

# Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016 - 2021

Adopted October 3, 2016



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## Chapter 9: Parks and Recreation

### Overview

As of 2015, the village owns 315 acres of active use areas, passive use areas, and conservancy areas. (This does not include the Prohaska property, acquired in 2016.) Village parklands are spread throughout the village. The main community park (J.F. Kennedy) is located in the older, more heavily urbanized western 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 additional acres of active use area, plus the 48-acre school forest. The active use areas 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 Kennedy Park.

There are several privately owned and managed recreation areas that contribute to the village's recreation base. These facilities are open to the public, and provide the same opportunities as a public park or recreation area. For the purposes of this chapter, the private recreation area acreages are not included in the Village Park acreage totals, but privately owned recreation facilities are included in the village recreation facility totals.

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.

### Parks and Recreation Summary

- Combined with the Parks and Recreation chapter in the Vision and Directions volume, this chapter meets WIDNR requirements for a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.
- The village's park and recreational system features larger community parks and trails providing an array of amenities and activities.
- The D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, and private providers are important contributors to the recreational land and facility base in Weston.
- The village technically has an adequate supply of park acreage, though that does not necessarily reflect actual and emerging demand for recreational activities.



## Village Parks

The following is an inventory of the Village's park system. Individual park maps are included in the Parks and Recreation chapter of the Vision and Directions volume of this Comprehensive Plan.

### J.F. Kennedy Park

Kennedy Park is a 38.8-acre community park that is located in 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 is a lacrosse field. There are two irrigated, regulation sized soccer fields that are used by 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 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.

### **Yellowbanks Park**

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 is a 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. Park facilities include: restrooms, two open-sided shelters, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, children's playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, a canoe/kayak launch, and horseshoe pits. The park also has two paved parking lots that service each shelter.

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 the Eau Claire River. A parking lot has been constructed with the entrance off of newly expanded Camp Phillips Road. So far 11 holes have been completed, and all 18 holes are expected to be operational in the near future. Volume 2 highlights several potential new and reconfigured uses for Yellowbanks Park.

### **Kellyland Park**

Kellyland Park is a 105.6-acre community park complex located near 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 that are primarily used by the Wausau Area Home Educators. Passive recreation facilities at Kellyland Park include an open shelter (built 1997), 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.

Kellyland Park lies mostly in the floodplain of the Eau Claire River. There are 35 acres of wooded areas 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. Volume 2 includes some preliminary ideas for such development.

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 and continues northwest to access points at Brook Court and Tricia Street at the north end of the park. 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 tables to expand the trail facilities.

Kellyland Park also includes the 20.6-acre undeveloped area that was previously known as Callon Park. This area is situated north of Schofield Avenue and west of the Eau Claire River in the east



central section of the Village. This is a wetland area along the Eau Claire River, which provides a scenic nature area with a large variety of wildlife living in the area.

The Weston Dog Park at Kellyland Park was developed in 2005 through the help of donations and volunteers. It is built 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 Dog Park is maintained by the Village, along with MiTech (former CWE) and WIDNR due to the park being located on the old landfill.

### **Machmueller Park**

Machmueller Park is a 32.1-acre community park acquired in 2002. 13.4 acres were acquired from the Sandy Lane subdivision developers, John and Forrest Tappe, through parkland dedication and 18.7-acres were purchased by the Village, with support from the Town of Weston. 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 10-station “born learning” trail for children and a ¾ mile 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.

The park is connected to sanitary sewer; however, it uses a combination lift station/grinder pump for service.

### **Williams Park**

Williams 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. Williams 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. The park has some picnic tables, grills, benches, and approximately seven off-street lighted parking stalls in an unpaved lot.

### **Sandhill Meadows Park**

Sandhill Meadows Park is a 2-acre neighborhood park that is located at the corner of Shorey Avenue and Alderson Street in the southwest corner of the Village. It was built in 2001. Sandhill Meadows Park is currently the only park serving the southern section of the Village. 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 Schofield Avenue in the east central section of the Village. It was built in 1996 and named for the subdivision around it.



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.

### **Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge**

The Business Park South is a 30-acre area that the Village acquired in 2007. The land is not developable due to wetlands. The Village has designated this area as a conservancy area. The area has a waterfowl pond. 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 is located 1/8 of a mile from the Waterfowl Refuge.

### **Prohaska Family Nature Center**

The Village in 2016 acquired approximately 90 acre parcel east of Ryan Street and north of and Weston Avenue, most of which has been known as the Prohaska Tree Farm. This property is wooded and has six ponds. Ideas for this site are put forward in Volume 2.

### **Undeveloped Lands**

The Village in 2016 acquired additional lands south of Highway 29 near Zinser Street that are suitable for sports field use. Ideas for a “Regional Sports Complex” are included in Volume 2.

### **Other Village of Weston Multi-Use Paths**

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

Aside from the Eau Claire River Trail, described above, the Village of Weston has an asphalt multi-use path along Camp Phillips Road from the northern edge of the Village at Northwestern Avenue, which connects the Village to the City of Wausau and to the southern edge of the Village, which connects to the Village of Kronenwetter. There is also 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. 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.



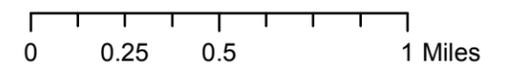
# Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan

# 9-1

## Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

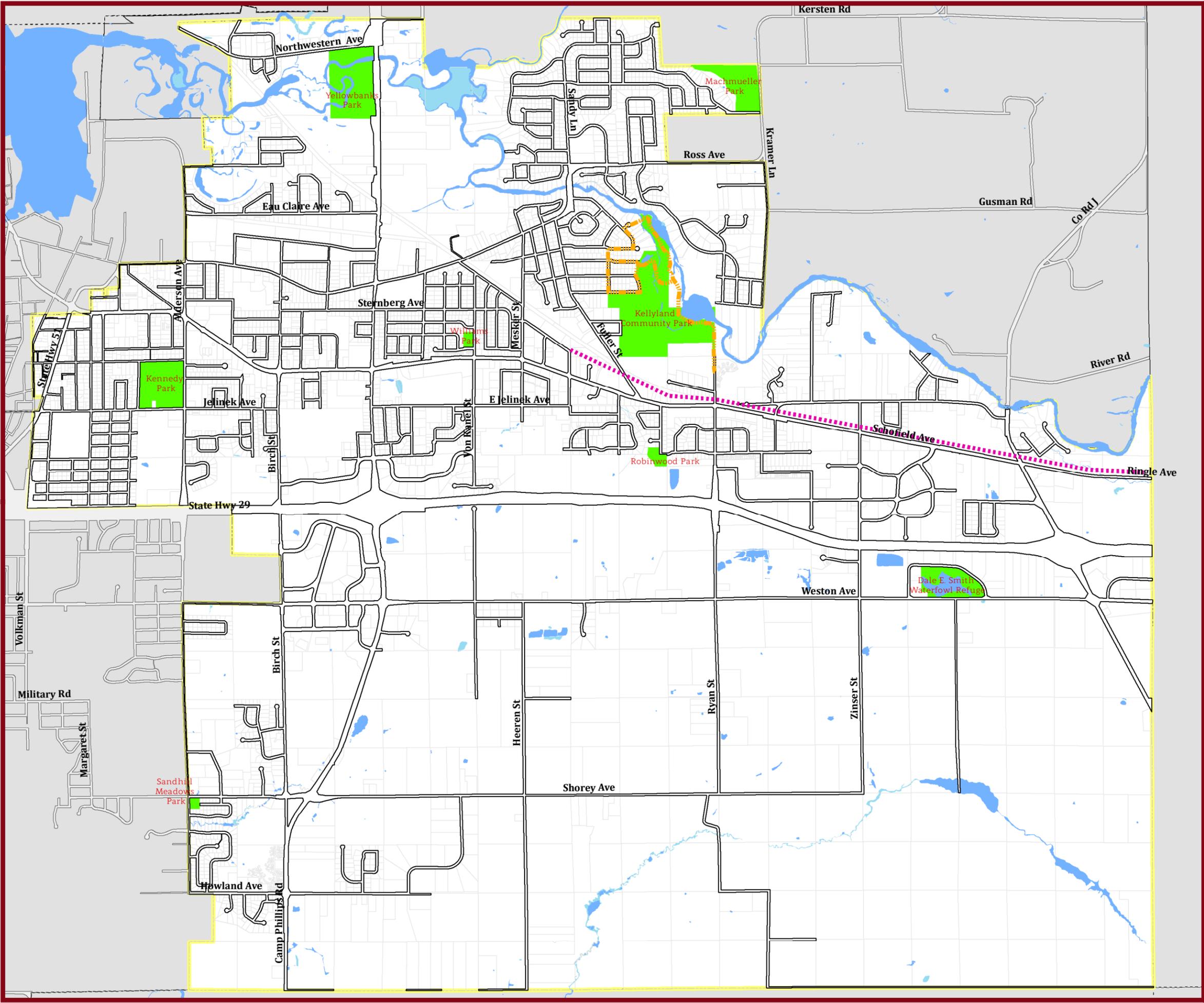


Map Data Date: 3/24/2015  
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Created by the Village of Weston  
Tech. Services Department



## Legend

- Mountain Bay Trail
- Eau Claire River Trail
- Surface Water
- Public Parks



## School Recreation Areas

The following 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 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, which functions as a neighborhood park. It contains eight tennis courts, two sand volleyball courts, two softball fields, a baseball diamond and an open play area. Primarily the high school teams use 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.

### D.C. Everest Middle School

D.C. Everest Middle School was 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, which functions as a neighborhood park. It includes seven soccer fields, a football field, two recreation softball fields with backstops, dugouts and bleachers and an open play area.

### D.C. Everest Junior High School

D.C. Everest Junior High School is located at the corner of Jelinek Avenue and Machmueller Street, about one half mile west of the D.C. Everest High School. The Junior High School site includes a 34-acre recreation area, which functions as a neighborhood park. It contains a lighted stadium with a one-quarter mile running track and turf football field, complete track facilities, seven tennis courts, a baseball diamond with a backstop, a football practice field with goal posts, and one soccer field. 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. This track and field are not available to the public for use, due to their high cost of maintenance and replacement.

### D.C. Everest School Forest 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.

### 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, which functions as a neighborhood park. It includes four soccer fields, a softball diamond (that overlaps with one soccer field), basketball court, 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 Weston Elementary School recreational area also includes a skating rink and warming house with restrooms. The Village owns the building and has historically operated this facility. The use of the ice rink has been discontinued, and the future of the site will be discussed.

Since the ice rink was initially funded with federal money, whatever is built in its place must be of equal or increased value. There are restrictions on the site's use; the site must be used by a recreational facility and the restriction is in perpetuity.

### **Rudolph Education Center (REC)**

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.

### **Greenheck Field House**

The Greenheck Field House is located at the D.C. Everest High School. The facility was opened in 1997 and was built for \$6 million, largely from private donations. The facility was expanded in 2012 and 2014 and currently contains over 100,000 square feet. 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 fitness center with aerobic and strength training equipment, and a multi-use field house. Greenheck provides a Community Services Department that organizes outdoor recreation and youth sports programs in the community. Many of the activities offered at Greenheck carry over to outdoor facilities in the Village of Weston.

Figure 9-1 provides a summary of Village and School District owned park facilities as of 2015.



**Figure 9-1: Park Land Summary**

<b>Village Parks (2015)</b>		
<b>Park</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Kennedy Park	Community	38.8
Yellowbanks Park	Community	52.8
Kellyland Park (including Dog Park)	Community	106.4
Machmueller Park	Community	31.1
Williams Park	Neighborhood	2.5
Sandhill Meadows Park	Neighborhood	2
Robinwood Park	Neighborhood	5.1
Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge	Conservancy	30
<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>268.7</b>
<b>School Recreation Areas</b>		
D.C. Everest Senior High School	Neighborhood	34
D.C. Everest Junior High School	Neighborhood	34
D.C. Everest Middle High School	Neighborhood	33
Weston Elementary School	Neighborhood	30
D.C. Everest School Forest	Conservancy	48
Rudolph Education Center	Conservancy	33
<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>212</b>

## **Private Suppliers of Recreation Facilities in Weston**

In addition to Village Parks and D.C. Everest Schools, there are several private suppliers of public recreation facilities located within the community that meet identified needs for public recreation. These private suppliers own and maintain softball diamonds, volleyball courts, golf courses, and support facilities that are available for public use. These facilities are available to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. The general public can pay a fee to use these facilities, or they can belong to an organized team that pays a fee to use the facilities, just as if the facility was managed by the Village of Weston Parks, Forestry & Recreation Department.

### **Aspirus YMCA**

This YMCA is affiliated with the Woodson YMCA in Wausau and opened in 2005. This facility offers a variety of activities, including aquatics and gymnastics programs for youth and general health and wellness activities and facilities for all ages and abilities. Community garden space is also available. The facility is located at the corner of Howland Avenue and Camp Phillips Road.

