



# City of Sun Prairie Parks & Open Space Plan 2017-2022



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Planning Assistance by:





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Purpose:** The *City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan* accomplishes two important tasks: it inventories the physical facilities and lands that make up the City’s park and open space system, and it provides guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. The *Plan* addresses the community’s long-range park and open space needs over the next 25 years, with a particular focus on the community’s park and recreation needs for the next five years (2017-2022).

**The essence of the *Parks and Open Space Plan* is contained in the text and maps of Chapter VIII.**

**Chapter I** briefly describes the relationship between the *Plan* and state and federal requirements. Adoption of a new *Plan* maintains the City’s eligibility for county, state, and federal matching grants through 2022.

**Chapter II** describes the City’s baseline demographic conditions and future trends. The City has an estimated 2015 population of about 32,365. According to population projections by Vandewalle & Associates (based on compounded growth rates experienced between 2010 and 2015), the City’s population is projected to reach 41,260 in 2027; 43,842 in 2030; 48,509 in 2035; and 53,674 in 2040. These population projections form the basis of the park system needs analysis in Chapter VII.

**Chapter III** details all of the City’s existing public park and recreation facilities. These are compiled in Figure 8 on pages 19-21 and depicted on Map 1 on page 23. The City has an excellent park system and strong recreation program offerings, managed by a well-qualified and experienced staff. The community is well served by community and neighborhood parks, but no new park and recreation facilities have been added since 2008.

**Chapter IV** describes the strong public participation process that guided the development of the *Plan*. A key public participation component was a widely-distributed online survey. The survey had 637 responses. The full results of the survey are presented in Appendix B. Public participation efforts also included two public workshops, user group interviews, an open house, and a public hearing prior to adoption. Overall, public input indicated community members favored the following new amenities, facilities, and programming. (Facilities and programs are listed in alphabetical order rather than order of priority.)

- Adult fitness and wellness programs
- Bike trail/path connectivity
- Community center
- Disc golf course
- Expansion and maintenance of Family Aquatic Center
- Outdoor performance venue/band shell
- Pet exercise area/dog park
- Mountain bike trails/bike skills facility
- Multi-use athletic fields (soccer, ultimate, lacrosse)
- Multi-use courts (tennis/pickleball/basketball)
- Multi-use trails/paths
- Natural areas/preserves
- Nature programs/nature study opportunities
- Park shelters/picnic areas
- Playground replacements and renovations that meet the needs of today’s users
- Running/walking races
- Skate park expansion
- Sledding hills
- Special events/festivals
- Splash pad

**Chapter V** describes the goals, objectives, and policies that guide planning decisions. These are generally consistent with those from the previous *Plan*. A review of these statements provides an excellent overview of the principles which guide facility and programming decisions.

**Chapter VI** provides a set of minimum standards for the provision of park and open space facilities in the City. These are based on the standards of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA guidelines suggest that at minimum, a local park system should be comprised of between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 persons. This ratio is commonly used in Wisconsin communities. The standards described on pages 37-46 provide strong insight into the building blocks of a great local park system.

**Chapter VII** analyzes how well existing park and recreational facilities meet the community’s current needs. Looking at both the national standards for park level of service per 1,000 people and community total park acreage, it was determined that the City’s current park system meets both “level of service” targets. These calculations are shown in

Figure 9. Specifically, the City's current provision of 7.6 acres per 1,000 persons is within the NRPA range of between 6.25 and 10.5, and the combined area of the City's active recreation areas of 246.7 acres is within the NRPA range of 194.2 to 323.6 acres.

Chapter VII also includes a calculation of the City's park needs in 2027, on page 50. Figures 11 and 12 show the minimum additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City's projected population in 2027, 2030, 2035, and 2040. Figure 11 indicates that based on the City's projected 2027 population of 41,260 and the adopted City standard of 10 acres per 1,000 persons, the City will need about 20.4 additional acres in neighborhood parks and about 145.5 additional acres in community parks – for a total of nearly 166 additional acres of parkland by 2027. Figure 12 indicates that by 2040, the City will need to add approximately 290 acres total of new parkland to accommodate the projected population.

The geographic coverage of the City's park system is depicted on Maps 2 and 3. Existing residential areas lacking adequate neighborhood park facilities include:

- The multi-family area on Providence Street near Costco, distant from Providence Green Park
- The multi-family area across Bird Street from C.H. Bird Elementary School
- The neighborhood north of downtown bounded by Windsor Street to the north, Grove Street to the east, the railroad tracks to the south, and Bird Street to the west
- The existing and future residential area bounded by Windsor Street to the north, Thompson Road to the east, Main Street to the south, and Kelvington and Kentville Drives to the west

Residential areas lacking adequate community park facilities include residential development on the southeast side of the City south of Main Street and east of CTH N, and residential development on the southwest side of the City south of Windy Ridge Park and west of Grand Avenue.

**Chapter VIII** contains the recommendations for the park system over the next 10 years. Recommended improvements for existing parks are presented on pages 53-55. Key recommendations for additional parks and other recreation facilities are discussed on pages 56-58. Recommendations for recreation programs are described on pages 58-59. Map 4, on page 63, shows the recommended locations for four future neighborhood parks, three future community parks, three special use facilities, and one joint School District/City park that *may* be needed through 2027 – depending upon the location of future residential development. One recommended location for a future community park is in the City's north side growth area, potentially north of Egge Road in the Town of Bristol. Community parks are also recommended in the City's east and west side growth areas, specifically on the west side (between Windy Ridge Park and Providence Green Park) and on the east side (south of STH 19 and east of CTH N).

**Chapter IX** provides cost projections for future park facilities through 2027. Figure 13, on page 70, makes projections for the necessary parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu-of-land dedication that is necessary to accomplish the adopted parkland ratio of 10 acres per 1,000 new residents. The calculations in Figure 13 follow the methodology accepted by the state. The land dedication requirement was calculated to be 1,048 square feet per dwelling unit, and the fee-in-lieu-of-land dedication was calculated to be \$2,645.50 per dwelling unit.

This chapter also includes the calculation of an updated improvement fee to cover the cost of new park equipment associated with new parkland. Figure 14 on page 71 calculates an average improvement cost of \$41,159 per acre of new active parkland. Figure 15 on page 71 calculates this cost to be \$990 per new dwelling unit. In residential development projects where parkland is not dedicated, the fee-in-lieu-of-land added to the improvement fee results in a total park fee of \$3,635 per new dwelling unit.

**Chapter X** provides the state-required analysis necessary to determine the impact of these calculated fees on affordable housing. This analysis indicates a projected cost impact of \$19 on a typical monthly mortgage, which is equivalent to an increase of two percent increase in the monthly mortgage payment of an affordable owner-occupied or rental housing unit in the community.

**Chapter XI** makes important recommendations for implementing the *Plan*. These include tapping into matching grants, coordinating park planning and development with neighboring municipalities, Dane County and the state, and adding planned park and trail facilities to the City's Official Map. Five-year Capital Improvement Plan recommendations are provided in Figure 16.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Sun Prairie’s park and recreation system is one of the City’s most valuable amenities. The expansive, well-maintained system is excellent for a community of its size. The existing system of parks and open space in and around the City contributes immensely to the local quality of life. In fact, public input in this planning process revealed that many people chose to live in Sun Prairie *because* of its strong park system and recreation programming. Thus, the park and recreation system is an essential piece of the City’s growth and prosperity. In order to build on past successes and continue to provide the same level of service to its residents, Sun Prairie must continue to invest in new facilities and maintain existing assets. Engaging in park planning will help the City continue to be forward-looking, allowing it to serve the City’s growing population, protect and maintain its high-quality natural resources, and embrace opportunities for open space preservation and recreation. Additionally, it will enable the City to take action to implement visionary ideas and recommendations as opportunities arise.

Parks and open spaces provide a number of key functions including meeting human needs for recreation and aesthetics, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, and shaping the extent and patterns of development in a community. The park and open space system of every community should be planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of its residents. Proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the community as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities relative to those who will use them.

This *City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan* reviews and updates information on the physical facilities and lands that make up the City’s park and open space system, and it provides guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. This *Plan* serves as an important component of Sun Prairie’s overall community comprehensive planning program. As such, the *Plan* addresses Sun Prairie’s long-range park and open space needs over the next 25 years, but focuses more directly on park and recreation needs over the next 5-year period (2017-2022).



This *Plan* is intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the City’s 2009-2013 *Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan* and the 2009 *City of Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan*.

This *Plan* has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), and it will qualify the City of Sun Prairie for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Federal Recreation Trails Act (RTA), and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs (State of Wisconsin). The *Plan* must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs

of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. The *Plan* has been prepared in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 61.35, 236.29, and 66.0617. Furthermore, it will be incorporated as a detailed component of the City’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Sun Prairie’s public parks and open spaces are operated and maintained by the City of Sun Prairie, Parks and Forestry Department, and this *Plan* was prepared under the direction of the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission.

“The number of parks within walking distance to our house adds to our quality of life so much here. We couldn’t find another community that even came close. That was a big factor in our decision to stay in Sun Prairie. Thank you for all of these beautiful parks!!”

-- Response from community survey

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## II. BASELINE CONDITIONS

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### A. General Regional Context

Sun Prairie is a community of about 32,000 residents located immediately northeast of the City of Madison, Wisconsin. Sun Prairie is bordered by the Towns of Burke, Windsor, Bristol, and Sun Prairie. Each of these towns is partially within Sun Prairie's 3-mile extraterritorial planning jurisdiction.

The City is well situated regionally, with excellent access to major transportation routes and facilities. It is located 75 miles west of Milwaukee and 155 miles northwest of Chicago. Known by many as the birthplace of artist Georgia O'Keeffe, Sun Prairie benefits from its proximity to the City of Madison and the University of Wisconsin, which offers many amenities, events, and attractions to Sun Prairie residents and visitors.

The City is well served by regional transportation facilities with U.S. Highway 151 and State Highway 19 passing through the City, and Interstates 39, 90 and 94 located two miles west and five miles south of the City. The City is served by the Dane County Regional Airport, located about five miles to the west within the City of Madison. This has had many positive impacts on Sun Prairie, which is home to several corporate headquarters and has enjoyed success in developing a high quality business park with a diverse mix of employers.

Sun Prairie has become known in the region for its high quality of life, its excellent parks and recreation programs, its exceptional public school system, and progressive approach to the development and redevelopment of the community. These factors, along with reasonable housing costs and a positive community attitude toward growth, have helped to make the City a very attractive location for families moving into the Madison region or relocating within the region, as evidenced by the strong growth the City has been experiencing in recent years.

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### B. Natural Resources

The relationship between the City of Sun Prairie and its natural features provides a valuable point of reference for park and open space planning. It sets up a framework for analysis, suggests possible location advantages that the City may possess for certain land uses, highlights key resources that the park and recreation system might feature, and hints at the relationship between the City and the rest of the region.

#### 1. Landscape and Topography

The City and surrounding area consists of predominately flat land with occasional gentle slopes. Steep slopes (over 12 percent slope) occur rarely within the City, although some are present north of Orfan Community Park, where Bird Street crosses the railroad tracks, and north and south sides of the current municipal limits. The City's highest point is located west of Schuster Road, which reaches an elevation of 1,040 feet above sea level. Another high point is located in the southwest corner of the Wyndham Hills subdivision. The lowest point is 899 feet above sea level and is located where Token Creek crosses the far northwest corner of the City. Steep slopes are potential constraints in siting utilities and roads, and also can result in challenges to addressing drainage.

#### 2. General Soils Information

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining the best and most cost-effective locations for new development. Problems that limit development on certain soils include slumping, poor drainage, erosion, steep slopes and high water tables. As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the soils in the City of Sun Prairie are of two major soil series. Plano silt loam is most dominant in the area. The Plano series consists of very deep, well drained soils on outwash plains, stream terraces, or till plains. Slopes range from two to six percent in the Sun Prairie area. The other common series present in the area is the Ringwood silt loam. The Ringwood series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in loess or other silty material and in the underlying loamy till on till plains. More specific information about soils in the City can be found in the Soil Survey of Dane County (1978), conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.

### 3. Drainage Basins

The City of Sun Prairie is located primarily within the Lower Rock River Basin, but also encompasses portions of the Yahara River/Lake Mendota and Upper Koshkonong Creek Watersheds. The northeastern tip of the City is located within the Maunsha River Watershed, which is part of the Upper Rock River Basin.

The northwestern portion of the City drains to the southwest, toward Madison. The southern and eastern portions of the City drain to the south and east, generally toward Deerfield and Marshall.

### 4. Rivers, Streams, and Lakes<sup>1</sup>

**Koshkonong Creek**, which has headwaters at the east of Sun Prairie flows to the south through the southern portion of the City. Much of the creek's headwaters are ditched and straightened. The creek flows through an open channel through most of the City, although there are some enclosed sections in the Linnerud Drive area. Overall, water quality is poor, in part due to flat gradient, low base flow, warm temperatures, and high inputs of sediment and nutrients from nearby agricultural uses. WisDNR considers Koshkonong Creek to be impaired due to presence of pollutants. This water was assessed in 2016, in which total phosphorus sample data overwhelmingly exceed the state's surface water quality thresholds for the Fish and Aquatic Life use.

**Token Creek** is an important resource in the area. Water from nearby springs and other groundwater sources from Token Creek contribute a significant amount of base flow to Lake Mendota. Token Creek generally flows to the west, flowing from north of the City to Cherokee Marsh. Token Creek is notable for its freshwater, spring-fed stream ecosystem. The main stem of the creek is approximately 10 miles long. At least one segment of Token Creek is listed on Wisconsin's 303(d) list as impaired by sedimentation leading to habitat degradation and elevated temperature.

**The Maunsha River** flows north/northeast through Dane County for 20 miles before joining the Crawfish River in Dodge County. The Maunsha River is a shallow, meandering wetland drainage stream with a low gradient, and it is classified as a warm water sport fishery. Like many streams in Dane County, it is impacted by runoff of agricultural fertilizers and erosion. The Maunsha River has been on Wisconsin's 303(d) list since 1998 for Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus.

**Patrick Lake** is a 148-acre lake located just to the east of the City limits. Prior to 1965, the lake naturally dried up periodically to become a marsh and then would naturally fill again to become a lake. The lake/marsh has known by different names through the years, with the most common names being Patrick Marsh, Patrick Lake, and Brazee Lake.

Starting in 1965, landowners around the marsh began draining the marsh so that it could be used for agriculture. When USH 151 from Sun Prairie to Columbus was widened in the early 1990s, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and WisDNR entered into a cooperative wetland mitigation agreement to restore the marsh. WisDOT's original goal for the project was to disable the drainage system, restore the wetland, and design for passive management. When the drainage system was disabled, the marsh began to fill with water. By the spring of 1993, the marsh filled to an average depth of about five feet and a maximum depth of nearly eight feet. That fall, an outlet structure was installed to control the maximum water level and direct overflow water to the Maunsha River watershed. Since then, the character of the marsh has not changed substantially and the wetland is an important wildlife habitat, particularly for birds. In fact, nearly all the waterfowl species that migrate through Wisconsin can be found at the marsh in the spring and fall. In 1994, the wetland was dedicated as Patrick Marsh named for the early settlers in the area. Details are in the 2003 Project Plan

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<sup>1</sup> WisDNR Wisconsin Water Search (<http://dnr.wi.gov/water/waterSearch.aspx>); City of Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan (2009); Dane County Parks Patrick Marsh Project Plan (2003)

Currently Patrick Lake is managed for fishing and swimming and is currently not considered impaired by WisDNR. The Patrick Marsh resource area was included in the WisDNR Land Legacy Report (2006) as one of the 229 places that are critical to protect to meet Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs in the next 50 years. Much of the land surrounding the lake is preserved as open space and is owned and managed by WisDNR, Dane County, and the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

In 2003, Dane County Parks completed the Patrick Marsh Project Plan to provide guidance to Dane County, local governments, and conservation organizations. The plan encourages ongoing purchase of land at the site to restore the wildlife habitat, create trails that connect the protected properties at the Marsh with surrounding neighborhoods, and open the land to the public for hiking, nature study, and other activities.

## 5. Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are composites of the best elements of a natural resource base occurring in a linear pattern on the landscape. In Dane County, environmental corridors are part of a countywide system of continuous open space. These corridors are essential to the maintenance of ecological balance and diversity and the preservation of natural beauty. Because environmental corridors are located in urban and urbanizing areas, it is important to preserve and protect them as natural open space. Doing so serves the dual purpose of protecting environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources from disturbance and development and/or reserving lands needed for open space and recreational uses.

Environmental corridors generally lie along the major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in the moraine areas of southeastern Wisconsin. Environmental corridor features include:

- Surface waters and their undeveloped shorelands and floodlands
- Wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitats
- Rugged terrain and high relief topography
- Parks
- Unique vegetation or geology
- Problem soils

Almost all of Dane County's remaining high-value wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, major bodies of surface water, delineated shorelands, and floodlands are contained within these corridors. There are additional features of environmental corridors that provide recreational, scenic, and historic value: existing recreation sites; potential outdoor recreation sites; historic, archaeological, and other cultural sites; scenic areas and vistas; and scientifically significant areas.

Environmental corridors are the most important individual elements of a natural resource base and have immeasurable environmental, ecological, and recreational value. Protection of environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, should be an essential planning objective in a parks and open space plan. In addition, while inappropriate for development, environmental corridors can be ideal locations for trails, nature-oriented parks, and other low impact recreational uses. The Future Land Use Map (Map 6) shows the location of these environmental corridors in and near the City.

Outside of the City, certain lands are protected by the Resource Protection Corridor Overlay established by the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan (2012). The Resource Protection Corridor Overlay protects environmentally sensitive lands and critical natural resources located outside of urban service areas. Such locations include wetlands, shoreland setbacks and wetland buffers, regional floodplains, and other areas natural resource protection areas identified in the Dane County Comprehensive Plan or other local plans. Several areas surrounding the City Sun Prairie and throughout northeastern Dane County are included in the Resource Protection Corridor Overlay. In general, these areas are protected from development and are maintained in their existing agricultural, conservation, or open space use.

**6. Natural Heritage Inventory**

WisDNR’s Natural Heritage Inventory program maintains data on the general location and status of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species. This data is obtained through field inventory.

According to the inventory, there is one endangered butterfly (the Regal Fritillary) and one endangered frog (Blanchard's Cricket Frog) in the Sun Prairie area. Three plant species are listed in the inventory as threatened: White Lady's-slipper, Prairie Parsley, and Tufted Bulrush. One bird species is listed in the inventory as threatened: Henslow's Sparrow. WisDNR reports several species of Special Concern in the area, including four plants (Rope Dodder, Knotweed Dodder, Golden-seal, and Prairie False-dandelion) and one fish (Least Darter).

**7. Climate**

Climate is an important consideration for determining the range of recreational activities that should be provided for in the City. The Sun Prairie area has a continental climate characterized by significant changes in weather. Winters are cloudy, cold and snowy. Lakes and rivers usually begin to freeze over in December and remain ice covered until March. During the spring, periods of warm weather alternate with cold spells. By the end of March, nearly all precipitation is in the form of rain. Summers are warm and at times hot and humid. Cool periods are also common during the summer months. Fall is generally mild during the day with cool clear nights. The change from fall to winter is often abrupt, as is the change from summer to fall.

**C. Population Trends and Forecasts**

The need for parks and recreational space is driven by the growing population of the City. Predicting how the population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the City. Figure 1 illustrates the change in population of Sun Prairie from 1980 to 2010, as well as the population change for the surrounding towns, the City of Madison, and Dane County. The City of Sun Prairie experienced significant growth in population between 1980 and 2010, with a population increase of nearly 19 percent between 1980 and 1990, and nearly 33 percent between 1990 and 2000. The most growth occurred in the most recent decade, as the City grew from 20,369 residents in 2000 to 29,364 residents in 2010, reflecting an increase of over 44 percent over the 10-year period (see Figure 1). As for the surrounding towns, the Town of Bristol experienced a similar rate of growth during the same period, at nearly 40 percent. The Town of Burke and Town of Sun Prairie grew at slower rates, at 9.8 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. For comparison, population in the City of Madison grew by 12.1 percent and Dane County grew by 14.4 percent during that period, which was more than double the rate of the state as a whole (6 percent).

**Figure 1: Population Trends, 1980-2010**

	1980	1990	2000	2010	Numerical Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
City of Sun Prairie	12,931	15,352	20,369	29,364	8,995	44.2%
Town of Bristol	1,723	1,835	2,698	3,765	1,067	39.5%
Town of Burke	2,967	3,000	2,990	3,284	294	9.8%
Town of Sun Prairie	1,990	1,839	2,308	2,326	18	0.8%
Town of Windsor	3,812	4,620	5,286	6,345	1,059	20.0%
City of Madison	170,616	190,766	208,054	233,209	25,155	12.1%
Dane County	323,545	367,085	426,526	488,073	61,547	14.4%
Wisconsin	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	323,311	6.0%

Sources: U.S Census of Pop. and Housing, 1980-2010

Beginning in the late 1990s, the City experienced a surge in new residential building activity, resulting in a noticeable increase in the city’s rate of population growth. Sun Prairie has been one of the fastest growing communities in the state. The Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area is among the fastest growing regions in the state, and Sun Prairie has seen a substantial share of this growth over the past decade; between 2000 and 2010, the City of Sun Prairie accounted for 14.6 percent of Dane County’s population growth. Figure 2 provides a comparison of population growth among the highest growth municipalities in Dane County. Among these communities, the Village of Cottage Grove experienced the greatest percentage growth, at over 52 percent. The City of Madison experienced the greatest numerical increase, with over 25,000 new residents over the decade. Sun Prairie had the second-highest numerical increase, with nearly 9,000 new residents during the period.

