

V. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**Introduction**

The Village of Weston currently has eight developed parks, one trail system, and a dog park that contribute a total of 316.4 acres of active use areas, passive use areas, and conservancy areas (see map 2 – Appendix D). These parks are spread throughout the Village, but the main community park is centrally located in the older, more heavily urbanized section of the community.

The D.C. Everest School District owns and maintains four developed outdoor recreation areas adjacent to schools and one school forest that adds to the Village’s recreation base. These recreation areas are available for use by Village residents during non-school hours. The school recreation facilities account for approximately 131.3 additional acres of active use area, and are mostly located in the older, more heavily urbanized section of the community. The two largest and most intensively developed school recreation areas, D.C. Everest High School and D.C. Everest Jr. High School, are both located within one-quarter mile of the Village’s largest and most heavily used community park. All four-school recreation areas serve as neighborhood parks to community residents. The school forest is situated in the more rural, northeast part of the community, and contributes 48.0 acres of conservancy area to the Village recreation base.

There are several privately owned and managed recreation areas that contribute to the Village’s recreation base. These facilities are open to the public, non-discriminatory, and provide the same opportunities as a public park or recreation area. For the purposes of analysis, the private recreation area acreages are not included in the Village Park acreage totals, but the number of privately owned recreation facilities are included in the Village recreation facility totals. However, since these recreation areas are in private ownership and not under public control, the Village should monitor them periodically to assure that they continue to serve in the best interest of the public. If any or all of these private facilities should cease to offer recreation facilities to the public, for economic or other reasons, the Village should evaluate the need to develop facilities to meet the needs the private facilities had provided.

Finally, within Marathon County there are several significant state and county parks, trails, and recreation areas. Although they are outside of the Village of Weston they provide unique or exceptional recreational opportunities to community residents. These areas are not included in the acreage or facility analysis, but are included in the overall analysis because they are readily accessible to Village residents. These facilities provide Village residents with needed and desired facilities that are not feasible or suitable for the Village to provide.

Village Parks**J.F. Kennedy Park**

Kennedy Park is a 38.8-acre community park that is located near the center of the older developed section of the Village. It is the most developed and heavily used park in the park system. It has a wide variety of active use, passive use and support facilities that provide residents with year-round opportunities. The park is situated roughly on one city block and is bounded on all four sides by local streets (Jelinek Ave. on the South, Alderson St. on the East, Alta Verde St. on the West and Neupert Ave. on the North).

Kennedy Park is home to the Village's outdoor swimming facility. The Weston Aquatic Center was constructed in 1999 and is 13,223 square feet 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 every day from June through August and attracts approximately 50,000 swimmers each year.

Kennedy Park has 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. There are two irrigated, regulation sized soccer fields that are used by the D.C. Everest Senior High teams and the D.C. Everest Youth Soccer Association, as well as other area soccer organizations.

There is one sand volleyball court with permanent standards that receives heavy use. There are also two horseshoe pits that also receive heavy use. Finally there is one lighted hockey rink and one lighted open skating rink that receive heavy seasonal use. A warming house that has restroom facilities serves the skating rinks.

In the spring of 2008, the Village of Weston constructed an 8,000 square foot concrete skate park located at the end of the large paved parking lot on the east side of the park. The skate park includes several grinding obstacles, a bowl and a pool.

Kennedy Park also has a number of passive and support facilities that complement the active use facilities in the park. The park has one open sided shelter building, and two freestanding permanent restroom buildings. There are two dispersed children's play equipment areas in the park and an unstructured open play area. The unstructured play area is used for a variety of activities; Frisbee, golf, kite flying, school physical education and model airplane flying. There are two small sledding hills 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.

Williams Park

William's Park is a 2.5-acre neighborhood park that is located about 400 feet north of Schofield Avenue in the central section of the Village. William's Park has few facilities, but receives moderately heavy use from the surrounding neighborhood. Active use facilities in the park include; a sand volleyball court, an open play area and children's play equipment area. All these facilities are maintained in excellent condition. The park has some picnic tables, grills, benches, and approximately seven off-street lighted parking stalls in an unpaved lot.