### **Crane Meadows Golf Course**

Crane Meadows Golf Course is a nine-hole golf course open to the public and is located south of State Highway 29 on the east side of the Village of Weston.



### **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 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.

### **Antlers Archery**

Antlers Archery is a pro shop that offers indoor 3-D archery, allowing for sportsmen to practice year-round. It is located at the corner of Machmueller Street and Everest Avenue.

### **Weston Trap Club**

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 Zinzer Street, just north of Shorey Avenue.

### **Gym-Sport Gymnastics**

Gym-Sport Gymnastics provides private gymnastics instruction to 10,000 square foot facility offers state-of-the-art gymnastics equipment for the instruction of all areas in gymnastics including preschool gymnastics, recreational gymnastics, competitive girls & boys artistic gymnastics, trampoline & tumbling and cheerleading. It offers programs for youths ages 18 months to 22 years. It is located on Rickyval Street.

### **Premier Sports Academy**

The Premier Sports Academy provides baseball and softball training for grade school to high school athletes through camps and clinics. The facility is aimed at those who wish to compete at the state and national level. It offers rentals and training for all field sports including baseball, softball, soccer, football, lacrosse and golf. It is located on Progress Way in the Weston Business and Technology Park-South.

### **Weston Lanes**

Weston Lanes, 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. It is located on Schofield Avenue, near the Municipal Center.



## Regional Public Recreation Facilities

### Rib Mountain State Park

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.

### 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 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.

### Dells of the Eau Claire Park

The Dells of the Eau Claire Park is one of the most popular parks in the region. 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 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.

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.

### Sunny Vale Park & Sunny Vale Softball Complex

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 are no lifeguards on duty at the lake; swim at your own risk. There is a roped off swim area, 2 open shelters with grills & stationary tables, scattered grills, changing room, picnic tables, vault toilet, water pump & 2 shelters, 2 volleyball courts (bring your own net), 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. The softball complex is managed by the Wausau Area Softball Association through a contract with Marathon County. Its 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.

### **Bluegill Bay Park**

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.

### **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 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.

### **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 (WIDNR) 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. The Village of Weston is the trailhead on the west end of the trail and provides a parking area, restrooms, drinking water, and rest area.

## **Village of Weston Recreation Issues**

### **Trail System Development**

One of the highest priorities identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the need for more facilities to accommodate walking, jogging, and bicycling. The Village continues to 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 have been planned to link with the trails of adjacent communities. In 2013, the Wausau MPO worked with communities of the Wausau Metro area to establish an interconnected system of bike routes, utilizing suitable roadways and already existing paths. The MPO has plans to expand this network in coming years and has benefitted from timely grant support and community-wide enthusiasm for the trail network. This system utilizes the bike and pedestrian bridge over State Highway 29 at the extension of Birch Street, which was constructed in 2011. Along with that bridge is a ten-foot walking path extending south to Weston Avenue. A ten-foot walking path was also constructed in 2006 along with the reconstruction of County Road X (Camp Phillips Road), south of Weston Avenue to Howland Avenue, the site of the Aspirus YMCA. County Road X, north of Ross Avenue to Northwestern Avenue was reconstructed in 2011 with the addition of a ten-foot path. Walking and bike access now spans from the southern edge of the Village to the northern edge of the Village, connecting with Wausau on Northwestern Avenue.

### **Mini-Parks**

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

### **Universal Design/ADA**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a sweeping civil rights law, intended to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities in all aspects of American life. ADA includes provisions regarding employment, state and local government services, state and local government public transit service, public accommodations provided by private entities, and communications.

Under ADA, any unit of state or local government is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of disability in the provision of state or local government services against an individual who, with or without a reasonable accommodation, meets essential eligibility requirements for receipt of that service. State and local government services are broadly interpreted to include every program, service and activity of such an entity. A reasonable accommodation shall include but is not limited to, the changing of rules, policies, and practices; the removal of architectural, transportation, and



communication barriers; and the provision of auxiliary aids and services. Units of local government must conduct a self-analysis to identify discriminatory practices and barriers, and shall remove all barriers as soon as is possible.

Using this definition, municipalities are required, under ADA to provide reasonable access to park and recreation facilities and opportunities. Also, municipalities are required to upgrade non-accessible facilities and opportunities to allow reasonable access to parks and other recreation opportunities. ADA does not necessarily require that municipalities upgrade all park facilities within their jurisdiction, only that the municipalities provide reasonable access to the park and recreation system.

A realistic method for complying with ADA is “universal design.” Universal design is an evolving idea, a method of looking at facilities and opportunities objectively, that results in programs, services, and facilities that work for everyone. This is very different from providing special facilities that highlight the differences between people.

Universal design results in equal opportunity facilities that enable all people to benefit from their desired recreation experiences. The needs of all users are incorporated as an integral part of the architecture, landscape design, and program. All people are welcome to use the facilities with little or no assistance needed. This offers feelings of dignity, independence, self-reliance, and the opportunity to socialize with other users. Mainstream participation is facilitated through careful consideration of different physical, mental, and social needs. These human factors are matched with the natural opportunities and limitations of a site in the design process. Success is best portrayed by simple solutions that solve many problems and support many types of use. This “one size fits all” approach is initially more complex during design, but results in simple but multi-functional solutions.

## **Park Operations and Maintenance**

The operations, maintenance, and upkeep of park and recreation facilities are an important component of the overall community recreation experience. It is important that the Village of Weston maintain adequate staff and budget appropriate funds to maintain their parklands.

The Village of Weston currently has a full-time Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, a full-time (shared) administrative specialist, three park maintenance employees and 3-4 seasonal part-time maintenance employees. The Director, who receives policy and program guidance from the Weston 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.

The Village of Weston owns and maintains several pieces of capital equipment necessary to maintain Village parks. This equipment includes four riding mowers, a tractor, four pick-up trucks, a skid-steer and other smaller equipment. Furthermore, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and staff has access to other Village equipment, when necessary, for park maintenance.



The Village maintains this equipment in good condition, but has a regular replacement schedule for all capital equipment.

## **Recreational Needs Analysis**

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community depends on the recreational needs and wants of the residents of the community. Identified recreation needs and wants of community residents provides the basis for justifying funding and maintaining existing recreational facilities. Most recreational needs and wants can be identified using the following five methods of recreational needs analysis:

1. Acreage Standards Comparison
2. Service Area Standards Comparison
3. Facility Standards Comparison
4. Existing Quantitative Studies Review
5. Public Input

Each method focuses on one specific element of recreation. Taken individually, they do not provide an accurate representation of community-wide recreation needs. However, taken as a group, recreation needs and wants can be aggregated and identified, and additional or new parks and recreation facilities can be justified. Therefore, all five of these methods are used in combination to determine the need for additional parks and/or recreational facilities in the Village of Weston.

### **Acreage Standards Comparison**

The first method of evaluating a community's recreational acreage needs is to determine the number of people the existing system serves (or has the capacity to serve) and then compare it to National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards. This is accomplished by assigning an acreage requirement for recreation areas per 1000 persons in the Village. A standard of 12 acres of active use land per 1,000 residents is used as a basis for determining acreage needs. This Village park acreage should be distributed throughout the community, so that all residential areas, age groups, and activity needs are served in the best and most cost-efficient manner.

Utilizing the park standards above and the acreage totals for each park type (see Figure 9-1: Park Land Summary), current parkland supply was calculated. Figure 9-2 shows the results of this comparison. The Village in 2015 provided 21.03 total acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, or about 9 total acres more than the recommended standard. Using the projected 2020 population of the Village, it is also possible to project the recreational acreage needs for that time. According to Figure 9-2, the Village will have a surplus of 133.1 acres or about 20.7 acres of parkland per 1000 residents in 2020.



**Figure 9-2: Acreage Needs Compared to NRPA Standards**

<b>Assumptions</b>	<b>2013*</b>	<b>2020**</b>
Acreage Need (12 acres/1000 population)	180.5 acres	201.2 acres
Supply (Village Parks)	268.7 acres	268.7 acres
Acreage Surplus	88.2 acres	67.5 acres

*\*based on 2013 population of 15,045*

*\*\*based on 2020 projected population of 16,770*

The Village has plans to expand and develop new parks. Some may question why this is necessary if the Village already has a surplus of parkland based on recreational standards. Almost 100 acres of current parkland is undeveloped or acts as a conservancy area. These places require very little to no maintenance and often, in the case of the natural area at Kellyland Park, act as a floodplain. The opportunities for public use at these places is limited.

### **Service Area Standards Comparison**

The second method of evaluating a community’s parkland needs and adequacy of service is to plot park service areas on a base map and then identify areas that are not being served. As a minimum, residential groupings should be served by either a neighborhood park or community park facility. To measure the adequacy of service the Weston park system provides residents within the Village, park service areas were determined. Utilizing the park service radius criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing neighborhood and community parks (see Map 9-2).

Map 9-2 shows the concentration of Village parks within the older, more urbanized areas. Many residents of the Village are well served by outdoor recreation facilities. However, there are several neighborhoods that are not currently served by community or neighborhood parks. These areas are on the fringe of the urbanized sections of the Village; primarily north of Ross Avenue, west of Fuller Street, and southeast of Schofield Avenue.

It is important to know where future growth is likely to occur in the Village to project future population concentrations and project future park service areas. These factors become very important when recommending the location, type, and size of future park areas.

Village demographics suggest steady growth in the fringe areas of the Village. Most of the residential growth will likely occur on and beyond the Village’s current east side, mostly north of State Highway 29 and north of Ross Avenue. Finally, significant residential growth is expected to occur 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 will need to be assessed.



# Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan

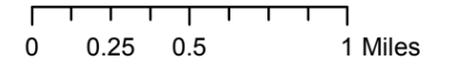
# 9-2

## Public Park Service Area for 2014

Map Date: 3/24/2015

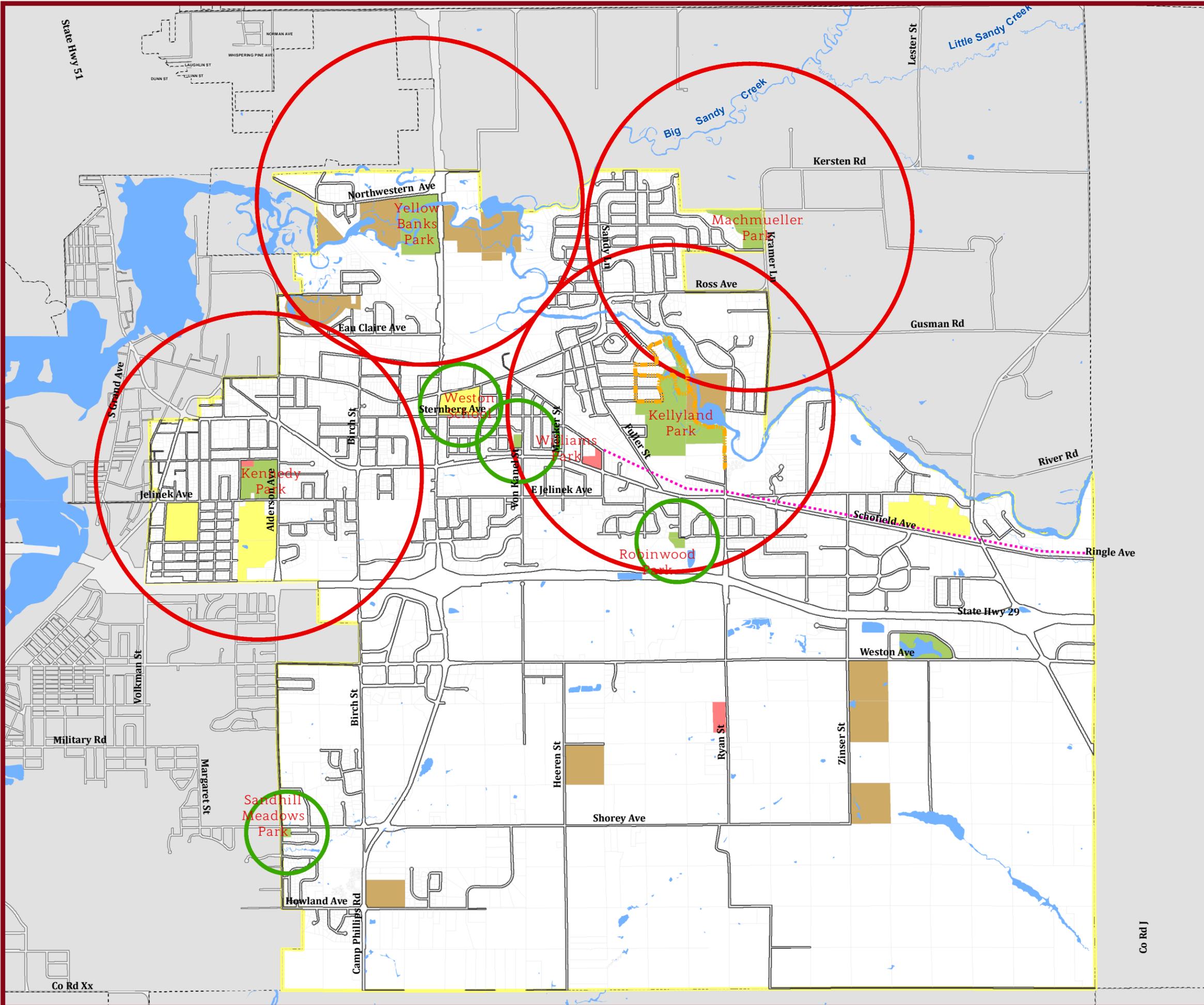
Map Adoption Date: 10/03/16

Created by the Village of Weston  
Tech. Services Department



### Legend

- Mountain Bay Trail
  - Eau Claire River Trail
  - Neighborhood Park (1/4 mile radius)
  - Community Park (1 mile radius)
  - Surface Water
- #### Existing Facilities
- Municipal Building
  - Public Parks
  - Privately Owned Recreational Facilities
  - Public School Recreational Facilities
  - Village of Weston Boundary
  - Other Municipalities



### Recreational Facility Needs

The third method of determining recreational needs in a community is to compare existing facilities and equipment to NRPA standards. The standards suggest how many users a particular recreational resource or facility can support each day. The NRPA standards used by the Village of Weston are shown in Figure 9-3.