**Figure 2: Population Change of Dane County Cities and Villages, 2000-2010**

	2000	2010	Numerical Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
City of Sun Prairie	20,369	29,364	8,995	44.2%
Village of Cottage Grove	4,059	6,192	2,133	52.5%
Village of DeForest	7,368	8,936	1,568	21.3%
City of Fitchburg	20,501	25,260	4,759	23.2%
Village of McFarland	6,416	7,808	1,392	21.7%
City of Madison	208,054	233,209	25,155	12.1%
City of Middleton	15,770	17,442	1,672	10.6%
Village of Oregon	7,514	9,231	1,717	22.9%
City of Verona	7,052	10,619	3,567	50.6%
Village of Waunakee	8,995	12,097	3,102	34.5%

Sources: U.S Census of Pop. and Housing, 2000-2010

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. Actual future population will depend on market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. Figure 3b shows the estimated City population and the forecast for the future City population increase using several different forecast methodologies. Those methodologies include the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) forecast, straight line growth trends based on past population trends, and compounded growth trends based on past population trends. Population data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2015 that were used to develop these forecasts are shown in Figure 3a. The forecasts, shown in Figure 3b, provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

**Figure 3a: City of Sun Prairie Population Trends, 2010-2015**

1990 <sup>1</sup>	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>2</sup>
15,352	20,369	29,364	32,365

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, and 2010 Censuses

2. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015

**Figure 3b: City of Sun Prairie Population Forecasts, 2010-2040**

	2017	2020	2022	2025	2027	2030	2032	2035	2037	2040
WisDOA Population Projections	33,327	34,770	36,014	37,880	39,060	40,830	41,830	43,330	44,230	45,580
Linear Growth, 1990-2015	33,726	35,768	37,129	39,170	40,531	42,573	43,934	45,975	47,336	49,378
Linear Growth, 2000-2015	33,964	36,364	37,963	40,362	41,962	44,361	45,960	48,360	49,959	52,358
Compounded Growth, 1990-2015	35,298	40,203	43,846	49,939	54,465	62,034	67,655	77,057	84,040	95,719
Compounded Growth, 2000-2015	34,956	39,238	42,379	47,569	51,378	57,670	62,288	69,916	75,514	84,763
Compounded Growth, 2010-2015	33,702	35,811	37,290	39,623	41,260	43,842	45,652	48,509	50,513	53,674

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2015; U.S. Census Bureau; Vandewalle & Associates

These projections were derived using the following methodologies:

- Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) Projection:** The WisDOA forecast a compound annual population growth rate of approximately 1.45 percent. Under this scenario, the City will see a 43.3 percent increase in population between 2015 and 2040, for a projected year 2040 population of 45,580.
- Linear Growth Rate:** This scenario was calculated by determining the City's average annual population change for the 25-year period from 1990-2015 and projecting that forward to 2040. The City's 25-year average was an increase of 681 people per year. Carrying this amount of annual growth forward results in a population of 49,378 by 2040. The linear growth rate and associated projection was also calculated for the 15-year period of 2000-2015, which yielded a higher projection of 52,358 by 2040.
- Annual Compounded Percentage Growth Rate:** This scenario was calculated by determining the average annual rate of growth over the 25-year period from 1990 to 2015 and projecting that rate forward for the next 25 years. That growth rate averaged 4.4 percent per year would result in a population of 95,719 by 2040. Compounded growth rates and associated projections were also calculated for the last 15 years (2000 to 2015), which yielded a projection of 84,763 people by 2040 (averaging 3.9 percent per year). Compounded growth rates and associated projections for the last five years (2010 to 2015), yielded more moderate growth projections of 53,674 people by 2040, which amounts to an average growth rate of two percent per year.

For the purposes of this *Plan*, the City will utilize the Compounded Growth 2010-2015 population projection scenario as a reasonable, most likely estimate. This scenario would result in a total population of 41,260 residents by 2027, which is the last year of 10-year planning period. The selected population projection forecast will be used to project future housing and land demand within the City.

## D. Demographic Trends

The following sections provide information on the City's population by age, gender, and household characteristics.

### 1. Age and Gender Distribution

Figure 4 reports the age and gender distribution of the City of Sun Prairie's population in 2010, and provides comparisons to surrounding communities, the county, and the state. General trends in age distribution are an important factor when considering the future demand for park and recreational facilities.

In 2010, the City’s median age was 33.3, lower than the statewide median age (38.5) and the median age in Dane County (34.4). The percentage of the City’s population aged 18 and under was nearly 28 percent. That percentage was higher than both the statewide (23.6) and countywide (21.7) totals. Nearly nine percent of the City’s population was aged 65 and older – comparable to surrounding communities, though slightly lower than Dane County and most of the surrounding towns. The percentage of residents under 18 and percentage of residents over 65 should be considered when comparing per capita housing and public service needs with other communities.

Following nationwide trends, the median age of Sun Prairie’s population has grown older in the past 15 years. With a prolonged life expectancy and a trend toward declining birth rates, the median age will likely rise over the planning period. This suggests the need to consider different types of recreation facilities, ensure access to facilities, and the need to provide a walkable environment.

**Figure 4: City of Sun Prairie Age and Gender Statistics, 2010**

	Median Age	% under 18	% 65+	% female
City of Sun Prairie	33.3	27.9%	8.9%	51.5%
Village of DeForest	35.6	29.0%	8.7%	51.6%
Village of Cottage Grove	33.8	32.5%	7.7%	51.0%
Town of Bristol	40.0	28.6%	7.4%	49.1%
Town of Burke	42.5	23.9%	12.1%	49.8%
Town of Sun Prairie	41.6	26.8%	10.3%	48.5%
Town of Windsor	39.8	24.8%	12.0%	50.6%
City of Madison	30.9	17.5%	9.6%	50.8%
Dane County	34.4	21.7%	10.3%	50.5%
Wisconsin	38.5	23.6%	13.7%	50.4%

Source: U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 2010

**2. Household Trends**

Figure 5 compares selected household characteristics for the City of Sun Prairie as they were in 2010 with those of surrounding communities, Dane County, and the state.

**Figure 5: Household Characteristic Comparisons, 2010**

	City of Sun Prairie	Village of DeForest	Village of Cottage Grove	Town of Bristol	Town of Burke	Town of Sun Prairie	Town of Windsor	City of Madison	Dane County	Wisconsin
Total Housing Units	12,413	3,499	2,289	1,337	1,301	867	2,548	108,843	216,022	2,624,358
Occupied Housing Units (Households)	11,636	3,400	2,210	1,302	1,244	826	2,432	102,516	203,750	2,279,768
Household Size	2.51	2.63	2.80	2.89	2.60	2.81	2.61	2.17	2.33	2.43

Source: U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 2010

The City’s average household size declined slightly between 2000 and 2010, from at 2.56 persons per household in 2000 to 2.51 persons per household in 2010. For comparison, the average household size in 2010 in Dane County was 2.33, down from 2.37 in 2000.

The projected number of households and projected household size are shown in Figure 6. According to WisDOA, the average household size will shrink between 2015 and 2040. This is primarily caused by the maturing age composition of the population in the coming years. The projected increase in number of households between 2015 and 2025 will be used to forecast the amount of parkland fees needed per household to accommodate the parkland and improvement needs over the next 10 years.

**Figure 6: City of Sun Prairie  
Projected Households and Number of Persons per Household 2015-2040**

City of Sun Prairie	2010 Census	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Projected Households	11,636	12,764	14,203	15,621	16,992	18,196	19,256
Number of Persons per Household	2.51	2.47	2.44	2.42	2.39	2.37	2.36

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013

### 3. Income Trends

Figure 7 compares median household incomes for the City of Sun Prairie as they were in 2000, 2009, and 2014 with those of Dane County. Incomes have been adjusted for inflation and reflect 2014 dollars. In Sun Prairie and Dane County has a whole, inflation-adjusted incomes decreased between 2000 and 2014. This is a consistent trend throughout the state, where household incomes have not kept up with the rate of inflation.

**Figure 7: Median Household Income, 2000-2014\***

	2000	2009	2014
City of Sun Prairie	\$72,960	\$68,860	\$66,956
Dane County	\$69,945	\$65,707	\$62,303

\*All figures reflect 2014 dollars.

Sources: 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; U.S. Census of Population and Housing, 2000

## E. Review of Existing Plans and Reports

Another critical step in the park planning process is an examination of past planning efforts that relate to the City. A comprehensive understanding of how the City has evolved over time and how it has been planning for the future establishes guidelines for this Plan's recommendations. Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways this Plan should be adapted so that it is consistent with the City's ongoing goals, and to ensure it is coordinated with regional planning efforts.

### 1. City of Sun Prairie Parks and Open Space Plan (2009-2013)

This comprehensive recreation plan took an inventory of Sun Prairie's park and recreation facilities and highlighted opportunities for growth and improvement.

In order to meeting the parkland and facilities needs of a growing population, the plan recommended that the City take the following steps related to park planning and parkland acquisition:

- Add improvements to the outdoor skateboard park. Look into providing an indoor area for skateboarding with a joint venture with the YMCA, Rotary, churches, and others.
- Investigate the potential to purchase land adjacent to the Carriage Hill Park for the expansion of this very small park.
- Add some park/open space adjacent to the Providence development.

- As the City continues to grow, add appropriate-sized park space and/or natural areas or open spaces to the park system.
- Identify potential locations of new parks and open spaces in association with the City's upcoming update to the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission should review and evaluate their existing position on what type of parks the City of Sun Prairie should accept or not accept in new developments.
- Continue to work with the Dane County Parks Department, the City of Madison and other agencies in acquisition and planning efforts to link city trails with a regional trail system connecting to the Token Creek County Park, the City of Madison, McCarthy Park, Town of Bristol, and the Glacial Drumlin Trail.
- Coordinate any new facilities with the recommendations that are part of the 2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the 2006-2011 Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan.
- Explore possibilities to provide additional soccer fields or a soccer complex within or adjacent to the City of Sun Prairie.

In addition, the 2009 Plan includes many more specific recommendations related to policy decisions, bike paths, individual parks, playgrounds, the Pet Exercise Area, the Family Aquatic Center, and forestry.

## 2. City of Sun Prairie Comprehensive Plan (2009)

The City of Sun Prairie updated its Comprehensive Plan in 2009. The Comprehensive Plan designates areas for new residential and non-residential development to accommodate City growth over the next 20-25 years. The 2009 *Parks and Open Space Plan* was adopted as a detailed component of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan shall be consulted when preparing and updating other community plans, including this parks and open space plan.

This plan made the following recommendations related to parks and open spaces:

- **Housing:** The City should guide residential development to areas of the City that have convenient and economical access to parks and open spaces, municipal services, and shopping areas.
- **Complete Streets:** The City should adopt a Complete Streets policy to ensure that the entire right-of-way enables safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit users of all ages and abilities.
- **Recreational Trail Plan:** The City should adopt a trail plan aimed at providing an interconnected system to provide access to parks, schools, public facilities, and surrounding communities that includes a fully connected recreational path that loops through the City to serve as a main route with all paths connecting into it.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:** The City should create a citizen's bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee to serve as a forum for citizens concerning safe access for cyclists and pedestrians and to advise the City on bicycle and pedestrian issues and recommended improvements.
- **Conservation:** The City should continue to work cooperatively with landowners, the Patrick Marsh Conservancy, and other organizations to protect the Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area.
- **School District Facilities:** The City should work cooperatively with the Sun Prairie Area School District to encourage siting, renovation, and expansion of school facilities in areas that are best

## 3. Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County (2015)

Developed by the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board (the MPO), the *2015 Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County* is intended to increase bicycling levels throughout Dane County and serve as a blueprint for continuing to improve bicycling conditions and safety. The Plan describes the economic, equity, health, and environmental benefits of bicycling; establishes plan

vision, goals, and strategies; provides an analysis of existing bicycle facilities, conditions, and deficiencies throughout the region; and discusses equity and environmental justice issues. It also provides recommendations for education, encouragement, enforcement activities and activities related to engineering, planning, and end-of-trip facilities. Specific recommendations pertaining to Sun Prairie include:

- A bike path along County Highway C to connect State Highway 19 to St Albert Drive and Highway 19 to the east
- State Highway 19 path linking DeForest to Heatherstone Drive in Sun Prairie
- Cottage Grove to Sun Prairie Path and Route Path
- Goodman Path connecting East Towne to U.S. Highway 151 Path and West Sun Prairie
- West Sun Prairie Path connecting Hazelnut Trail to State Highway 19
- Milwaukee Road Path connecting Burke Road/Good Neighbor Path to Sun Prairie
- Milwaukee Road Path connecting Sun Prairie to Marshall

#### 4. Dane County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2012-2017

The 2012-2017 plan identified cultural, historical and natural resources that should be considered for protection, preservation or restoration. Updated every five years, the vision of this 2012-2017 plan is to “connect people to the land and water resources of Dane County.”

Overall goals of the plan are as follows:

- Provide sufficient parks and recreation areas to meet the needs of the residents of Dane County.
- Preserve for posterity the nature and diversity of the natural and cultural heritage of Dane County.
- Preserve large tracts of natural and agricultural rural landscapes at urban fringe areas that will provide regional resource protection and recreation benefits.
- Provide volunteer opportunities and stewardship education to county residents of all ages.
- Protect lakes, rivers and streams, including shorelines, wetlands, high infiltration areas and associated vegetative buffers to maintain high water quality, manage water quantity and sustain water-related recreation throughout Dane County.

In this plan, Mauneshia River and Yahara Headwaters were listed as new Natural Resource Areas, in addition to the existing Patrick Marsh and Koshkonong Creek Natural Resource Areas. Other recommendations impacting the City of Sun Prairie included:

- Acquire additional lands east, north and west of McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park for expansion of trail and wetland restoration projects.
- Complete the Starkweather Creek Trail between the Cities of Sun Prairie and Madison

The plan also includes several recommended trails in the vicinity of Sun Prairie:

- A trail connecting Token Creek County Park to Riley Deppe County Park. This trail would run east to west through the City of Sun Prairie.
- The Georgia O’Keeffe Trail connecting Patrick Marsh to McCarthy County Park to the south, and continuing on to the Village of Cottage Grove and the Glacial Drumlin State Trail.
- A trail connecting Sun Prairie to DeForest. This trail would run along the southwest side of Sun Prairie, continuing north to Token Creek County Park and the Village of DeForest.

#### 5. Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan (2012)

The purpose of the *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* is to set a standard for farmland preservation that meets the requirements under s.91.38, Wisconsin Statutes. The county’s agricultural zoning has been adopted by 29 towns and resulted in approximately \$1.2 million in tax relief annually for participating farmers. This plan provides a vision and guidelines for growth, development, and land preservation in Dane County. The plan is intended to function as the primary policy document setting forth goals and objectives and a vision of how Dane County should grow. A fundamental goal of this plan is to guide and

manage Dane County growth and development in a manner that will preserve the rural character, agricultural base, and natural resources of the countryside and contribute to the high quality of life and prosperity of the communities and local farmers.

## 6. Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Plan (2008) and Wisconsin Trail Network Plan (Revised 2003)

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) has developed these two plans for its entire systems of state parks and trails. In the Sun Prairie Area, these recommendations relate to Governor Nelson State Park and a potential future State Trail connecting Sun Prairie to Madison.

**The Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Plan** set forth eight goals each with its own set of objectives and action strategies. These goals included:

- Expand the quality and quantity of sustainable, nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Actively manage, restore, enhance, and protect the Wisconsin State Park System.
- Provide innovative interpretive opportunities and programs that foster, knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of the state's natural and cultural resources and promote participation in nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Strengthen the Wisconsin State Park System facilities development program to better provide for customer comfort and safety.
- Motivate and enable a dedicated and customer-focused workforce.
- Achieve financial strength and stability for Wisconsin State Park System.
- Attract new Wisconsin State Park System customers through innovative marketing strategies, and retain current customers through exceptional service.
- Improve operational effectiveness, planning and decision making and managing reliable information.

**The Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan** provides a vision for establishing trail network connectivity statewide; and focuses on abandoned rail, road, utility line, natural features and resources, interstate, and public lands. The plan recognizes the important role that trails developed by local units of governments serve as critical links. Under the plan, WisDNR staff will continue to work with local governments and encourage them to connect trails onto this network as they update local plans.

## 7. 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. In addition to meeting the requirements of the LWCF Act the SCORP also reflected on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative that asks the American people to become partners in preserving and enhancing their conservation and recreation heritage for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The SCORP analyzes the demand for outdoor recreation activities by popularity and by setting, looks at the inclusion of health and wellness in outdoor recreation planning, explores the current offerings of urban recreation across municipalities in Wisconsin, examines the public and private holders of recreation land throughout Wisconsin and the programs that encourage conservation and acquisition, and finally, describes seven goals, each with a list of actions, designed to encourage the connection of Wisconsin's residents to the great outdoors. The SCORP should be used as a reference source as this *Plan* is implemented.

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify supply, demand, and challenges in outdoor recreation across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, local park and recreation plans, as well as comments and perceptions from recreation users. Key plan themes include:

- **Public Health and Wellness:** Access to outdoor recreation is an important predictor of community health and wellness. Parks, trails, and sports facilities provide convenient, safe, and attractive space for people to get outside. Time spent outdoors is associated with a number of important health

factors, including improved mental health, more connected communities, and more active citizens. In particular, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor recreation can lower obesity levels. The SCORP encourages more active outdoor recreation and presents a series of goals and actions to help governments plan for facilities that will provide the greatest health benefit for their populations.

- **Urban Access to Outdoor Recreation:** Accessibility to outdoor recreation has been shown to increase health benefits and physical wellness for local citizens, especially in urban environments. Population in rural counties are decreasing while populations in metropolitan areas are growing rapidly. The benefits and significance of urban parks are therefore increasingly important. The *Plan* considers various urban recreation barriers and their solutions, and analyzes peer-to-peer statistics for urban recreation in Wisconsin municipalities. This data provides information on where the state can improve on recreation facilities and which areas need additional focus on developing increased urban recreation.
- **Public and Private Partnerships:** Providing high quality and accessible outdoor recreation is often a challenge. Conservation and recreation development need a web of community and government support. The plan highlights the importance of intergovernmental relationships and private organizations to provide high quality outdoor recreation to citizens of the state.

## 8. Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (2006)

In the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, WisDNR identified key places around the state that are critical to meeting Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation needs over the next 50 years. The report identifies several sites in Dane County, including Patrick Marsh, just east of Sun Prairie, and Upper Yahara River and Lakes, which includes Token Creek and other tributaries. Both of these Legacy Places are located within the Southeast Glacial Plains ecological landscape. This landscape is characterized by some of the world's best examples of glacial landforms such as moraines, kettles, and drumlins. It also includes a large amount of wetlands and several larger lakes, including Lake Koshkonong and the Yahara Chain of Lakes. This type of landscape is found in the eastern part of the state and encompasses nearly 14 percent of the Wisconsin's land area. The Southeast Glacial Plains landscape is particularly important for nesting and migrating waterfowl, and it offers numerous opportunities to expand and restore prairie and oak savanna habitat.

## 9. Connections 2030 Statewide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan (2009)

Connections 2030 links statewide transportation policy to implementation, planning, programming and other Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) activities. The plan calls for improved system integration for passengers and freight, as well as modernization to correct outdated infrastructure design and combine technological advancements with more traditional transportation infrastructure designs.

The plan sets policy directions for the state trunk highway system, public transit, intercity travel, freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian travel, and funding, project scheduling and prioritization decisions.

As part of the Connections 2030 planning process, WisDOT identified 37 System-level Priority Corridors. Maps of the corridors can be viewed or downloaded online at [www.wiconnections2030.gov](http://www.wiconnections2030.gov). The information depicted on these maps provides visual representations of how the plan might be implemented. The corridor maps identify specific projects; however, the Plan does not guarantee that all potential projects will be implemented.

Wild Goose Corridor – Madison to Oshkosh and the Badger State Corridor – Eau Claire to Madison. Recommendations for both corridors include continued and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, linkages and accessibility along and across facilities.

In summary, existing City, county, and state plans offer guidance for coordinated development of this *Plan* and potential opportunities for cooperation with county and state agencies.

### III. EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

The City of Sun Prairie's park and open space system consists of over 400 acres of parkland. Other special use areas that are owned and maintained by the City and included in the total are the Pet Exercise Area and the Family Aquatic Center. When combined with Sun Prairie Area School District facilities, the City contains approximately 570 acres of park, recreation and open space facilities.

McCarthy County Park, Token Creek County Park, Yahara Heights County Park, and Governor Nelson State Park are owned and managed by the State of Wisconsin or Dane County and are invaluable supplements to the City's park and recreation network.

The City's park system includes a full range of developed facilities including neighborhood parks, community parks, citywide parks, and special uses areas located throughout the community. The City generally has a good supply of neighborhood parks distributed throughout the community and has successfully acquired new park areas where residential growth has occurred.

#### A. Description of Existing Public Park and Recreation Facilities

##### 1. Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are by far the most common type of park found within the City of Sun Prairie. Currently there are 33 neighborhood parks in Sun Prairie's park and recreation system. Neighborhood parks account over 90 acres (22 percent of the total parkland under City ownership). These parks range in size from one to 10 acres. Generally, these parks are evenly spaced throughout the City, and most residential areas are served by a neighborhood park within walking distance. Examples of typical neighborhood parks include Evergreen, Thoreau, and Gateway Parks.



Most of the neighborhood parks in Sun Prairie provide basic recreation facilities such as play structures, benches, basketball standards, and open play areas. However, several parks have limited facilities and may provide only one such facility. All of the neighborhood parks, their sizes, and the recreation facilities they contain are summarized in Figure 8.

##### 2. Community Parks

Community parks traditionally serve residential areas within a half-mile radius and may include athletic fields, shelter houses, basketball courts, pedestrian/bicycle paths, and parking lots. Total acreage for the seven community parks is 166 acres (66 percent of the total parkland under City ownership).

- **Carriage Hills Estates Park** is a 21-acre park is located on the City's east side. The park offers a playground, softball fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, soccer fields, trails, a sledding hill, restrooms, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.
- **Liberty Park** is a 14-acre park is located on the north side of the City. It features a playground, basketball courts, trails, and picnic tables. A picnic shelter and restrooms area planned for this park.
- **Orfan Park** is a 16-acre park is located north side of the City, west of Liberty Park. This park offers a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, trails, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.
- **Sheehan Park** is by far the largest park owned by the City of Sun Prairie. It consists of nearly 140 acres and comprises over 34% of the total parkland under City ownership. The park was developed in order to provide opportunities for family activities such as picnicking, baseball, softball, basketball, hiking, and environmental enjoyment. The natural features of the site (slope, vegetation, drainage) provide a beautiful setting for both summer and winter activities. In particular, Sheehan Park

provides a sledding hill and cross-country skiing trails, which were not available in the community prior to the development of the park.

- **Smith's Crossing Park** is a nearly 30-acre park is located on the City's south side. The park offers a playground, softball fields, basketball courts, soccer fields, trails, picnic tables, and a picnic shelter.
- **Stoneridge Estates Park** is an 18-acre park is located on the northeast side of the City, and has a playground, softball fields, basketball courts, soccer fields, trails, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and restrooms. Tennis courts are planned for this park.
- **Wetmore Park** is a 10-acre park located on the City's east side. It includes a playground, softball fields, soccer fields, a hockey rink, an ice skating rink, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.
- **Wyndham Hills Park** is a 17-acre park is located on the far west side of the City. The park features a playground, softball fields, basketball courts, soccer fields, trails, picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and restrooms.



### 3. Special Areas Parks and Facilities

- **Cannery Square** is a public plaza in downtown Sun Prairie that serves as public open space. It is located on Main Street, across from the Municipal Building. It includes benches, high quality landscaping, paved pathways, public art, and a fountain. It primarily serves the institutional, residential, and commercial uses in the surrounding area.
- The **Family Aquatic Center** is a family-oriented aquatic center with the that includes a pool with a zero-depth entrance, water play area, water spray features, water slides of varying sizes, diving boards, a water basketball area, an eight-lane competitive swimming area, sand playground and volleyball courts, a concession stand, indoor and outdoor shelters, a bathhouse, and lockers. The site is 7.5 acres.
- The **Pet Exercise Area** is an 11-acre park located southeast of Sheehan Park. It includes trails and picnic tables. This park is sited on a former landfill, which means that improvements that require digging underground are not possible. As a result, the site cannot be served by water or electricity.
- The **Sun Prairie Business Park Pond** is a man-made pond located within the Sun Prairie Business Park. This site is maintained by the City Parks and Forestry Department and is popular fishing spot for Sun Prairie residents.
- The **Sun Prairie Historical Museum** is located on Main Street in downtown Sun Prairie. It is housed in a 1924 building that was once the Sun Prairie Public Library. The building was designed by prominent local architect Alvin E. Small. The museum is open during May through October and features museum exhibits, which are rotated annually. The museum also offers research assistance to the public, archival collections, and museum tours.