Even though this park is small; it is centrally located in a large residential neighborhood. As the neighborhood develops, recreational use of the park will increase.

Yellowbanks Park

Yellowbanks Park is a popular community park that is located on the Eau Claire River, west of, and adjacent to Camp Phillips Road, in the north-west section of the Village. This 52.8-acre park is noted for the Eau Claire River, which runs through the park. Park facilities include; restrooms, two open-sided shelters, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, children's playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, and horseshoe pits. The park also has two paved parking lots that service each shelter. The Village is currently working with various community organizations to add a boundless playground and facilities to go with the open shelter located on the west side of the park.

In the fall of 2011, the Village began the relocation and construction of a new 18-hole disc golf course located on the South bank of Eau Claire River. A parking lot has been constructed with the entrance off of newly expanded Camp Phillips Road. Installation of 9 holes was completed in 2011 and all 18 holes are expected to be operational during 2013.

Yellowbanks Park is a former Marathon County Park (Sandy Beach Park) that did not meet county park criteria. The Marathon County Parks Department transferred the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of Yellowbanks Park to the Town of Weston in 1993, and it has become one of the most popular parks in the Village Park System.

Yellowbanks Park receives heavy seasonal use, and is maintained in excellent condition by the Village Park Department. Updating the restrooms from a pit toilet system to a septic system could increase the use of the park and is planned along with the future construction of the boundless playground.

Kellyland Park

Kellyland Park is a 45-acre community park located at the corner of Rogan Lane and Heather Street in the east central section of the Village. Kellyland Park, which was formerly known as Rogan Park, is also located adjacent to, and west of, the Eau Claire River Nature Center, and is adjacent to, and north of the Weston Dog Park. Active use

facilities at Kellyland Park include: an open play area, a children's play equipment area, a basketball court, horseshoe pits and four soccer fields with bleachers that are primarily used by the D.C. Everest Youth Soccer Association as well as the Wausau Area Home Educators. Passive recreation facilities at Kellyland Park include; an open shelter, picnic tables, benches and grills. Support facilities include; a restroom, two unpaved parking lots and a paved parking lot that also services the Weston Dog Park. All of the park facilities are maintained in excellent condition.

Kellyland Park lies mostly in the floodplain of the Eau Claire River. There are 35 acres of wood areas, wetlands, some abandoned gravel pit ponds, and an access to the Eau Claire River through the Eau Claire River Trail. The ten acre upland area including the active use facilities, are near public utility mains, and are suitable for additional development.

Sandhill Meadows Park

Sandhill Meadows Park is a 2-acre neighborhood park that is located at the corner of Weston Avenue and Alderson Street in the southwest corner of the Village. Sandhill Meadows Park is currently the only park serving the southern section of the Village. Currently, the park offers a children's play equipment area, soccer field, volleyball court, a basketball hoop, an open shelter, grills, restrooms and a paved parking lot.

Robinwood Park

Robinwood Park is a 5.1-acre neighborhood park that is located south of CTH JJ in the east central section of the Village. Active use facilities in the park include; a Little League baseball diamond, children's play equipment, a basketball court and open play areas. Passive facilities include; an open shelter, picnic tables and grills. Support facilities include two paved parking lots and restrooms.

Eau Claire River Trail and Callon Park Nature Area

The Eau Claire River Trail is a 1.3-mile walking/biking trail located on the south bank of the Eau Claire River in the east central section of the Village. The trail extends from the North end of Ryan Street to Callon Park, to the Northwest with access points at Brook Court and Tricia Street to the West. The trail is an eight-foot wide granite pathway with six bridges and sections of boardwalk. Along the trail are seven benches and two picnic areas. Residents are welcome to donate benches and picnic areas to expand the trail facilities.

Callon Park is a 20.6-acre, currently undeveloped park, (with the exception of the Eau Claire River Trail), that is situated north of CTH JJ, and west of the Eau Claire River in the east central section of the Village. Callon Park is also located adjacent to, and south of Kellyland Park, and southwest of the Eau Claire River Nature Center. The park is a wetland area along the Eau Claire River. It is a scenic nature area with a large variety of wildlife living in the area.