**Figure 9-3: NRPA Suggested Outdoor Facility Development Standards**

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 - 1/2 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.



Activity	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
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- 1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/c 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.



Activity	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
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 minutes 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 minutes 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	



Activity	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
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 minutes 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 minutes 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		



Activity	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Size And Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius	Location Notes
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.	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 minutes 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.
		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.				
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.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association (1990)

In order to project facility deficiencies, Weston’s existing facilities were compared to the NRPA standards and assumptions previously outlined. Figures 9-4 and 9-5 summarize the current recreation facilities within the Village. Based on these national standards, the Village of Weston has two community-wide recreation facility deficiencies. The Village of Weston has no softball fields or no tennis courts. However, the D.C. Everest School System provides tennis courts and softball fields. The Village has no plans to add tennis courts, but is considering a few locations for softball fields.



**Figure 9-4: Current Recreational Facilities, Village of Weston Owned**

Facility	Kennedy	Williams	Yellowbanks	Kellyland	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								0
Outdoor Pool	1							1
Tennis Courts								0
Ice Skating Rink	1							1
Restrooms	2		1	1	1	1	1	7
Shelters	1		2	1	1	1	1	7
Play Structures	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	8

**Figure 9-5: Village of Weston Recreational Facility Analysis**

Facility	Total Facilities	Current Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball Diamond	5	Adequate	Adequate
Basketball Court	2.5	Adequate	Adequate
Volleyball Courts	5	Adequate	Adequate
Horseshoe Pits	4	Adequate	Adequate
Hockey Rinks	1	Adequate	Adequate
Soccer Fields	8	Adequate	Adequate
Softball fields	1	2	3
Outdoor Pool	1	Adequate	Adequate
Tennis Courts	0	6	7
Ice Skating Rink	2	Adequate	Adequate
Restrooms	7	Adequate	Adequate
Shelter	7	Adequate	Adequate
Play Areas	8	Adequate	Adequate
Trail System	3	Adequate	Adequate

### Existing Quantitative Studies Review

The fourth method of determining recreation needs is to use local, regional, and state quantitative recreation studies that apply to the area. These quantitative studies are statistically defensible surveys, polls, and other instruments that help identify user trends, needs, and wants by soliciting user responses to uniform sets of questions. These studies are very useful since they are a good indicator of recreation needs as perceived by recreation users.

In an attempt to define the recreational needs at a more community-wide level, WIDNR developed the 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Traditionally, needs assessment through the SCORP process was accomplished by comparing the existing supply of outdoor recreation facilities with an estimate of the demand for these facilities.

To improve the quality of outdoor recreation needs assessment, the WIDNR, as a part of the SCORP, developed a new method in which needs assessment is determined by first, a county-by-county supply analysis and second, by statewide citizen survey results. This defensible methodology is complex, but serves to better identify recreational needs at a community level.

The objectives of the needs assessment are as follows:

- Assist sub-state jurisdictions in planning for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition.
- Act as one of many decision-making tools in the Open Project Selection Process, which determines where funds from outdoor recreation aid programs such as LAWCON and ADLP will be directed.
- Combine the views and expert opinions of outdoor recreation enthusiasts with physical supply of outdoor recreation in order to resolve perceived and actual need.

Figure 9-6 illustrates the top ten outdoor recreational activities in Wisconsin. The information was obtained from the 2011-2016 SCORP in the recreational demand section. The information is viewable at [www.dnr.wi.gov/planning/scorp/data.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/planning/scorp/data.html).

**Figure 9-6: Top Outdoor Recreational Activities, Statewide, 2005-2009**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>% of Wisconsinites Participating</b>
Walking for Pleasure	87.7
Gardening of Landscaping for pleasure	65.4
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3
Attend outdoor sports events	65
Family gathering outside	63.5
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9
Driving for pleasure	52.8
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4
Sightseeing	50.6

*Source: 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*



## Public Input

The fifth, and probably most important, method for determining recreational needs in the community, is to identify and analyze specific recreational issues that are important in the Village of Weston. The four previous methodologies to identify recreational needs are basically quantitative and general in nature, and are very good in identifying general park acreage and facility needs in a community. However, every community has a number of special issues, concerns, and wants that might not be reflected in the results of these quantitative methodologies. Specific issues and concerns are identified through public input, input from Village staff, and input from interest groups or other agencies. These special issues are then analyzed and reviewed to see if these are actual needs that should be addressed. The result of this analysis is then combined with the recreation needs suggested under the previous four subsections.

## Funding Mechanisms

There are several common mechanisms that communities can use to help acquire, develop, operate, and maintain park systems. Each mechanism has its relative strengths, while several have specific regulatory requirements that restrict their use. The amount of park system funding is a function of the recreation need and supply within the community. Recreation need and supply are typically identified through a planning process, which also proposes an action plan, capital improvement program, and a budget to help support the development and operation of the park system. The proposed action plan and budget, in turn, helps the community identify the appropriate funding mechanism to develop and manage park land.

### General Funding

Communities can levy local taxes to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain parks and other public spaces. This is one of the most common and widely accepted methods of funding the development and operation of a park system. While there are no specific restrictions on levying local taxes to support park systems, actual allocations within communities vary widely due to a variety of reasons, including; value of the local tax base, political commitment to park development, and constituent support for parks and recreation. Local tax levies are typically used to fund all types of park development and management.

Most communities that have successful park and recreation systems utilize a balanced combination of general funds, land dedication, payment in lieu of dedication, impact fees, and grant-in-aid programs. Many communities with successful park systems have adopted a general system for funding park acquisition, development and operations:

- **General Funds (local taxes):** used for park system administration, park operations and maintenance, and some park acquisition and development.
- **Land Dedication (or Payment in Lieu of Dedication):** used for general parkland acquisition and development.
- **Impact Fees:** used for parkland acquisition and development within a specified district and designated to meet recreation needs created by the new development.



- **Grant-in-Aid Programs:** used for park acquisition and development.
- **Philanthropy:** used for park development and management.
- **Volunteer Participation:** used for park development, operations, and management.

### **Parkland Dedication or Payment in Lieu of Dedication**

The Village's subdivision ordinance requires developers to dedicate land or make payment in lieu of dedication as a condition for receiving subdivision plat approval. Only lands that are suitable and needed for park system development may be accepted. Furthermore, if suitable and needed land is not available, the Village requires that the developer make a payment, based on the size of the proposed development, into a designated park development fund.

At time of writing, the Village of Weston required that the quantity of land to be dedicated is based on the number of family units to be established in the subdivision. The amount was \$244 per single family residential lot, \$446 per duplex lot, \$138 per 1-bedroom multiple family unit authorized, \$204 per 2-bedroom unit authorized, and \$244 per 3+ bedroom unit authorized. These amounts do not accurately reflect the actual costs of acquiring and development parklands.

### **Park Impact Fees**

Wisconsin State Statute §66.0617 permits Villages, municipalities, and counties in Wisconsin to impose impact fees on developers. This legislation specifies 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. Such an ordinance could apply to rezoning, condominium developments, or any land development that would affect public facilities, regardless of whether land division is involved. The impact fees collected could be used by local governments to defray the cost of the public facilities necessary to accommodate development projects, and are subject to any fees already imposed under existing land division ordinances.

The Village of Weston currently does not have an impact fee for park facilities/equipment. The following analysis may assist the Village were it to adopt such a fee.



## FORMULA

$\text{Unit Cost of Park Development} = \frac{\text{(park development cost per acre)}}{\text{(#of residential units per acre of park)}}$
--

For the Village of Weston, that unit cost equals \$357, given that it costs \$10,000 to develop an acre of park and there are 29 residential units per acre of park.

## ASSUMPTIONS

$\begin{aligned} \# \text{ of residential units per acre of park land} &= 28 \text{ (83 residents per acre park land/3.0 residents per residential unit)} \\ 12 \text{ acres park land} / 1000 \text{ residents} &= 1 \text{ acre park land} / 83 \text{ residents per unit} \\ 3.0 \text{ residents per residential unit} \\ \text{Development Cost of Park Land} &= \$10,000/\text{acre} \end{aligned}$
---

If the Village elects to adopt a park impact fee, it should consider adopting a fee up to the maximum unit cost of park development (\$357/residential unit).

The average cost of a new single family residence in the Village of Weston ranges from \$150,000 to \$300,000. A \$350 per residential unit impact fee represents 0.2% of the purchase price, which is typically spread over a 30-year mortgage period. Thus, the estimated impact on the availability of affordable housing in the Village is negligible.

### Grant-in-Aid Programs

There are numerous publicly administered grant-in-aid programs available to assist villages in acquiring and developing park lands and recreation facilities. These include:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)
- Urban Green Space (UGS)
- Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA)
- Urban Rivers Grant Program (UR)
- Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)
- Urban Forestry

Most of these programs are administered through the WIDNR, even though the funding may originate in one of several state or federal agencies. All of the grant-in-aid programs have eligibility requirements and restrictions on their use, and most of them require some sort of a local match (cash, in-kind contribution, or both). These grant programs are excellent mechanisms for



communities to generate funds to acquire land and develop needed facilities that they might not otherwise be able to afford.

Also, there are numerous publicly administered grant-in-aid programs available to assist villages, counties to conduct other projects that support park development through resource and habitat improvement, and environmental protection. These programs, which are administered through the WIDNR, also have eligibility requirements and restrictions on their use. Some of the programs include lake protection, lake planning, and water quality management planning.

A detailed description of the grant-in-aid programs offered by the WIDNR can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Grants.html>.

### **Philanthropy**

As park budgets shrink while costs continue, organizations such as conservancies, “friends of the park” groups, and park foundations can provide a way for public parks to receive ongoing support from private funding. These organizations receive their funding mostly from donations and engage in activities ranging from construction of capital improvement projects to operation of special activities and programs in parks to advocacy and lobbying on behalf of parks. While not an option for every park within the Village’s park system, encouraging the development of such a group could provide a popular park with a source of local advocacy and financial support.

### **Volunteer Participation**

Volunteer participation by individuals and organizations can be an effective mechanism for funding the development and management of park and recreation facilities. Volunteer participation can include cash donations for acquisition and development, in-kind material donations for development, donated labor for development, and donated labor for management.

If volunteer participation is utilized for park development and management, it must be properly administered to be effective. Volunteers must be properly trained, equipped, and supervised to work in an appropriate, safe, and legal manner. Volunteer participation in park development must be accurately documented, since some grant-in-aid programs do not recognize donated labor as a local match.

## **Definitions of Park and Recreation Terms**

In order to understand this chapter and the associated chapter in the Vision and Directions volume, it becomes necessary to define the following terms. Among these definitions are the various types of parks, along with size and service area standards for each park type.

### **Active Use Area**

An area designed primarily for organized or non-organized active recreation of one or more age groups. This type of design may have, as its primary feature, play fields, playground equipment, ball fields, active trail use (e.g., ATV use, biking, snowmobiling, and cross country skiing), tennis and/or basketball courts or a combination thereof.



### **Aquatic Center**

Much larger than regular swimming pools, aquatic centers offer a variety of activities such as; a large pool, sand play areas, volleyball, miniature golf, arcades and concession stands. Aquatic centers can have slides, diving boards, water play structures, and water obstacles.