These special use facilities are heavily used by the general public. These five facilities total over 11 percent of the City's total parks acreage.

#### 4. Public School Facilities

The City of Sun Prairie has the benefit of a strong relationship with the Sun Prairie Area School District with regards to providing residents with quality recreation facilities. Due to each party's commitment to maintaining a strong community recreation base, the ongoing coordination of recreation programs, and well-established public use policies, Sun Prairie residents have access to some Sun Prairie Area School District facilities for their recreational use.

The Sun Prairie Area School District contains approximately 167 acres of recreational and open space areas. Currently, the City of Sun Prairie recognizes 10 school playfield/playgrounds facilities located within the campuses of Sun Prairie High School, the two middle schools, and seven elementary schools. These school sites are shown on Map 1.

The Sun Prairie Senior High School recreation complex is a 58-acre site that serves a citywide recreation function, as most City youth are familiar with the location and facilities provided at the site. In 2010, a new Sun Prairie Senior High School complex opened, which included several baseball, softball, and soccer fields; a practice football field; outdoor track; and tennis courts. This complex was developed in part due to a joint use agreement between the City of Sun Prairie and the Sun Prairie Area School District.



#### 5. Dane County Parks

Dane County parks located near Sun Prairie provide an important part of the recreational infrastructure in the City.

- **McCarthy County Park** is located to the south of Sun Prairie near the Village of Cottage Grove. This 220-acre park includes a group camping site, picnic areas, and multi-use trails for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding.
- **Token Creek County Park** is 427 acres and is located between to the west of Sun Prairie, south of the Village of DeForest, and north of the City of Madison. This popular park includes a 43-unit campground, a group camp area, five picnic shelters, and open space for large group picnics. Its recreational facilities include five volleyball courts, equestrian trails, miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails, and a 27-hole disc golf course. A fishing pier, two playgrounds and an elevated boardwalk through a sedge meadow marsh can accommodate people with disabilities. The park also offers access to snowmobile trails in the winter.
- **Yahara Heights County Park** is 385 acres and is located several miles west of the City, where the Yahara River flows into Lake Mendota. The site contains Cherokee Marsh, the largest remaining wetland in Dane County and the major wetland in Lake Mendota's Watershed. With more than 3,000 feet of water frontage within the upper Yahara basin, this park provides a wildlife habitat preserve, fish spawning grounds, and a water sedimentation area for Lake Mendota. The park also a canoe and kayak launch and a 20-acre pet exercise area.

#### 6. State of Wisconsin Parks

- **Governor Nelson State Park** is approximately 440 acres and is located on the southeast side of County Highway M, situated on the northwestern shore of Lake Mendota. This day-use park includes a sand beach, boat launch, fish cleaning facility, picnic areas, playground equipment, prairie restoration areas, and 8.4 miles of hiking trails. Native American effigy mounds can be seen from one of the trails.

## 7. Other Natural Areas

- **Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area** consists of prairie and oak opening restoration efforts, a deep-water marsh, and small woodlots. Located adjacent to the City of Sun Prairie, the marsh/lake is surrounded by land owned and managed by the Wisconsin DNR, Dane County, and Natural Heritage Land Trust. Patrick Marsh is included in the WisDNR's Land Legacy Report, a list of the 229 places that are essential to supporting Wisconsin's future conservation and recreation needs in the next 50 years. In 2015, several new visitor features were installed: wildlife viewing platform, information signs, upgraded trails, and additional access to Sun Prairie neighborhoods.

## 8. Private Recreational Facilities

- **Angell Park** is located on the city's south side and is owned and managed by the Sun Prairie Volunteer Fire Department. This large park comprises over 62 acres and includes picnic tables, a picnic shelter, a horseshoe court, a baseball field, sanitary facilities, drinking water, wooded area, and ample parking areas. Angell Park also serves the community by hosting the annual Sweet Corn Festival in August of each year. In 2008, Fireman's Park in the Prairie, a community-built playground, was constructed for use by the entire community. The main feature of the Angell Park is its midget auto race track. Although this facility is not open for public recreational use at all times, it does serve as an important entertainment source for many people. Complementary to the track is a large pavilion and bleachers for spectators. Fees are charged by the Fire Department for entry to the race track.
- **Colonial Club** is a senior activity center that provides Sun Prairie senior citizens with a variety of recreational, special events, and trip opportunities.
- **Northeast YMCA** is located on O'Keeffe Avenue in Smith's Crossing. This facility opened in October 2007. A membership fee is required for most activities.
- **Prairie Athletic Club (PAC)** is located at 1010 North Bird Street and is open on a private membership basis. This facility contains indoor swimming pools, fitness equipment, track, weight room, racquetball, basketball, handball, volleyball courts and an indoor soccer field. The PAC also offers an outdoor water park to its members. Other features include a steam room, sauna, and group fitness classes.
- **Prairie Lanes** is a 32-lane bowling alley that provides league and open bowling. It also has outdoor volleyball courts. This facility is located at 430 Clarmar Drive.
- **Sun Prairie Country Club** is located four miles north of the City on Happy Valley Road. It includes a public 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse, and a pro shop.
- **Sun Prairie Ice Arena** is a 91,000-square foot indoor hockey rink that opened in 2014. It hosts the Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Association (SPYHA), the Sun Prairie High School Hockey Team, tournaments, leagues, and lessons. Located on the City's northeast side, the Sun Prairie Ice Arena is a private facility, but can be utilized by residents under a fee agreement.
- **Sun Prairie Little League Complex** is located within Sheehan Park. It includes four baseball diamonds for use by participants in Sun Prairie Little League.



Figure 8, on the next page summarizes the City's park facilities and the amenities offered at each. The Figure also includes Special Use Areas, School District facilities, and county and state parks and trails.

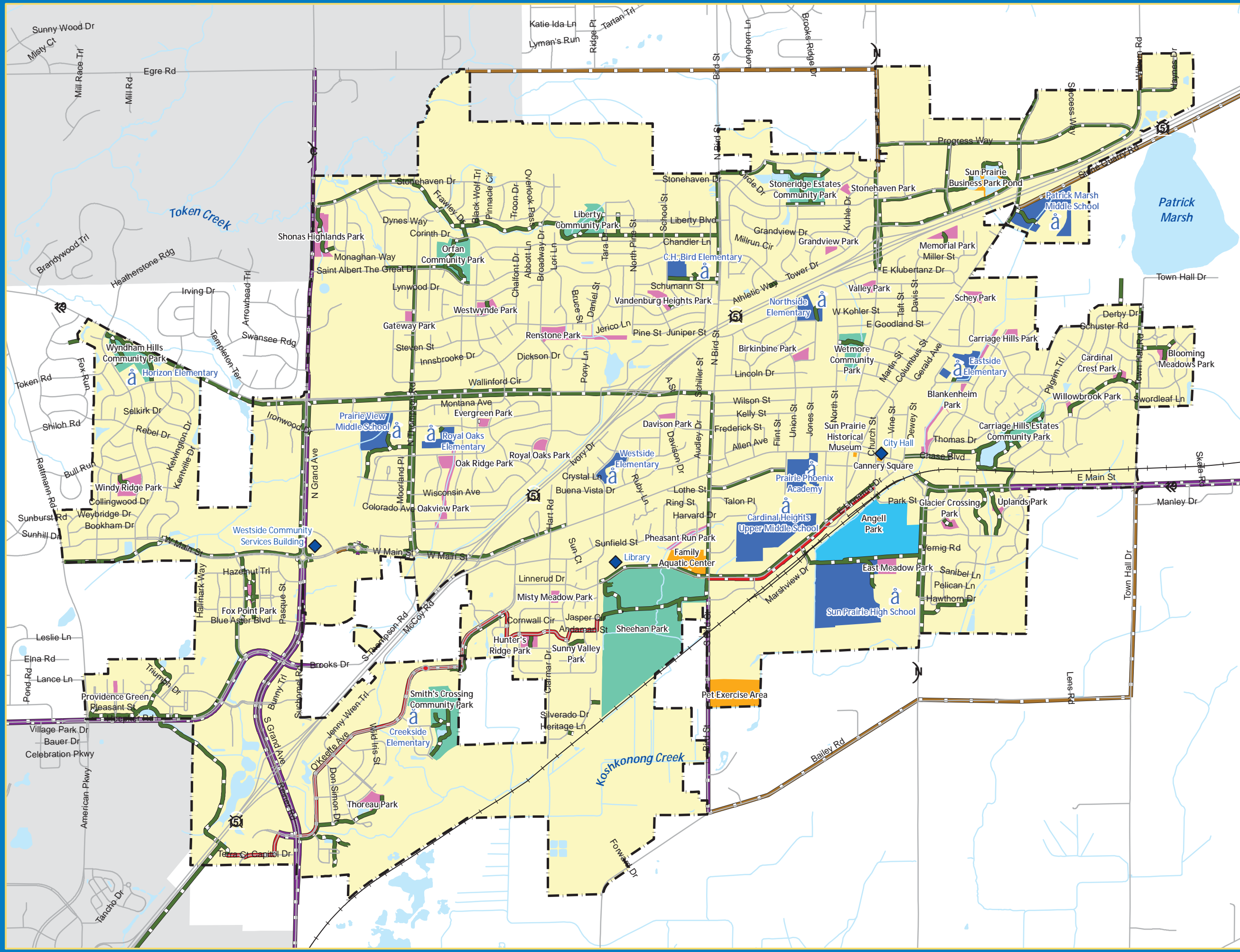
Figure 8: Parks and Facilities Serving Sun Prairie

Parks and Facilities Serving Sun Prairie	Total Acres	Unconstrained Acres	Picnic Areas		Picnic Shelters	Restrooms	Playgrounds	Backstop	Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Hockey Rinks	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Soccer Fields	Ski Trails	Ice Skating Rink	Swimming Pools	Sledding	Multi-use Path	Trails	Fishing	Parking	Single Track/ Mtn Bike	Baseball
			Gazebos																						
<b>CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE PARKS</b>	<b>402.69</b>	<b>268.54</b>																							
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>90.29</b>	<b>62.13</b>																							
Birkinbine Park	2.05	2.05	◆				◆	◆		◆															
Blankenheim Park	3.73	0.02	◆				◆																		
Blooming Meadows Park	2.46	2.46	◆	◆			◆			◆										◆					
Cardinal Crest Park	1.46	1.46	◆	◆			◆																		
Carriage Hills Park	2.74	0.17	◆				◆			◆															
Davison Park	1.12	1.12	◆				◆																		
Evergreen Park	1.12	1.12	◆				◆			◆															
Fox Point Park	2.76	1.05	◆		◆	□	◆													◆					
Gateway Park	1.25	1.25	◆				◆																		
Glacier Crossing Park	2.00	2.00	◆		◆		◆			◆															
Grandview Park	0.91	0.91	◆				◆	◆		◆															
Hunter's Ridge Park	2.79	2.79	◆		◆		◆			◆				◆											
Memorial Park	3.11	3.11	◆				◆	◆																	
Misty Meadow Park	1.45	1.45	◆				◆																		
Oak Ridge Park	4.64	0.00	◆				◆	◆			◆						◆								
Oakview Park	2.03	2.03	◆				◆																		
Pheasant Run Park	2.81	0.00	◆				◆																		
Providence Green	0.68	0.68	◆	◆																					
Renstone Park	8.66	3.20	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆				◆		◆								
Royal Oaks Park	1.69	1.69	◆				◆	◆																	

Parks and Facilities Serving Sun Prairie	Total Acres	Unconstrained Acres	Picnic Areas		Picnic Shelters	Restrooms	Playgrounds	Backstop	Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Hockey Rinks	Skate Parks	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Soccer Fields	Ski Trails	Ice Skating Rink	Swimming Pools	Sledding	Multi-use Path	Trails	Fishing	Parking	Single Track/Min Bike	Baseball
			Gazebos																							
Schey Park	1.83	1.82	◆				◆	◆																		
Shonas Highlands Park	9.04	4.03																			◆					
Stonehaven Park	0.93	0.93	◆				◆																			
Sunny Valley Park	0.26	0.26	◆		◆		◆			◆																
Thoreau Park	4.35	4.04	◆	◆			◆															◆				
Unnamed (West Prairie Village)	2.95	1.84																								
Uplands Park	1.76	1.65	◆				◆															◆				
Valley Park	1.82	1.82	◆				◆	◆																		
Vandenburg Heights Park	3.20	3.20	◆				◆	◆		◆					◆											
Westwynde Park	3.29	3.29	◆		◆		◆			◆					◆											
Willowbrook Park	0.92	0.92	◆																			◆				
Windy Ridge	6.25	5.54	◆				◆			◆													◆			
<b>Community Parks</b>	<b>266.18</b>	<b>184.54</b>																								
Carriage Hills Estates Community Park	21.66	4.49	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						◆	◆					◆	◆			33	
Liberty Community Park	13.99	7.88	◆		□	□	◆			◆												◆			26	
Orfan Community Park	16.37	14.64	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆			◆									◆			36	
Sheehan Park	138.47	104.80	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	□◆		293	◆
Smith's Crossing Community Park	29.72	21.60	◆		◆	□	◆	◆		◆			□			◆						◆	□		12	□
Stoneridge Estates Community Park	18.73	10.63	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆						◆						◆			76	
Wetmore Community Park	10.34	9.86	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆			◆							◆							41	
Wyndham Hills Community Park	16.89	10.64	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆				◆		◆						◆			8	
<b>Special Use Areas</b>	<b>46.23</b>	<b>21.87</b>																								
Cannery Square	0.19	0.19																								
Family Aquatic Center	11.94	11.66	◆		◆	◆	◆								◆				◆							

Parks and Facilities Serving Sun Prairie	Total Acres	Unconstrained Acres	Picnic Areas	Gazebo	Picnic Shelters	Restrooms	Playgrounds	Backstop	Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Hockey Rinks	Skate Parks	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Soccer Fields	Ski Trails	Ice Skating Rink	Swimming Pools	Sledding	Multi-use Path	Trails	Fishing	Parking	Single Track/Min Bike	Baseball
Pet Exercise Area	20.13	9.79	◆		◆	◆	◆								◆				◆							
Sun Prairie Business Park Pond	13.74	0.00	◆		◆																	◆		33		
Sun Prairie Historical Museum	0.22	0.22																			◆	◆	◆			
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<b>167.98</b>	<b>113.46</b>																								
C.H. Bird Elementary School	5.95	5.95					◆			◆						◆								◆	◆	
Cardinal Heights Upper Middle	31.95	29.67											◆			◆								◆	◆	
Eastside Elementary School	7.83	3.60					◆			◆														◆		
Northside Elementary School	7.39	7.39					◆			◆														◆		
Patrick Marsh Middle School	18.21	11.45					◆			◆														◆		
Prairie Phoenix Academy	11.86	10.54					◆			◆						◆								◆	◆	
Prairie View Middle School	15.56	2.87														◆								◆	◆	
Royal Oaks Elementary	6.07	3.62					◆			◆														◆		
Sun Prairie High School	58.45	33.65						◆					◆			◆								◆	◆	
Westside Elementary School	4.71	4.71					◆			◆						◆								◆		
<b>DANE COUNTY PARKS</b>	<b>1,032</b>	n/a																								
McCarthy County Park	220	n/a	◆														◆					◆				
Token Creek County Park	427	n/a	◆				◆									◆	◆					◆	◆			
Yahara Heights County Park	385	n/a	◆																							
<b>STATE PARKS AND TRAILS</b>	<b>440</b>	n/a																								
Governor Nelson State Park	440	n/a	◆				◆															◆	◆			
<b>PRIVATE PARK</b>																										
Angell Park	62.24	26.65	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆															◆		

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**Existing Facilities**

- City of Sun Prairie
- Other City or Village
- Roads
- Rail
- Surface Water
- Public Schools
- Community Facilities

**Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

- Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- On-Road Bike Lane
- Signed On-Road Bike Route
- Rural Bike Route

**Parks and Facilities**

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Private Park
- Public School Open Space and Recreational Facilities



Sources: City of Sun Prairie, Dane Co. LIO

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## IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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### A. Public Survey

The City of Sun Prairie conducted an online Community Survey for the Parks and Open Space Plan from November 2, 2016 to January 5, 2017. The survey was announced through a postcard mailing sent to every address in the City, announced on the City website, distributed through social media and email channels, and was covered in the Sun Prairie Star. The survey was available both online and in hard copy formats. The survey was partially or completely filled out and submitted by 637 respondents, amounting to a four percent response rate. The survey focused on obtaining public opinion on the current conditions and future needs of the Sun Prairie park and recreation system. A brief survey summary appears below and the full survey with results appear in Appendix B. After the first 17 questions, respondents were given the option to submit their responses and end the survey, or to continue the survey, which involved answering an additional 14 questions. All percentage results below are reported as the percent those who answered that particular question.

Approximately 83 percent of survey respondents were City residents, and another 15 percent were residents of Dane County. Approximately 57 percent of respondents were female. Over 34 percent of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 44. About 20 percent were between 44 and 54, and another 20 percent were between 25 and 34.

Over 97 percent stated that members of their household had visited a City park or trail during the past 12 months. Of those City facilities they had visited, respondents generally responded positively, with over 84 percent indicating they were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with City parks, and over 67 percent saying the same for City trails and for City open space/conservation lands. Nearly 10 percent of respondents were either “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with City trails. Overall, respondents were positive about the level of maintenance of the parks, with over 90 percent indicating they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied.” When asked to rate individual parks, most parks received a positive or neutral rating. However, Davison Park, Grandview Park, and Valley Park had overall negative ratings among those who had visited and rated those parks.

When asked which facilities within the parks that members of their household had visited or used over the past 12 months, over 70 percent of respondents indicated that they had used a playground. Other popular facilities included trails (60.7 percent), picnic shelters (59.8 percent), picnic tables (59.3 percent), swimming pools (35.9 percent), sledding hills (31.4 percent), soccer fields (22.4 percent), and basketball courts (21.6 percent).

One question asked respondents to share reasons that prevent them or other members of their household from using parks, recreation facilities, or programs more often. The most commonly selected option was “I’m too busy,” which was selected by more than 32 percent of respondents. About 24 percent indicated that the recreation system does not contain a desired features or facility, and 24 percent said that they did not know what was offered. Just over 20 percent said that they do not use park facilities more because they cannot bring their dogs into the park. Nearly 65 percent of respondents indicated that they used the park closest to their home regularly. Those that did not use the closest park regularly cited the facts that the park does not include amenities/facilities offered for their desired activities and that they are too busy.

Respondents were asked to weigh in on the number of facilities offered or that could be offered by the City (“too many,” “about right,” “not enough,” or “no need”). As a whole, respondents said that City lacks the following facilities: hiking trails and paths (66.3 percent said there was “not enough”), biking trails and paths (64.6 percent), bike skills facilities/mountain biking trails (54.1 percent), canoeing/kayaking (53.4 percent), natural areas/wildlife habitat (51.4 percent), and outdoor performance venues (49 percent). See Appendix B for complete results.

When asked to rank the most important facilities to themselves or their household, the most common responses were biking trails and paths, hiking trails and paths, natural areas/wildlife habitat, playgrounds, restrooms, and swimming facilities. When ask to rank the top most important facilities for the community as whole, responses were very similar; the most common responses were biking trails and paths, hiking trails and paths, natural areas/wildlife habitat, playgrounds, and restrooms.

When asked to rank the four most important parks and recreation programs to themselves or members of their household, the highest scoring programs were adult fitness and wellness programs (selected by 35.9 percent of respondents), special events/festivals (35.6 percent), adventure recreation skills clinics i.e., kayaking, bike skills, rock climbing (31.9 percent), youth sports programs (31.6 percent), nature programs (27.4 percent), youth learn to swim programs (22.2 percent). When asked how likely it would be for them or a member of their household to participate in specific programs, the programs with the most interest included special events/festivals (79.2 percent of respondents were “very likely” or “likely” to participate), adult fitness and wellness programs (56.6 percent), nature programs (52.5 percent), youth sports programs (46.6 percent), and adventure recreation skills clinics (45.2 percent).

The survey asked why respondents use bicycle/pedestrian trails. Many indicated that they use it for exercise and fitness (87.6 percent) and recreation (85.8 percent). Only 5.3 percent said they would not use the trails. Several respondents wrote-in that they use the trails for dog walking. Over 75 percent of respondents indicated that they would either “very positive” or “positive” about having their home adjacent to a bicycle/pedestrian trail. Over 76 percent of respondents indicated that they would either “very positive” or “positive” about having their home adjacent to a City park.

Nearly 68 percent of respondents said that, when compared to other City priorities, maintaining and improving parks, trails, open space, recreation facilities and services is “very important,” while 29 percent said it was “somewhat important.” The survey also asked respondents to help the City prioritize limited resources in the future, by asking them to identify which four actions by City would be the most important to the respondent or their household. The top priorities included developing a connected City-wide trail system and developing new walking and biking trails, options which were selected by 55.5 percent and 52.2 percent of respondents, respectively. Other common responses included maintaining existing land with passive facilities i.e., trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, etc. (38 percent), acquiring land to develop with passive facilities (32.9 percent), and acquiring land for conservation values (22.8 percent). Totals exceed 100 percent, as respondents were asked to select four actions.

The survey asked how respondents would allocate the funds among the categories provided, assuming an additional \$100 were available for the City of Sun Prairie’s parks, trails, and recreation facilities. When responses were averaged, funds were allocated as follows:

- \$30.40: Improvements/maintenance of existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities
- \$27.06: Develop new trails
- \$15.39: Develop recreation facilities
- \$14.03: Acquisition of new park land
- \$13.12: Acquisition of more open space for conservation

When asked what the maximum amount respondents would be willing to pay in additional tax support for acquiring new park, trail, and conservation lands for the improvements most important to their households, nearly one third of respondents were willing to pay \$50 or more per year. More than 88 percent were willing to pay at least \$10 a year. When asked what the maximum amount respondents would be willing to pay in additional tax support for maintaining existing park, trail, and conservation lands, more than one quarter were willing to pay \$50 or more per year. More than 46 percent were willing to pay between \$10 and \$29 per year. More than 95 percent were willing to pay at least \$10 a year.

Respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with the following statement: “Sun Prairie parks and recreation are of great value to me and/or my community.” Over 95 percent said they “strongly agree” or “agree” with the statement.

The survey included an open-ended question in which respondents were asked to share additional comments that could assist the City in improving parks, trails, open space, or recreational facilities and services. The most common comments were related to needs for the following facilities:

- A neighborhood park serving West Prairie Village
- An interconnected citywide trail system

- More youth swimming lessons and programs
- Mountain biking facilities
- Disc golf course
- Winter plowing of bicycle/pedestrian trails
- Having bathrooms open later in the season (beyond October 1)

There were also several concerns about maintenance and user behavior at the Pet Exercise Area and concerns about maintenance at specific neighborhood parks. Last but not least, many individuals expressed their appreciation of the City's strong parks and recreation system and encouraged the City to keep up the good work.

Survey respondents indicated that the best way to learn about City programs, parks, and facilities was through Parks & Recreation Guides/REC Connection (75.3 percent), the City website (57.3 percent), Facebook (39.2 percent), or email bulletins (37.4 percent).

