses and are barrier free.

**Goal:** Recognize the importance of park maintenance, which will improve the quality of recreation available to residents and will reduce the likelihood of hazards.

**Objectives:**

- Utilize the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan’s maintenance program recommendations as a guide to establish yearly budgets.
- Develop an appropriate and equitable use fee system to help offset maintenance and operations costs.



### 7.1.4 Policies

1. Address emerging interests in non- and less-organized sports and other alternative and passive recreational activities in a manner that recognizes that tastes and trends will likely change again in the future.
2. Repurpose parks with developable land or facilities that are outdated or underutilized, in order to meet emerging recreational needs and interests.
3. Add all-season (winter) recreational opportunities to the community, particularly in existing parks and corridors.
4. Preserve, enhance, and celebrate natural resources as a component of park and recreational system development and to serve growing interests in passive recreational activities.
5. Collaborate with public entities like the D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, the Wausau Area MPO, and adjacent communities on the delivery of recreational facilities and trail connections.
6. Collaborate with non-profit and private entities with a mission and interest in developing recreational facilities or co-hosting events in the Weston area.
7. Pair recreational facility development with other planned Village improvement projects, such as utilities and roads, wherever practical.
8. Use the Village's capital improvements program as a guide to direct planned recreational facility development in conjunction with other capital needs.



### 7.1.5 Past Planning and Accomplishments

The following are some of the park and recreation related updates, features, and tasks accomplished since the adoption of the last Weston CORP in October 2016.

YEAR	PARK	AMENITY
2020	Kennedy	Partnership with the YMCA to staff and assume daily operations of the Aquatic Center.
2023	Yellowbanks	Built a park shelter and restrooms at Yellowbanks Disc Golf Course.
2023	Kennedy	Expanded Diamond 2 from 36'x60' field to 50'x70' field.
2021	Kennedy	Built new baseball shed.
2021	Kennedy	Constructed two hitting tunnels.
2022	Kennedy	Replaced backstops and left and right field fences on Diamond 1 and Diamond 2
2021	Launch	Acquired property and developed a launch on Highway J.
2016	Launch	Developed launch at Ross Avenue
2020	Kennedy	Improvements to Kennedy Park shelter
n/a	Park-wide	Planting additional trees in the park system annually
2022	Kennedy	Aquatic Center pool surface replacement, water play structure restored, all safety pads replaced, and new roof on building. Security cameras upgraded.
2023	Kennedy	Skate Park security cameras upgraded.
2021	Kennedy	Demolished Weston School warming house facility.
2021	Yellowbanks	Demolished Yellowbanks pit restrooms and abandoned well.

### 7.1.6 Planning Process

While the previous CORP documents have served the community well, a plan update is required every five years in order to remain eligible for various grants and to ensure that the plan continues to meet changing community needs. In late 2022, the Village of Weston contracted with Rettler Corporation, an experienced park, recreation, and site design firm, to assist with an update to the 2024-2028 CORP.

The Weston Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan process began with a kickoff meeting on March 29, 2023 between Rettler Corporation and various Village officials including the Planner, Director of Planning and Development, the Director of Public Works, the Village Arborist/Crew Leader, and the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry.

While data was being gathered and assembled for the draft book, an online Community Input Survey and an online User Group Survey were conducted between May 12 – June 10 to gather citizen, park staff, and user group feedback on the Weston park system and recreational programs (refer to Chapter 9.6.8 – Community Input).

Rettler Corporation held a park staff input meeting and then toured each Village-owned Park site with the Parks Director on June 9.



Public input and user group meetings were held on June 26 and June 29 in which perspectives and feedback were gathered from various groups and community members. Additional information was collected through emails and conversations.

Oversight for the project was provided by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The following plan was developed per the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Community Assistance as well as the standards of the Development of Local Outdoor Recreation Plans found in Appendix F of the 2011-2016 and Appendix 10 of the 2019-2023 Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.

This plan is a cooperative effort based on resources from previous Village of Weston Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, the Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan, other local plans, and input from Village staff and citizens. Approval of this plan will maintain Village eligibility to apply for and receive federal and state grants.



### PROJECT MILESTONES

<b>March 29, 2023</b>	Kickoff Meeting
<b>June 9</b>	Staff Input Meeting
<b>June 9</b>	Park Site Visits (with Parks Director)
<b>May 12-June 10</b>	Online Community Input Survey and Online User Group Survey
<b>June 26</b>	Public Input Meeting
<b>June 29</b>	User Group Input Meeting
<b>August 25</b>	Preliminary Draft 1 CORP submitted to Park Director for Review
<b>October 5</b>	Review Meeting with Village
<b>October 23</b>	Draft 2 CORP Submitted to Parks Director for Review
<b>October 30</b>	Presentation to Parks and Recreation Committee
<b>(date)</b>	Action Item on Plan Commission Agenda



## 7.2 Recommendations

The primary purpose of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is to guide the Village in the development of parklands and facilities that satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of both visitors and residents of Weston.

The general recommendations listed below are for the Village of Weston Park and Recreation system as a whole. They are based on information gathered from the community, the consultant's professional judgement and experience, and discussions with the Village Parks and Recreation Department. The following list may seem long, but they are long-term and should be implemented over a period of years.

### 7.2.1 General Recommendations

The following is a list of general recommendations regarding acquisition and development needs, and for general park improvements.

#### **Accessibility Guidelines and Provision for Persons with Disabilities:**

A segment of the population who would like to avail themselves of public parks is impeded by physical or cognitive disabilities. Traditional amenities and programs often have little to offer these residents. Newly designed, constructed, and/or altered recreation facilities should comply with the applicable requirements under the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The Village should also continue to retrofit parks and park facilities to be accessible, including shelters and restrooms. Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with an ADA compliant safety surface. In addition, provide an accessible route to all play structures and facilities. The Village should look to incorporate not just accessible, but also inclusive amenities into its parks.

The term "accessible" describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with the *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)* as interpreted by the Department of Commerce in the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register for Barrier-Free Design.

#### **Acquisition and Development of Park Land:**

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and the Community Needs Assessment indicate that the Village presently has adequate overall parklands to meet the needs of community. The ratio is skewed heavily toward Community Parks, however.

The Service Area Evaluation also reveals several areas within the Village which are not served within the NRPA recommended radius, particularly in the Neighborhood Park category. It is recommended that the Village investigate the acquisition and/or development of recreational opportunities in the areas shown on the Potential Park Acquisition/Development Map as the Village grows, and as budgets and opportunities allow.



**Aquatic Facilities:**

The 867-person capacity Weston Aquatic Center was constructed in Kennedy Park in 1999, and remains one of the Village's most popular amenities. While maintenance is good, the facility is nearing twenty-five years of age. One of the most pressing issues is the growing need to upgrade aging equipment before it fails. In addition to replacing existing items, it is recommended that some new features be added, such as shade structures.