### **Community Park**

This type of park is designed to serve several neighborhoods while minimizing park travel distance. Though community parks are designed to accommodate all age groups, most activities cater to the active recreation needs of junior/senior high school students and adults. Although size is not always a sound criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that community parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Community parks have an effective service radius of 1 mile and can serve from 2,500 to 20,000 people. Most community parks have an average size of between 20 and 35 acres.

### **County Forest**

County forests are designated by policy to provide for multiple uses of their resources. In addition to timber management, county forestlands provide county residents with a variety of nature related recreation opportunities. County forests typically provide facilities for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, cross country skiing and other multi-purpose trail use. County forests, however, offer few active recreation opportunities such as organized sports, children's play areas and game courts. No average county forest size or service area standard exists.

### **County Park**

County parks are designed to provide a wide range of long and short-term active and passive recreation opportunities to several communities and/or municipalities. County parks are designed to accommodate all ages of users, and usually provide a more limited range of recreation opportunities than municipal parks. Most county parks are located in areas with distinctive natural features and provide nature oriented passive outdoor recreation such as fishing, swimming, camping, hiking and boating. County parks are generally large, usually being 200-400 acres in size. County parks usually have an effective service radius of about 30 minutes' drive time.

### **Disc Golf (Frisbee Golf)**

Much like golf, a disc game in which individual players throw a flying disc into a basket or at a target with the least amount of throws.

### **Environmental Corridor**

A defined area, usually oriented in a linear pattern along a river or drainage pattern, which contains a high concentration of environmentally significant features (e.g., diverse plant species, wildlife, landforms, water features).

### **Land-Based Recreation**

Those activities do not require a recreational water supply. Camping, hiking, and field sports are examples of land-based recreation.



### **Mini Park (Tot Lot)**

Mini parks provide open space for passive and some active recreation opportunities within a limited walking distance of primary users. The service area is confined to sub-neighborhood level from 250-1,250 persons within a 1/8-mile radius. Average area size ranges from 1,000 square feet to one acre.

### **Multi-Purpose Trail System**

A recreational system of trails in a community that affords a variety of year-round uses to a wide segment of the community (e.g., hiking, bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing). Multi-purpose trail systems typically contain barrier free, hard surface segments that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

### **Municipal Parks**

Municipal parks are designed primarily to serve residents within the boundaries of the municipality. There are six specific municipal park types, defined elsewhere in this section.

### **Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and passive short-term recreation activities. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of ¼ mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood park serves from 500 to 2,500 people, basically one park for every elementary school. Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5 to 10 acres in area.

### **Park Service Area**

A park service area is the zone of influence of a park or recreation area. The average distance users are willing to travel to reach a facility usually determines service areas. Although usually expressed in terms of service radius, features such as major traffic arteries and rivers influence the distance users must travel. Also, a park or recreation area may be unique in the county or region and will therefore extend the zone of influence of that facility to the entire county or region. Where service areas are not influenced by the other factors, the zone of influence is generally as represented in Figure 9-7.



**Figure 9-7: Park Service Areas Used in this Plan**

<b>Type of Park</b>	<b>Intended User Proximity</b>
Mini parks (tot lots)	1/8 to 1/4 mile radius
Neighborhood parks	1/4to 1/2 mile radius
Community parks	1-mile radius
Municipal special purpose park	entire community
Conservancy park	entire community
County park	30-minute travel time
County special purpose park	entire county or region
County forest	entire county or region
County-wide trail system	entire county or region

**Passive Use Area**

Primarily designed for picnic areas, passive trail use (e.g., hiking), hunting, fishing and other non-organized recreation activities. This type of facility often emphasizes natural settings and de-emphasizes active recreational facilities.

**Play Structure**

A play system that incorporates a variety of functions such as slides, climbing bars, suspended platforms and railings, interconnected in one unit. Structures are usually sized for preschool and elementary users with structure height and apparatus complexity being the determining criteria.

**Skate Park**

A skate park is a purpose-built recreational environment for skateboarders, BMX riders and aggressive skaters to ride and develop their sport and technique. A skate park may contain half-pipes, quarter pipes, handrails, trick boxes, vert ramps, pyramids, banked ramps, full pipes, stairs, and any number of other trick-oriented objects.

**Special Purpose Park**

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features, which are unique to the municipality. Examples of this type of facility include children’s zoos, marinas, fairgrounds and historical features to mention a few. Due to the varying degree of features these types of parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. The service area of this type of park includes the entire municipality. No average park size of service area standard exists.

**State Park**

State parks are designated and designed to provide recreational facilities in a unique natural setting for a wide range of users. State parks usually are located around a significant natural feature, and provide extensive activities including; elaborate visitor centers, gift shops and developed campgrounds. State parks usually have an on-site staff, including a park ranger and full-time maintenance staff. State parks do not have an average size or service radius, but generally can draw users from a local, state and multi-state area.



### **Urban Forestry**

Urban Forestry, which is also referred to as community forestry, is the establishment, monitoring and management of trees on publicly owned land and the regulation of certain trees on privately owned land within the community.

### **Urban Greenspace**

In addition to providing passive recreational opportunities, these types of parks can protect environmental quality and act as land use buffers. They also help break up development congestion and provide aesthetic quality. Most urban greenspace parks contain natural areas such as environmental corridors, woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas and scenic views. Though no set standard exists, several communities use a ratio of one to two acres per 1,000 residents as a basis to project community demand.

### **Water-Based Recreation**

Those activities require recreational water supply. Swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing and ice-skating are examples of water-based recreation.



## Chapter 7: Parks and Recreation

- Guide village decisions on acquisition and development of parks, trails, and other recreational facilities
- Serve as the Village’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for grant purposes

The village provides several settings for residents and visitors to recreate and relax. The village intends to maintain its existing parks and trails, and also to adapt, expand, and connect them in response to evolving demographics and interests. Weston’s recreation system serves as an economic driver, increasing resident attraction and tourism. The village seeks partnerships with the D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, and local groups to advance its recreational system vision.

### Priority Parks and Recreation Initiatives



<b>Initiative</b> <small>(Follow links for further details)</small>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding/ Partnerships</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<a href="#"><u>Improve Yellowbanks Park as a Nature-based Gathering Spot</u></a>	The village’s vision for Yellowbanks Park features an accessible pier, improved canoe/kayak launch, new bathrooms and shelters, expanded disc golfing, and better connections between the park areas north and south of the Eau Claire River.	State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON (River Protection and Enhancement Grants); Marathon County Environmental Impact Fund; Partnerships with disc golfing and watersports interests; utility	Parks Superintendent, with assistance from the Planning and Development Director and direction from the Parks and Recreation Committee on a master plan. Collaboration with Public Works and Utilities Department.
<a href="#"><u>Advance a Recreational Center on Weston’s South Side</u></a>	The village intends to build on recreational lands south of Highway 29 to increase local recreational opportunities, reduce demands on other village parks like Kennedy Park, and advance tourism-related development. This area south of Highway 29 is slated to include tournament-ready softball and baseball fields, fishing and other passive use areas, bicycling, and playground facilities.	State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON for land acquisition; Tax Incremental Financing; Marathon County Environmental Impact Funds; Partnerships with non-profit recreational organizations, the D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, and others	Parks Superintendent, with guidance from the Village Administrator, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Village Board, in collaboration with Public Works and Utilities and Planning and Development Departments
<a href="#"><u>Improve Accessible Facilities in Village Parks</u></a>	The village has a shortage of fully accessible park space. As upgrades to parks are contemplated, playgrounds and other recreational facilities should be designed to accommodate users of varying abilities. In addition, developing a “boundless playground” would offer an exciting place for children of all abilities.	Volunteer support can be used to reduce installation expense; Collaboration with School District on “boundless playground,” and naming rights in exchange for large monetary donation	Parks Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Parks and Recreation Committee and Village Board
<a href="#"><u>Develop and Maintain an All-season Multi-use Trail Network</u></a>	Trails should connect neighborhoods with parks, shopping, and jobs. Regional linkages enhance experiences and economics. The village will support State and County’s efforts to finish the Mountain-Bay Trail and build a trail to Rothschild.	State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON; WisDOT TAP-21; Marathon County Environmental Impact Funds; “Complete streets” funding; MPO and local cycling group collaboration; Developers	Parks Superintendent, in collaboration with Public Works and Utilities Department and Planning and Development Department

## 7.1. Purpose

The Village of Weston recognizes the importance of providing quality recreational experiences for its residents and visitors. To achieve these experiences, parks and other recreational sites must be conveniently located, interconnected, provide a variety of recreational opportunities, and possess natural and site characteristics that unlock those opportunities. In turn, a complete recreational system helps attract and retain residents and serves as a springboard for community and economic development.

As the village has grown and demographics and interests have changed, the demand for recreational space and activities has increased and become more diverse. This suggests a need to improve existing facilities, provide additional and different facilities, and respect the natural resources that characterize the village's recreational spaces. Limited fiscal resources also affect decisions to modify or improve the park and recreational system.

This chapter serves as the village's "comprehensive outdoor recreation plan," in combination with the Parks and Recreation chapter of Volume 1: Conditions and Issues. It is intended to guide decisions on the acquisition and development of parks, natural resource areas, trails, and other recreational resources in the village. Its particular focus is on village-owned facilities, but facilities run by other governmental and private entities are also considered, as is collaboration with these other entities. School-based recreational facilities and private and non-profit recreational facilities are shown on Map 7-2.

The adoption of this chapter by the Village Board, and subsequent approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), makes the village eligible for the subsequent five years to pursue funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the State Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program (ADLP), the Urban Greenspace Program, and through other State grant-in-aid programs under the "Stewardship" umbrella.

Historically, the village has had its "comprehensive outdoor recreation plan" as a separate, stand-alone plan from its Comprehensive Plan. For this cycle, the village decided to combine these plans into one document to assure coordination, aid in implementation, and capture opportunities that cross categorical areas of community development. There are particular linkages between the recommendations of this chapter and those in the Land Use, Economic Development, Housing and Neighborhoods, Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Implementation chapters. A successful and integrated park and recreational system is critical for the Village to achieve its overall vision.

### Top 10 Reasons to Enhance Recreational Opportunities

1. Promote physical activity, which is critical to maintaining human health.
2. Improve moods and enhance mental wellness.
3. Increase value of nearby properties.
4. Provide buffer and respite from continuous suburban development.
5. Provide wildlife habitat.
6. Facilitate social interaction for community cohesion and pride.
7. Provide locations for organized activities for all ages.
8. Associated activities provide a refuge of safety for at-risk youths.
9. Provide outlets for people with disabilities to actively engage in the community.
10. Embody Wisconsin tradition of preserving public lands for all.

Edited from "The Erosion of Our Communities: Cutting Parks and Recreation" written by Steven J. Thompson, CEO, Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association



State law requires comprehensive plans to be updated at least once every 10 years. Comprehensive outdoor recreation plans must be updated at least once every 5 years, meaning that this chapter will need to be updated twice as often as the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan. As described in the Implementation chapter, there is also an annual cycle to consider amendments to this Comprehensive Plan, within which park and recreational system information and directions may be amended. Each of these amendments should be forwarded to the WIDNR.

## 7.2. Goal

Weston will provide, maintain, and collaborate on trails, parks, playgrounds, and open spaces that encourage an active, engaged, and healthy community.

## 7.3. Objectives

1. Correlate park and recreational opportunities with community growth and evolving interests and demographics.
2. Provide places for traditional summer sports, along with alternative and all-season recreational opportunities.
3. Link park and recreational system development with community, economic, utility, transportation, and tourism development for mutual benefit.
4. Collaborate with other public, non-profit, private entities on recreational facilities.

## 7.4. 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. Factor in and attempt to quantify the tourism and other economic benefits of proposed park and recreational facilities as part of the development phase.
8. Pursue revenue-generating recreational activities, which can aid the development of new facilities and the maintenance of existing ones.
9. Develop an appropriate and equitable user fee system to help offset maintenance and operation costs.

Adopted: October 3, 2016

10. Pair recreational facility development with other planned village improvement projects, such as utilities and roads, wherever practical.
11. Use the village's capital improvements program as a guide to direct planned recreational facility development in conjunction with other capital needs.

## 7.5. Facility Acquisition and Development Initiatives

The following sections further describe the implementation priorities included on the cover page of this Chapter, and other initiatives the village may undertake or promote concerning the development and acquisition of new and existing park and recreational facilities.

### 7.5.1. Improve Yellowbanks Park as Nature-Based Gathering Spot

The Yellowbanks Park site has long been identified as a place for park facility redevelopment, improvement, and expansion—focused around its attractive and active riverfront and wooded setting.

Yellowbanks Park is a 52.8-acre community park straddling the Eau Claire River. Originally a County park, Yellowbanks Park remains a popular location for area residents. Its more developed north bank includes pit-toilet restrooms, two open-sided shelters, two paved parking lots that service each shelter, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, children's playground equipment, sand volleyball court, and informal launch for paddlers. The south bank currently includes an 11-hole disc golf course served by a parking lot, and is on Weston utility-owned land. The two sides of the park are connected by the Camp Phillips Road bridge on the east end, which includes a multi-use path.