## B. User Group Interviews

In October 2016, City staff and consultants met with representatives of the following user groups: softball, Piranhas swim team, bicycle advocacy representatives, tennis, Madison United Rugby, Sun Prairie Soccer Club, pickleball, and Sun Prairie High School athletics. Sun Prairie Youth Football, Sun Prairie Youth Baseball and Softball, Skateboard Association, and Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association provided input via email. Common themes in the interviews included a lack of athletic field space for field sports, shortage of outdoor courts for pickleball and tennis, issues with poorly-drained fields (particularly around soccer goals), and needed improvements to existing facilities.

## C. City Staff Questionnaire

A parks and recreation questionnaire was distributed to City Staff in order to gather City employee's ideas related to the City's current park facilities and programs and to capture their insights into the community's future park and recreation needs. The questionnaire was completed by representatives of the City's Recreation, Community Development, Library, Police, Information Technology, and Engineering Departments, as well as by several City Council members and the Mayor. Common themes included a need for another large community park, a disc golf course, an additional pet exercise area, an athletic field complex, and the need to keep up with the City's rapid growth. Detailed results of the questionnaires are located in Appendix A.

## D. Public Workshops

The City held two Visioning Workshops on November 17 and November 30, 2016. The purpose of these workshops was to identify a future vision for the City parks and recreation system and to identify opportunities and challenges for the growth of the system. Input from users of the park system is particularly valuable, as they can offer insights and identify needs that City staff and officials may not be aware of.

Approximately 45 people attended the two workshop. Participants were asked to suggest features and facilities that should be included in the City's next community park and identify barriers and opportunities in the City's recreational programs. They were also asked to map desired future park locations, suggest improvements to existing parks, and map desired future trail connections.

Detailed results of the two workshops are located in Appendix C. An overall summary is provided below.

When asked what facilities should be included in a new community park, the top recommendations included:

- Dog park/public parks that allow dogs
- Hiking trails
- Multi-use athletic fields/playfields
- Natural areas/preserves
- Mountain bike trails, multilevel course
- Outdoor performance venue (pavilion/band shell)
- Picnic/shelter areas trails

When asked, “What barriers prevent you from participating in more City recreational programs?” the most popular response, by far was, “I’m too busy.” When asked, “What new programs would you be interested in if the City were to offer them?” the most popular responses included:

- Canoe/kayak programs
- Nature walks/study programs
- Environmental/nature programs
- Cross country skiing programs
- Mountain biking programs
- Disc golf programs
- Organized hiking trips
- Pickleball programs
- At work wellness programs (yoga, Pilates, etc.)
- Indoor swimming lessons
- Music lessons

When asked to list facilities that the City needs, but which are currently missing from the parks and recreation system, the most common responses included:

- Walking/hiking paths
- Fitness stations
- Bike trails/connectivity
- Playfields/open space
- Splash pad
- Mountain biking trails/course
- Community gardens
- Dog park
- Disc golf
- Outdoor performance venue/music
- Soccer fields / football

Participants worked in small groups to identify their top recommendations for new parks, improvements to existing parks, natural areas to be preserved, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These included:

#### **Desired New Parks**

- Burke Quarry
- Community Park east of Hwy N
- Northside – outdoor performance venue
- Westside
- Reserve Plat (R1)
- Westside Community Park (R3)
- Bike park (near SPHS)
- Dog park (Egre)
- Mid-town (Westside school) splash pad, etc.
- North (off CTY N) Park – new
- Expand Liberty Community Park and preserve part of it
- Lake in the head waters of Koshkonong
- Community park at Hwy 19 and Town Hall Rd
- Southern Sheehan Park forest protection
- Dog park on north side

#### **Desired Improved Facilities in Existing Parks**

- Windy Ridge – add basketball
- Windy Ridge Park – expand nature preserve
- Oak Ridge – improve ball field
- Sheehan – utilize lower for soccer and disc golf
- Disc golf and cross-country ski (Sheehan Park)
- Improve drainage at Sheehan soccer fields and others
- Soccer field
- Pet exercise areas
- Single Track
- Connect all paths and trails
- Davison Park – update playground equipment
- Fishing pier ADA
- Sledding hill – Wyndham Hills
- Pickle ball complex (6 additional courts) – Windham Hills
- BMX/Mountain Bike
- Sheehan Park improvement
- Eastside parks – add improvements
- Splash pad – Wetmore Park

**Natural Areas to be Preserved**

- Burke Quarry
- Token Creek
- Patrick Marsh Trail
- Sheehan Natural Preserve
- Patrick Marsh and surrounding lands
- Continental development
- Thoreau Park

**Desired Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails**

- Finish Sun Prairie “Loop”
- Connect trails
- Connect trails – southwest side
- Smith’s Crossing connectivity
- Bridge @ Providence Green
- West side (see map)
- Main Street heading west – bike/ped path
- North Bird Street
- Thoreau Park to Sheehan Park
- Improved pedestrian crossing (Hwy 19 & C)

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**E. Open House**

The City held a Public Open House on January 26, 2017. Community members were invited to view and discuss the Draft Park and Open Space Plan. Posters showing Maps 1 through 5 and summaries of proposed plan goals, objectives, and policies were also available. Participants were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire asking if they have any ideas or suggestions for the draft *Plan*. Participants were provided with a black and white Planned Facilities Map (Map 4) for showing the location of their ideas and suggestions. Over 30 individuals attended and 17 participants submitted questionnaires.

A full summary of the Open House questionnaire and responses is provided in Appendix D.

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**F. Public Hearing**

The City held a public hearing on the draft *Plan* on February 14, 2017. The Park and Open Space Plan was adopted by the City Council on May 16, 2017.

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## V. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Once the baseline conditions have been established and the desires of the public are understood, the next step in the park planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The following goals, objectives, and policies are based on a review of existing plans, basic planning principles, and input gathered from the public, City staff, and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission. Following and adhering to these goals, objectives, and policies will result in the most cost-effective use of public funds. Specifically, these policies will result in significant cost savings (particularly related to acquisition parkland and maintenance of facilities), reduce the need for specialized park maintenance equipment, save an untold number of staff maintenance hours, and ensure dedicated park and recreation facilities are useable for as many months of the year as possible.



*Goals* are broad statements that express general public priorities which are striven for but which may not be fully attainable. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

*Objectives* are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

*Policies* are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation, including the accomplishment of goals and turning planning maps and graphics into reality. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

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### A. Goals

1. Provide for and sustain a wide range of well-maintained parks, recreation facilities, and special use areas for all residents, including special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and pre-school age children.
2. Ensure that all residents are provided with safe and reliable parks and recreation equipment and facilities throughout the park system.
3. Provide a connected bicycle/pedestrian path system connecting parks, schools, and other recreational facilities to residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.
4. Ensure that all residents of Sun Prairie have adequate park facilities available to them within walking distance.

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### B. Objectives

1. Ensure that all residents of Sun Prairie have neighborhood parks located within ¼ mile of their homes or community parks located within ½ mile of their homes.
2. Preserve natural features and amenities, and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole.
3. Provide coordination of public park and open space lands with other uses of land, in order that each may enhance the other and make possible the realization of the highest type of urban environment for people who live in the Sun Prairie community.
4. Provide diverse and equitably-situated recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
5. Cooperate with other units of government, including Dane County, WisDNR, and the Sun Prairie Area School District on park and recreation system planning.
6. Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and bicycle routes in the City that serve neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, and activity centers.

## C. Policies

### Utilize the Official Map as an Implementation Tool

The City of Sun Prairie's Official Map has not been updated to include future park sites or trail routes. By leaving these sites off of the Official Map, the City is disregarding a powerful tool in its quiver. In order to ensure the reservation of lands for future parks, trails, and other public facilities, the City intends to prepare an update of its Official Map to include future park and trail locations. Before approving any certified survey map, preliminary plat, final plat, site plan, or Planned Development, the City will ensure that the proposed development is consistent with park, trail, open space, and other public facilities shown on the Official Map.

Utilizing the Official Map will result in the siting of new parks and trails in locations that meet the goals and objectives of this *Plan*. It will also ensure that new neighborhoods will be served by parkland at levels that meet or exceed the parkland level of service enjoyed by existing neighborhoods.

By mapping desired park and trail locations on the Official Map, developers will be able to create plans for development that meet the objectives of the City. This benefits developers by providing more predictability and reduces the cost of revising plans to accommodate parks and trails after the fact.

The City will adhere to the Official Map and will establish a schedule for future updates to the Official Map to ensure that the Map continues to reflect the recommendations of this *Plan*.

Because of the important legal function of the Official Map, it is critical that it be updated with the highest level of professional care.

### Assemble Large Parks

Large parks offer several advantages over smaller and medium-sized parks. For example, they can accommodate multiple facilities in one park, save City staff maintenance time and effort by consolidating facilities, serve a wider population, and accommodate large communitywide or regional events.

The City recognizes that it is difficult to assemble large areas of land for large parks after areas have been sold for development or platted. As park opportunities arise, the City will prioritize the development of a large park on the scale of Sheehan Park (over 130 acres) or possibly even larger. The City will prioritize assembling a large contiguous parcel for this purpose rather than developing smaller parks in multiple locations. (Put another way, the City would prefer to develop one large park of 130 acres rather than two parks of 65 acres each.)

Therefore, the following policies will now apply to all future City parks:

1. For each new community park, a minimum of 10 unconstrained acres should be provided. Natural areas may be incorporated into the park, but such areas will not count toward the 10-acre minimum and will not count toward parkland dedication requirements.
2. For each new neighborhood park, a minimum of two unconstrained acres should be provided. Natural areas may be incorporated into the park, but such areas will not count toward the two-acre minimum and will not count toward parkland dedication requirements.

"Unconstrained" parkland means lands that are suitable for active recreation uses, as described in the policy on the following page.

### What is an Official Map?

An Official Map is a plan implementation tool authorized under Wisconsin Statutes (Section 62.23(7)) for adoption by cities and villages. It is a municipal ordinance that may be used to show alignments of future roads, expanded rights-of-way for existing roads, and other planned public facilities like trails and parks. When land development is proposed in an area where a public facility is shown on the Official Map, the city or village may obtain or reserve land for that future facility through public dedication, public purchase, or reservation for future purchase. Cities and villages generally use Official Maps to show future roadways and widened rights-of-way, as well as future trails and parks.

Wisconsin Statutes attach some unique authority to Official Maps. For example, a city or village may require that no building permits be issued within land shown for a future public facility on its Official Map. In addition, a community may require that no subdivision or land division may be recorded unless its arrangement conforms to the Official Map. These and related provisions may apply within both the municipal limits and within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

### Accept Only Land Useable for Active Recreation for Parkland Dedications

The historic parkland provision has exceeded the City's current target of 10 acres per 1,000 people. Specifically, the current rate of provision is 11.18 acres per 1,000 people. However, historic practices have not been consistent about only accepting land that is fully useable for active recreation uses. In the past, lands dedicated by developers for parkland have included wetlands, steep slopes, and floodplain areas. These areas are not suitable for the intense level of activity that City parks must accommodate, and they do not help the City meet its goal of providing more open play areas and athletic fields. When the environmentally-constrained lands are taken out of the equation, the actual rate of "unconstrained" parkland is only 7.79 acres per 1,000 people, which is lower than the City's goal. This figure does not include school facilities. While the City acknowledges that school facilities help meet residents' recreation needs at a neighborhood level, school facilities are not counted as part of the municipal park system nor should they could toward dedication requirements. This has never been the case and this policy should not change.

Therefore, the following policy will now apply to all land to be dedicated for City parkland:

The City of Sun Prairie shall limit its acceptance of parkland dedication (i.e. lands dedicated for the purpose of contributing toward the requirements of its parkland dedication ordinance) only to land area that is fully useable for active recreation uses at the time of dedication.

Example active recreation uses include:

1. Play field areas for activities such as baseball, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, and ultimate;
2. Play court areas for activities such as basketball, pickleball, and tennis;
3. Open field areas for pickup sports such as ultimate, flag football, soccer, and disc golf;
4. Playground areas;
5. Picnic shelters;
6. Trails; and
7. Parking lots

Land area accepted for parkland dedication may include lands prepared by the developer so as to be fully useable for such purposes, as deemed appropriate by the City.

For the purpose of contributing toward the requirements of its parkland dedication ordinance, the City shall not accept any land area with one or more of the following attributes:

1. Containing any environmental feature typically contributing to an environmental corridor area, including:
  - a. Wetlands mapped by the WisDNR or Army Corp of Engineers;
  - b. Floodways mapped by FEMA on its FIRM Maps;
  - c. 100-year floodplains mapped by FEMA on its FIRM Maps;
  - d. Drainageways identified as perennial streams or intermittent streams on USGS maps or Dane County hydrography mapping – with a 25-foot wide buffer on each side of an intermittent stream and a 50-foot wide buffer on each side of a perennial stream;
  - e. Hydric soils as identified on Dane County soils, USDA, or WisDNR mapping as "Poorly Drained" or "Very Poorly Drained";
  - f. Steep slopes equal to or greater than 12 percent identified on Dane County topographic mapping; and,
  - g. Moderate slopes equal to or greater than three percent as identified on the topographic survey information provided during the land division process, or other topographic information provided by a registered engineer, surveyor, or landscape architect;
2. Containing any stormwater management area or facility such as a stormwater basin, infiltration area, manmade or naturally-occurring channel;



3. Land area of unsuitable shape, dimension, or accessibility, specifically lacking:
  - a. A generally rectangular or other regular shape, lacking narrow extensions;
  - b. A minimum cross-section dimension of 200 feet at any point;
  - c. A minimum public street frontage of 200 feet along one street for neighborhood parks, and along two streets for community parks.

### **Require Multi-Family Developers to Provide Recreational Facilities for Residents**

Due to the fact that parkland is lacking or constrained in several areas where multi-family development exists or is planned, the City should amend the subdivision ordinance to require recreational facilities for new multi-family developments of four units or more. All multi-family complexes should provide an on-site tot lot, picnic area, and/or patio, based on the needs of residents. This private facility shall be on the property of the developer, shall be maintained by the developer, and is in addition to park improvement fees. Providing on-site recreational facilities will help close the recreational gap among Sun Prairie residents, as such facilities fill the same needs as a private backyard in a single-family home.



### **Plan for a Potential New Community Center Building**

Many members of the public mentioned a need for a new community center that could serve as a gathering place and support indoor recreational activities. A community center should be a multi-purpose facility that includes public spaces such as a multi-use gymnasium, weight room and exercise equipment, rooms for indoor recreation programming, and community meeting rooms. It could also host the offices for Recreation staff and Parks and Forestry staff.

This facility will provide the City with increased capacity to serve a changing population. In particular, it will allow the City to provide more indoor activities, which will better serve the senior citizen population; it will allow the City to provide more year-round activities, which will serve the entire population, particularly families with young children; and it will create more low-cost and no cost recreation options for lower income households.

The new facility should ideally be located in the central portion of the City, east of the Library near the Family Aquatic Center and Sheehan Park. An alternative could involve repurposing an empty commercial building, potentially on West Main Street. The repurposed building could involve daylighting through windows and skylights to provide a more welcoming feel. Models for such a facility include the Warner Park Community Center in Madison and Village Center in Waunakee (both new construction), and the Goodman Community Center in Madison (combination of adaptive reuse and new construction).

The City is considering devoting the Westside Community Services Building to public safety purposes only. If this occurs, it may accelerate the need to accommodate community meetings and relocate City staff offices.

### **Parkland Acquisition, Siting, and Design Policies**

1. The City will pursue the development of large special facilities such as an athletic field complex, community center, and a north side pet exercise area (dog park).
2. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and help facilitate site planning for development. Active parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
3. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space use should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public. Mandatory dedication of lands for public use as parklands and/or cash donations should be continued as provided by City ordinances.
4. The City will consider and encourage partnerships with athletic-based organizations or user groups seeking to provide funds, land, or other resources in order to develop special facilities for public use. Such partnerships can be mutually beneficial, as the athletic-based organizations can accelerate the development of desired special facilities while reducing the cost to the City and the public to provide such facilities.
5. Particular attention should be given to coordinating the land acquisition, land use control, and planning programs of all federal, state, county, and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.

6. As opportunities become available, the City should consider acquiring properties adjacent to existing park properties to allow for the expansion of existing parks. The City will need to evaluate each opportunity to determine which properties will sufficiently meet the future needs of the park system.
7. Master plans should be considered for all future parkland development. These plans should indicate the future use of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds.
8. Every new park should include open play areas that are flat and dry. Such areas should be outside of environmental corridors and should be at least one acre in area.
9. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
10. Park development should be planned to avoid creating nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
11. Park facilities should be scaled and located to the future needs of the area and population served, both present and future. Parcels of land, which would be suitable for park and recreation development should be acquired as circumstances permit.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Policies**

1. Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Dane County, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning, and planning for potential future alternative transportation corridors and transit modes.
2. Continue to work with Dane County and other neighboring municipalities on connecting the City's trail system to McCarthy, Riley Deppe, and Token Creek County Parks. Support other regional trail initiatives whenever possible.
3. Continue to develop off-street trail connections within the City and close gaps in the current trail network.  
Establish bicycle paths and routes on local streets throughout the community to connect neighborhoods with schools, parks, and shopping.
4. Incorporate all future schools and parks into the City's off-street trail system.



### **Environmental Protection and Conservation Policies**

1. Preservation of environmental corridors in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, and as reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate.
2. Investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space. Conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure should be preserved. Consider using public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.
3. Utilize management practices that protect and enhance the natural features of all of its parks. This "green" focused management should include efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental areas, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and implement native species plantings and landscape initiatives to the extent possible.

### **Other Park and Open Spaces Policies**

1. Modernize facilities and equipment in older parks and provide new facilities and equipment in undeveloped or partially developed parks.
2. Consider combining City park and recreational facilities with school facilities, where appropriate and feasible.
3. Continue to provide recreation facilities that are designed for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them, the effectiveness of supervision, and the quality of the recreation experience.
4. Continue to market the park system's facilities and programs to the community. This effort could include developing program brochures, flyers, and information publications. A map identifying park facilities should be included in the program brochure.
5. Encourage the creation of a "Friends of the Parks" volunteer program.

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## VI. PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

This chapter provides a set of minimum standards for park and open space facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time, as well as to project the future need for such facilities. Typically, these standards are expressed as a population ratio, that is, the minimum number of acres recommended per 1,000 persons. For example, a community may choose a standard of 5 acres of neighborhood park land for each 1,000 residents.

The following list includes a blend of both national and local standards for park and recreational facilities. The national standards are based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines which can be used by local communities as a general guide in their park and open space planning efforts. Although national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the types of basic facilities and site characteristics for each category of park, a more thorough and accurate analysis of Sun Prairie's park system must emphasize the *local demand* for recreational resources. Therefore, a calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal standards. Furthermore, a locally-derived standard will do a better job of taking into account the *quality* of the park system as well as the quantity of park lands provided. Each facility-type description includes the City's service area and size standards, NRPA recommended size standards, and the local standard per 1,000 population. The NRPA guidelines suggest that at a minimum, a park system be composed of a "core" system of parkland, with a total of 6 to 10 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The following categories describing neighborhood and community parks comprise the "core" spaces to meet this standard.

### A. Neighborhood Park

General Description:	An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, wading pools, ball fields, adult areas with benches, shelter, and game tables. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks.
Local Service Area:	¼-mile radius uninterrupted by busy roads and other physical barriers
Local Size Standard:	2 to 9.9 acres
NRPA Recommended Size:	5 acres minimum; 5 to 10 acres is optimal
Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:	2 acres
Basic Facilities & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, etc.</li> <li>▪ Passive recreation facilities such as internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), picnic/sitting areas, open space, and "people watching" areas.</li> <li>▪ Service buildings for shelter, storage, restrooms</li> <li>▪ Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
Desirable Site Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suited for intense development</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible to the neighborhood population</li> <li>▪ Geographically centered with safe walking and biking access.</li> <li>▪ May be developed as a school-park facility</li> <li>▪ 50% of the site should be used for active recreation facilities, with the remaining 50% used for passive activities, landscaping, and conservation as appropriate</li> </ul>

## B. Community Park

General Description:	An area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities in community parks include those listed above in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares and also easily accessible by foot. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park. Community parks are generally able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites typically focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.
Local Service Area:	½-mile radius for parks 10.1 acres and over
Local Size Standard:	10 to 160 acres
NRPA Recommended Size:	As needed to accommodate desired uses; 25 to 50 acres is optimal
Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:	8 acres
Basic Facilities & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, ice skating areas, swimming pools, swimming beaches, archery ranges, disc golf areas, etc.</li> <li>Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas, individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, natural study areas, and ornamental gardens.</li> <li>▪ Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park.</li> <li>▪ Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use</li> <li>▪ Service buildings for shelter, storage, restrooms</li> <li>▪ Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.</li> <li>▪ Adequate off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
Desirable Site Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suited for intense development</li> <li>▪ May include natural areas, such as water bodies or wooded areas</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible to the neighborhood population</li> <li>▪ Easily accessible for walking and biking</li> </ul>

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### C. Special Use Areas and Facilities

General Description:	Parks and recreation facilities oriented toward a single-purpose use, usually falling into three categories: Historic/Cultural/Social Sites, Recreation Facilities, or Outdoor Recreation Facilities
Local Service Area:	N/A
Local Size Standard:	Variable
NRPA Recommended Size:	N/A
Local Acres per 1,000 Population:	Variable
Basic Facilities & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historic/Cultural/Social – historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, public buildings, zoo, and amphitheaters</li> <li>▪ Recreation Facilities – community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, miniature golf courses, shooting ranges, aquatic parks, skate parks</li> <li>▪ Outdoor Recreation Facilities – hiking trails, tennis centers, softball complexes, sports stadium</li> </ul>
Desirable Site Characteristics:	Variable, depending on use

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### D. Conservancy Areas

General Description:	Permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. May include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in other adopted components of the City's Comprehensive Plan. May also be appropriate for utilities and secondary recreational uses, such as trails.
Local Service Area:	N/A
Local Size Standard:	Sufficient to protect the resource
NRPA Recommended Size:	Sufficient to protect the resource
Local Acres per 1,000 Population:	Variable. Conservancy areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons.
Basic Facilities & Activities:	Passive, nature-based, low impact recreational facilities
Desirable Site Characteristics:	Variable, depending on resource being protected.