Machmueller Park

Machmueller Park is a 32.1-acre park acquired in 2002. 13.4-acres were acquired from a developer through parkland dedication and 18.7-acres were purchased by the Village. The park is located in the northeastern section of the Village in a heavily developed new residential area. Machmueller Park is the only park in this section of the Village.

Active use facilities in the park include; children's play equipment, a Little League baseball field, 3 tee ball fields, one regulation sized soccer field with bleachers, a large open play area, a born learning trail for children and a walking path with fitness course. Passive use facilities include; an open shelter, picnic tables and grills. Support facilities include a paved road into the park and a large paved parking lot.

Machmueller Park is a community-sized park that serves the Sandy Lane Subdivision as well as the Town of Weston Residents.

Weston Dog Park

The Weston Dog Park was developed in 2005 through the help of donations and volunteers. The park is located just south of Kellyland Park on the old Weston Landfill site. The park is a completely fenced in 40-acre area and contains; picnic tables, benches and a small dog exercise area. In the spring of 2012, the Village added several beginner level dog agility course obstacles. The Dog Park not only receives use from Weston residents, but also is a regional destination for people to let their dogs run free of a leash.

The park is maintained by the Village, along with CWEA and WDNR due to the park being located on the old landfill.

Village of Weston Business Park South Conservancy Area

The Business Park South is a 76-acre area that was acquired in 2007. Thirty of the 76-acres of the land are not developable due to wetlands. This area has been turned into a conservancy area. The Conservancy Area has a waterfowl pond and is the headwaters of the pristine Bull Junior Creek. Passive use facilities include; 17 foot observation tower and two open shelters. All are accessible via gravel walking paths off of Progress Way. Crane Meadows Golf Course and Driving Range are located 1/8 of a mile from the Conservancy Area.

Farmers Market Park

Farmers Market Park is located just west of the Weston Municipal Center on Schofield Avenue. The park is 1.66 acres in size and is used primarily for a farmers market. Facilities include seasonal port-potties, a storage shed, a small gazebo, park benches and picnic tables. The farmers market runs during the spring, summer and fall months on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

Village of Weston Multi-use Paths

The Village of Weston is currently working with neighboring communities to create an inter-municipality walking trail system. This trail system will give constituents the opportunity to safely walk between communities on designated walking paths.

Currently the Village of Weston has an asphalt multi-use path along the newly reconstructed Camp Phillips Road from the northern edge of the Village at Northwestern Avenue, which connects the Village to the City of Wausau, to the southern edge of the Village at Howland Ave, which connects with the Village of Kronenwetter. Branching off from the Camp Phillips walking path is a concrete multi-use path along Weston Avenue to the west which services the St. Clare's Hospital area. Opened in late 2011 was a pedestrian bridge across Highway 29 at Birch Street. A multi-use path was also extended south on Birch to Weston Avenue. Plans are currently being drawn up to extend this path farther south to Shorey Avenue then west on Shorey to Alderson Street and east on Shorey to Camp Phillips Road. The path will eventually head south to Howland Avenue and east to Camp Phillips. Added during the Ross Avenue reconstruction in 2010 was a bike lane/multi-use path. The path runs from the western edge of the Village, connecting with Schofield, and runs to the east out as far as River Bend Road. This bike/multi-use path also runs a few blocks away from the Eau Claire River Trail.

Future path expansion is planned along Weston Avenue to the west to continue the current walking path to connect with Rothschild.

School Recreation AreasD.C. Everest Senior High School

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 that is open to public use when it is not being used for school purposes. This recreation area, which is classified as a neighborhood park, contains a variety of organized athletic fields and courts. The D.C. Everest High School Recreation area is operated and maintained by the D.C. Everest School District.

The D.C. Everest High School recreation area includes; eight tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, a softball field, baseball diamond and an open play area. Primarily the high school baseball team for practice and interscholastic competition uses the baseball and softball diamond, which includes bleacher, dugouts, batting cage, and pitcher's warm-up area. 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.