**Bicycle Parking:**

The Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC)'s long range plan for the Wausau Area includes installing bike racks Village-wide, including at parks and bike-friendly lodging. Bicycle parking recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) can be found on their website at: <https://www.apbp.org/Publications>.

**Community Beautification:**

The Village continues to recognize that the appearance of the community is an important component in the provision of programs and services. The image that the Village portrays affects the morale of citizens and visitors. A clean, safe environment helps to instill a sense of pride in their community.

Beautification projects, such as planting trees, shrubbery and flowers, along with other general landscaping for parks and other public areas should continue to be encouraged, particularly with perennials and native species. The Village should also continue to support the Tree City USA program.

**Community Gardens:**

Community gardens can be a beneficial addition to many communities by increasing the availability of nutritious foods, promoting food security, strengthening community ties, increasing physical activity, and improving mental health while reducing food miles and creating a more sustainable system.

Community gardens were rated as "important" on the online Community Input Survey and it is recommended that the Village explore the feasibility of providing community garden space or urban farming options for residents of the community. These options could be on public or private properties and would provide locations for individuals to grow fruits and vegetables.

**Efficiency and Sustainability:**

The Village should continue to ensure that park development occurs in a fiscally sustainable manner by considering the following:

- Installing new or replacing aging infrastructure with more energy efficient "green" amenities such as LED lighting, water saving measures, and solar panels where feasible.
- Naturalizing little-used and currently mowed expanses in order to better utilize staff time and resource costs and to benefit the environment.
- The Parks and Recreation Department should also research grant opportunities and other funding sources to support and enhance parkland, park programs, and park maintenance. (See Public-Private Partnerships and Service Group/Volunteer Involvement sections below.)



**Federal and State Aid Programs:**

The Village should continue to take advantage of state and federal financial and technical assistance programs designed to assist the community in meeting recreation needs. To maintain eligibility for such programs, the Village’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must be updated every five years.

**Invasive Species:**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed resources and policies for identifying invasive species and describing the various types of control mechanisms and procedures for preventing the spread of species. The Village should utilize WDNR guidelines for invasive species management. DNR guidelines include strategies and other methods of documenting and controlling invasive species, such as buckthorn, phragmites, emerald ash borer, etc.

**Mini Parks:**

The future development of mini-parks should be reviewed carefully. Although mini-parks provide a place for children to play in proximity to their homes, they are becoming less attractive due to high maintenance costs. However, mini-parks do have a role in the community and many residents and developers feel that mini-park development is warranted as they often provide an alternative for children who might otherwise play in the streets.

**Municipal/School District Cooperation:**

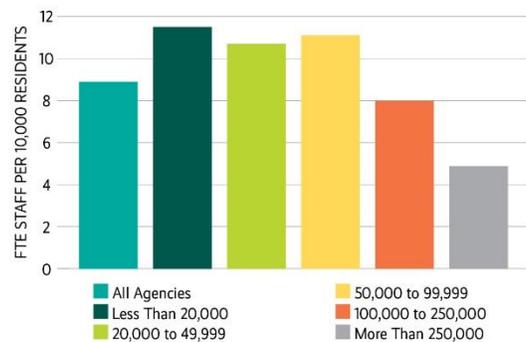
The Village should promote continued cooperation between the municipality and the D.C. Everest School District in meeting the needs of the community. Cooperation might take the form of joint land acquisition and facility development cost sharing. Establishing a written agreement with the school district to identify responsibilities and regulations is recommended in order to promote the harmonious use of school district and Village facilities.

**Operations and Staffing Considerations:**

The Village of Weston currently has a full-time Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, 3 park maintenance employees and 2-3 seasonal part-time maintenance employees. The Director, who receives policy and program guidance from the Park and Recreation Committee, administers park and recreation department duties and guidance on operations matters from the Village Administrator. The Parks and Recreation Committee, in turn, receives guidance and approval on policy, procedure, and budget issues from the Weston Village Board.

Increased maintenance needs for new areas as well as for aging in-place facilities has the potential to increase the need for staff and resources within the department in the next five to ten years. It is recommended that the Parks department monitor staff workload, keeping the following figures in mind.

**FIGURE 11: PARK AND RECREATION FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS (FTEs) PER 10,000 RESIDENTS (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More Than 250,000
Median	8.9	11.5	10.7	11.1	8.0	4.9
Lower Quartile	4.8	6.5	5.6	6.6	4.8	1.9
Upper Quartile	15.5	20.1	19.7	18.1	12.3	8.0



- The **2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review**, which summarizes the key findings from the National Recreation and Park Association’s *NRPA Park Metrics* benchmarking tool, reveals that agencies serving jurisdictions with 20,000-49,999 persons have a median number of 11.5 FTEs (full time equivalent employees) for every 10,000 residents.

If, and as, demand increases, consideration should be given to varied and creative solutions including the following:

- Employing additional staff.
- Increasing the efficiency of current staff by:
  - Studying task/time record keeping data.
  - Examining where and how equipment is stored and maintained for ease of access and increased equipment life.
  - Acquiring new and more equipment and technology if/as necessary.
- Encouraging community volunteers.
- Looking into increasing public-private partnerships.
- Reducing maintenance requirements, if possible, by:
  - Reducing maintenance intensive features and plantings.
  - Determining what park areas will be maintained to the highest degree and which will be more natural. Consider clustering high maintenance areas near each other.
- Contracting out certain services or projects.

In the meantime, the Village should continue to support current staff by:

- Encouraging a healthy work/life balance.
- Continuing to solicit feedback from employees on a regular basis and making changes as necessary.
- Assisting in the professional development of employees by encouraging continuing education and memberships in professional associations that promote the concepts, practices and techniques of professional parks, recreation, and urban forestry management.

**Parkland Impact Fees:**

Many communities collect impact fees at the time a building permit is issued for a new home. These impact fees can fund a variety of things including sewer and water construction, firefighting equipment, library facilities and park development.

Section 74.9 Parks and Recreation, of Article 74-9, of Chapter 74 of the Weston Municipal Code, outlines the procedures and requirements for parkland dedication, payment in lieu of land, and impact fees.

- Sec 74.9.02 Park and Recreational Site Dedication
- Sec 74.9.03 Improvement of Dedicated Park and Recreational Sites
- Sec 74.9.04 Park and Recreation Impact Fee
- Sec 74.9.05 Potential Credit for Private Open Space and Improvements

Also, see Section 9.5.2 Funding.

**Park System Planning:**

The Village of Weston should encourage park and recreation facility planning on a neighborhood, community and Village-wide basis, viewing each site as an integral part of a unified system. A master plan and/or management plan should be established for each community park (and certain parks in other categories, as needed) to provide direction for the progressive and orderly planning, maintenance, and programming of the facilities.