## E. School Parks

General Description:	School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the City or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.
Local Service Area:	Variable – depends on function
Local Size Standard:	N/A
NRPA Recommended Size:	N/A
Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:	N/A
Basic Facilities & Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice skating rinks</li> <li>▪ Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas</li> <li>▪ Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms</li> <li>▪ Lighting for security at night</li> <li>▪ Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces</li> </ul>
Desirable Site Characteristics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Easily accessible to the neighborhood population</li> <li>▪ Accessible by walking or biking</li> </ul>

## F. Recreation Trails

General Description:	<p>Recreation trails accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, nature study, and cross-country skiing. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space areas and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes.</p> <p>Recreation trails can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities. Therefore, this section provides descriptions of the different types of recreation trails that this <i>Plan</i> will address and how recommendations will be formulated for each type of trail.</p>
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### ON-STREET BICYCLE FACILITIES

General Description:	<p>There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.</p> <p>Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that are 32 feet or wider with no on-street parking. Shared bicycle/parking lanes generally function well where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high.</p> <p>Paved shoulders are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes. Paved shoulders are ideal for higher volume streets or highways (more than 1,000 cars per day) with rural cross sections (i.e. no curb and gutter).</p>
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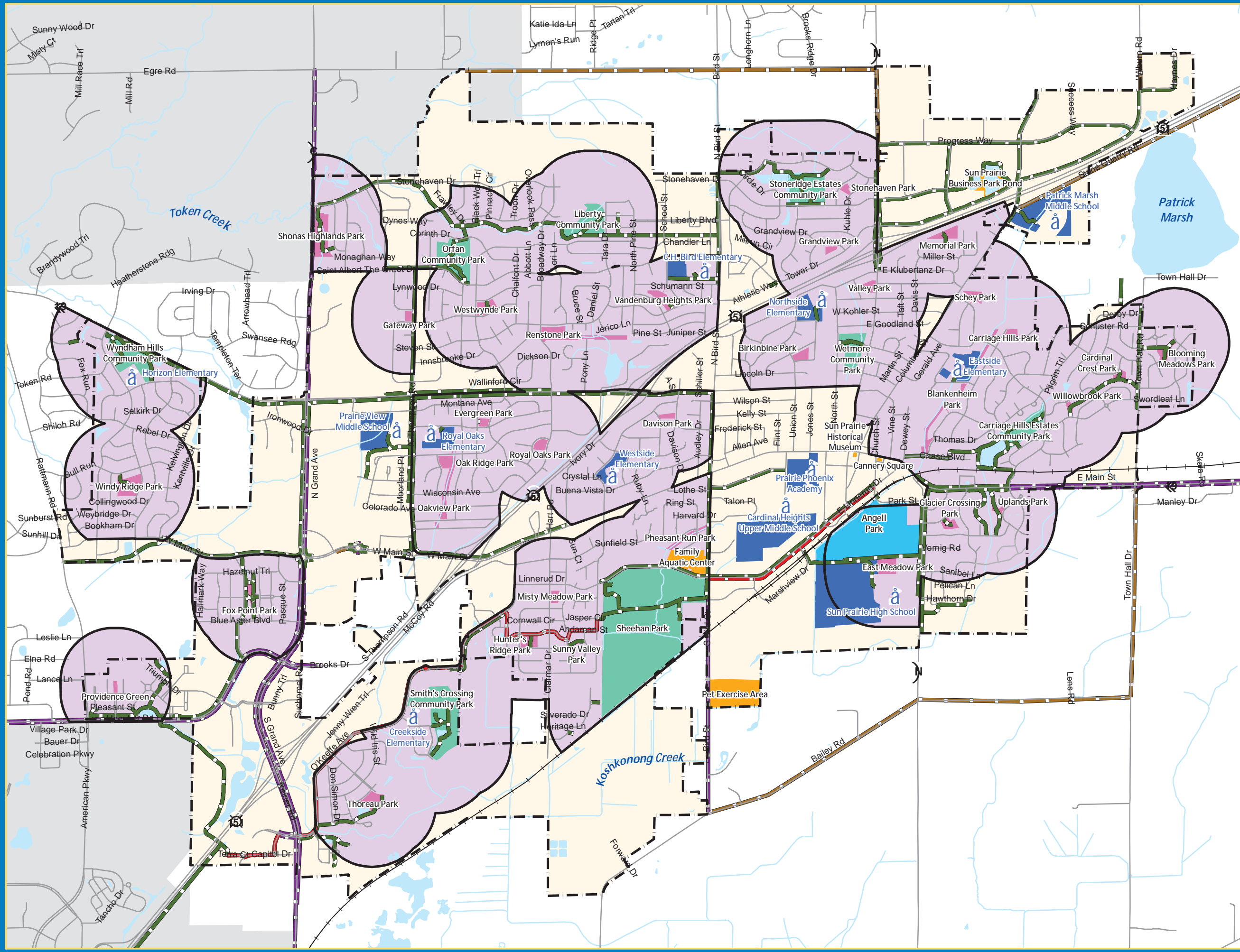
Treatment in this <i>Plan</i> :	Although this <i>Plan</i> presents general recommendations regarding location for on-street bike facilities, more formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the City's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.
Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet along an arterial street.</li> <li>▪ When used alongside a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.</li> <li>▪ Where bike lanes and on-street parking is provided, minimum combined width should be 11 feet (13 feet where there is substantial parking or turnover of parked cars is high).</li> <li>▪ Lanes painted with a bicycle pavement symbol or the words "bike lane" according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.</li> <li>▪ Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.</li> </ul>
Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 miles per hour.</li> <li>▪ A stripe separating shoulder from roadway is recommended.</li> <li>▪ These are generally not marked as an exclusive bike facility.</li> </ul>
Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population:	N/A

#### **OFF-STREET RECREATION TRAILS**

General Description:	<p>There are two primary types of off-street recreation trails: multi-use paths and rural walking/hiking trails.</p> <p>Multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks and environmental corridors.</p> <p>Rural trails provide connections between urbanized areas, and access to parks and open space areas. Walkways may be restricted to pedestrian use because of environmental conditions. In certain locations, they may also be suitable for equestrian and/or bicycle use. Rural walkways are often sited along creeks, streams, rivers, field boundaries, and other natural linear systems.</p>
Treatment in this <i>Plan</i> :	This <i>Plan</i> presents recommendations for the location of future off-street recreation trails. However, the design and type of such facilities will not be identified in this <i>Plan</i> .
Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of 10 feet to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, walking, running, and skating.</li> <li>▪ In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of eight feet wide, surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.</li> <li>▪ Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.</li> <li>▪ The path should be designed to accommodate bicycle speeds up to 20 mph.</li> </ul>
Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Because these trail facilities often travel through sensitive environmental areas, they are generally not paved. Rather, they are surfaced with crushed limestone, wood chips, hard packed earth, or mowed grass.</li> </ul>
Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population:	N/A

**TRAILHEADS**

General Description:	Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the community's system. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.
Treatment in this <i>Plan</i> :	This <i>Plan</i> will make general recommendations regarding the future location of trailheads. Suggestions will be based upon both existing and proposed park facilities and parking locations.
Desirable Design Criteria:	N/A
Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population:	N/A



### Neighborhood Park Service Areas

- City of Sun Prairie
- Other City or Village
- Roads
- Rail
- Surface Water
- Public Schools

### Bike/Pedestrian Facilities

- Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- On-Road Bike Lane
- Signed On-Road Bike Route
- Rural Bike Route

### Parks and Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Private Park
- Public School Open Space and Recreational Facilities

### Neighborhood Park Service Areas\*

- Neighborhood Park 1/4 Mile Service Area

\*Neighborhood Park Service Areas include Neighborhood, Community, and Elementary School Parks.

Service Areas are constrained by barriers such as major roads.

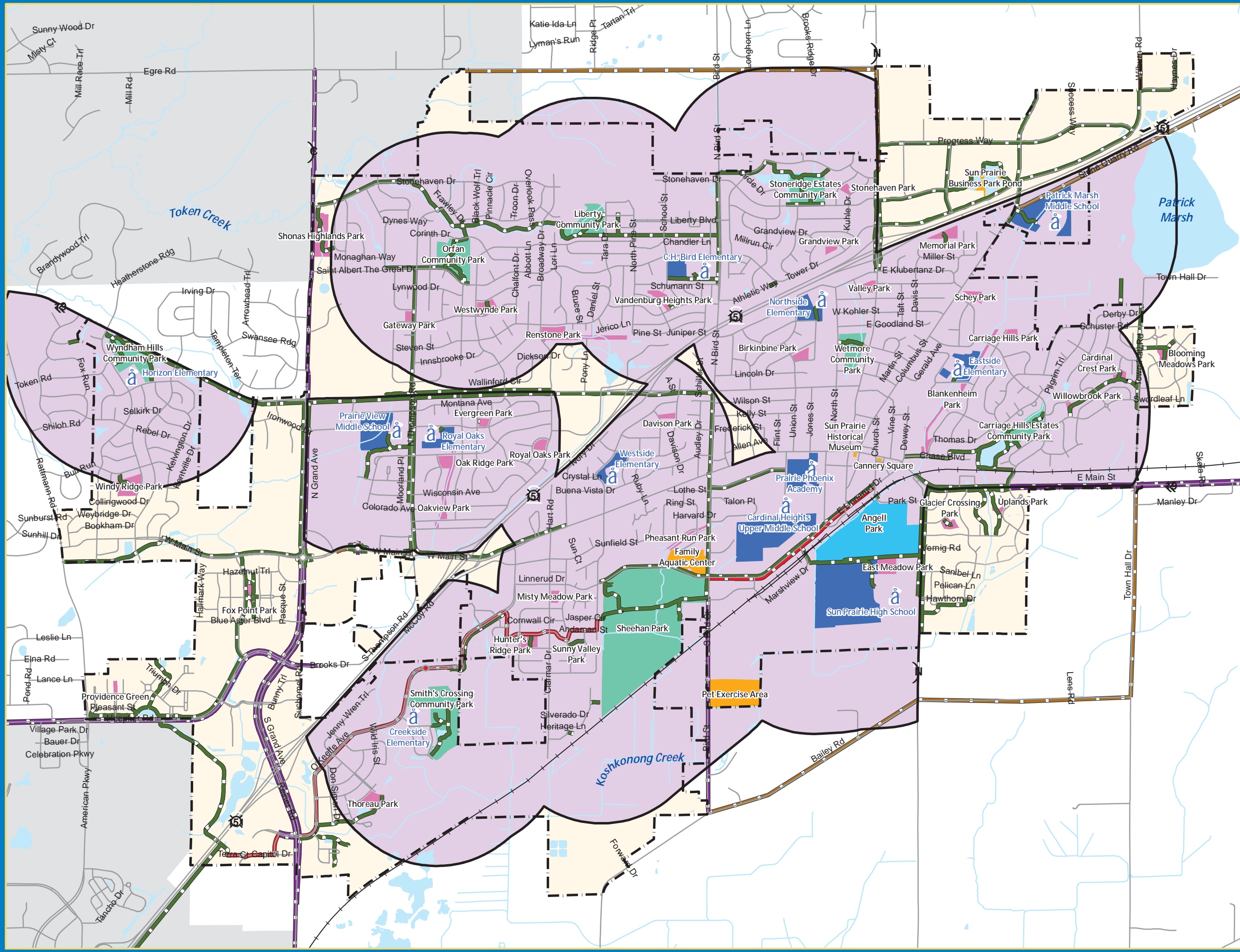


Sources: City of Sun Prairie, Dane Co. LIO



Date: 1/25/17

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### Community Park Service Areas

- City of Sun Prairie
- Other City or Village
- Roads
- Rail
- Surface Water
- Public Schools

### Bike/Pedestrian Facilities

- Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- On-Road Bike Lane
- Signed On-Road Bike Route
- Rural Bike Route

### Parks and Facilities

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Private Park
- Public School Open Space and Recreational Facilities

### Community Park Service Areas\*

- Community Park
- 1/2 Mile Service Area

\*Community Park Service Areas include Community and School Parks.

Service Areas are constrained by barriers such as major roads.



Sources: City of Sun Prairie, Dane Co. LIO



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## VII. ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This Chapter presents an analysis of how well the City of Sun Prairie's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the City's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of national park and recreational facility service recommendations to reliable population projections for the City (quantitative analysis);
- A qualitative analysis of the City's park system based on both an understanding of the City's goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the City's park and open space system; and
- A review of the Wisconsin's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next chapter of this *Plan*.

### A. Quantitative Analysis

#### 1. Existing Level of Service

Figure 9 (on the next page) presents a comparison of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) acreage guidelines for each park type, per 1,000 persons, and the City's existing park acreage per park type. The NRPA guidelines have been generally regarded as the standard for certifiable Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans in Wisconsin, however, the NRPA has not updated its standards since the 1990s. Therefore, the NRPA standards are now being used as a general guideline for communities to consider. Because of the exceptional state and county park facilities within a short distance, the City has chosen standards that differ from the NRPA guidelines. The City has established local standards are sufficient for meeting the needs of the community (see Chapter VI).

The City of Sun Prairie has 33 parks under 10 acres that function as neighborhood parks. Of these, 15 are less than two acres, smaller than the City's minimum size for new neighborhood parks. The City also has eight over 10 acres that serve as community parks. Sheehan Park is by far the largest park, at 138 acres. This park alone contributes 3.2 acres of additional park space per 1,000 persons, thus contributing significantly to the City's existing level of surface. School District facilities are not counted as City parks because they are not under the jurisdiction of the City and have limited availability to City residents. However, they provide important areas for recreation and open space for City residents when they are not in use for school activities.

Special use areas include Cannery Square, the Family Aquatic Center, the Pet Exercise Area, the Sun Prairie Business Park Pond, and the Sun Prairie Historical Museum, which together provide 0.68 acres per 1,000 persons of additional recreation and open space. There are no specific NRPA guidelines for these special use areas. County and state recreation facilities that are not part of the City park and recreation system and are not counted toward City park acreage. There are no specific NRPA guidelines for these facilities.



The information in Figure 9 indicates that, the City has 7.6 acres of unconstrained parkland for every 1,000 residents and therefore meets the local standard for size and acreage when using the City's standards for park size. There are 62.1 acres of neighborhood parkland and 184.5 acres of community parkland for a total of 246.7 unconstrained acres of developed City parks. Figure 9 indicates that the City park acreage meets the NRPA acreage guidelines for community parks and for total developed local parks. The City also meets the standard for neighborhood parks.

Figure 9: Park Acreage Existing Level of Service - 2017

	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
Type of Park	NRPA Guideline Acres per 1,000 Persons	2017 Sun Prairie <u>Unconstrained</u> Park Acreage per 1,000 persons* <small>Column D / (32,365/1,000)</small>	Recommended Range of Total Park Acreage for Sun Prairie based on NRPA Guidelines <small>Column A x (32,365/1,000)</small>	2017 Sun Prairie <u>Unconstrained</u> Total Park Acreage
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b> (less than 10 acres)	1 to 2	1.9	32.4 to 64.7	62.1
<b>Community Parks</b> (10-160 acres)	5 to 8	5.7	161.8 to 258.9	184.5
<b>Total Developed Parks</b>	<b>6 to 10</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>194.2 to 323.6</b>	<b>246.7</b>
Special Use Areas	N/A	0.7	N/A	21.9
McCarthy County Park	N/A	6.8	N/A	220
Token Creek County Park	N/A	13.2	N/A	427
Yahara Heights County Park	N/A	11.9	N/A	385
Patrick Marsh	N/A	4.6	N/A	148+
All Public School Recreation Facilities	N/A	5.2	N/A	168
Angell Park	N/A	0.8	N/A	26.7
<b>Total All Facilities in the Sun Prairie Area</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>50.77</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1,495.17</b>

Figure 10 presents an inventory of the total number of existing public recreational facilities/equipment in the City parks system (not including School District facilities). A comprehensive inventory of the facilities in each park is located in Figure 8.

**Figure 10: Existing Recreational Facilities, 2017**

Facility	Number of Existing Facilities in the City
Picnic Areas	39 (all parks)
Picnic Shelters	9
Restrooms	8
Playgrounds	37
Baseball Fields	4
Softball Fields	4
Soccer Fields	3
Ice Skating Rinks	1
Hockey Rinks	3
Skate Parks	1
Basketball Courts	19
Tennis Courts	2
Pickleball Courts	2
Volleyball Courts	8
Sledding Hills	2
Cross Country Ski Trails	1.35 miles
Swimming Pool	1
Multi-Use Paths	36 miles
Fishing Access	1

**2. Future Park System Needs**

The overall future recreation needs of the City are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the City in future years. This type of future needs assessment is a critical component of this *Plan*. It is included in part, to satisfy Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 and 236.29 regarding the collection of fees, and also to assist the City with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks.

The City’s minimum size standards for community parks and neighborhood parks differ from the acreage standards recommended by the NRPA for community parks and neighborhood parks. For this reason, this *Plan* compares the City’s total acreage for all neighborhood and community parks to the total park acreage suggested by the NRPA guidelines.

Of the City’s existing active recreation and parkland, approximately 66 percent of the lands are community parks, 22 percent are neighborhood parks, and 11 percent are special use facilities. During the writing of this *Plan*, the City calculated its existing ratios of community to neighborhood parks and the NRPA guidelines, and determined a local future acreage standard for community and neighborhood parks, as well as for total parkland. The City’s existing provision of park land in 2017 was determined to be 11.1 acres per 1,000 people; however when environmentally-constrained land was removed from the equation, the provision of parkland useable for active recreation was determined to be 7.62 acres per 1,000 people. The City’s future standard was set at 10 acres per 1,000 residents in order to provide a comparable level of service as the City continues to grow. The City’s future standard is comprised of 2 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents and 8 acres of community parks per 1,000 residents. This balance of community and neighborhood parks was selected due to a desire to provide a greater proportion of larger parks (i.e. community parks) as opposed to smaller parks (i.e. neighborhood parks), due to the comparatively high maintenance demands and costs associated with smaller parks.

Based on these standards, Figures 11 and 12 show the minimum additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City’s projected population in 2027, 2030, 2035 and 2040.

Figure 11 presents just the 2027 park acreage needs projection that corresponds to Chapters 66.0617 and 236.45 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which specifies that municipalities have a 10-year timeframe for collection and expenditure of impact fees. The 2027 projection will be used to estimate future costs in Chapter XI: Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreation Facilities, and to determine parkland acquisition and improvement recommendations based on what the City can reasonably expect to accomplish in the 10-year timeframe. Based upon the City Standard for Future Acreage (column B of Figure 11), the City will need about 20 additional acres in neighborhood parks and about 146 more acres in community parks, for a total of about 166 additional acres of parkland to accommodate the future population in 2027.

**Figure 11: Park Acreage Needs, 2027**

Park Type	(A) City Existing Acres per 1,000 Residents	(B) City Standard for Future Acres Per 1,000 Residents	(C) Total Acreage Needed in 2027, based on City Standard (Column B x 41.26*)	(D) 2017 Total Acres	(E) Minimum Additional Acres Needed to Meet City Standard by 2027 (Column C - Column D)
Neighborhood Parks	1.9	2	82.5	62.1	20.4
Community Parks	5.7	8	330.1	184.5	145.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>412.6</b>	<b>246.7</b>	<b>165.9</b>

\* Projected 2027 population divided by 1,000 persons (41,260/1,000)

Figure 12 shows that, based on the population projections described in Chapter II and the City Standard for Future Acreage, the City will need to add about 26 acres of neighborhood parkland, and about 166 acres of community parkland (approximately 192 acres total) to the current park system by 2035. By 2040, the City will need to add approximately 290 acres total of new parkland to accommodate the future population.

**Figure 12: Park Acreage Needs, 2030, 2035, and 2040**

Park Type	City Existing Acres Per 1,000 persons	City Future Acreage Standard per 1,000 residents	City Standard for Future Total Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 residents in			2017 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by		
			2030	2035	2040		2030	2035	2040
Neighborhood Parks	1.9	2	87.7	97.0	107.3	62.1	25.6	34.9	45.2
Community Parks	5.7	8	350.7	388.1	429.4	184.5	166.2	203.5	244.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>438.4</b>	<b>485.1</b>	<b>536.7</b>	<b>246.7</b>	<b>191.8</b>	<b>238.4</b>	<b>290.1</b>

\* Based on Vandewalle & Associates projected populations of: 2030 = 43,842, 2035= 48,509 and 2040= 53,674

## B. Qualitative Analysis

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this *Plan*, a thorough assessment of the City's existing facilities must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Sun Prairie unique from other communities.

Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will do the following things:

- Identify those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards;
- Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of City residents; and
- Allow for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the City can plan its future park system.

Important factors to consider include the following:

- There are no set standards or guidelines for classifying school open space areas; however, in the City of Sun Prairie, school facilities serve many of the recreational needs of the residential neighborhoods that immediately surround them. However, it should be recognized that school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school sponsored activities are given first priority when it comes to the scheduling and use of these facilities. For this reason, it is important for the City to provide and maintain an adequate number of its own facilities and parklands to accommodate programming needs and to meet local demand.
- Sun Prairie is fortunate to have several very high quality state- and county-owned natural resource and recreation facilities that serve the entire region within a very short distance. McCarthy County Park (220 acres), Yahara Heights County Park (385 acres), Token Creek County Park (427 acres), and Governor Nelson State Park (440 acres) are all within 6 to 16 miles of the City and provide many outstanding active and passive recreation opportunities for City residents. The City should work with the state and Dane County to provide safe and efficient connections to trail systems that provide access to nearby state and county park facilities.
- City residents have access to many recreational facilities, however, the public input survey indicates there is need for some additional facilities and amenities such as:
  - Facilities for carry-in watercraft such as canoes and kayaks
  - Bike skills courses and mountain biking trails
  - Fitness stations in existing parks
  - Splash pad
  - Community gardens
  - Disc golf course
  - Outdoor performance venue



## C. Geographic Analysis

The *location* of the park and open space facilities in relation to a community's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. *Map 2: Park Service Areas*, illustrates how effectively the City of Sun Prairie's parklands serve the various areas of the City. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in the Park and Recreation Standards section of this *Plan*.

The area served by a park is influenced by several factors. These include the size of the park, location, transportation access, and natural or manmade barriers. Displaying park service areas based on these factors suggests locations where additional park facilities might be necessary to serve residents.

The City is well-covered with community parks, neighborhood parks, and special use facilities. In the central portion of the City, school facilities help fill in some of the gaps in park accessibility. Existing residential areas lacking adequate neighborhood park facilities include:

- The multi-family area on Providence Street near Costco, distant from Providence Green Park
- The multi-family area across Bird Street from C.H. Bird Elementary School

- The neighborhood north of downtown bounded by Windsor Street to the north, Grove Street to the east, the railroad tracks to the south, and Bird Street to the west
- The existing and future residential area bounded by Windsor Street to the north, Thompson Road to the east, Main Street to the south, and Kelvington and Kentville Drives to the west

Existing residential areas lacking adequate community park facilities include:

- Residential development on the southeast side of the City, located south of Main Street and east of CTH N
- Residential development on the southwest side of the City, located south of Windy Ridge Park and west of Grand Avenue
- Residential development along Pony Lane and Broadway Drive, between Windsor Street and Steven Street

As the City continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands and open space.

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#### **D. Review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2011-2016 (SCORP)**

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2011-2016 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR). The primary focus of the SCORP is to identify the correlation between activity and wellness and to provide information on the availability of recreational activities in Wisconsin that promote wellness.

Specific plan recommendations and actions related to Sun Prairie's local park and recreation planning include:

- Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.
- Identify existing and emerging strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.
- Acknowledge the potential issues surrounding climate change adaptation with outdoor recreation and tourism.
- Encourage regional planning efforts for integrated, cost-effective use of recreation lands and facilities.
- Provide education and awareness of how recreation uses can impact the natural resources along with actions to reduce those impacts.
- Promote the collaboration of public and private recreation opportunities through integrated management planning.
- Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
- Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
- Continue to meet Americans with the Disabilities Act standards for accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities.
- Support community-based efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation.
- Promote sustainable recreation facility design, construction, and maintenance practices.
- Continue to support the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative for habitat conservation and protection.
- Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
- Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
- Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.
- Continue to encourage citizens to use state parks, forests, and trails for health and wellness.
- Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible, and connected great urban parks and community green spaces.
- Connect people with urban parks, trails, and community green spaces.
- Leverage private community foundations and public funding to increase park acquisitions.