The outdoor recreation facilities at D.C. Everest High School receive heavy use from school and community users. While the facilities generally are in good condition, all the facilities are in need of routine maintenance and repair.

D.C. Everest Middle School

D.C. Everest Middle School is a new school opened in 2002 and is located on the corner of Schofield Avenue and County Road J. The middle school site includes a 33.3-acre recreation area that is open to public use when it is not being used for school purposes. This recreational area, which is classified as a neighborhood park, includes seven soccer fields, a football field, two recreation ball fields with backstops and an open play area. The D.C. Everest Middle School recreation area is operated and maintained by the D.C. Everest School District.

D.C. Everest Junior High School

D.C. Everest Junior High School is located at the corner of Jelinek Avenue and Normandy Street, about one half mile west of the D.C. Everest High School. The Junior High School site includes a 34-acre recreation area that is open to public use when it is not being used for school purposes. This recreation area, which is classified as a neighborhood park, contains a variety of organized athletic fields and courts. The D.C. Everest Junior High School recreation area is operated and maintained by the D.C. Everest School District.

The D.C. Everest Jr. High School recreation area includes; a stadium with a one-quarter mile running track and football field, complete track facilities, five tennis courts, a baseball diamond with a backstop, a football practice field with goal posts, and two acre open play area. The stadium complex was updated in 2005 from a grass surface to

Sports-turf surface and is used primarily by the high school football and track teams for interscholastic competition. The quarter mile running track is available to the public on a reservation basis. The tennis courts, baseball diamond, and other recreation facilities are open for public use when they are not being used for school related purposes.

The outdoor recreation facilities at D.C. Everest Jr. High School received heavy use from school and community users. The facilities are in good condition, and they receive adequate maintenance to keep them in good to excellent condition.

D.C. Everest School Forest (Eau Claire River Nature Center)

The Eau Claire River Nature Center (D.C. Everest School Forest) is a 48-acre conservancy area located east of, and adjacent to Kellyland Park. The nature center is owned and maintained by the D.C. Everest School District, and is operated mainly as an environmental-interpretive center for students. When it is not being used for school purposes, its facilities are available for public use.

The Eau Claire River Nature Center has a number of recreational facilities: one picnic shelter, picnic tables and grills and a variety of hiking and interpretive trails. All these facilities are in good condition. The Eau Claire River Trail passes through the school property on the south side of the Eau Claire River.

Weston Elementary School

Weston Elementary School is located at the corner of Camp Phillips Road and Ross Avenue in the central section of the Village. The school site includes a 30-acre recreation area that is open to public use when it is not being used for school purposes. This recreation area, which is classified as a neighborhood park, contains a variety of organized athletic fields and other active recreation facilities.

The Weston Elementary School recreation area includes; four soccer fields, a softball diamond (that overlaps with one soccer field), and basketball court, an open skating rink with warming house, an open play area with two softball backstops, and a large children's play equipment area. The children's play equipment area includes; eight sets of swings, one climbing tower, twirling bars, an obstacle course, two slides, four training bars, one beehive climber, three tether poles, and one fireman's climber. The warming house has restrooms that are used only in the winter season by skaters. The play equipment, the basketball court and soccer fields are maintained by the D.C. Everest School District. The skating rink and warming house are maintained by the Weston Park Department.

The outdoor recreation facilities at Weston Elementary School receive heavy use from school and community users. All the facilities are maintained in good condition.

Greenheck Field House

The Greenheck Field House is owned and operated by the D.C. Everest Area School District and is located at the D.C. Everest High School. The facility was opened in 1997 and was built for six million dollars of which 4.3 million was from private donations. The 90,000 square foot building is included in this Outdoor Recreation Plan, because many of the activities offered at Greenheck are outdoor in nature and carry over to outdoor facilities in the Village of Weston. Activities that participants can enjoy at Greenheck and in the Village are ice-skating, hockey, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Greenheck also has racquetball courts, a weight room and a multi-use field house. Greenheck provides a Community Services Department that organizes outdoor recreation and youth sports programs in the community.