Part of the overall park system planning should include park advertising and making the community aware of the location of all park sites and amenities available in the Village. Ways to do this might include providing more detailed information on the website and making park and trail maps more available.

**Pedestrian/Bicycle Circulation and Trails:**

Bicycle and walking paths was a major topic in the online Community Survey, particularly in questions 4, 5, 6, 8, 12,14, and 15. Comments revealed that paved trails are among the highest rated amenities by weighted average and in the top three most desired additional amenities. Major concerns included: traffic safety in certain areas, a desire for more off-road multiuse paths, and more connectivity.

The Village should continue to improve and develop an overall trail system to interconnect the community and other local and regional trail systems through a series of on-road bicycle lanes and off-road multiuse paths. These trails will also connect to parks and provide safe crossings over barriers such as major arterial roadways. Where possible, new trails should utilize existing environmental and utility corridors. Focus areas for improvements include:

- Mountain-Bay Trail
- Eau Claire River Trailhead
- Eau Claire River Trail Extension
- Southwest Off-Road Trail Extensions
- Other Regional Connections
- Snowmobile Trail Connections to Mountain-Bay
- Eau Claire River Water Trail

**Playground Improvements:**

The play equipment in many parks is nearing or at its intended life expectancy. It is recommended that the Village continue to replace the playground equipment as necessary to ensure that it meets safety standards and reduces maintenance time and costs. Another main goal is improving accessibility and ensuring that there is a balanced amount of equipment for all age levels and abilities in the park system.

The Village should also identify and replace all playground equipment that does not meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC) or American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International safety guidelines. The Village should also provide a safe “fall zone” directly under play equipment and within the use area around play equipment. An ADA approved accessible surface should be installed to provide access to the playground as well as access points on the play equipment.

Additional playground amenities such as shade structures and drinking fountains with water bottle fillers might also be considered to provide relief from various weather conditions.



**Public-Private Partnerships:**

The Village should encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities (miniature golf, kayak launches and rentals, indoor athletic venues, etc.) are an important enhancement to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

The Village should also look for opportunities to increase outdoor recreation opportunities by coordinating with recreation interest groups, health care providers, recreation providers, elected officials, and others to collaboratively develop outdoor projects.

Through public-private partnerships, development and acquisition opportunities may be enhanced, which could allow for the preservation of existing resources and access to resources that have not been previously available to residents and visitors.

**Security:**

Park facilities should be designed to maximize user security, and minimize the probability of vandalism. Park facilities should: be designed to allow adequate visibility to and from active use areas, lighted (where appropriate) to provide safety at night, and utilize materials that are vandal resistant and safe. The Village should maintain an appropriate surveillance and monitoring program to promote safe use in parks and reduce the opportunity for vandalism. Also, existing park facilities should be evaluated, and upgraded, as necessary, to provide adequate security and safety.

**Service Group/Volunteer Involvement:**

The Village should encourage service groups and special interest groups to become involved in park and recreational developments, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks.

**Senior Citizens:**

As in much of the rest of the country, Weston's population aged 55 and over has increased faster than other age groups over the past decade and is expected to continue for the next 15-20 years. Many of the facilities in Weston's parks do not currently offer much for this group. The village should investigate recreational opportunities that can meet the needs of an aging population, such as the following:

- Expanded trail networks
- Lower impact sports such as pickleball
- Increased passive recreational opportunities such as birding or fishing
- Community gardens
- Ample park amenities such as restrooms, benches, and shade
- Well-planned site circulation and barrier free access to park amenities
- Event and gathering spaces
- Directional signage and maps



**Urban Forestry:**

The Village of Weston Parks & Recreation Department is also responsible for the management and maintenance of approximately 1,445 trees, 1,170 of which are street trees and 266 being within the public parks and other properties.

Annually, staff trims approximately 1/3 of our street trees.

Forestry goals for the next five years include the following:

- Continue to update and maintain the public tree inventory.
- Trim street trees and tree structure to facilitate snow removal.
- Continue with the Tree City USA program.



## 7.2.2 Specific Recommendations

The following specific proposals have been developed based on the Needs Assessment survey, the Parkland Analysis which includes NRPA standards, as well as consultant input and direction from Village Staff and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Parks not identified in the following list do not have immediate needs and/or recommendations at this time or have independent master plans. Chapter 9.6.4 contains copies of Existing Park Master Plans. Park numbers are keyed to the Park Location maps included in Sections 3 and 4 of this plan.

Please refer to Chapter 9.5: Implementation Strategies for estimated costs for individual components.

The following recommendations and associated cost numbers are intended to provide guidance to the decision makers responsible for implementing the plan. These improvements are organized into a matrix of short-, mid- and long-term goals based on time increments of 1-5 years, 6-10 years and 11-15+ years.

The schedule of improvements for each facility will be determined at a later date as presented and approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee and Village Board as part of the annual Capital Improvements Program.



**1. ROBINWOOD PARK**  
 Neighborhood Park  
 5.12 acres



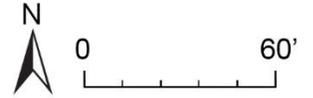
**RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:**

- Playground Replacement (with wood fiber and perimeter walk)
- Accessible Connections
- Shade Structure Allowance
- Softball/Little League Improvemnts (Gameshade Dugouts, Replace Backstop, and Re-skin Infield)
- Basketball Improvements: Restripe and Replace Hoops
- Building Maintenance Allowance: Shelter and Restrooms