## VIII. RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations to expand and improve Sun Prairie's existing park and open space system based on deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this *Plan*, and new park and facilities needs as indicated by future population growth. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this report.

Based on the City's projected population in 2027 (41,260 residents) and 2037 (50,513 residents), and its Future Acreage Standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, **Sun Prairie will need to provide about 166 additional acres of active parkland by 2027 and 290 new acres of parkland by 2040.** This *Plan* recommends that additional acreage in passive, nature-oriented parks is developed in addition to the above recommended active park development acreage. This recommendation assumes that Sun Prairie will continue to grow at the current rate of two percent per year, and that park and open space planning will be oriented toward serving a steadily growing population. The timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City's developed and newly developed areas.

### A. Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks

#### Davison Park

- Upgrade playground equipment
- Add basketball court

#### Family Aquatic Center

- Renovate bathhouse
- Renovate concession stand
- Replace water slide
- Add splash pad

#### Liberty Community Park

- Add basketball courts
- Add multi-use court (tennis/pickleball/basketball)
- Shelter and restrooms

#### Oak Ridge Park

- Improve ball field

#### Orfan Community Park

- Add splash pad

#### Pet Exercise Area

- Lighting

#### Sheehan Park

*Refer to additional comments on the following page.*

- Add disc golf course
- Expand cross-country ski trails
- Improve soccer field
- Multi-use athletic fields (baseball, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, ultimate, etc.)
- Add outdoor performance venue
- Add Little League and/or Junior and Senior baseball fields

- Expand skate park
- Add BMX park
- Maintain undeveloped areas as a nature preserve
- Add multi-use single track loop in the southern, undeveloped area

#### Smith's Crossing Community Park

- Add multi-use single track loop
- Add shelter and restrooms

#### Stoneridge Estates Community Park

- Improve soccer fields

#### Thoreau Park

- Upgrade playground
- Add multi-use court (tennis/pickleball/basketball)

#### Valley Park

- Add soccer fields

#### Wetmore Community Park

- Add multi-use court (tennis/pickleball/basketball)

#### Windy Ridge Park

- Add basketball courts
- Expand nature preserve
- Add parking

#### Wyndham Hills Community Park

- Add multi-use court (tennis/pickleball/basketball)

### Complete a Park Master Plan for Sheehan Park



A large area of Sheehan Park south of the Little League fields is currently undeveloped. Numerous uses have been suggested for this area prior to and during the development of this *Plan*. There has been interest in a wide variety of improvements, including a multi-use single track loop, additional athletic fields, Little League parking expansion, Little League expansion to include Junior and Senior baseball fields, expansion of the skate park, adding BMX facilities, adding a disc golf course, and expansion of cross-country ski areas. In addition, there is also support for preserving natural areas and wildlife habitat, with the intention of incorporating a nature preserve and environmental/nature programs. (All of these suggestions are reflected under the “Sheehan Park” heading in Section A: “Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks,” on the previous page.)

In order to determine the best of use of Sheehan Park, the development of a park master plan is recommended. This process should involve the collection of further public input; evaluate and prioritize suggested improvements and facilities; determine the future use of the park facilities, equipment, and park grounds; and inform the City’s capital improvements program.

### Maintain, Update and Renovate Existing Park and Trail Facilities

The City should continue to assess needed updates and renovations in existing parks and trails over the course of the planning period on an annual or biannual basis.

- Continue to update and maintain playgrounds and equipment in existing parks in accordance with the playground inspection program.
- Explore opportunities to integrate small natural areas within existing park areas. These small pockets of natural areas (meadow, savanna, etc.) would protect natural habitat areas, minimize mowing requirements, and provide attractive and varied landscapes.
- Explore the feasibility and cost of working with local businesses to provide site-level park amenities. For example, the City should explore opportunities for benches and interpretive signs in relation to off-street trail areas. These benches could be sponsored by located businesses to offset the costs for purchase, installation, and maintenance.
- Adopt and implement proposed facility inspection policy with inspection checklists for the Family Aquatic Center, shelters, athletic fields/bleachers/fencing and bridges, etc.
- Adopt playground equipment replacement schedule by priority, park, age, condition, and use.
- Replace parking lots as included in the 2018 and 2020 Capital Improvement Plans.
- Pursue skate park expansion with joint public and private funding. (See feature on following page.)

### Sun Prairie Skate Park Expansion

Sun Prairie’s skate park was originally built in 1997, and a few features were added in 2011. The community’s skateboarding enthusiasts have a strong desire to expand the skate park. Grindline, of Seattle, Washington, was selected to develop a conceptual design for the future additions to the Sun Prairie skate park. At an open house in November 2016, the public provided input into the design, and members of the local skateboard community attended this event. Their shared experience with other community skate parks and suggestions for the elements they desired in Sun Prairie provided the basis for the conceptual design. The concept design includes elements that provide a “flowing” skate park that is designed for all age groups and skill levels.



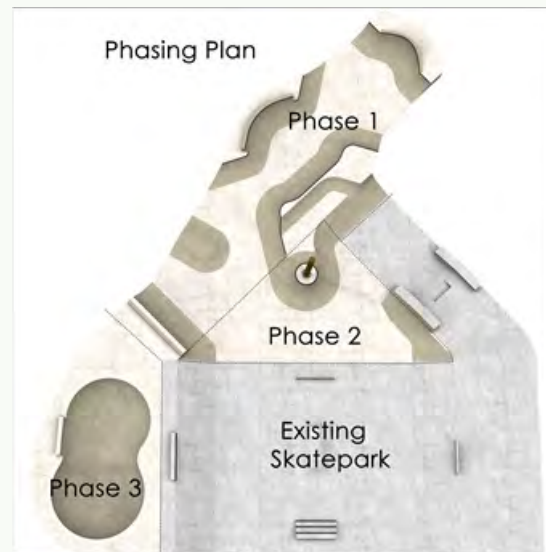
The conceptual design was developed to be accomplished in phases as funding becomes available. Funding for the skate park expansion will need to be a joint venture of private donations, Park Funds, and other non-city sources to pay for the improvements.

#### Estimate of Construction Costs - Phases 1, 2 & 3

Phase	Size	Estimated Costs
Phase 1	3,211 sq. ft.	\$142,889
Phase 2	1,370 sq. ft.	\$60,965
Phase 3	1,619 sq. ft.	\$82,569
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,200 sq. ft.</b>	<b>\$ 286,423</b>

#### Exclusions:

- Water and power supply
- Permits
- Lighting
- Amenities (benches, shade structures, restrooms, drinking fountain, etc.)
- Other work outside of skate park footprint (restoration, drainage, landscaping, etc.)



## B. Recommended Additional Parks

Future development at the periphery of the City will result in the need for additional neighborhood parks. In response to this identified need, Map 4 shows alternative locations for four neighborhood parks (ranging from two to 10 acres in size): one within the City's current municipal limits to serve areas currently underserved by park facilities, and three parks in the City's future growth areas. Additionally, this *Plan* recommends three new community parks to serve the City's future residential areas on the north, east, and west sides.

Specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are actually platted or acquired over the next 25 years. Recommended locations have been carefully sited to maximize park service areas, avoid busy roads and other physical obstacles/barriers, and utilize land without environmental constraints that preclude the active recreation uses. The following is a description of these general park recommendations.

### Neighborhood Parks

To accommodate the City's projected population increases, additional neighborhood parkland acquisitions of 20.4 acres by 2027 and 45.2 acres by 2040 are recommended. The City should add new neighborhood parks as the City grows to the north and southeast to serve the City's future residential growth areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. Recommended general locations for future neighborhood parks are identified on Map 4; however, the timing and precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs or land is acquired or platted.



The proposed neighborhood park along Thompson Road would serve West Prairie Village neighborhood. The land reserved for this park has significant environmental constraints. If the amount of usable parkland is not sufficient in this location, the City should seek to identify another park location that would serve this neighborhood.

The proposed neighborhood park just south of Egge Road will also involve a pet exercise area, in addition to usual neighborhood park facilities. This park will serve the north side of the City.

Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding residential areas with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately two to 10 acres in size and serve an area within a ¼ -mile radius. These parks could include facilities such as a playground, play field, and play structure. Some areas of the central city are underserved by neighborhood parks due to the lack of available land. The City should consider how to enhance existing parks to better serve those portions of the community.

### Community Parks

Based on a future growth trends, there is both the opportunity and a need to develop up to three new community parks.

#### **North Side Park**

This Plan recommends siting a new community park in the north side growth area. At least 40 acres of unconstrained land should be acquired by the City for this purpose. This park should include recreational facilities such as multi-purpose athletic fields/playfields or complexes, multi-use courts (tennis/pickleball/basketball) or complexes, hiking trails, natural areas, picnicking areas, or other facilities. It may also contain natural areas for outdoor recreation such as walking, bicycling, sitting, nature viewing, and picnicking. It is important that this park be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have adequate off-street parking, and also be accessible by foot and bicycle. The park should include connections to the Town of Bristol and the Dane County trail system, specifically connections to McCarthy County Park and Token Creek County Park.

As shown on Map 4, the proposed park would be located near Egge Road; this road is the long-term boundary between the Town of Bristol and the City of Sun Prairie. A park in this location would certainly be used by residents

of both communities, especially because about half of the park's half-mile service area would be located in the Town of Bristol. Depending on the size of the park, some of the park could be located north of Egge Road, beyond the City of Sun Prairie's planned growth area. For these reasons, the City should work with the Town of Bristol to develop this park. The Town could provide partnering funds to support the acquisition, development, and improvement of the future community park. This joint effort could enable a larger and higher quality park that would serve residents of both municipalities. It could also meet the Town of Bristol's objective of providing a trail connection to the City of Sun Prairie.

The City should act quickly to secure land for this park. Options on near north side within the City's annexation area are limited, and land acquisition costs are high due to the fact that land in this area has high development potential and proximity to the City's urban service area.

A detailed master plan for the north side park should be undertaken in order to collect further public input and plan future facilities and needs. Once established, this master plan will form the basis for developing a capital improvements program.

### **East and West Side Parks**

In later phases, community parks should be developed in the City's east and west side growth areas, specifically on the west side (between Windy Ridge Park and Providence Green Park) and on the east side (south of STH 19 and east of CTH N). These facilities should be developed as development occurs and/or as opportunities for parkland acquisition become available. Due to the large number of acres needed for community parks, the City may have to purchase parkland directly rather than wait for lands to be platted. Where possible, the City should use the platting process to work with the developer(s) to identify park boundaries and acquire land for this community park as lands are proposed for development. The proposed west side community park is sited in a location in which several parcels come together, which may make the acquisition of parkland through dedication for this park easier by distributing the dedication requirements among several property owners.

Recommendations for all future community parks include the following:

- Community parks should be between 10 and 160 acres and serve an area within a half-mile to two-mile radius.
- Master plans should be developed for new community parks to help inform the City's capital improvements program.
- In general, parks should provide both active and passive features in one area. More care is required in the design of regional and community-wide facilities due to the need for parking lots and lit athletic fields and courts. Where needed, require cut-off lighting structures that avoid spill-over into neighboring properties. For such parks, extensive on-site landscaping and berming may be desired to mitigate adverse traffic, sound, and lighting impacts.
- Explore development of a joint School District and City community park that could contain an indoor recreation center.
- The City of Sun Prairie should consider partnering with the City of Madison to develop a park located between the two communities. Per existing intergovernmental agreements, lands to the southwest of Sun Prairie are located in the City of Madison's growth area. While located within Madison, the park could serve both communities. This area includes former quarry lands, numerous ponds, and many interesting environmental features. Although not ideal for development, it could make an excellent park and natural area.



### Special Use Areas and Facilities

Existing Special Use facilities should be upgraded and expanded as population and demand increases. The City should also explore new Special Use facilities (as suggested below) in the future as residents' recreation needs change.

This *Plan* recommends three new Special Use facilities:

- **Combined Neighborhood Park/Pet Exercise Area:** A new multi-purpose park would be located just south of Egge Road, surrounded by the Village of Windsor. This park would involve a second pet exercise area and a neighborhood park serving the north side of the City.
- **Water Access on Patrick Marsh:** The City should work with surrounding property owners and the Town of Sun Prairie to improve access to Patrick Marsh and provide an ADA-compliant fishing pier and carry-in watercraft access point on Patrick Marsh. This would fulfill a need for water access near the City; otherwise, the closest options are Cherokee Lake, the Marshall Millpond, and Rock Lake. The water access and land surrounding Patrick marsh should be oriented to silent sports, due to the conservation nature of the area.
- **Passive Recreation Area:** The City should pursue dedicating City-owned lands south of Sheehan Park for passive recreation purposes. This area is not suitable for development or active recreation uses, but could host trails, picnic areas, boardwalks, natural areas, habitat preservation and wildlife viewing areas, etc.

### Natural & Open Space Areas

Through the community survey and public workshops, Sun Prairie residents expressed the need for more natural recreation areas. There is very strong support for developing new passive recreation facilities (e.g. trails, picnic areas, natural area interpretation sites, etc.), maintaining existing natural areas and passive recreation facilities, acquiring and maintain land for conservation value, and maintaining urban forests and forested park lands. The City should consider accepting quality land donations for conservancy or natural and open space uses, however these lands will not count toward the land dedication requirement as described in Chapter IX of this *Plan*. Opportunities for maintenance and preservation of natural areas include quarry land in the Town of Burke, Token Creek, Patrick Marsh and surrounding lands, undeveloped forest/natural areas to the south of Sheehan Park, and natural areas in Thoreau Park.

### Joint School District/City Park Facilities

The City should consider partnering with the Sun Prairie Area School District to jointly develop future park and recreational facilities, particularly for the new elementary schools and a potential second high school, which are in various stages of planning. One joint School District/City park is proposed on Map 4 where a new elementary school is planned on the City's west side, at the northwest corner of North Grand Avenue and North City Station Drive.

Combining a school and park site provides the opportunity for educational programs, such as ecology studies, to be built around natural areas in the park. One of the most immediate benefits of this type of arrangement is consolidating the total amount of land that is needed for a school and park. For example, instead of the City developing one 10-acre park and the School District developing another 10-acre park (for a total of 20 acres), they could consolidate to develop one 15-acre park that serves both the school and the City.

In the future, the City and School District's shared park and recreation needs should be considered as plans develop for a second high school.

## **C. Recommended Recreation Programs**

The City of Sun Prairie has an exceptional recreation program that offers a wide variety of fitness, wellness, youth sports, adult sports, and enrichment programming. According to public input, the principal reason that residents do not participate in City programs is due to a lack of time, rather than dissatisfaction with the City's recreational offerings. Public input revealed interest in at-work wellness programming that would fit into residents' busy schedules. There was also strong support for canoeing/kayaking, nature/environmental programming, hiking trips, expanded youth sports, pickleball lessons, indoor youth swimming lessons, and mountain biking programs.

Middle school and high school students have indicated strong interest in an ultimate Frisbee program. The City could start by establishing regular pickup games at a predetermined time and place. As the sport builds momentum and participation reaches a critical mass, the City could

“Programs for youth should always be a priority – it is what makes Sun Prairie a great community. We do need more outdoor programs for youth that are affordable to all families. Today's middle class families enroll their kids in programs, so we need the City to provide exceptional opportunities to attract kids from all socio-economic backgrounds.”

explore establishing regular leagues. The highly popular Madison Ultimate Frisbee Association could serve as a model for such a program in the future.

Demographic trends indicate that the City's overall population is aging and the median age continues to increase. This is consistent with regional and national trends, as the large baby boomer population ages. In order to continue to meet the needs of its residents, the City should consider expanding programming and offerings that can be enjoyed by older adults. This could include senior-oriented programming tailored to adults over 55 such as senior wellness/nutrition and fitness programs and senior sports leagues (tennis, pickleball, etc.). It could also involve activities that can be enjoyed by all people, regardless of age, ability, or fitness level. Examples would include nature/environmental programming, art classes, nature walks and outings, and "lifetime" activities such as horseshoes, lawn bowling, and bocce.

In addition, City programs should continue to respond to the fact that incomes have not been keeping up with inflation. The median income (adjusted for inflation) has decreased over the last decade, meaning that the number of lower-income households will likely continue to grow. The City should continue to explore options for low-cost or no-cost programming that can serve a broad population, regardless of household buying power.

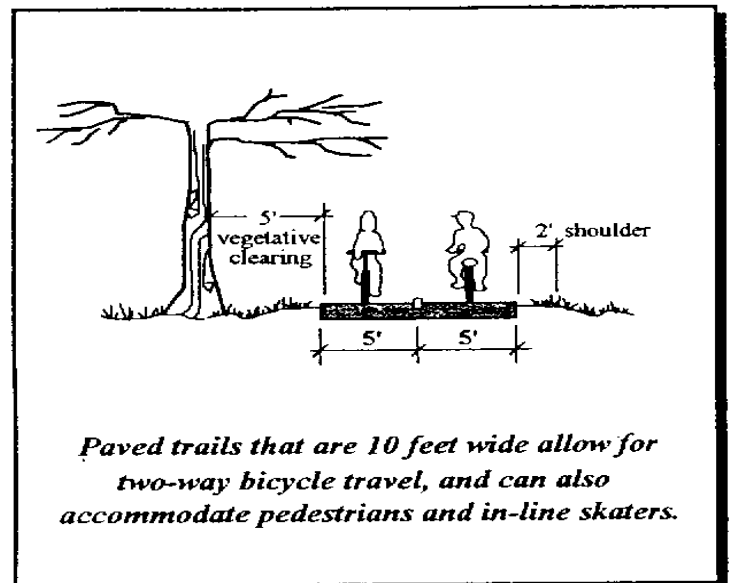
#### D. Proposed Off-Street Paths and Trails

This *Plan* recommends several off-street paths and trail segments (both multi-use trails and rural paths) within the urban service area. Public input in the planning process revealed a strong interest in expanding the City's recreational trails and connecting gaps in the existing network. These multi-use trails are intended for bicycling, walking, running, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. The City should continue to develop a trail network that runs throughout the City and links together the City's many amenities. In particular, the trail network should link together a variety of different types of resources, amenities, and everyday destinations such as existing and planned neighborhoods, existing and planned parks, environmental corridors and natural/open spaces, existing and planned schools, the Downtown, key employment areas, and primary commercial/shopping areas. Connecting these community features would allow the network to be used for recreation as well as daily trips like commuting and shopping. Completing an extensive off-road trail network would be a major accomplishment unmatched by any other Dane County community.

Optimally, off-street paths and trails have a paved surface of minimum of 10 feet in width to accommodate two-way bicycle travel as well as other types of movement such as walking or in-line skating. Existing paths that are less than 10 feet in width should be upgraded to the full 10-foot or wider width. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, these paths and trails provide a safe environment desired by less skilled cyclists. These trails are most effective when they provide system continuity and adequate access points to on-street bike routes that form the remainder of the City's bicycle system.

This *Plan* recommends connecting the City's trail network to other regional trail systems and parks. Specifically, trails should be coordinated with planned Dane County trails, as recommended in the Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan; these include connections to Token Creek County Park, Riley Deppe County Park, McCarthy County Park, the Village of Cottage Grove, the Glacial Drumlin State Trail, and the Village of DeForest. The trail network should also provide connections to adjacent municipalities and their municipal trail systems, especially the City of Madison, Town of Burke, Village of Windsor, and the Town of Bristol.

Where possible, trails should be located within environmental corridors or along the edge of environmental corridors. Not only does this provide a more attractive and natural location for trails, but it also takes advantage of land that is

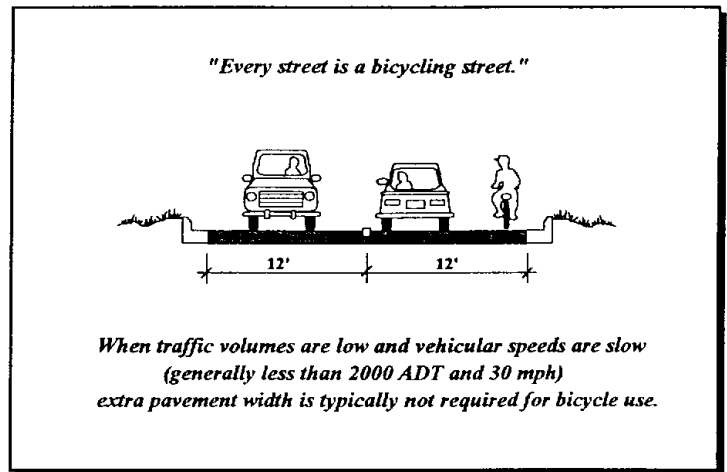


not otherwise developable. Trails located in environmental corridors also are likely to have fewer road crossings and conflicts with vehicles.

### E. Proposed On-Street Bicycle Routes

While off-street shared use trails are preferred whenever possible, this *Plan* also recommends maintaining and expanding its existing on-street bike route system along existing and proposed City streets. All proposed on-street bike routes should be signed and properly maintained. On-street bike routes typically include local streets where cyclists share a travel lane with automobiles. These types of signed bike routes provide good access to many origins and destinations throughout the community. Maintaining on-street bike routes is relatively inexpensive and can be accomplished primarily by eliminating basic hazards to bike travel. These hazards include parallel drainage grates, rough at-grade railroad crossings, rumble strips, pot holes, pavement seams, and gravel and debris

along the curbside. Planning for on-street bicycle routes in the City can be challenging given the steep topography. In addition to bike routes designated by signs, the City should encourage designated bicycle lanes on major street corridors with sufficient right-of-ways, with scheduled improvements where sufficient right-of-way exists, and on major travel routes in new development areas. On street bike routes are designated to provide connections between off-street bike routes, parks, schools, downtown, existing, and planned neighborhoods within the City.



### F. Additional Bike and Pedestrian Facility Recommendations

Proposed trails and routes would complement the existing bike route system and connect the recommended recreational facilities within the City to additional facilities outside the City.

- Develop new bike routes and trails as depicted on Maps 4 and 5 of this *Plan*.
- Provide bike route maps and brochures for placement at trailheads, as well as route pavement markings and directional signage throughout the City.
- Increase maintenance and grooming of all bike trails, and provide drinking water and restrooms where appropriate.
- Work with Dane County to develop trails or routes to connecting Sun Prairie to Token Creek County Park, Riley Deppe County Park, McCarthy County Park, the Village of Cottage Grove, the Glacial Drumlin State Trail, and the Village of DeForest.
- Provide pedestrian and bike routes or trails to connect parks to each other and Dane County trails.
- Explore existing easements and potential property acquisitions that have the potential to enhance the trail system.
- Explore a regional coalition of communities to develop a bike system to connect destinations throughout Dane County and tap into recreation and tourism funding sources to support a regional system.
- Continue to promote “Safe Routes to School” opportunities to adjoin schools to each other, to neighborhoods, and to community parks.
- Connect the City bike system by identifying missing links, long-term right of way extensions, property acquisitions, or development/redevelopment coordination.
- Identify and expand opportunities for bicycle parking within the downtown area.
- Identify opportunities for bicycle rental or shared biking systems in support of recreational or tourist cycling.
- Explore logical locations for future trailheads, with parking, that provide accessibility to local and regional trail systems.
- Develop a Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to help guide the long-term expansion of biking facilities within the City and region.