At time of writing, the Village was engaged in a process to prepare a master plan for redevelopment and expansion of Yellowbanks Park. Once complete, the master plan will be built around a detailed map to highlight proposed changes, using the preliminary opportunities depicted in Map 7-1 as a starting point. In order to properly guide installation, the Yellowbanks Park Master Plan should also include a phasing schedule and construction cost estimate. This type of information assists with capital improvement planning and grant applications.

Suggested components of Yellowbanks Park improvement include:

- Disc golf course improved, potentially including a new parking lot, and eventually expanded to an 18-hole, tournament-ready facility.
- Installation of an accessible kayak and canoe launch near the restored embankment.
- A new parking lot associated with the launch and restored beach, possibly relocating the current volleyball court.
- Coordination with public utility needs, possibly including a new public works facility, well and well house on the south bank, and extension of public water and sewer to the Park.
- New combined shelter/bathroom/storage/ maintenance facilities on both sides of the River, replacing existing, outdated facilities. The well house on the north side of the Park may also be combined with this facility.



Adopted: October 3, 2016

- Improved and expanded playground equipment, possibly including the “boundless playground” described later in this chapter.
- Informal playfields in the area of the existing parking lot north of the River.
- New landscaping.
- Improved trails into wooded areas and along the riverfront. While the Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition still identifies Yellowbanks Park as a potential site for an off-road mountain biking course, there are significant space, use conflict, and soil constraints here. See the further discussion of siting opportunities later in this chapter.
- If possible, improved access between the north and south parts of the park via a dedicated bike and pedestrian crossing over the Eau Claire River.
- Explore opportunities for park expansion. The Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Lakes own property directly west of Yellowbanks Park, north of the Eau Claire River. This property is not currently listed by the Girl Scouts as actively used site. If it becomes available for acquisition, it could provide a means of park expansion. There are also two other camp sites in the immediate area – Camp Phillips Boy Scout Camp and YMCA Camp Sturtevant.
- Coordination with the ANR gas pipeline easement that runs north to south through the park. The type and extent to which new facilities can be built will be impacted by proximity to this easement and subject to the limitations it imposes. Generally, parking is an acceptable facility in the easement, but buildings are not.



**Combined park facilities can be designed for multiple purposes and to blend with natural surroundings.**

Map 7-1 on the following page will guide park master planning and village decision making related to Yellowbanks Park.



Adopted: October 3, 2016

### **7.5.2. Improve Kellyland Community Park for Multi-generational Recreational Use**

Kellyland Community Park is a 105.6-acre community park complex in the northcentral part of the village. Kellyland Park includes as components the 40-acre Weston Dog Park on a remediated landfill and a 20.6-acre area along the Eau Claire River, formerly known by some as the Callon Nature Area. The northern component contains an open play area, children's play equipment, a basketball court, horseshoe pits, four soccer fields with bleachers, an open shelter, picnic tables, benches and grills, a restroom, two unpaved parking lots, and a paved parking lot that also services the Weston Dog Park component to its south. The Weston Dog Park includes picnic tables, benches, a small dog exercise area, and beginner-level dog agility course obstacles. It is a popular Wausau area dog park destination.

At time of writing, the village was also engaged in a process to prepare a master plan for redevelopment and expansion of Kellyland Community Park. Map 7-2 on the following page will guide park master planning and village decision making related to Kellyland Community Park.



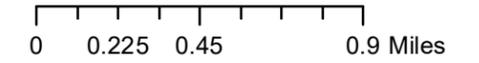


## Future Parks and Recreational Facilities

Adoption Date: 10/03/2016

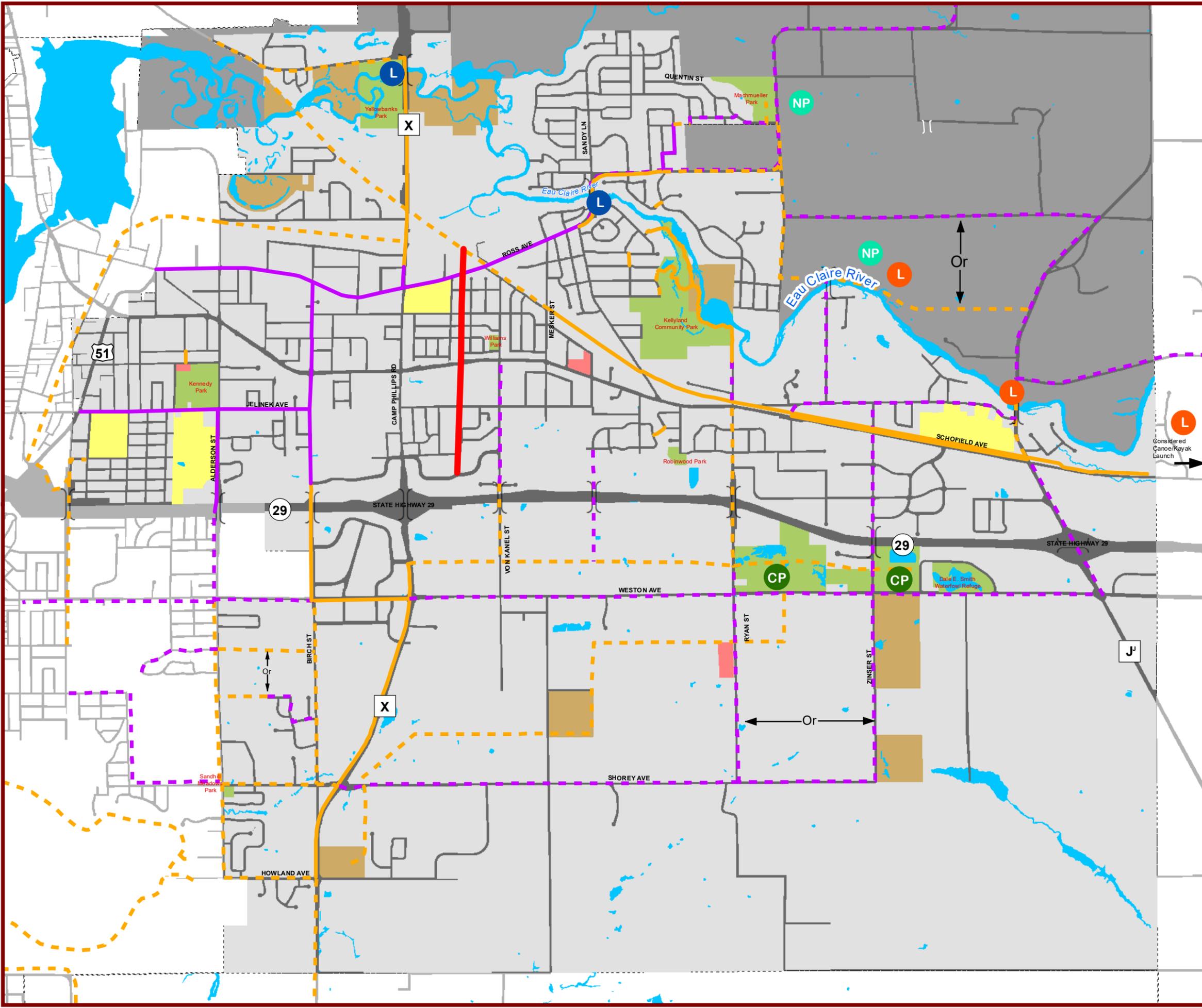
Map Date: 09/07/2016

Created by the Village of Weston  
Tech. Services Department



### Legend

- Village of Weston
- Town of Weston
- Other Municipalities
- Existing Village/Town Roads
- Other Existing Roads
- Surface Water
- Existing Facilities**
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Off-Road Trail
- On-Street Bike Connector
- Municipal Buildings
- Public Parks
- Privately Owned Recreational Facilities
- Public School Recreational Facilities
- Future Facilities**
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Off-Road Trail
- On-Street Bike Connector
- Conceptual Snowmobile Connection



### 7.5.3. Advance a Recreational Center on Weston's South Side

There are existing recreational facilities near Weston Avenue, south of Highway 29, including the Crane Meadows Golf Course, Dale E. Smith Waterfowl Refuge, and Weston Trap Club. The area also has natural features such as ponds, wetlands, and wooded areas; associated limitations to private development; and excellent regional access via the Highway 29/J interchange.

The village intends to build on these recreational lands and natural amenities south of Highway 29 to increase local recreational opportunities, reduce demands on other village parks like Kennedy Park, and advance tourism-related development. Initiatives include:

- **Regional Sports Complex.** At time of writing, the Village was pursuing development of a sports complex in the Weston Avenue corridor. The complex would expand recreational opportunities for residents of Weston, residents of nearby communities, and tourists. This, in turn, can drive business and tourism development (see sidebar).

Currently, athletic fields in Weston are scattered in parks that are either crowded (Kennedy) or less accessible for regional use (Robinwood and Machmueller). One proposed element of the Regional Sports Complex is a set of baseball and/or softball fields, and a set of hockey rinks, each designed to host school and league tournaments. The village in 2016 acquired additional lands south of Highway 29 near Zinser Street that are suitable for sports field use. There is an unmet demand for tournament space in the area, particularly for girls' fast pitch softball. Teams currently travel to Stevens Point (33 miles), Lake Hallie (100 miles), Rhinelander (68 miles), and Wisconsin Dells (111 miles) for tournaments. Since tournaments often stretch over two or more days, affordable overnight accommodations are needed and available in Weston.

Other facilities would be combined on the same site as the baseball and/or softball fields and/or hockey rinks. These include the "boundless playground" described later in this chapter, or a smaller playground. Sports complexes often include large playgrounds as complementary facilities, providing captivating places for children to play while a parent or older sibling is playing ball.

#### Economic Impact of Recreation Attractions

Since their operational costs often exceed their revenues, a budgetary analysis of investments in parks and recreation departments often reveal little return on investment. This is a simplistic view, since the return on investment is often seen in the community rather in a municipal budget.

Economic impact analyses reveal the impact of tourism generated by park attractions, such as festivals or sports tournaments. These analyses find that these attractions can be major drivers of economic health.

While most significant recreation centers generate economic activity, tourism can be difficult to measure, as its impacts overlap in several industries, such as retail and hospitality. Also, as a note of caution, such analyses often only measure gross economic benefits. Infrastructure and events costs, for example, can negate the positive benefits otherwise made by offering an attraction.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

- **Prohaska Family Nature Center.** The village in 2016 also acquired an approximately 90-acre parcel east of Ryan Street and north of and Weston Avenue, most of which has been known as the Prohaska Tree Farm. This property is wooded and has six ponds.
- **Off-road Cycling Facility.** Additionally, the Prohaska Family Nature Center or other south side lands could become home to an off-road mountain bicycling facility, likely in conjunction the Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC). See the extended discussion later in this chapter about mountain biking facilities.



This preliminary concept plan illustrates how a major sports complex could be developed on Weston's south side.

These recreational ideas for Weston's south side may proceed independently or in concert. In either case, the village will seek collaboration and partnerships with a variety of organizations. These may include the D.C. Everest School District, Marathon County, the Wausau Region Chamber of Commerce, youth and adult softball and baseball organizations, CWOCC, and current golf course and trap club owners. The village will also seek funding associated in the form of grants, specifically Stewardship/LAWCON for land acquisition.

#### 7.5.4. Improve Accessible Facilities in Village Parks

Many of Weston's park facilities are aging and have not kept pace with the phenomenal growth seen in Weston over the past 20 years. Further, handicapped accessible facilities, now required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are generally lacking in Weston. The ADA specifically requires that "each service, program or activity conducted by a public entity, when viewed in its entirety, be readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities." Finally, modern and dynamic park facilities are a key component of resident attraction to a community.

The village endeavors to make all park facilities barrier free, meeting the intent of the ADA. The village will work to upgrade its existing park and playground facilities to meet accessibility standards when opportunities present themselves. Several of the potential projects for each of the parks, presented on the maps in this chapter, will improve accessibility once implemented. As new park equipment and facilities are built, they will be designed to be barrier free and accessible to all park users.

Adopted: October 3, 2016

In collaboration with others in the community, the village also desires to site and develop a “boundless playground.” Playgrounds that provide children of varying abilities a range of experiences that allow them the developmental and physical benefits of unstructured play are often called accessible or boundless playgrounds. The idea for a boundless playground has support and interest from both the village and D.C. Everest School District. Partnering with the School District could help with funding and maintenance of the eventual site.



**Conceptual rendering of a “boundless playground” in Weston  
(Source: Park & Play Structures, 2010)**

Boundless playgrounds also provide access for children in wheelchairs and accommodates for other disabilities as well. The United States Access Board guidelines stipulate that children limited by wheelchairs and other disabilities should not only have access to playground equipment, but be able to play with it with minimal assistance. Ramps and decks, though they provide a way to navigate the play structure, are not considered play components. Swings, playhouses, and slides, as examples, are considered play components. Providing these elements makes a playground inclusive for children of all abilities.