## 2. SANDHILL MEADOWS PARK

Neighborhood Park  
1.99 acres

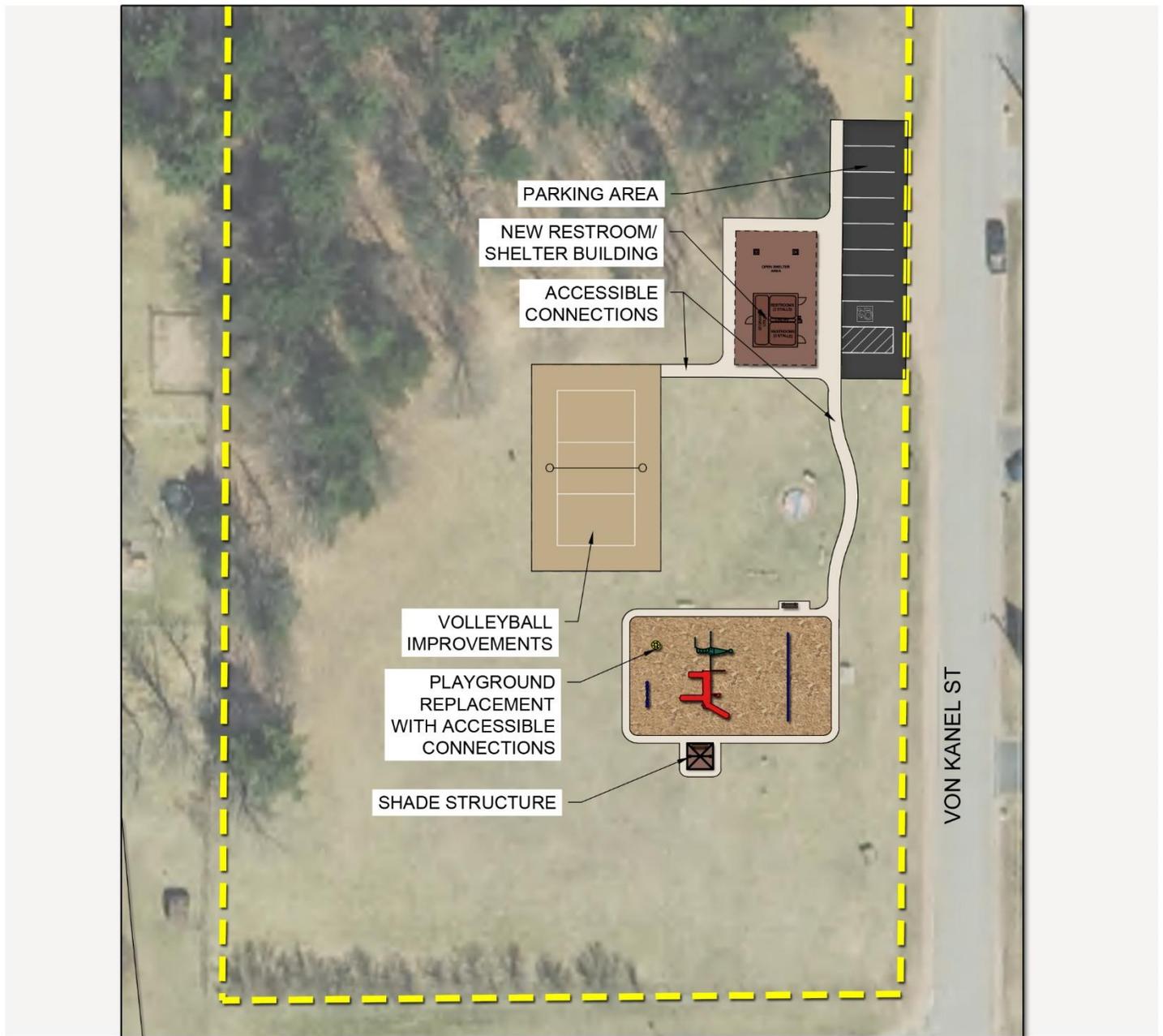


### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Playground Replacement (with wood fiber, curb, and underdrain)
- Shelter Building Upgrade Allowance
- Basketball Court Improvements (Restriping)
- New Restroom Building
- Volleyball Improvements

### 3. WILLIAMS PARK

Neighborhood Park  
2.63 acres



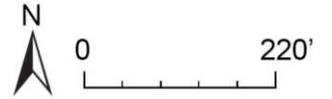
#### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Playground Replacement (with wood fiber, curb, and underdrain)
- Restroom/Shelter Building
- Shade Structure
- Accessible Connections
- Volleyball (improve or remove)
- Parking Area (9 spaces)

#### 4. J.F. KENNEDY PARK

Community Park

34.51 acres

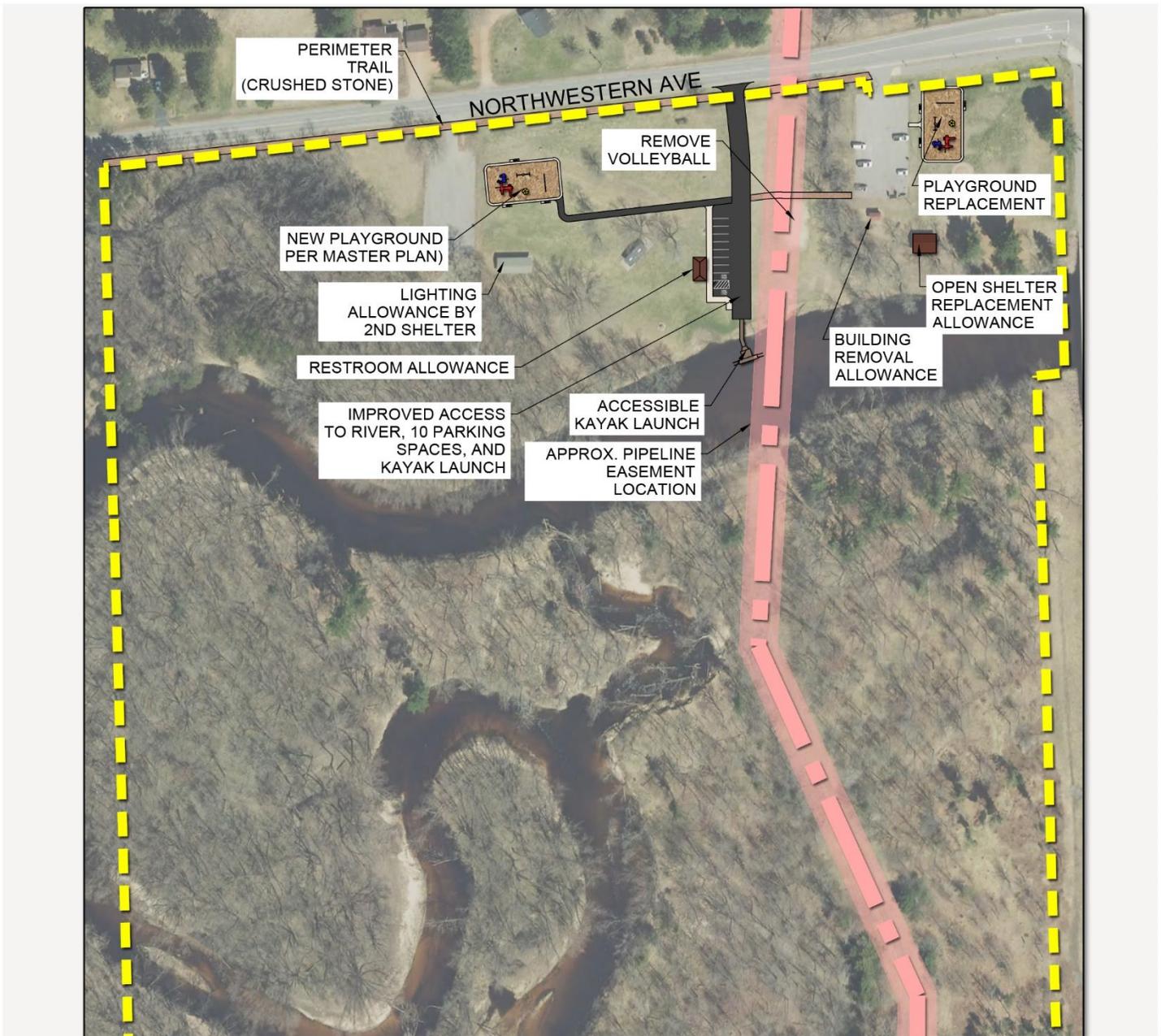
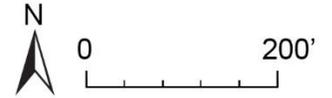


#### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Refer to the Master Plan currently under development

## 5. YELLOWBANKS PARK

Community Park  
52.77 acres

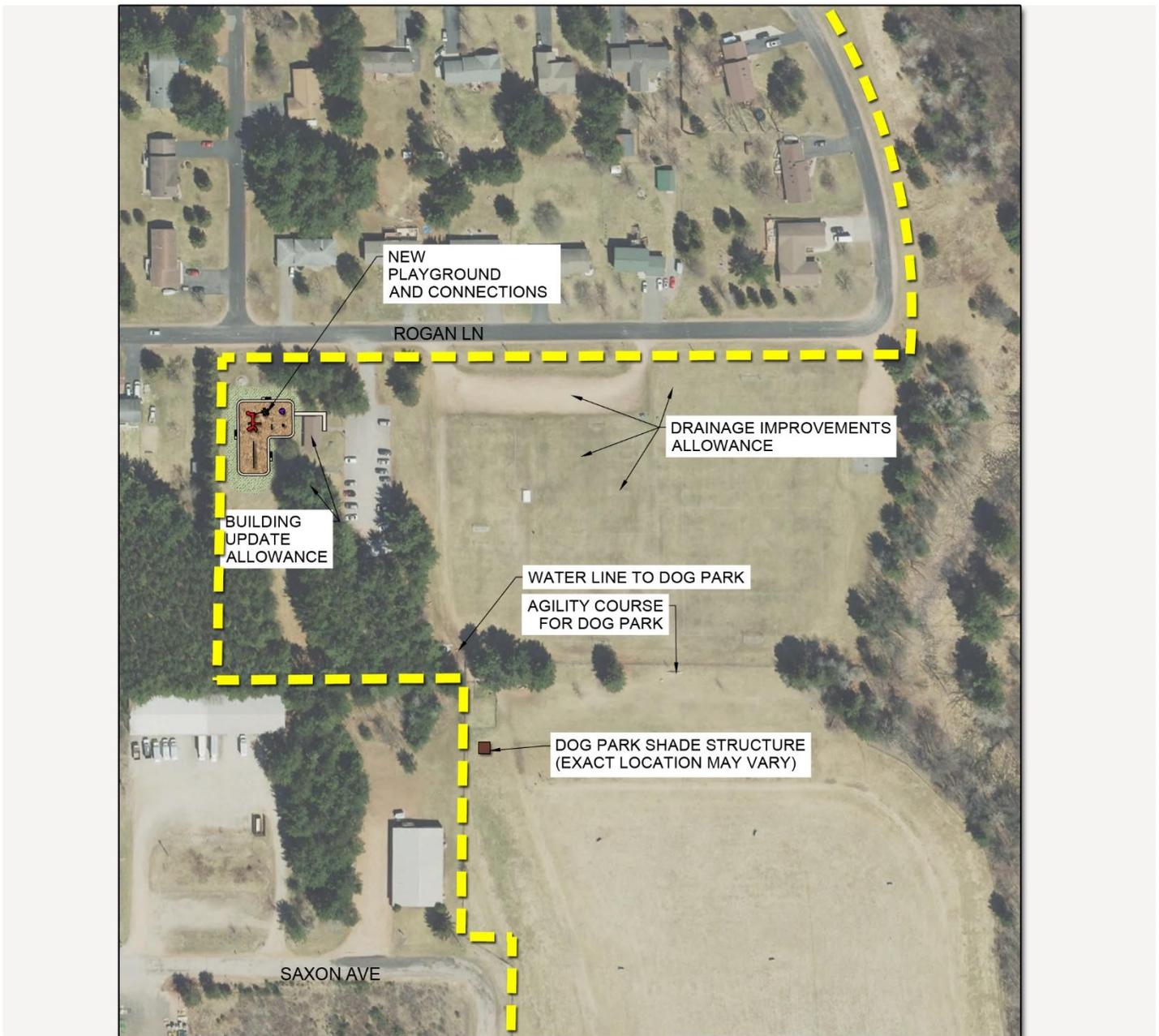
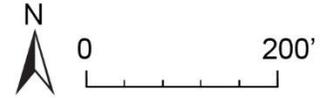


### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- (2) Playgrounds (East and West Side)
- Open Shelter Replacement Allowance (25'x30')
- Accessible Kayak Launch
- Parking and Access Drive to Launch
- Connecting Walks (east-west sides of park)
- Volleyball Court Removal
- Security Allowance
- New Restroom Allowance
- Perimeter Trail (Crushed Stone)
- Lighting Allowance
- Master Plan Allowance