## G. Ensure Intergovernmental Cooperation in Planning for New, Expanded, or Improved Facilities

The City has several opportunities to cooperate with other units of government in planning for park and outdoor recreation facilities over the planning period. These opportunities include the following:

- Work with the WisDNR on coordinating park, open space and environmental corridor protection and use activities.
- Work with the WisDNR on methods to protect water quality.
- Coordinate with Dane County and/or WisDNR to provide carry-in watercraft access to Patrick Marsh.
- Work with Dane County on ongoing maintenance of cross-country ski trails and any potential park expansion areas.
- Work with the Sun Prairie Area School District to determine ways to work together to provide needed park and recreational facilities; partner with the School District to develop joint facilities wherever possible.
- Continue to participate in regional planning efforts for regional parks, open space, trails, and bike routes, particularly when Dane County updates its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Partner with the Town of Bristol to develop a north side community park near Egge Road that would be used by residents of both municipalities.
- Work with the City of Madison to develop a park southwest of Sun Prairie that would be used by residents of both municipalities.

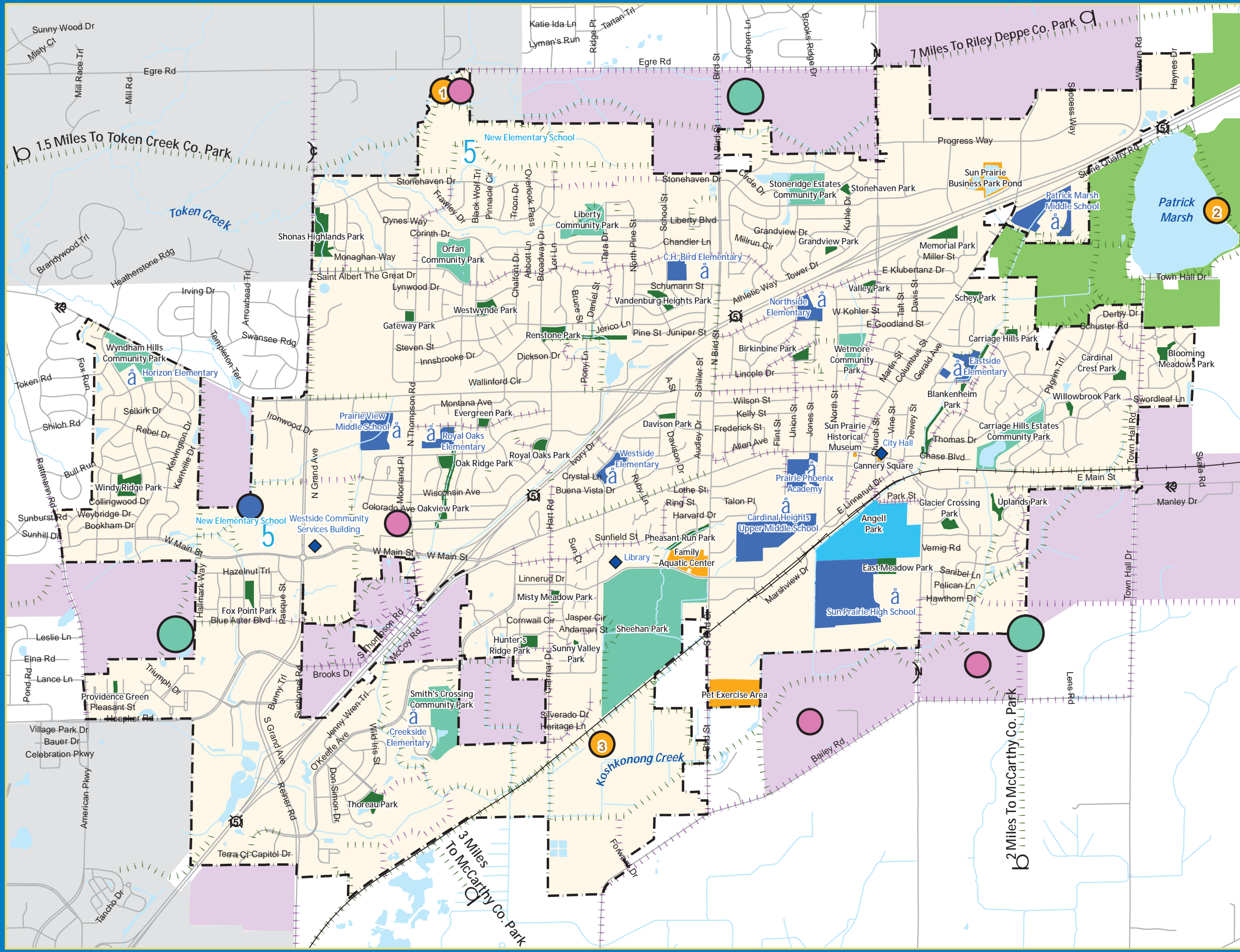


## H. Other Recommendations for the Park and Open Space System

In addition to the recommendations above for the development and/or acquisition of a new park sites in the City, the following are recommendations for enhancing and maintaining the existing park and open space system:

- Along with school officials responsible for providing recreational space in Sun Prairie, place a continued emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that support recreational activities for all ages and abilities, rather than facilities geared only toward team sports or certain age groups.
- Continue to support volunteer groups and donated materials to greatest extent possible to develop and maintain the park and open space system. Utilization of volunteer labor is generally most successful where a single tangible project is involved, such as tree planting, construction of a facility, or a one-day clean up and beautification project.
- Work with private residential developers to ensure the timely installation of any recreational facilities agreed upon between the developer and the City.
- Incorporate this *Plan* into the forthcoming update of the Comprehensive Plan, as the 2009 Parks and Open Space Plan was incorporated in to the City's 2009 Comprehensive Plan.
- Establish a Friends of the Parks group and/or an Adopt-A-Park program for each park area to assist on a regular basis with spring cleanup, litter patrol, weeding, reporting vandalism, etc.

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**Planned Facilities**

- City of Sun Prairie
- Planned Near Term City Growth Area
- Planned City Open Space
- Other City or Village
- Roads
- Rail
- Surface Water
- Public Schools
- Planned Public School
- Community Facilities

**Planned Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

- Planned Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- Planned On-Road Bike Lane

**Planned Parks and Facilities**

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Planned Special Use Facility (see Key)
- Planned Joint School District/ City Park

**Planned Special Use Facilities Key**

1. Combined Neighborhood Park/ Pet Exercise Area
2. Carry-in Watercraft Access Point
3. Passive Recreation Area

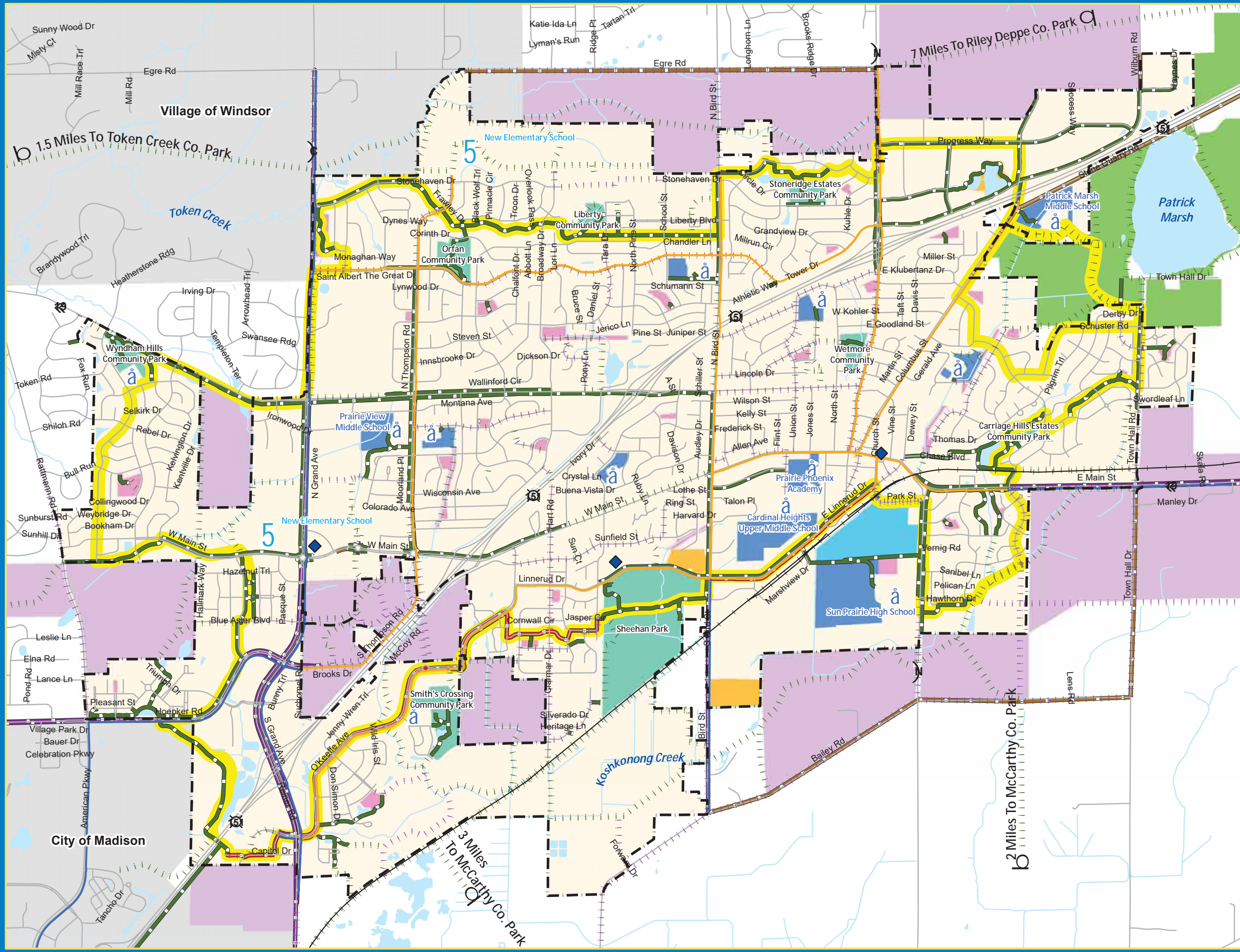
**Existing Parks and Facilities**

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Private Park
- Public School Open Space and Recreational Facilities



Sources: City of Sun Prairie, Dane Co. LIO

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**Bike Facilities**

- City of Sun Prairie
- Planned Near Term City Growth Area
- Planned City Open Space
- Other City or Village
- Roads
- Rail
- Surface Water
- Public Schools
- Planned Public School
- Community Facilities

**Existing Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

- Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- On-Road Bike Lane
- Signed On-Road Bike Route
- Rural Bike Route

**Planned Bike/Pedestrian Facilities**

- Planned Multi-Use Path (Off Road)
- Planned On-Road Bike Lane
- Sun Prairie Loop

**Bike/Ped Subcommittee Facilities**

- Desired Bike Routes
- Existing Bike Lanes

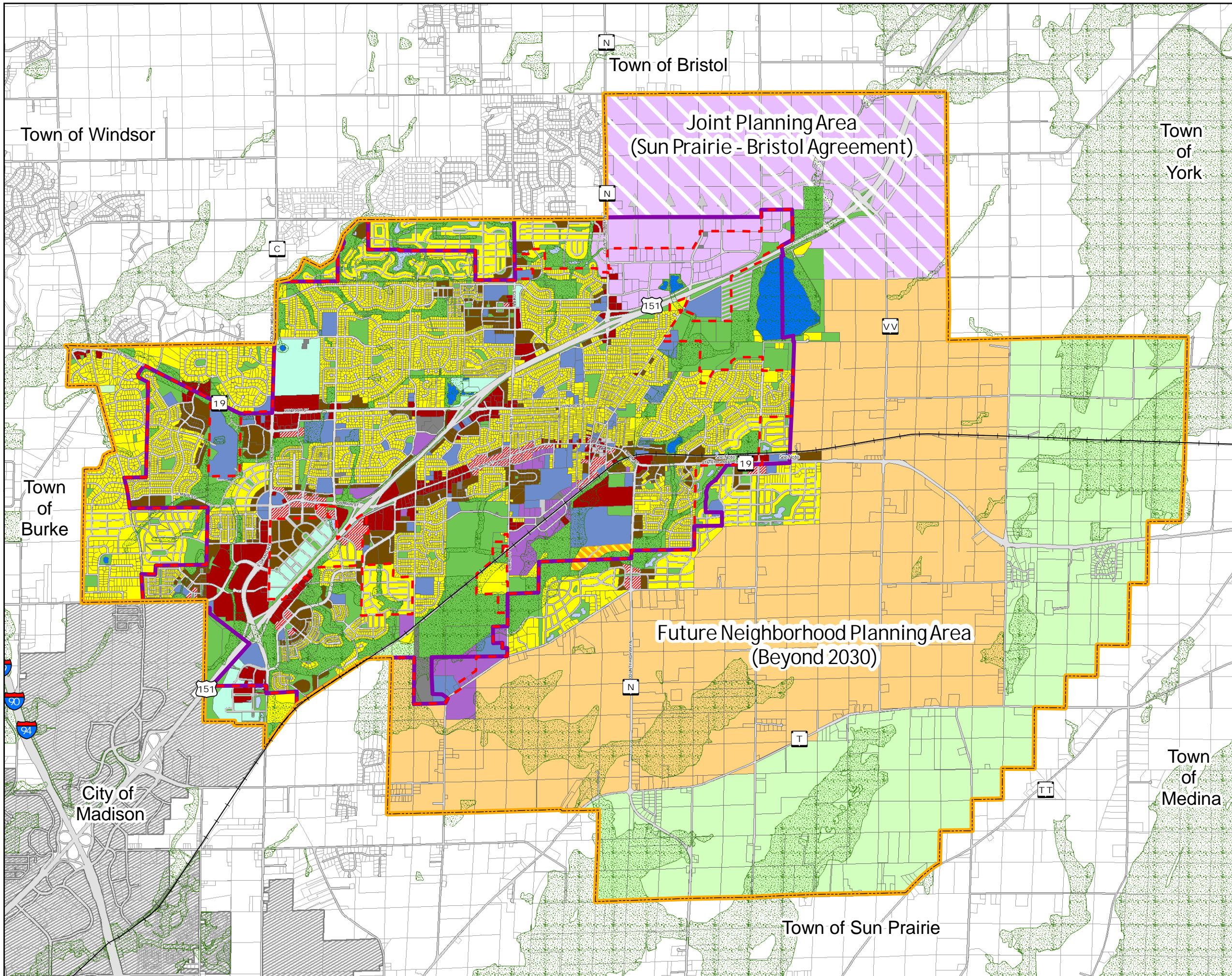
**Existing Parks and Facilities**

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Facility
- Private Park
- Public School Open Space and Recreational Facilities



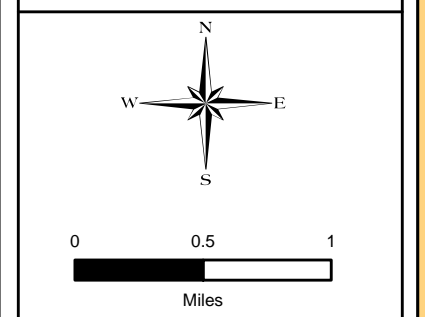
Sources: City of Sun Prairie, Dane Co. LIO

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**Future Land Use  
City of Sun Prairie  
Planning Area  
Legend**

- Future Land Use
- Rural
  - Business Park
  - Commercial
  - Future Neighborhood Planning Area
  - Parks and Open Space
  - Parks and Open Space or Business Park
  - Industrial
  - Institutional
  - Mixed Use
  - Mixed Residential
  - Office Park
  - Low-density Residential
  - Sports Complex or Low-density Residential
  - Transportation
  - Stormwater Facilities
  - Utilities
  - Water
  - Environmental Corridors
  - City Limit
  - Urban Service Area
  - Planning Area



Notes: For lands north of STH 19 and south of the railroad tracks, some flexibility with future land uses will be considered due to limitations for access, the narrow lot depths, and frontage on both the highway and railroad rights-of-way. See Chapter 9, Volume 2 of the comprehensive plan, under Detailed Planning Areas, Near Eastside Area for more information.

Source: City of Sun Prairie  
Date Adopted: November 3, 2009



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## IX. ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this *Plan*. It is intended to assist the City with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy §66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding fee collection. However, the adoption of this *Plan* does not commit the City of Sun Prairie to collecting these fees through an impact fee or parkland dedication ordinance.

In order to understand the cost projections, a few definitions are necessary:

**Parkland Dedication:** land area dedicated to the City by residential developers for the purpose of contributing to the City's parks and recreation system. It is established in the City's parkland dedication ordinance.

According to City ordinance, a residential developer (subdivider) shall dedicate sufficient developable land area for the park, recreation and open space needs of the development, that is suitable and readily developable to provide adequate park, playground, recreation and open space to meet the needs to be created by and to be provided for a subdivision or land division project in accordance with standards outlined in the Parks and Open Space Plan. In the design of a subdivision, land division, or development project, provision shall be made for suitable sites of adequate area for schools, parks, playgrounds, open spaces and other public purposes. The park shall be improved with the necessary public improvements required in City of Sun Prairie Section 16.32.010.

**Fee in Lieu of Dedication.** Where, in the discretion of the Plan Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, there is no land suitable for parks within the proposed land division or the dedication of land would not be compatible with the City's comprehensive development plan or the Parks and Recreation Commission determines that a cash contribution would better serve the public interest, the Plan Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission may recommend to the committee of the whole that the subdivider pay a fee in lieu of making the required land dedication. The amount of any fee imposed shall be determined as follows: For each proposed development, the fee shall be the current rate as established by the common council for each dwelling unit. Any adjustment or changes in the number of dwelling units before final plat acceptance will be subject to this section.



**Dedication and Fee:** The Plan Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission may recommend the subdivider satisfy the requirements by combining land dedication with fee payments. The fee, in such cases, shall be determined by subtracting the credited value of the dedicated land, from the total fee which would have been imposed had no land been dedicated by the subdivider.

**Park Impact Fee:** The park impact fees will be imposed on all residential development within the City limits. In accordance with Section 66.0617, Wisconsin Statutes, as a condition of an approval granted for the development of land, to be expended as capital costs by the City in the provision of public facilities required to meet the demands for public services by the new development.

**A. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreation Facilities**

Based on a projected growth of 8,895 persons by the year 2027 applied to the City standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (for neighborhood and community parks), the City should plan to spend a minimum of \$8,895,000 in 2017 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 8,895 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$2,646 per new household would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,048 square feet per household would satisfy this requirement, if land dedication were preferred. However, land dedication per this provision must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The City will continue to accept conservancy areas as donations to the park system; but these lands will not count toward this land dedication requirement. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

**Figure 13: Projected Parkland Dedication and Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication**

	Calculation
A. Projected Additional Population in 2027 (individuals)	8,895
B. Projected Additional Households in 2027 (occupied dwelling units)	3,698
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed per One Thousand Residents [(Row A/1000) * 10]	88.9
D. Calculated Land Dedication Requirement per Household in Acres (Row C/Row B)	0.03
E. Land Cost per Acre Estimate (Based on avg. cost per acre listed for sale in Sun Prairie area)	\$100,000
F. Projected Cost of Land Acquisition (Row C * Row E)	\$8,894,625
G. Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F * 10%)	\$889,462
H. Total Land Acquisition Cost (Row F + Row G)	\$9,784,087
<b>I. Calculated Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication per Household (Row H/Row B)</b>	<b>\$2,645.50</b>
<b>J. Alternative Land Dedication per Household in Square Feet (Row D* 43,560/Row B)</b>	<b>1,048 sq. ft.</b>

**B. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Playground Improvements**

Each park type should have a minimum amount of playground equipment and opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of children. However, state law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 14 outlines the collectable playground costs associated with each future park type in Sun Prairie.



**Figure 14: Projected Improvements Costs per Acre**

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A. Cost of Play Equipment per Park	\$100,000	\$100,000
B. Cost of Benches per Park	\$6,000	\$12,000
C. Total Estimated Cost (Row A + Row B)	\$106,000	\$112,000
D. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards)	5	25
E. Total Playground Costs per Acre (Row C / Row D)	\$21,200	\$4,480
F. Landscaping Cost per Acre	\$1,500	\$1,500
G. Sidewalks Cost per Acre (within parkland)	\$9,000	\$9,000
H. Adjacent Road and Utility Improvements Cost per Acre*	\$37,360	\$16,704
I. Grading and Seeding Cost per Acre	\$2,000	\$2,000
J. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (Rows E +F+G+H+I)	\$71,060	\$33,684
K. Acres per 1,000 Residents (based on City standard)	2.0	8.0
L. Percent of Total Acres per 1,000 residents (Row K/10)	20%	80%
M. <b>Average Improvement Cost per Acre</b> (weighted average of Row J based on Row K = $(\$71,060*0.2)+(\$33,684*0.8)$ )	<b>\$41,159</b>	

\* = See [Appendix E](#) for detailed calculations

Figure 14 indicates that a cost of \$990 per household would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements.

**Figure 15: Projected Recreation Facilities Fee**

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2027 (individuals)	8,895
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2027 (dwelling units)	3,698
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*10)	88.9
D. Average Park Playground Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Row M from Figure 14)	\$41,159
E. Projected Cost of Playground Improvements (Row C * Row D)	\$3,660,956
<b>F. Calculated Playground Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)</b>	<b>\$989.88</b>

### C. Total Impact Fee

In Sun Prairie, impact fees should be imposed on each new household unilaterally. By using the fees calculated in Figures 13 through 15 for park lands and playground improvements, the total park fee per household will be:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \$2,646 \text{ (From Figure 13, Row I: Calculated Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication)} \\
 & + \$990 \text{ (From Figure 15, Row F: Calculated Playground Improvement Costs)} \\
 & \underline{\hspace{1.5cm}} \\
 & \$3,635
 \end{aligned}$$

In instances where development has dedicated lands, it will only be necessary to collect the playground improvement costs and the collected fee will be \$990 per household (Figure 15, Row F).

This *Plan* recommends that the updated impact fees should be adopted and enacted immediately.

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## X. IMPACT ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING

As part of the public facilities needs assessment, Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing park impact fees on the availability of affordable housing within the municipality. For this type of analysis, it is first assumed that housing in the City of Sun Prairie is affordable if:

- The costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's adjusted gross income;
- That homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the City of Sun Prairie's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2014 was \$66,956 according to 2010-2014 American Community Survey data); and
- That homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the City population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$167,390), and making a 5 percent down payment (\$8,370), then an affordable house in the City of Sun Prairie costs approximately \$175,760. (According to 2010-2014 American Community Survey data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the City of Sun Prairie was \$203,300.) Assuming a single-family detached housing price of \$175,760, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of \$175,760, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$944.

The City's imposed fees for parkland acquisition and park improvements would be an integral part of the housing unit mortgage amount. When adding this *Plan's* recommended park impact fee of \$3,635, the monthly mortgage amount for the typical single family detached home would increase to \$179,395. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would increase to \$963 per month. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the recommended park impact fee is \$19 per month, amounting to a two percent increase.

Therefore, using the assumptions for typical single family home in the City of Sun Prairie, this *Plan* finds that the recommended park impact fee will have a minimal effect on the provision of affordable housing in the City of Sun Prairie.