The village will seek partnership with the School District, private donations of time and money, and grant dollars if available in the siting, development, and maintenance of the boundless playground.

There are several sites in Weston being considered for the boundless playground site. These include Yellowbanks Park, the possible Regional Sports Complex described in Section 7.5.3, the Weston Elementary School site, and Kellyland Community Park. The benefits and limitations of each of these sites are listed in Figure 7-1.

The Weston Elementary School site is preferred. The site provides good access to the community and support from the School District administration. Until 2014, the Village maintained an ice rink at Weston Elementary School. The Village has since decided to abandon the rink at this location, choosing instead to focus on the ice rink located at Kennedy Park. Accessible to both a school parking lot and Sternberg Avenue, the general area of the former ice rink would seem suitable for a boundless playground.



**Figure 7-1: Opportunities and Constraints for Potential Boundless Playground Sites**

Site	Opportunities	Constraints
<u>Weston Elementary School</u> (preferred site)	+ Open and flat land + Proximity to school + Support from school officials + School may generate interest from more donors + Walkable from nearby neighborhoods + Center of population and activity	- Expected traffic increases on nearby streets - More complex intergovernmental relations - Potential time-of-day use restrictions during school year - Crossing improvements on nearby streets warranted
<u>Yellowbanks Park</u>	+ Known and popular site in community + Cross-benefits with other on-site recreational offerings	- Space competition with other facilities & easements - Not a nature-based activity - Location on northwest part of community - School support questionable
<u>Regional Sports Complex South of Highway 29</u>	+ Cross-benefits with other on-site recreational offerings + Regionally accessible	- Not walkable - Other competing land demand - May be more long-term than other options - School support questionable
<u>Kellyland Community Park</u>	+ Land availability in underused soccer fields + Central location + Available parking	- School support questionable - Not highly visible - Other uses being considered for underused soccer fields - Park geared towards older residents - Potential conflicts between dogs and young children

**7.5.5. Develop and Maintain an All-season Multi-use Trail Network**  

Within Weston, there are several local and regional multiuse, off-street trails. Such trails provide for bike and pedestrian access. Depending on surfacing and corridor width, some also provide access for in-line skating, cross-country skiing, and/or snowmobiling. The village desires to interconnect existing trails to form a system, as represented in Map 7-2. Such an interconnected network will better connect neighborhoods with parks, shopping, and jobs. Further, regional links beyond Weston’s boundaries and loops will enhance experiences and economic activity. Where possible, new trails should use existing environmental and utility corridors. Recommended efforts include:

- **Mountain-Bay Trail Completion.** The Weston Municipal Center is the current western terminus for the 83-mile Mountain-Bay State Trail. The village intends to support the County and State partners, whose task it is to complete the remaining stretch of Mountain-Bay Trail west to Rib Mountain (which provides part of the trail’s name) and to Wausau. There are areas along and parallel to the trail that the village has paved in order to accommodate pedestrians.



These sections of the trail are not part of the official Mountain-Bay Trail. Connections to the local street network should be provided wherever possible. Support facilities and amenities along the trail are also advisable, such as bike storage and maintenance racks and informational kiosks. The village has developed a special zoning district to guide development along the trail to assure compatible adjacent development.

- **Eau Claire River Trailhead Improvements.** There have been issues between trail users and residents living on Ryan Street, near the south entrance to the trail. The area would benefit from a more defined parking area, which is currently unpaved and not organized to handle more than a handful of vehicles. The north entrance to the trail is currently underutilized, and construction of a more formal entrance at Kellyland Park could relieve some of the congestion seen at the southern entrance. Expanding the trail to include an internal loop may also be desirable. Finally, a better connection from the parking lot to the actual trail at either end of the trail should alleviate issues between property owners and trail users.
- **Eau Claire River Trail Extension.** The village's trail along the Eau Claire River is a local attraction and recreational centerpiece. The village has been exploring opportunities to extend this trail to the east and west along the River corridor. In places, the trail may need to utilize existing streets and bridges where public lands or easements are unavailable. Safely and conveniently getting cyclists and pedestrians to the River Trail from existing neighborhoods is also a priority. Support facilities and amenities should be provided along the trail route.
- **Southwest Off-Road Trail Extensions.** As seen on Map 7-3, the village intends to extend the Birch Street multi-use path from Weston Avenue to Shorey Avenue. At the Birch/Shorey intersection, several connections are advised, including a southern connection to Howland Avenue, an eastern connection to Camp Phillips Road, and a western connection to Alderson Street. The Alderson Street extension would provide a logical link to the Rothschild trail network. At a minimum, sidewalks separated from the street pavement in this area are advised.
- **Other Regional Connections.** The 2007-2012 Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan suggests creating a Wausau to Weston connection along the Northwestern Avenue rail corridor. The village has anticipated this addition by including a proposed route on Map 7-3, and will work with the County to achieve this connection. Also depicted on the map are proposed off-street paths leading to proposed on-street connectors as planned by the neighboring communities of Kronenwetter and Rothschild. Thus, the proposed off- and on-street routes in Weston contribute to connecting many municipalities within the Wausau metro area.
- **Snowmobile Trail Connections to Mountain-Bay.** In winter, snowmobile trails are a popular form of entertainment and recreation. They are also a significant driver of winter tourism. Weston is part of a larger snowmobile network. The village includes several logical starting points to access the snowmobile trails, particularly the Mountain-Bay Trail. The village will seek to improve linkages within the village limits, such as providing a better linkage between the Mountain-Bay Trail and the hotels and other amenities along Highway 29, perhaps by working with ATC to use its power line easement, and by providing more ways to cross the Eau Claire River if possible. Providing and assigning designated parking spaces at trail access points in places like the Weston Municipal Center, possibly with a nominal fee to offset costs, will help drive trail usage.



- **Eau Claire River Water Trail.** The village desires to expand use of the Eau Claire River for canoeing, kayaking, tubing, fishing, and swimming. To maintain a successful water trail, navigability during most times of the year is key, including the maintenance of sufficient water flow and the cleaning of woody and other debris.

Other potential barriers, such as bridges and underpasses, need to be considered. Map 7-3 shows potential locations for water trail launches, some of which are used informally today. Launches should be designed with a firm surface for launching (despite changes in sedimentation levels), a launch area of 15 to 25 feet long and 6 to 12 feet wide, slopes of not more than 15 percent (or 8.33 percent to meet ADA accessibility standards), and water level of at least two feet. Also, handrails or other support structures, including step-down designs or ropes, help paddlers balance their weight during put-in and take-out. Launches should also be accompanied by convenient parking areas. Trailhead signs and bridge underpass signs installed along the water trail also would provide users an easy way to identify progress along the trail and ease when finding their destination.

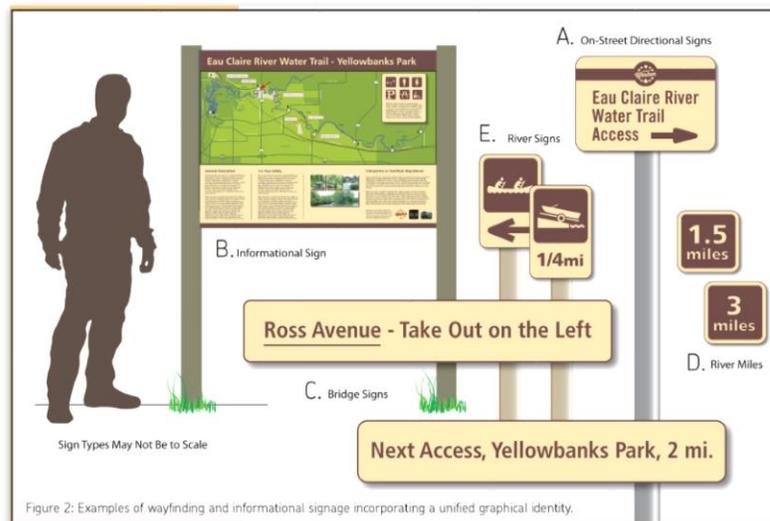


Figure 2: Examples of wayfinding and informational signage incorporating a unified graphical identity.

**Providing signs along the water trail will help users with navigation.**

### 7.5.6. Collaborate on Development of an Off-Road Bicycling Facility

The Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) desires to make the Wausau area a regional mountain biking destination. The official designation being sought is as an International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Ride Center. The IMBA Ride Center designation represents IMBA's Model Trail recognition for large-scale mountain bike facilities that offer something for every rider. CWOCC believes that the Wausau area is ideally positioned among existing Ride Centers, and contains the amenities to meet the IMBA's criteria. The Village of Weston supports CWOCC's efforts to get the Wausau area accredited as an international mountain biking destination.

CWOCC has identified Weston as a potential collaborator on its mountain biking master plan and desire to be an IMBA Ride Center, and the village has mutual interest. This master plan envisions a regional series of trail sites located in various municipalities, with different sites geared toward different types of users and terrain. Each trail site should be within a 30-minute radius from a designated geographic spot in the Wausau area.

Potential Weston sites for such a course include the 40-acre D.C. Everest School Forest on Heeren Street, Yellowbanks Park, and the Prohaska Family Nature Center or other lands south of Highway 29. CWOCC has already completed some preliminary analysis for each site, summarized in Figure 7-2 on the following page.

**Figure 7-2: Opportunities and Constraints for Off-Road Bicycling Sites in Weston**

Site	Opportunities	Constraints
<u>Prohaska Family Nature Center</u> (preferred site)	+ Adjacent to other recreational opportunities + Easy access from Highway/29/J interchange + Regional accessibility + Develop trail for snow bike use, allowing for usage in most seasons + Ideal siting for a “gateway” trail	- Power and pipeline easements may limit where trails could go
<u>Yellowbanks Park</u>	+ Suitable site area and terrain, including pump track + Available public space + Known and popular site in community + Cross-benefits with other on-site recreational offerings + Adjacent to existing off-road trail	- Could be significant space competition with other existing and planned facilities and easements, which would require master plan to sort through - Potential conflict between activities, notably disc golf versus cyclists - Likely opposition from local disc golf group - Sandy soils at the site may be susceptible to erosion
<u>D.C. Everest School Forest - Heeren Street Site</u>	+ Suitable site area and terrain + Several stakeholders may assist share costs and responsibilities	- Potentially incompatible uses and user groups. - Planned trail loop extends into privately owned land - Rural location not ideal - Wetlands and power line easement may impede sustainable construction - School District not supportive

Regardless of location, the village (or the School District) and CWOCC would have detailed roles to play in site development, operation, and management, which would be formalized by agreement. The village (or School District) could function as the land manager and be responsible for major site infrastructure and land acquisition, where applicable. CWOCC would fundraise, develop, and maintain the trails; develop appropriate signage; and provide seasonal opening and closing dates.

CWOCC’s 2013 long-range plan for mountain biking for the Wausau area includes the following recommendations for areas seeking IMBA designation, which Weston supports:

- **Bicycle Parking.** Installing bike racks in each site would provide secure parking for residents and visitors. A set of bicycle parking recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) can be found in Figure 7-3, which are advisable both for mountain



biking sites and village-wide. The amount of space needed for a bike rack, and how to determine good bike rack designs are included in those guidelines.

**Figure 7-3: Bicycle Parking Guidelines**

**Bicycle Parking Guidelines**  
*A summary of recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals*

- 1) **Bicycle Parking Space Size, Access Aisles, and Vertical Clearance**
  - a) Required bicycle parking spaces shall be at least 2 feet by 6 feet.
  - b) An access aisle of at least 5 feet shall be provided in each bicycle parking facility.
  - c) Such space shall have a vertical clearance of at least 6 feet.
  
- 2) **Bicycle Rack Design**  
 Structures that require a user-supplied locking device
  - a) shall be designed to accommodate U-shaped locking devices, & support the bike frame at two points.
  - b) All lockers and racks must be securely anchored to the ground or the building structure to prevent the racks and lockers from being removed from the location.
  - c) The surfacing of such facilities shall be designed and maintained to be mud and dust free.
  
- 3) **Bicycle Rack Location on Site**
  - a) Bicycle parking facilities shall be located in a clearly designated safe and convenient location.
  - b) The design and location of such facility shall be harmonious with the surrounding environment.
  - c) The facility location shall be at least as convenient as the majority of auto parking spaces provided.