## 6. KELLYLAND PARK

Community Park  
117.54 acres

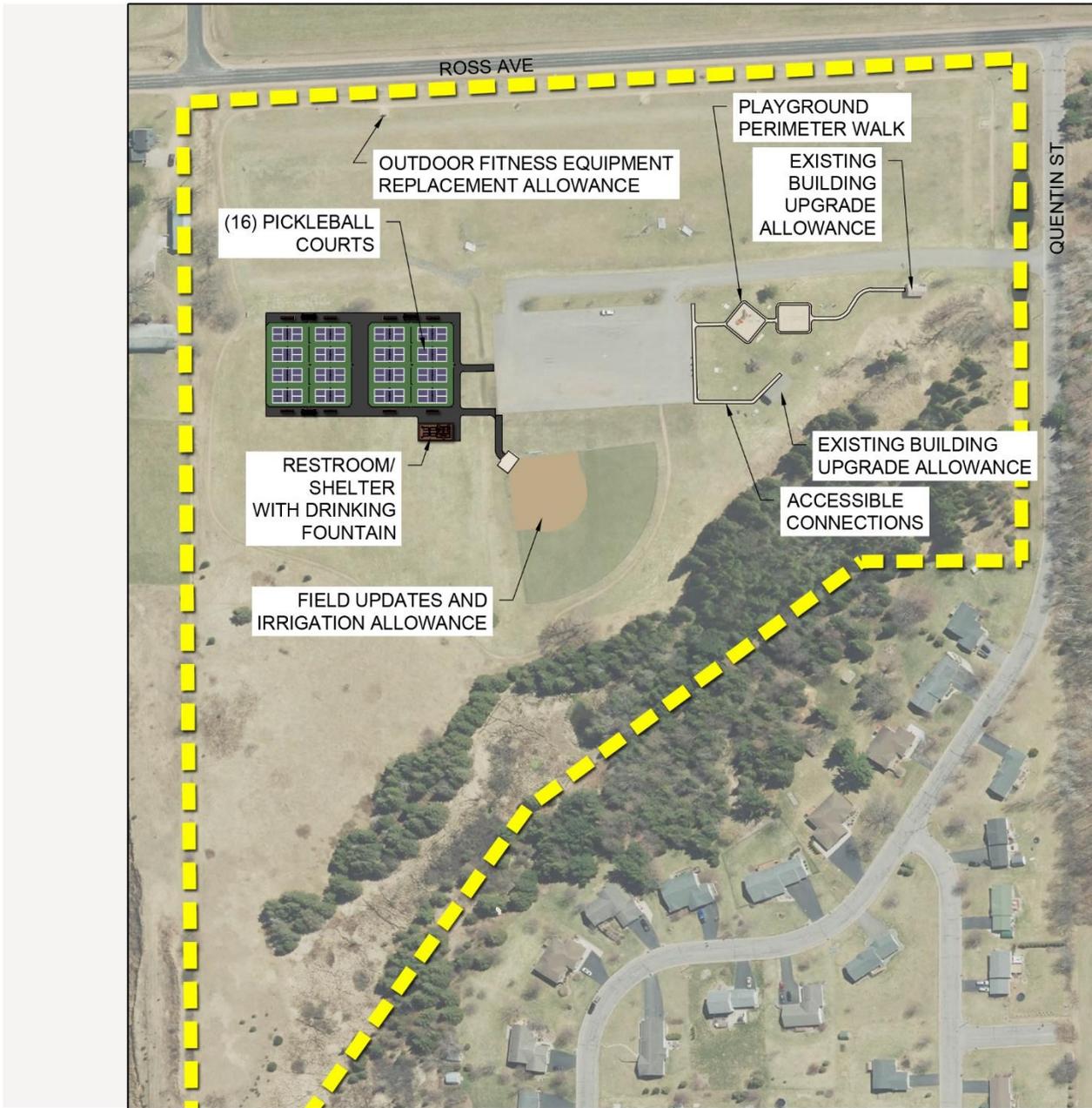


### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Playground and Accessible Connections
- Building Update Allowance
- Water Line to Dog Park Allowance
- Dog Park Shade Structure
- Agility Course for Dog Park
- Dog Park Lighting Allowance
- Security Allowance
- Park Amenity Allowance
- Drainage Improvements Allowance
- Park Master Plan Allowance

## 7. MACHMUELLER PARK

Community Park  
31.49 acres

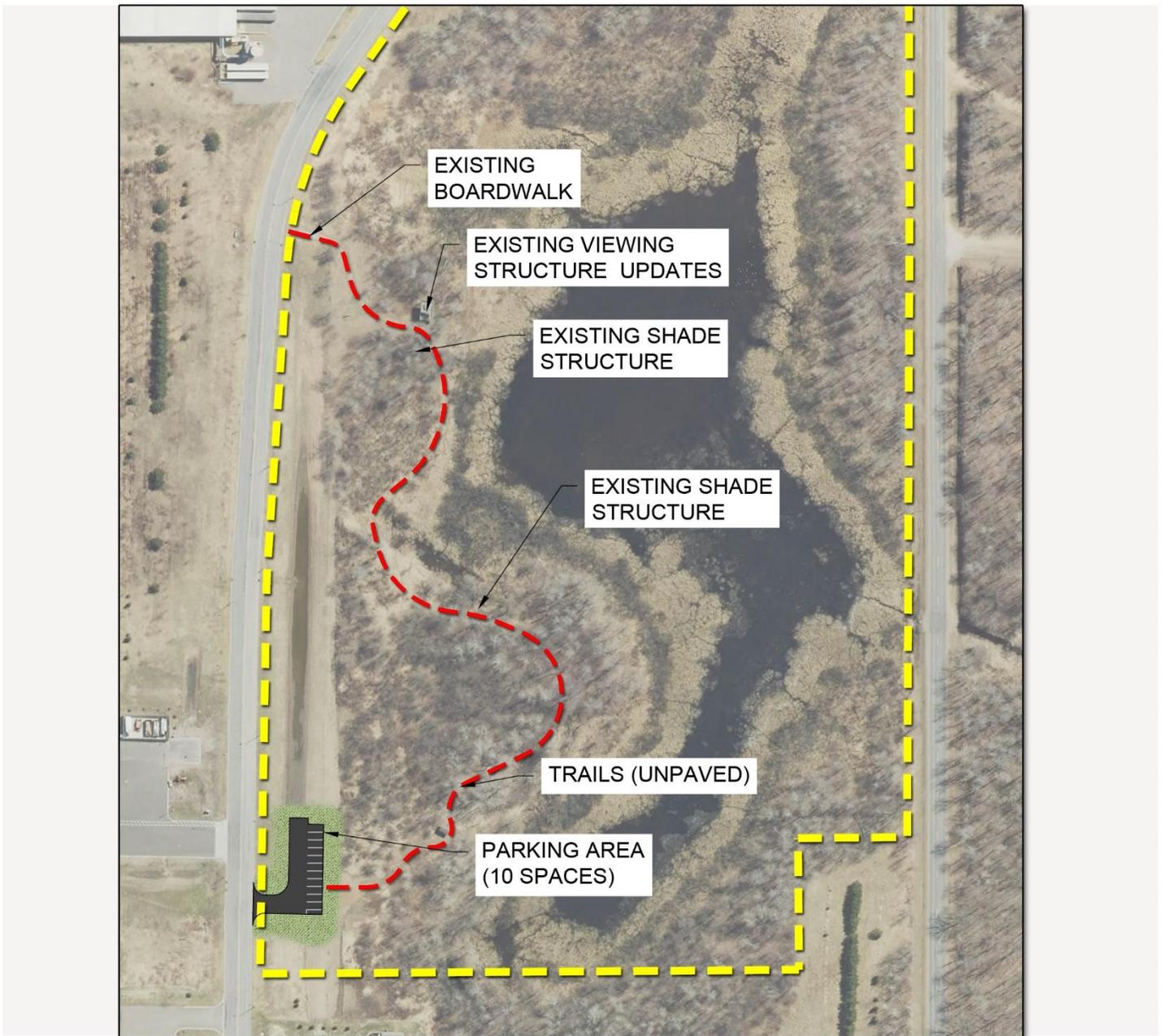


### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Playground Upgrade Allowance (Accessible Perimeter Walk)
- Existing Building Upgrade Allowance
- Pickleball Courts
- Restroom/Shelter Building
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment Replacement Allowance
- Accessible Connections
- Ballfield Lighting Allowance
- Security Allowance
- Drinking Fountain

## 8. DALE E. SMITH WATERFOWL REFUGE

Conservancy Park  
27.38 acres



### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Parking Area
- Open Shelter
- Park Amenities Allowance (picnic tables, grills, garbage cans)
- Update Existing Viewing Platform
- Trails (unpaved)