Private Suppliers of Public Recreation FacilitiesCrane Meadows Golf Course

Crane Meadows Golf Course is a public golf course that is located south of STH 29 on the east side of the Village of Weston. This is a nine-hole course and driving range.

Greenwood Hills Golf Course

Greenwood Hills Golf Course is a private golf course that is located on the northwest side of the community. This eighteen-hole course and clubhouse is open to members only.

Kelly Athletic Club

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.

Wiggly Field

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 a lighted softball diamond, an indoor volleyball complex, and restrooms. These facilities support several softball and volleyball leagues that are open to the public on a user fee basis.

Regional Public Recreation FacilitiesRib Mountain State Park

Rib Mountain State Park is a 900-acre state park located on Rib Mountain in central Marathon County, approximately five miles west of the Village of Weston. In addition to campgrounds, picnic areas, trails, and scenic overlooks, the state park contains Granite Peak, a privately operated downhill ski resort.

Marathon Park

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 several reasons:

- It is the home of the Wisconsin Valley Fair.
- It has a large stand of second-growth White Pine.
- It has numerous historic exposition buildings.
- It provides a variety of specialized recreation facilities that attract visitors from a multi-county area.
- It provides area residents with neighborhood and community park facilities.

Dells of the Eau Claire Park

The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is one of the most popular parks in the region as well as the County. It is a 214-acre County Park that is located about 10 miles northeast of the Village of Weston. The park is famous for the rock outcroppings and rapids along the Eau Claire River, which runs through the park. The park offers a variety of active and passive recreation facilities. The Eau Claire River is dammed east of the CTH 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. (Family camping to the west of CTH Y, group camping to the east of CTH Y.)

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. Finally, 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.

Nine-Mile County Forest Unit

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 boundaries 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.

Kronenwetter County Forest Unit

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.

Mountain-Bay State Park 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 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. Future improvements will include restrooms, drinking water, and complimentary recreation facilities such as rest and picnic areas. Westward expansion is currently in the works as the old railway corridor is being converted into future path expansion. 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. The Village of Weston is the trail-head on the west end of the trail and provides a parking area, restrooms, drinking water and rest area.

For more information regarding Marathon County parks, please visit <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us>.

**TABLE 5-1
Park Land Summary**

VILLAGE PARKS		
PARK	TYPE	TOTAL ACRES
Kennedy Park	Community	38.8
Williams Park	Neighborhood	2.5
Yellowbanks Park	Neighborhood	52.8
Kellyland Park	Community	45.6
Sandhill Meadows Park	Neighborhood	2.0
Robinwood Park	Neighborhood	5.1
Callon Park	Community	20.5
Machmueller Park	Community	31.1
Weston Dog Park	Special Purpose	40.3
Farmers Market Park	Special Purpose	1.7
Business Park South Conservancy Area	Conservancy	76.0
Eau Claire River Trail	Walking/Biking Trail	1.3 Miles
Village Park Total		316.4

SCHOOL RECREATION AREA		
PARK	TYPE	TOTAL ACRES
D.C. Everest Senior High School	Neighborhood	34.0
D.C. Everest Junior High School	Neighborhood	34.0
D.C. Everest Middle School	Neighborhood	33.3
Weston Elementary School	Neighborhood	30.0
D.C. Everest School Forest	Conservancy	48.0
School Area Total		179.3

**TABLE 5-2
Recreational Facilities Summary**

FACILITY	Kennedy	Williams	Yellow Banks	Kellyland	Callon	Robinwood	Sandhill	Machmueller	Total
Ball Diamonds	3					1		4	8
Basketball Courts				1		1	0.5		2.5
Volleyball Courts	1	1	1	1			1		5
Horseshoe Pits	2		1	1					4
Hockey Rinks	1								1
Soccer Fields	2			4			1	1	8
Softball Diamonds	1								1
Outdoor Pool	1								1
Tennis Courts									0
Ice Skating Rink	1								1
Restrooms	2		1	1		1	1	1	7
Shelter	1		2	1		1	1	1	7
Play Structure	2	1	1	1		1	1	1	8
Trail System				1	1			1	3

Note: blue numbers indicate that one ball diamond doubles as a baseball and softball diamond.