**Examples of Bicycle racks that do not meet the design requirements above:**



Grid or Fence Style Racks



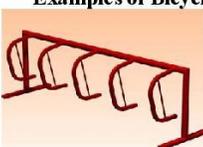
Wave or Ribbon Style racks



Racks that hold the bike by the wheel with no way to lock the frame and wheel to the rack with a U-lock



**Examples of Bicycle racks that do meet the design requirements above:**



Madrax Spartan Rack



Madrax Sentry Rack

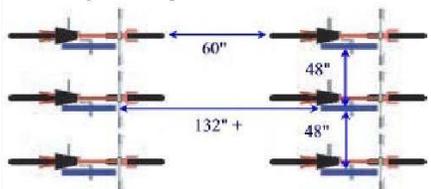


Dero Campus Rack



Saris City Rack

**Layout for inverted-U type rack installation, two bicycles to be parked on each inverted-U.**





#127003  
Inverted-U Type Racks



Dero Bike Hitch



Saris Post & Ring



Dero Swerve Rack

If you have questions about whether a particular bicycle parking rack you are considering using meets these requirements, please contact NCWRPC planner: Fred Heider, AICP at [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org). (Rev. 6-2014)

Layout created by City of Madison

Adopted: October 3, 2016

- **Bike-friendly Lodging.** Specific bike facilities at each hotel are important when enticing people to visit the local trails. At least 25% of available rooms/hotel sites should be “bicycle-friendly” within the region near the Ride Center. In addition to outdoor parking facilities (described above), hotels, motels, and campgrounds should have bike washes, secure bike storage, and/or allow bikes in rooms.

### 7.5.7. Expand Recreational Facilities for the Aging Population

Weston’s population aged 55 and over has increased faster than other age groups over the past decade, which is expected to continue for the next 20 or so years. Many of the facilities in Weston’s parks do not offer much for this group of residents. The village, therefore, desires to offer recreational amenities that provide an aging population with new ways to exercise and enjoy Weston’s park system.

An expanded trail network, advised above, is one way that the village can grow recreational opportunities for the senior population. This will particularly be the case if trails can be expanded into locations that provide other passive recreational opportunities, such as birding and fishing.

Pickleball is game that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. It uses a badminton court but a lower net like tennis. These elements, combined with the use of a wiffle-type ball, makes for an alternative to tennis or other high impact sports that is easier on the body. It is gaining in popularity among all ages, but has a particular enthusiasm among active seniors. The Badger State Games had its 2014 pickleball tournament at Greenheck Fieldhouse. A pickleball league is also hosted there. The City of Wausau has four pickleball courts.



**Pickleball is played in teams and can be played outdoors or indoors.**

The village endeavors to site outdoor pickleball courts in the community. At the time of writing, the best site for development of pickleball courts in Weston is Kellyland Park, potentially to replace a soccer field. The soccer fields here are no longer heavily utilized. Existing parking and the compatible dog park and trail uses also support Kellyland as a location for additional senior-oriented activities like pickleball. Machmueller Park may also serve as another appropriate village-owned site for pickleball. Other potential locations include the Aspirus YMCA, which may be able to provide space for outdoor courts given their interest level. The YMCA already provides programs for active seniors. Another appropriate general location, mindful of the need for physical activities within walking distance of existing senior living centers, would be near Camp Phillips Road and Weston Avenue.

## 7.6. Operational Initiatives

The following sections include initiatives designed to assure the safe and efficient operation of Weston's park and recreational facilities. These initiatives may seem basic and generic compared to the site-specific initiatives previously discussed, but they are essential for the upkeep and maintenance of the village's park system. Maintaining an adequate staff to maintain the park system is also a priority. The village will add new staff as practical.

### 7.6.1. Provide Sustainable Funding for Weston's Parks

The village will develop sustainable funding and cost-control mechanisms for park and recreation acquisition, development, program operation, and management. The village will also utilize this Chapter's maintenance program recommendations as a guide to establish annual operational budgets.

An appropriate and equitable use fee system will help offset maintenance and operations costs. Some programs already issue fees for services, such as the summer and after school programs and admission to the Aquatic Center. Creating more revenue generating activities, or applying fees to other group and individual users of parks, would help assure that those benefitting from the parks pay a fair share.

Other potential funding mechanisms include:

- Requiring payment in lieu of dedication of parkland (where no land is desired) and/or park development or impact fees on new development in order to meet future needs for space and facilities.
- Encouraging developer-installed trails and recreational facilities in dedicated parks or as components of their developments are also a way to expand and pay for park facilities.
- Utilizing the capital improvements program as a guide to establish yearly park capital budgets.
- Pursuing the development of revenue generating recreational activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities
- Pursuing grant funding through State and Federal programs, and through the County's Environmental Impact Fund, which can aid in the purchase or development of desired park system improvements.
- Realizing the potential for donations to aid in park system development, including naming rights.

### 7.6.2. Develop Formal Joint Use Policies

At time of writing, the village charged all user groups for field use or requires the group to invest in the fields. Developing more formal joint use policies among the village, D.C. Everest School District, Wausau /Central Wisconsin Convention and Visitor's Bureau (WCWCVB) and recreational associations would help develop, maintain, improve, and expand Village park facilities in a cost-effective manner. These policies often take the form of agreements outlining the revenue and maintenance needed for park facilities that receive use from multiple parties.



### 7.6.3. Improve Park Security

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

### 7.6.4. Improve Playground Safety

The village will identify and replace all playground equipment that does not meet Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) or American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International safety guidelines. The village will also provide a safe “fall zone” directly under play equipment and within the use area around the play equipment. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel and bark or wood chips, to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. Additionally, to meet ADA requirements, resilient rubber or a similar product provides safe, barrier-free access to transfer points on the play equipment.

### 7.6.5. Incorporate WiFi into Park Shelters

As presented in the Broadband Technology Plan in Volume 3, residents desire more widespread wireless internet access throughout the village. Offering wireless capabilities in park shelters with proper security is one way of providing that access in places that receive consistent and concentrated public use. It is also a tool to market Weston as a connected community. Wireless networks will have a filter for appropriate use and a time limit for users in order to prohibit loitering and inappropriate usage. The village will focus on high-traffic parks like Kennedy, Yellowbanks, and Machmueller for WiFi access.

### 7.6.6. Promote Private Providers of Recreation

The Village of Weston will continue to collaborate with other providers of recreation, but will not itself develop recreational programming. The village also relies on other providers to meet certain recreational space needs in the area. For instance, no park in the village system has tennis courts, but a sufficient number of tennis courts are provided by the D.C. Everest High School. Similarly, the village lacks indoor recreational facilities, but a private market already exists through the School District and other providers. The village has no plans to provide recreational programming or indoor facilities beyond what already exists.

### 7.6.7. Execute Specific Improvement Plans for Each Existing Park

The village has an attractive array of existing neighborhood and community parks that will require maintenance and may warrant improvement. These include Yellowbanks Park and Kellyland Community Park, which are targeted for more extensive improvement and is described earlier in this chapter. The following is an overview of the other parks in the village’s system, depicted on Map 7-3 and described more fully in the Conditions and Issues volume of the Comprehensive Plan:

- **J.F. Kennedy Park** is a 38.8 acre, heavily developed and utilized community park on the village’s southwest edge, directly north of D.C. Everest High School. Kennedy is home to the Weston Aquatic Center, which serves residents from Weston and nearby communities. Kennedy Park also has three baseball diamonds; two irrigated, regulation sized soccer fields; one sand volleyball court with permanent standards; two horseshoe pits; one lighted hockey rink; one lighted open skating rink and warming house with restroom facilities; an 8,000 square

foot concrete skate park; one open sided shelter building; two freestanding permanent restroom buildings; two children's play equipment areas; an unstructured open play area; two small sledding hills; picnic tables; grills and benches, and approximately 250 parking stalls divided among four paved parking lots and two unpaved lots.

- **Machmueller Park** is a 32.1-acre park community park on Weston's



**The Weston Aquatic Center is one of several heavily utilized facilities in Kennedy Park.**

northeast side, along the border with the Town of Weston. The town participated in the purchase of a portion of Machmueller Park, but has generally not been responsible for the general maintenance or the improvements that were completed at this Park (except for fencing on the tee ball baseball fields). Machmueller's facilities include children's play equipment, a Little League baseball field, three tee ball fields, one regulation sized soccer field with bleachers, a large open play area, a "born learning" trail for young children, a walking path with fitness course, an open shelter, picnic tables and grills, a paved road into the park, and a large paved parking lot.

- **Robinwood Park** is a 5.1-acre neighborhood park with a Little League baseball diamond, children's play equipment, a basketball court, open play areas, an open shelter, picnic tables and grills, two paved parking lots, and restrooms.
- **Sandhill Meadows Park** is a 2-acre neighborhood park with a children's play equipment area, a soccer field, a volleyball court, a basketball hoop, an open shelter, grills, restrooms, and a paved parking lot.
- **Williams Park** is a 2.5-acre neighborhood park with a sand volleyball court, an open play area, children's play equipment area, picnic tables, grills, benches, and approximately seven off-street lighted parking stalls in an unpaved lot.

The village will continue to perform systematic, routine maintenance of these parks and their equipment. Routine maintenance is considered to be the routine repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building. Routine maintenance of park facilities does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Department's operations budget. This includes replacing old and deteriorating recreation equipment, and meeting federal and industry guidelines as practical.

Capital improvements to a park are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, such as replacing a playground or upgrading a toilet facility to be barrier free, usually would be considered a capital improvement.

Capital improvements are generally ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park. Improvements to existing facilities will usually rank the highest in

Adopted: October 3, 2016

the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always highly-ranked.

The maps on the following pages provide potential capital projects that the village may undertake for each existing park, aside from Yellowbanks Park and Kellyland Community Park, which are addressed earlier in this chapter because the expected investments are greater. Included are projected costs of most proposed capital projects, in 2014 dollars.

#### **7.6.8. Pursue Further Parkland Acquisition in Conjunction with Community Expansion**

In addition, Map 7-3, earlier in this chapter, identifies two potential additional neighborhood parks to the north of the Eau Claire River, east of the current village limits. As the planned residential development in that area occurs, the village anticipates obtaining 5 to 10 acres in each location through developer dedication. For the first potential park site, access to the Eau Claire River is preferred. Neighborhood park development should include active and passive short-term recreational opportunities, such as a ball field, accessible playground, and shelter. The second potential site would be adjacent to Machmueller Park.



### Kennedy Park and Aquatic Center Projects

Priority	Potential Future Project	Cost
1	Install fall zone around merry-go-round	\$600
2	Install additional surveillance to include shelter	TBD
3	Insulate and heat Mechanical Room (Aq Center)	\$20,000
4	Improve ice rink	TBD
5	Pave office parking lot	\$30,000
6	New siding, windows, and soffit on warming house	\$10,000
7	Remodel/add-on Maintenance Shop	\$45,000
8	Reconstruct sand volleyball court	\$1,000
9	New amenities at the Aquatic Center	TBD
10	Install park trees/landscaping	\$10,000
11	Install a public amphitheater/gathering spot	TBD





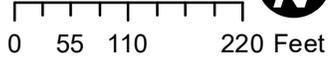
**Village of Weston  
Comprehensive Plan**

**7-4**

**Legend**

<span style="color: orange;">P</span> Parking	<span style="color: cyan;">FG</span> Playground	<span style="color: blue;">SC</span> Soccer
<span style="color: yellow;">R</span> Restrooms	<span style="color: green;">V</span> Volleyball	<span style="color: purple;">H</span> Horseshoe
<span style="color: brown;">S</span> Shelter	<span style="color: red;">BB</span> Baseball	<span style="border: 2px solid green; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Parkland