## 9. PROHASKA FAMILY MEMORIAL PARK

Undeveloped Parkland  
84.30 acres

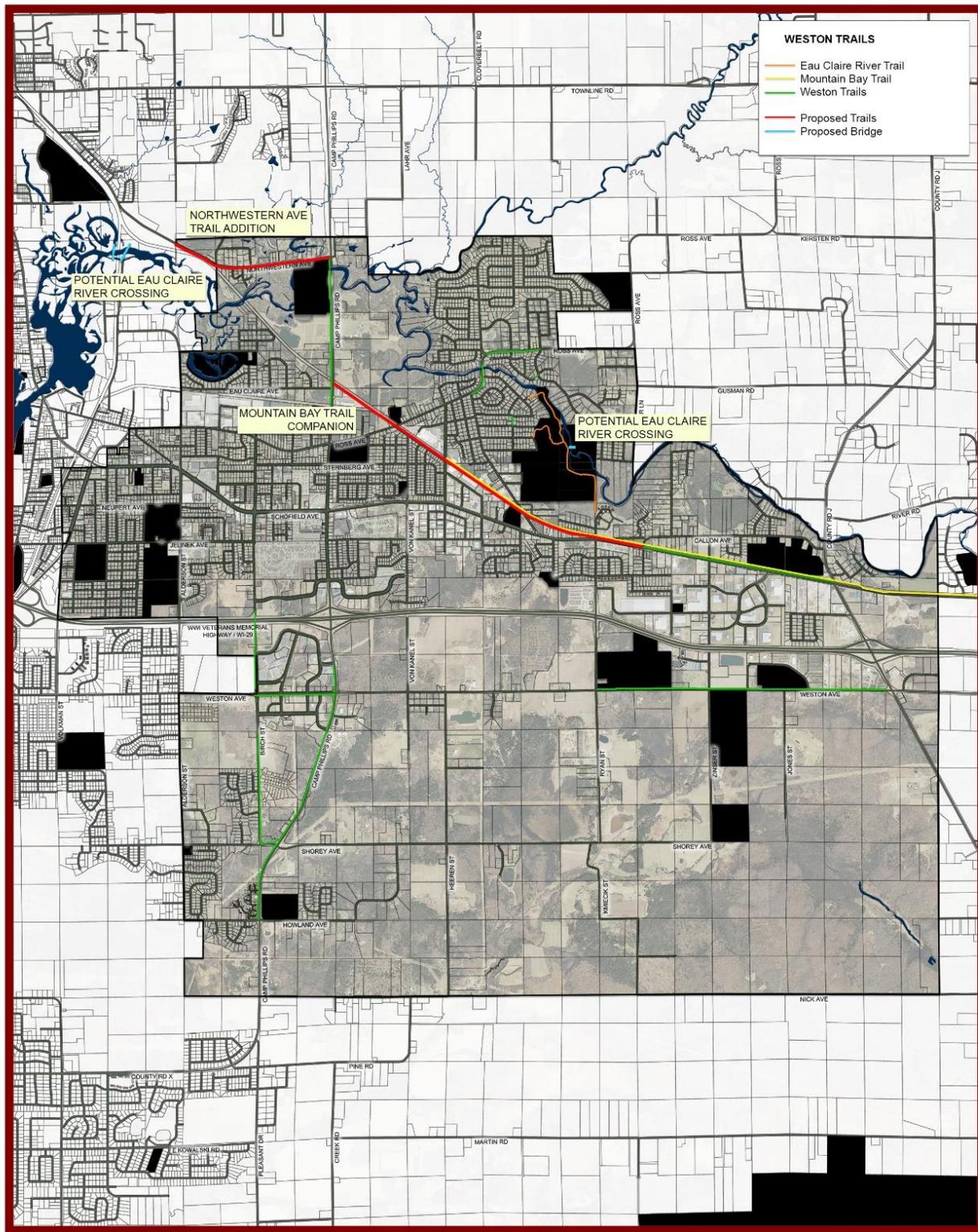


### RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY:

- Refer to the Master Plan currently under development

# PROPOSED TRAILS

## Trails



### 7.2.3 Maintenance Recommendations

While careful planning and design are essential to building a great community park system, the level of long-term care generally plays the largest part in determining facility attractiveness, safety, longevity, and improvement of citizen quality of life. Sustainable maintenance also improves the quality of the natural environment.

The amount of necessary maintenance will vary from park to park. Active parks, very visible parks in central locations, and well-used parks tend to need a higher level of attention while open spaces often only require some type of annual maintenance.

The following is a general list of goals and recommendations for municipal park systems. While the overall list of recommendations is extensive, it is meant to be long-term and the recommendations should be implemented over a period of years.

#### Maintenance Goals and Recommendations

**Goal:** Efficiency

##### Recommendations

- Provide adequate and well-trained park personnel.
- Promote an understanding of the significant scope of work related to parks, facilities and trail operations and maintenance.
- Plan realistic time frames when scheduling maintenance work.
- Acquire appropriate equipment to perform maintenance effectively and efficiently.
- Create and maintain a log for tracking park system and individual park maintenance activities.
- Implement systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment:
  - Play equipment
  - Courts and fields
  - Benches and picnic tables
  - Trail systems
  - Restrooms and shelters
  - Paved parking areas
  - Accessible routes

## **Goal: Sustainability**

### **Recommendations**

- Periodically survey the condition of each park as well as the facilities within the park in order to schedule routine maintenance projects effectively and efficiently.
- Design a sustainable maintenance program that includes evaluating annual labor, supply and equipment needs.
- Consider employing some or all of the following guidelines in the maintenance program:
  - Retain existing soil during construction and planting projects. Stockpile and reuse this soil on-site to minimize disturbance that could encourage growth of invasive plant species.
  - If fill needs to be imported, specify weed-free fill.
  - When using fertilizer, use organic or “slow-release” and use no more than recommended for proper growth.
  - Mulching retains moisture in the soil, moderates soil temperature, prevents erosion and the washing away of nutrients, and keeps weed growth under control. Mulch should be applied no deeper than 4” on trees, 2-3” on shrubs, and about an inch on perennials.
  - Use shredded hardwood mulch rather than wood chips because of its slower decomposition rate and lower nitrogen depletion properties.
  - In turf areas and newly planted areas, water deeply, about one inch of water per week to keep plants healthy and to prevent soil erosion. Water in the early morning to prevent evaporation.
  - Consider using two types of grass within the parks, a cool season athletic mix turf grass for active play areas, such as ball fields and picnic areas, and a native cool season grass such as Canada rye in place of Kentucky bluegrass and fescue in other areas of the park.
  - Mow high (about 3” or no more than one-third of the blade of grass) in earlier morning hours, leaving grass clippings on the turf. Longer blades of grass tend to grow deeper roots helping to avoid erosion and obtaining more moisture and nutrients from the soil.
  - Turf grass on ball fields and soccer fields should be mowed 2x/week during the seasons when needed. All other turf grass areas should be mowed 1x/week as time and weather permit.
  - Incorporate natural storm water control measures within the parks such as rain gardens, grass swales and additional planting of trees around parking and other hard surface areas to reduce site run-off.
  - Reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides or other chemically treated products such as wood products, whenever possible due to their impacts on water quality and wildlife habitat. When needed, especially in the case of invasive plant species control, they should be applied only by trained personnel and care should be taken to ensure proper use and storage.

## **Goal: Community Partnership and Cooperation**

### **Recommendations**

- Solicit periodic evaluation of parks, facilities, and trail maintenance from the public using surveys or online feedback.
- Utilize community volunteer resources to assist in park beautification and maintenance projects, e.g., rain gardens, restoration projects, invasive species control and installation of signage, new playground structures, etc. These types of activities bring community members



together, especially in neighborhood park settings and can create a sense of ownership that will last.

- Create volunteer recognition programs to acknowledge groups or community members for their service.
- Educate the public on the aesthetics and benefits of sustainable park landscapes using brochures, fact sheets, the Village website, social media, and/or newsletters and signage.

**Goal: Capital Improvements**

**Recommendations**

- Routine maintenance generally consists of the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building, replacing old or deteriorating equipment, and meeting federal and industry guidelines. Routine maintenance does not appreciably increase the value of a park, and is traditionally funded through the Park Department’s operations budget.
- Capital improvements, on the other hand, are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of a park. Capital improvements are often designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds.
- Generally, capital improvements are ranked in the following manner:
  - Improvements to Existing Facilities:
    - Correct health and safety hazards
    - Upgrade deficient facilities, including accessibility-related deficiencies
    - Modernize adequate but outdated facilities
  - Development of new facilities, as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, Park and Recreation Commission input, expected population growth).

**Goal: Expansion with Village Growth**

**Recommendations**

- Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the Village Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development. Revenue generating options:
  - Impact fees
  - Dedication of parkland
  - Grants and donations



## Landscape Maintenance Guidelines

Planting Type	Annual Maintenance Schedule				Long-Term Maintenance		
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	At 2 Years	At 5 Years	At 10+ Years
<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>							
Planting New/Replacement		X		X	<p>Only prune lower branches that will create a hazard. Trees should not be staked unless absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Renewal prune woody shrubs to improve shape.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SHEAR SHRUBS.</b></p> <p>Pruning should be done only by trained personnel.</p>	<p>Selectively replace shrubs that have overgrown.</p> <p>Renewal prune woody shrubs to improve shape.</p> <p><b>DO NOT SHEAR SHRUBS.</b></p> <p>Pruning should be done only by trained personnel.</p>	<p>Replace shrubs that have become overgrown.</p>
Fertilizer	Only when needed						
Mulch		X	X	X			
Pest Control (only as needed)		X	X				
Plant Repair	X	X	X	X			
Pruning	X	X	X	X			
<b>Perennials/Ornamental Grasses</b>						<p>Divide existing plants to keep them healthy and maintain shape.</p>	<p>Divide existing plants to keep them healthy and maintain shape.</p>
Planting New/Replacement		X	X	X	<p>In areas where establishment is unsuccessful, amend soil and replant.</p>	<p>Replace dead plant material.</p> <p>Change plant species in cases of major die-outs.</p>	<p>Replace dead plant material.</p> <p>Change plant species in cases of major die-outs.</p>



Planting Type	Annual Maintenance Schedule				Long Term Maintenance		
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	At 2 Years	At 5 Years	At 10+ Years
Aeration				Sept.			Complete major renovation of turf areas designated for active sports such as ball fields, soccer fields, etc.
Mowing		X	X	X			
Re-sodding		X	X	X			
Re-seeding (over-seeding)				X			
Weed control (only as needed)		X		X			
Fertilization		X		X			
<b>Naturalized Areas</b>							
Planting		X		X	Weeding and general management is critical during the first three years of establishment. The goal is to have minimal contact in subsequent years to reduce impact to wildlife habitat.	Plant species selection should be modified based on success rates.	<p>Long-term management should consider wildlife habitat quality.</p> <p>Plant species selection should be modified based on success rates and aesthetic quality.</p> <p>Replace plants or re-seed as needed.</p>



## 7.2.4 Proposed Park Types

The Potential Park Acquisition Map in Chapter 9.3 identifies several general areas to consider developing Neighborhood and Community Parks.

The exact size and location of undetermined proposed facilities should be decided on a specific case by case basis. However, as lands become available and residential growth continues to move into underserved and/or undeveloped areas, the Village should investigate securing park and open space in these areas.

Careful upfront planning will help to minimize acquisition and development costs and better meet community needs. The planning process should include a comprehensive review of the existing conditions, advantages, and challenges for each potential park site as well as an evaluation which includes the identification of proposed needs, the collection of community input, the preparation of concept plans, and detailed cost estimates. It is recommended that the Village seek the assistance of a licensed Landscape Architect for park planning.

### **Park Examples**

The following are general examples of parks by NRPA classification types. Site specific design and site plans will be required for each park project.

## Mini Park



**Sample Plan  
Not to Scale**

Classification	General Description	Location	Preferred Size	Service Area
<b>Mini Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The smallest park classification.</li> <li>▪ Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.</li> <li>▪ Often contain landscaping, seating areas, and central focus feature such as a gazebo, fountain, play area, or historical marker or art project.</li> <li>▪ Often created on a single urban lot or remnant parcel.</li> </ul>	<p>Generally located in a residential setting.</p> <p>Accessibility is by way of trails, sidewalks, or low volume residential streets.</p>	1 acre or less.	1/4-mile radius

## Neighborhood Park



**Sample Plan  
Not to Scale**

Classification	General Description	Location	Preferred Size	Service Area
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic unit of the park system.</li> <li>▪ Recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.</li> <li>▪ Informal active and passive recreation.</li> <li>▪ Typical amenities include: shelters, picnic areas (with tables and grills), drinking fountains, and pathways.</li> </ul>	Generally located in a residential setting. Accessibility is by way of trails, sidewalks, or low volume residential streets. Access should not be interrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5-15 acres preferred.	1/4 to 1/2-mile radius

## Community Park



**Sample Plan  
Not to Scale**

Classification	General Description	Location	Preferred Size	Service Area
<b>Community Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs and/or preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.</li> <li>▪ Provides a combination of intensive and non-intensive development. In addition to the facilities provided at neighborhood parks, community parks may provide natural features, trails, swimming pools, picnic areas, elaborate playfields, game courts, ice skating, shelters, or sanitary facilities and ample off-street parking.</li> </ul>	Usually serves two or more neighborhoods.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually 10-50+ acres.	1 to 2-mile radius