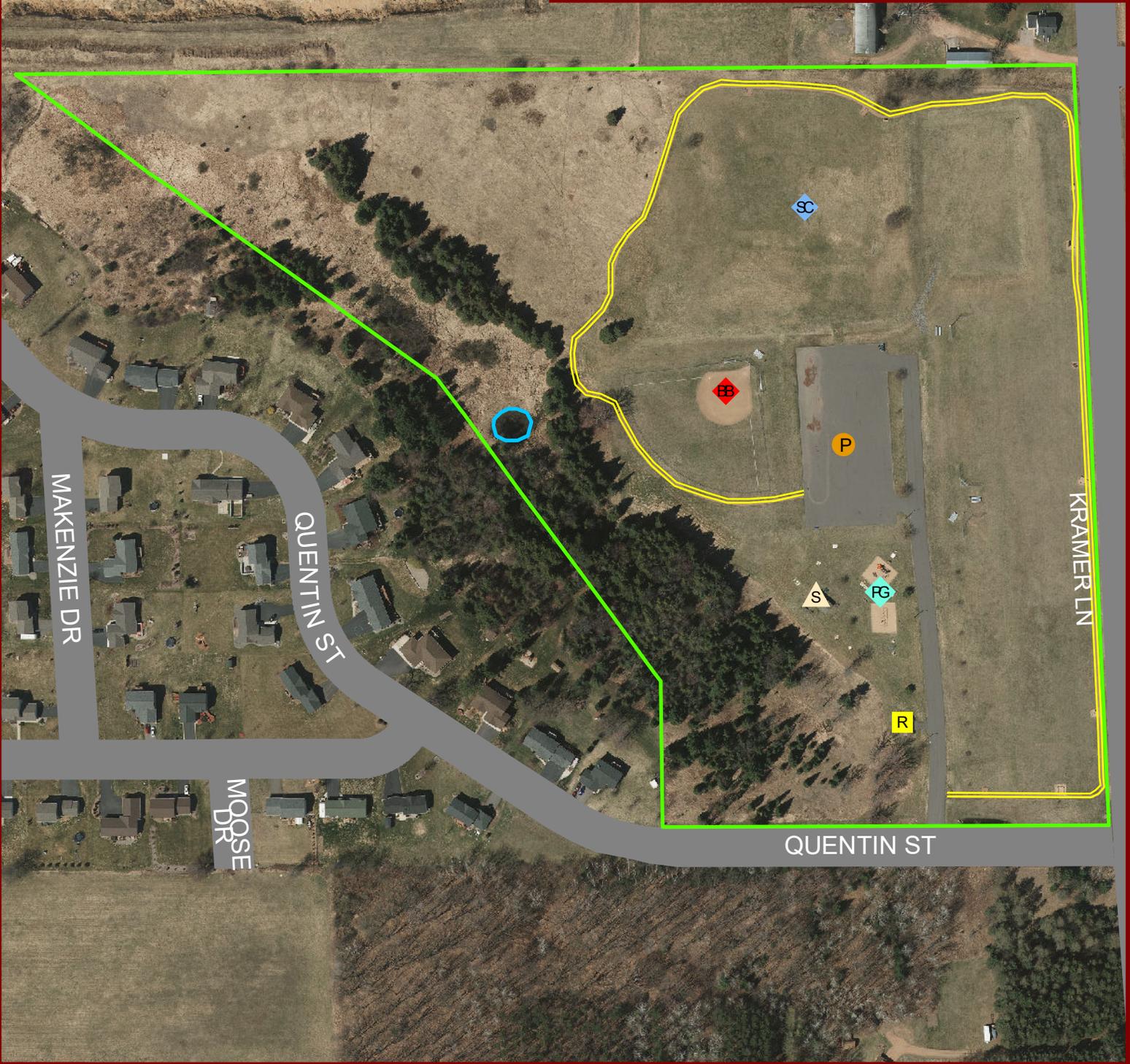
**John F. Kennedy Park**

Date: 08/16/2016  
 Adoption Date: 10/03/2016  
 Created by the Village of Weston  
 Tech. Services Department

Vilas E. Machmueller Park

Priority	Potential Future Project	Cost
1	Install volleyball court	\$2,000
2	Install basketball court	\$5,000
3	Install Pickleball courts	\$3,000
4	Install park trees/landscaping	\$2,000
5	Expand parkland	TBD

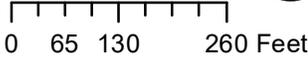


**Village of Weston**  
**Comprehensive Plan 7-5**

Vilas E. Machmueller Park



Date: 08/14/2016  
 Adoption Date: 10/03/2016  
 Created by the Village of Weston  
 Tech. Services Department



**Legend**

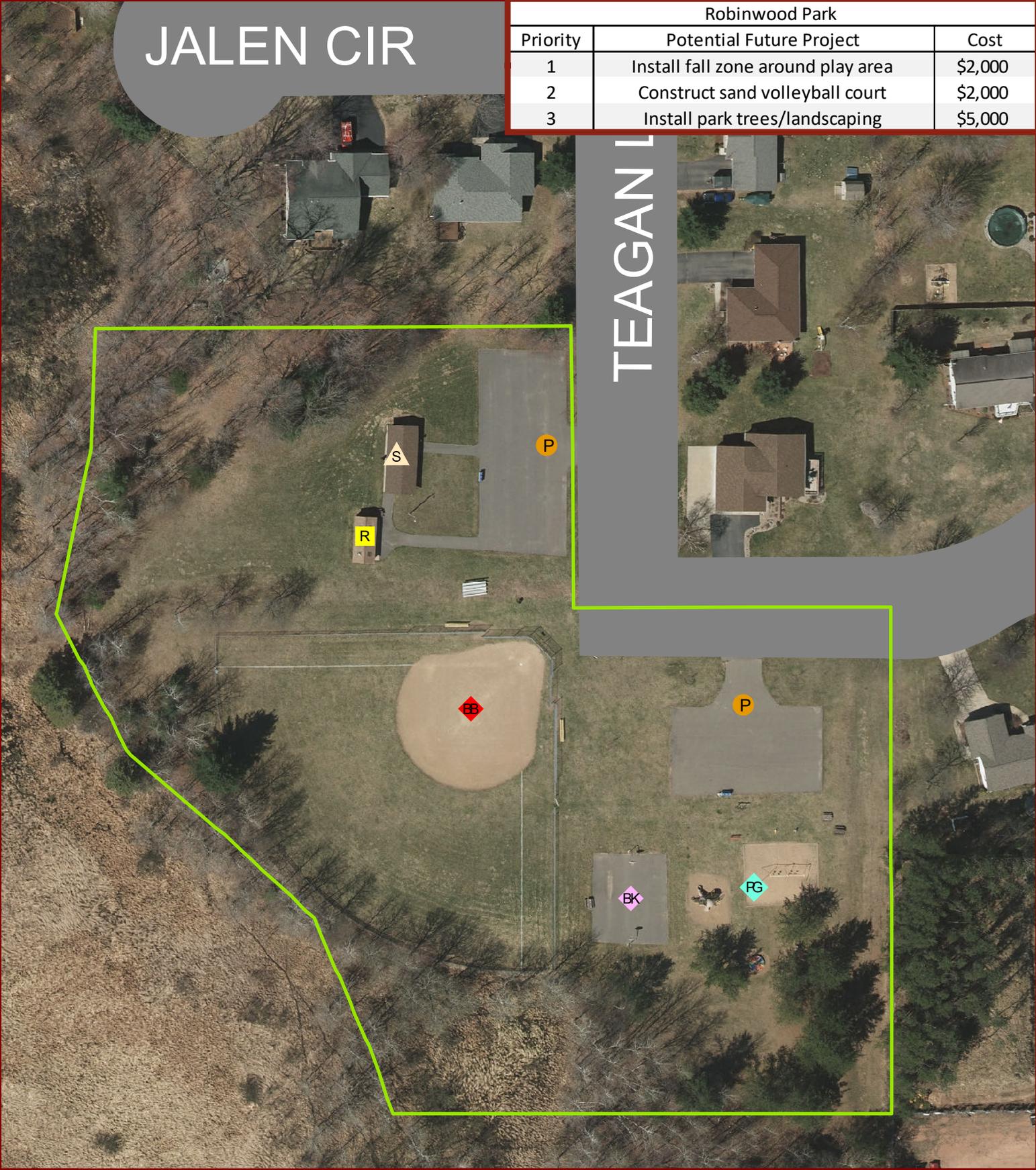
- P Parking
- FG Playground
- Fitness Trail
- R Restrooms
- BB Baseball
- Parkland
- S Shelter
- SC Soccer
- Surface Water

# JALEN CIR

## Robinwood Park

Priority	Potential Future Project	Cost
1	Install fall zone around play area	\$2,000
2	Construct sand volleyball court	\$2,000
3	Install park trees/landscaping	\$5,000

# TEAGAN L



## Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan

# 7-6

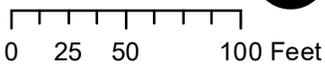
### Legend

- P Parking
- ◆ FG Playground
- Parkland
- R Restrooms
- ◆ BB Baseball
- ▲ S Shelter
- ◆ BK Basketball

### Robinwood Park



Date: 08/13/2016  
Adoption Date: 10/03/2016  
Created by the Village of Weston  
Tech. Services Department



# SHOREY

Sandhill Meadows Park		
Priority	Potential Future Project	Cost
1	Install fall zone around merry-go-round	\$600
2	Reconstruct sand volleyball court	\$1,000
3	Install park trees/landscaping	\$5,000



## Village of Weston Comprehensive Plan

7-7

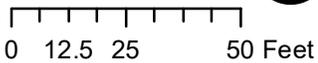
### Legend

- Parking
- ◆ Playground
- Parkland
- Restrooms
- ◆ Soccer
- ▲ Shelter
- ◆ Volleyball

### Sandhill Meadow Park

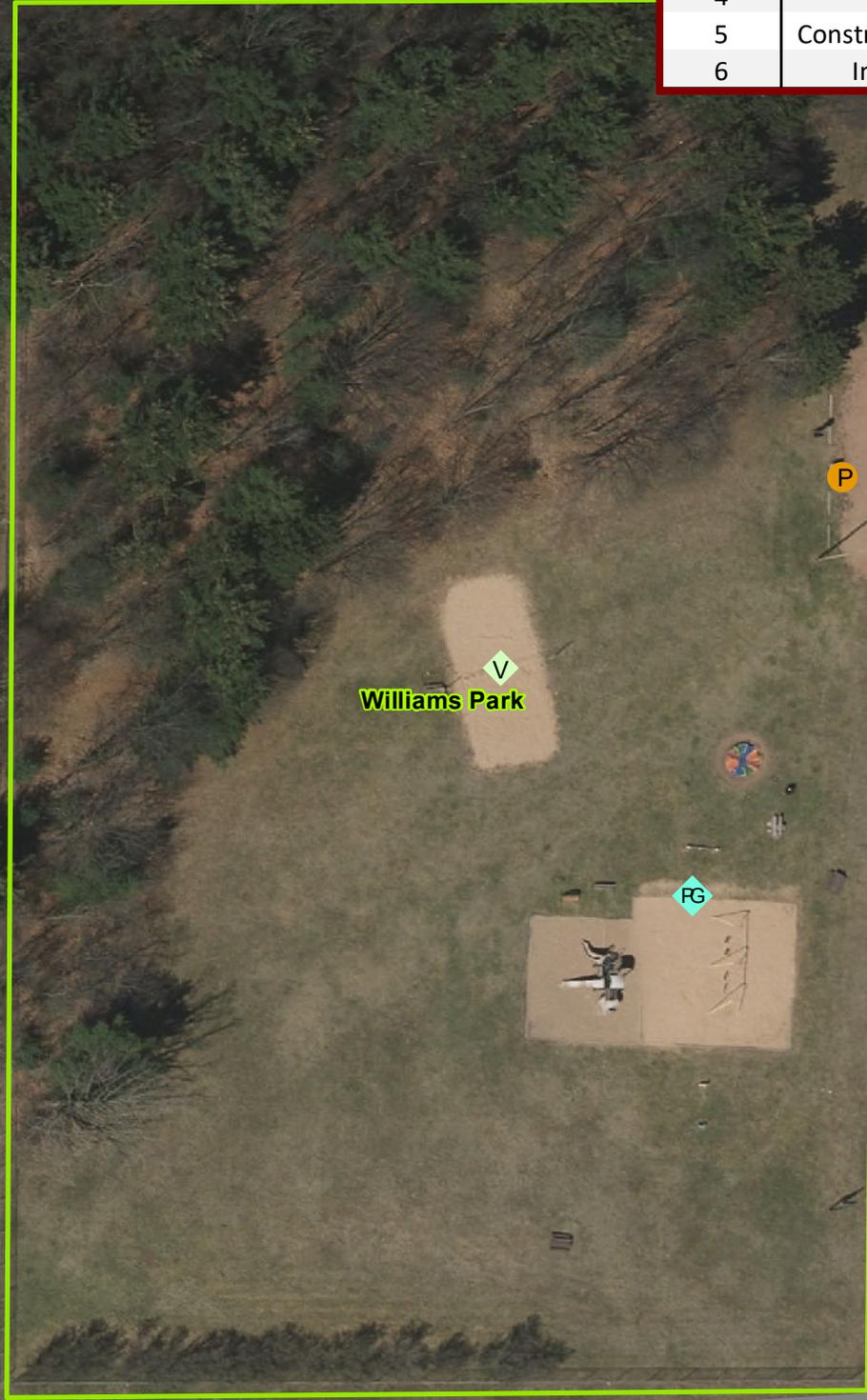


Date: 08/13/2016  
Adoption Date: 10/03/2016  
Created by the Village of Weston  
Tech. Services Department



Williams Park

Priority	Potential Future Project	Cost
1	Install play equipment for 2 - 5 year olds	\$30,000
2	Install fall zone around playground	\$1,500
3	Reconstruct sand volleyball court	\$1,000
4	Pave parking lot	\$3,000
5	Construct a small shelter w/bathrooms	\$40,000
6	Install park trees/landscaping	\$5,000



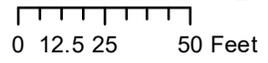
KANEL ST



**Legend**

- P Parking
- FG Playground
- V Volleyball
- Public Parks

Williams Park



Date: 08/13/2016  
 Adoption Date: 10/03/2016  
 Created by the Village of Weston  
 Tech. Services Department