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## XI. IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended improvements to Sun Prairie's park and open space system described in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated, in part, by private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the City to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs. These funding sources are included as Appendix F. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program is the best opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to develop new parks. The federal Recreational Trails Act program is the best opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to develop the proposed off-street paths and trails throughout the City. Federal funds from programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) may also provide funding that is applicable to parks, however, funding is subject to change due to uncertainties with federal and state budgets. For this reason, the park and open space facility improvements recommended in this *Plan* should be incorporated in the City's capital improvement plans and programs.

The City should also coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g., Towns of Sun Prairie, Burke, and Bristol; City of Madison; Village of Windsor; and Dane County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g., Sun Prairie Area School District, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) and private and nonprofit organizations to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*. In particular, intergovernmental planning efforts will be needed to develop water access at Patrick Marsh, the north side community park, and joint School District-City facilities. The City should also participate in and support Dane County regional trail initiatives such as those that would connect Sun Prairie to Madison, and those that would connect Sun Prairie to Dane County Parks. The City should also explore partnerships with athletic-based organizations or user groups that wish to accelerate the development of desired special facilities by providing funds, land, or other resources for public use.

The City should update its park impact fees and Official Map upon adoption of this *Plan*. In the coming years, the City should continue to review and update its park impact fees and Official Map regularly to assure their appropriateness for acquiring and developing the recommended new park and open space facilities. The Official Map should identify existing and future parks and trails, and ensure that as lands in the community are designed for development in the platting process, these facilities are incorporated into the design of subdivisions and site plans.

Capital Improvement Plan Recommendations are listed in Figure 16 on the following page. This is intended to be a living document, and as such, individual projects may be delayed if funding cannot be identified within the suggested timeline. Likewise, individual projects may be moved forward if funding is identified earlier than shown in the timeline. As challenges and opportunities arise in the future, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission and City Council can amend the Capital Improvement Plan. This process may be initiated by a direct Council action, as part of the annual budget process, or in association with periodic project updates. The Capital Improvement Plan should be reviewed annually.

Figure 16: Capital Improvement Plan Recommendations

<b>CAPITAL ITEMS</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>	<b>2018 Projected</b>	<b>2019 Projected</b>	<b>2020 Projected</b>	<b>2021 Projected</b>	<b>2022 Projected</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
Playground Replacements (1-2 Parks per year)	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	GF/ PF
Skate Park Additions	20,000	20,000	20,000				GF/D
ADA Transition Plan	10,000	10,000	10,000				GF
Liberty Square Shelter/ Restrooms		8,000	150,000				PF/GF
Smith's Crossing Shelter/ Restrooms		8,000	150,000				
Business Park Trails reconstruction	325,000						GF/TIF
Parking Lot Improvements Sheehan, Orfan, Stoneridge		80,000		80,000			GF
Land Acquisition for North Side Community Park					6,000,000		PF GF

<b>AQUATIC CENTER CAPITAL ITEMS</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>	<b>2018 Projected</b>	<b>2019 Projected</b>	<b>2020 Projected</b>	<b>2021 Projected</b>	<b>2022 Projected</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
Electrical Service Replacement	55,000						
Replace pumps, motors, strainers		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		
Flume Waterslide Replacement					225,000		
Drop Slide (Diving Well)		10,000					
Diving Well – paint surface		10,000					
Bathhouse upgrades				200,000			
Landscaping			30,000				
Boilers – replace 1 of 2				15,000	15,000		
Concession stand remodeling							
Pool amenities – sun shades, umbrellas, chairs, tables,	4,500	10,000		10,000		10,000	
Lifeguard equipment – Stands, ADA chairlift							

<b>ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>	<b>Fund Source</b>
Skate Park Additions (Total Project)	286,423	GF
Phase 1	142,889	D
Phase 2	60,965	G
Phase 3	82,569	
Dog Park Improvements – ADA access		
Northside Dog Park		PF
Soccer Field	35,000	GF/ D
Uplands Park – Basketball Court	25,000	PF
Improve bike and pedestrian network	TBD	GF
Pickleball (2 courts)	80,000	GF/ PF
Community Splash Pad	150,000	GF/ PF
Little League Parking Lot Expansion	45,000	GF/ D

Funding Sources: GF = General Fund

PF = Parks Fund

D= Donation/ Private Funds

G= Grant

## APPENDIX A. SUMMARY OF CITY STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE

### Staff Input

Please provide the following information:

#### Job Title:

- 1) Police Officer
- 2) Mayor
- 3) Community Development Director
- 4) Police Officer
- 5) Library Director
- 6) GIS Technician
- 7) Recreation Programs Coordinator
- 8) Alderperson (District 1)
- 9) Alderperson (District 3)
- 10) Engineering Technician

#### Department/Division:

- 1) Police Department
- 2) Elected Official
- 3) Community Development Director
- 4) Police Department – Patrol
- 5) Library
- 6) IT
- 7) Recreation Department
- 8) Elected Official
- 9) Elected Official
- 10) Engineering

Please respond to the following questions:

**1. In your role with the City of Sun Prairie, how do you interact with the Parks & Open Space Plan and/or the Parks and Forestry Division?**

- In several ways from damage to property to alarms
- Yes
- We are always looking for input on development applications that are under review, and for any residential proposal park space/improvements are an issue to be dealt with. Having a strong set of recommendations from the Parks & Open Space Plan and assistance/support from the Parks and Forestry Division staff will be very helpful in seeing that our developing neighborhoods are adequately served by such facilities.
- Patrolling the parks and paths throughout the City, responding to calls of damage, vandalism, littering, park hours violations, etc.
- Collaborative programming and outdoor space needs. The aquatic center plays a big role in our Summer Library Program.
- I provide spatial analysis and maps for the Parks and Forestry Division.
- I coordinate and manage all sports programs and concerts in the park so anything that happens in a city park or other facility, I most likely need to be in tune with what Parks and Forestry is doing and if needed, I will ask for their assistance on a project or event. This is more prevalent during the months of May-September.
- I interact as a liaison for my constituents.
- Not very often, and not yet formally.
- Yearly construction projects create interaction with the Forestry division via tree removals/plantings. Also creating/restoring access to parks. Storm water management.

**2. In general, are the recreation needs of all residents currently being met in the community? If not, what more or different needs to be done?**

- I would have to say no. With the lack of an open field sport complex a very large size of our community is not being met. This includes youth and adults that play field sports such as football, lacrosse, and soccer.
- Yes, in general but there are specific unmet needs, such as, dirt bike course.

- I believe they are reasonably being met in most areas. Shortcomings might include a shortage of soccer fields, lack of connectivity of bike/ped trails in some areas, lack of adequate funding for the maintenance of bike trails, inadequate wayfinding/signage for bike trails and paths.
- Generally, yes. Specifically, I would like to see the bike paths cleared for pedestrian/runner/bike use during the winter.
- Create more opportunities for low-income youth so they can be engaged in positive ways.
- I believe there are an abundance of parks and open space for the residence of Sun Prairie all conveniently located.
- I would say we are doing a pretty good job of covering most or all needs but covering all wants will always be a challenge. We consistently hear that the city needs more public use tennis courts. Also, we hear from skate enthusiasts that the skate park needs to be completed/added on to. More soccer fields and mountain bike trails are other common things that we hear.
- The City is doing an outstanding job answering most of the needs of its residents, however having attended both Parks Planning Workshops, I believe that there are certain opportunities we should pursue. Specifically, I will defer to the summarized suggestions made at these two meetings as what still may be needed.
- Needs met, yes. Other opportunities, of course.
- I think more wooded parks and hiking trails would benefit the city.

**3. Aside from your specific sport/organization, do you think the City needs additional parkland to meet residents' current needs?**

- I believe we have plenty of parkland designed for the common resident.
- Yes, especially as the City grows
- We will as time goes on and new areas are brought into the City.
- Continue to include parks in new developments and needs will continue to be met. Including a baseball/softball backstop and a large space that can be used for field sports, like Renstone Park currently has, allows for multiple uses.
- Perhaps, I am a new resident and new to the staff so I'm not sure.
- I believe the number of parks and facilities are adequate for the current population.
- The city may need more parkland to accommodate mountain bike trails but other than that, we may be able to fulfill a lot of these wants using current parkland.
- Yes
- Not yet.
- Yes.

**4. What new other facilities are needed within the community?**

- Field sport areas...areas that also include tennis type sports.
- I will look to the results of the survey and a survey of other communities to determine this.
- We will as time goes on and new areas are brought into the City.
- Most of the needs are met. I mention some of the shortcomings above in item 2. I think there may be a need for another large community park with differing amenities than Sheehan. Maybe it has a different focus other than softball/little league and shelters. Would the Renk lands south of Patrick Marsh Middle School be a possibility? Enhanced wetlands, nature trails, disk golf, etc. There would probably be room for soccer fields along Columbus, and if the wetland enhancement would result in some water bodies, things like kayaking, ice skating in the winter, interpretive stuff, etc. could be mixed in with some usable shelters and event space. Perhaps the second dog park gets worked into this area with a dog swimming area. Just a thought about how to take advantage of an area that probably doesn't have much other value and is just being farmed now.
- Other ideas would be added amenities to take us to the next level and add interest/attractions, such as:

- An indoor dog park space for winter and inclement weather would be beneficial for dog owners. I think many would pay an additional annual fee to take advantage of this, if there was some way to ensure that only paying users had access.
- Interactive fountains are popular in other urban areas – perhaps in a new public plaza in a redeveloped W. Main Street Corridor. They can be pricy, but do attract people, which could be a draw for businesses.
- Disc golf seems to draw decent crowds elsewhere.
- Water amenities of some sort at our new storm water pond on the Westside? (Idea was mentioned to me by others, passing it on). Paddle boats, kayaks, fishing pier, a dog-swimming beach, etc.
- Golf driving range in the south area of Sheehan Park? (Just brainstorming.... ☺)
- No new facilities (except mentioned in #3), but continue to keep up or develop the ones already existing. For example, updating backstops at parks, ensuring that open fields are not hazardous for field sports (due to holes, ruts, etc.) and linking current multi-use paths to ensure safe pedestrian traffic.
- Again, being new, I am not sure what else is needed. I hear a lot about transportation so being able to get residents to facilities would be important. Something with teen appeal.
- Another skateboard park, or small skateboard facility on the opposite side of the city from Sheehan Park. More tennis courts spread evenly through the city.
- A 2nd dog park may be necessary at some point as Sun Prairie continues to grow. Also, a community/recreation center that could be used for sports leagues/open gym, fitness, youth and adult enrichment classes and just a safe place for kids to gather and have fun. A place that is affordable for everyone.
- Again, I will defer to the summarized Parks Planning Workshops suggestions made at these two meetings as to what still may be needed.
- Maybe not needed, but a disc golf course would be a great addition.
- An additional dog park.

**5. Where should these facilities be located? Why these locations?**

- A field sport complex should be on the west side of the community. This is the area business wise that would benefit from such a complex and the traffic it will bring to the community. Tennis type areas should be more neighborhood bases.
- Again it will depend on the results of the surveys plus the new areas that are developing in the City.
- See Renk property idea above. Schneider property storm water pond. Some sort of plaza or public space along W. Main Street as the area redevelops would be a nice amenity.
- Throughout the City and included in new development planning.
- Perhaps near the middle and high schools so students can easily access.
- A community/recreation center would make perfect sense to be located near Sheehan Park and the Family Aquatic Center as well as the library. That area is where a lot of activities and programs happen throughout the year and being centrally located to those facilities would be a huge bonus.
- Again, I will defer to the summarized Parks Planning Workshops suggestions made at these two meetings as to where these should be located and why.
- There are existing parks in which 9 holes could be designed. I know of one or more residents who would consult free of charge.
- North-East part of town to provide an alternative location other than the Bird Street Park.

**6. What other support amenities could be added to existing facilities (restrooms, drinking fountain, shade structures, more parking, lighting, concessions, etc.)? Which parks?**

- Shelters and Shade structures are always something that could be used at any community park.
- All of these are good. I would like to know what other communities are offering. I would like to see a splash pad.

- All of the above.
- More parking will probably be necessary at the youth baseball complex.
- Again, I will defer to the summarized Parks Planning Workshops suggestions made at these two meetings as to what still may be needed, and at which parks.
- Residents complain to me that there are not enough amenities and play equipment at Thoreau Park. Also, the last time I took notice of Vandenberg Heights Park, it needed a facelift.
- I believe existing amenities are good.

**7. What recreational programs are needed the most? What age groups?**

- I have no really good ideas for this...I believe you already provided a high amount of options to the community. Not everyone can be pleased.
- Programs that bring in the practices of diverse cultural groups that will attract the entire community.
- The only things I can think of that are not, to my knowledge, being offered now are nature oriented things. Summer programs to help better understand the environment and its importance, taking advantage of Patrick Marsh, for instance. Things teenage kids can do in the summer and perhaps participate in improving the environment in some way. Haven't thought this out much, but these are things my kids enjoyed that were offered through Madison and Dane County when they were younger.
- Indoor health and fitness for active seniors.
- This is a tough question to answer because the Recreation Department offers programs for such a wide age range. I would say early teens is an area that could be expanded.
- Again, I will defer to the summarized Parks Planning Workshops suggestions made at these two meetings as to what still may be needed. I am an advocate for recreation at ALL ages, thus I would not restrict programs based on age.
- I would be in favor of more multi-purpose paths.

**8. Are additional bike paths/routes or safety measures needed for children to be able to access and safely use park and recreation facilities?**

- Bike paths are something that need to plan for any type of future growth. This is very important. It's hard to go back and correct this problem.
- Yes, and adults as well.
- I'm sure there are many. Perhaps an audit/plan similar to the Safe Routes to School Plan could be done regarding access to our parks?
- Yes. The multi-use paths appear unconnected, unless you are a cyclist willing to travel City streets. On the path map, the "recommended bike route" connects much of the multi-use path system, but the bike routes are City streets and I wouldn't recommend those routes for children heading to a park. The highest concentration of multi-use paths is in the business park, which is non-residential.
- That would be great!
- There are a number of parks with less development, such as lack of sidewalks on either side of the parks, which could be improved for better access and safety.
- It would be nice if there was a fully connected loop around Sun Prairie (gaps can be dangerous) with stretches that attached to popular parks and facilities.
- Yes, however we first need to connect the portions of existing paths that we have.

**9. What destinations would you bike to if facilities were available?**

- A field sport complex would need such paths due to the amount of youth/family traffic this will bring.
- A network that connects significant destinations in the City, such as, the library, schools, movie theater, etc.
- If the Sun Prairie 'loop' route was complete and well signed it would be a popular recreational route. I occasionally bike downtown now that the Carriage Hills – Chase Boulevard route is complete, but things

could be a little more accommodating for bikes downtown. I might bike to friends' homes around town if our neighborhoods were a little better connected.

- Downtown Madison and UW-Madison campus.
- I do not live in Sun Prairie so if I have my bike with me it's going to and from work at the Westside Community Services Building.
- I would bike to any destination if the facilities appealed to me and the recreation I wanted to achieve.
- I would bike throughout the city if more bike paths and bike lanes were available.
- Parks, stores.

**10. What are the major issues that you see affecting recreation over the next 10 years? How do you propose that the City address them or approach them?**

- We have no space for the youth and adult expansion for field sports. These are large group activities that involve large amount of community members.
- Growth of the City so that there is adequate park space to meet the needs of the community. Making sure that the features we offer stay current with what people want.
- In our growing community, the need for additional park space will continue to grow, and our current ordinance is not strong enough to be able to ensure that we are able to secure the space we need to meet this demand. Our funding sources for maintenance of our park facilities over time are inadequate.
- Paths for walking and biking. Affordability. Less fast food restaurants and healthier dining options to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Facilities is #1, especially gymnasiums. The school district seems to be getting busier each year with their own activities in the gymnasiums which is making it more difficult for us to reserve space. As the community continues to grow and there is more demand, this will continue to be an issue. Having a community/recreation center that included at least 2 city run gyms would alleviate much of this.
- Earmark a certain amount each year to be set aside (in addition to the "Park Fund") which will guarantee money is available when the opportunity to purchase the space is made available.
- The city's growth is going to require additional parks in spawning neighborhoods. Right now, we have an extensive park system and I don't want to lose that.
- Population growth. Establish larger parks that can accommodate many activities, comparable to Sheehan park.

**11. What else should the City consider when updating the Parks & Open Space Plan?**

- Reach out to youth clubs for assistance. Reach out to community/neighborhoods when designing parks. Reach out to builders and business owners for opinion and help in making decisions. We have very beautiful parks but a lot of them are not very functional for group activity only individual activity.
- We need to make sure that the location of park facilities be accessible from the City's bike and walking route systems that are being developed. And the park biking features should be incorporated into the City's bike trails.
- The City needs to move towards doing snow removal on all bike/walking paths not just those adjacent to roads.
- We need to coordinate community recreation programs with the programs offered by the Library and create additional programs that combine elements of both.
- Consider if there are park aspects that should be built into the eventual transportation hub facility, i.e., rest rooms, shelter, seating, picnic tables, etc.
- Is there a way to combine a park with an additional library location the way we have created parks that share space with the schools?
- I would like to know what other innovative programs/features communities around the United States are offering that we should consider for Sun Prairie.
- Even though this is a 5-year plan, it would be good to see the visioning aspect of the plan looking out much farther. A longer-term vision showing rough locations and types of facilities, and the overall

direction of all things park & rec related, and then a very detailed 5-year strategic plan laying out the shorter-term actions necessary to get us on the path toward the longer term goals.

- When I visit another City I am excited to see a clearly connected path system that can be used for running or just walking from one point to another. As mentioned, the City's path system is disconnected. I'd like to see development of more paths and connections made between the existing ones. That way, it can be used as a promotional point for the City and our neighborhoods.
- Things that may attract people from outside of Sun Prairie to use our facilities.
- Focus not only on 'traditional' facilities and programs such as soccer, tennis, etc., but also 'non-traditional' such as nature, fishing, canoe/kayak.
- **How it will play into the (soon-to-be) updated Comprehensive Plan.**
- With all of the storm water retention necessary, I would like to see one larger reservoir rather than multiple smaller ones. A larger one located north of Stonehaven Dr. or south of the rail tracks on Clarmar, or some other location I am not thinking of, could provide some great potential amenities for citizens and visitors alike. I could envision paddle boats, perhaps fishing opportunities, a facility with restrooms and day rental equipment, a bike/walking trail around the body of water. I would love to see something like this in the strategic plan. And I think we can get Council support for such a plan.
- Invest in planting trees.

**Other Comments:**

The only thing I can possibly give input on is the cost of taking a class through the rec department when you are not a citizen. Since I am a city employee, but don't live in Sun Prairie, I would be willing to take a rec class (for example, yoga) after work but the cost for me as a non-resident is atrocious; it is almost \$30 more than a resident. Because of the cost I would pay as a non-resident there is no way I would be able to afford a class. It would be nice if the rec department extended the resident fee to city employees.

## APPENDIX B. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

A city-wide survey was conducted in the winter of 2016. Postcards were mailed to all City residents, the online survey was posted on the City's website and hard copies were made available at the City Hall. The City received 639 completed surveys. The results of the survey, along with the other public input generated during the process, will be used to form the core recommendations of the Plan. The following is a summary of all responses received. In many cases, percentages total to more than 100 percent, as respondents were allowed to select more than one response.

### 1. Please select the ONE statement that best describes where you live.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Resident of the City of Sun Prairie (within the City limits)	83.5%	532
Resident of Dane County (outside the City limits of the City of Sun Prairie)	14.9%	95
Do not live in the City of Sun Prairie or Dane County	1.6%	10
<i>answered question</i>		<b>637</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

### 2. Have you or members of your household visited any City parks or trails during the past 12 months?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	97.3%	621
No	2.7%	17
<i>answered question</i>		<b>638</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

### 3. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the level of maintenance of the City parks that you and members of your household have visited?

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
	211	362	47	10	4	4.21	634
<i>answered question</i>							<b>634</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>5</b>

### 4. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction of the following City areas that you and members of your household have visited?

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
City Trails	135	273	141	52	8	3.78	609
City Open Space/Conservation Lands	121	287	165	27	4	3.82	604
City Developed Parks	184	353	70	19	8	4.08	634
<i>answered question</i>							<b>635</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>4</b>

5. From the following list, please check all the facilities that you or members of your household have visited or used over the past 12 months in the City? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Basketball	21.6%	133
Hockey	6.2%	38
Horseshoes	0.7%	4
Ice Skating	15.3%	94
Pickle Ball	4.2%	26
Picnic Shelter	59.8%	368
Picnic Tables	59.3%	365
Playground	70.1%	431
Skateboarding	6.3%	39
Ski Trails	11.1%	68
Sledding	31.4%	193
Soccer	22.4%	138
Softball Fields	17.6%	108
Swimming	35.9%	221
Tennis	18.0%	111
Trails	60.7%	373
Volleyball	5.0%	31
Warming House	3.4%	21
	<i>answered question</i>	<b>615</b>
	<i>skipped question</i>	<b>24</b>

**6. Please CHECK ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using parks, recreation facilities, or programs of the City of Sun Prairie more often.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Not interested	5.0%	27
I'm too busy	32.2%	175
Facilities are not kept clean	2.9%	16
Facilities are not well maintained	5.1%	28
Program or service is not available	11.9%	65
Doesn't contain desired features or facility	24.4%	133
Security is insufficient	3.3%	18
Too far from our residence	12.7%	69
Lack of accessibility	3.1%	17
Fees are too high	2.4%	13
Operating hours not convenient	5.5%	30
Use other state or county lands/facilities	18.4%	100
Use of City of Madison parks	11.8%	64
Poor customer service by staff	0.4%	2
Do not know locations of facilities	16.0%	87
Do not know what is being offered	24.6%	134
Lack of transportation	0.9%	5
Lack of personal resources (money, equipment, etc.)	1.5%	8
Overcrowding	3.1%	17
Lack of restrooms	15.1%	82
I can't take my dog into the parks	20.8%	113
I'm worried about aggressive pets on properties next to the park	3.1%	17
Other (please specify)	18.2%	99
<i>answered question</i>		<b>544</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>95</b>

*Other (please specify):*

- There's a lack of bike trails. I wish we had more.
- Need more basketball courts and playgrounds with rubber on ground (versus wood chips)
- Survey results here are from Sun Prairie Youth Baseball/Softball
- Park equipment does not support special needs kids
- My parents live in Sun Prairie so I visit the parks when I'm visiting them
- I would use more if there were more natural areas available
- It is very important to have restroom availability year round especially for young children
- Not lit well, too wet
- Lawn/grass too high
- pets should not be in Sheehan park...very aggressive pets...often not on lease...owners are not being responsible for pets
- Bike trails not connected, dead ends
- need more pickleball courts
- no disc golf course

- Go to other towns for mountain bike trails, bike trails. Wish there were even a few miles close by instead of loading up the car and driving elsewhere.
- Volleyball sand is rocky and hurts players feet
- Tennis courts are often being used by others
- I and my family very much enjoy our city parks. My biggest complaint is we do not have enough time to enjoy them.
- Fat bikes not allowed on ski trails (winter only)
- Pets in the park, whether allowed or not.
- High grass, weeds, uneven/holes. Not enough shade (e.g., Scottish). Would appreciate some type of facility at all parks and keep open longer (i.e., April through October).
- lack of mountain bike trails
- Enjoy disc golfing
- Need a nice dog park!!
- Park closest to me is outdated and my daughter is easily bored there
- Geese at the holding ponds, goose poop all over the trails by the holding ponds.
- The only place with weird hours IMO is aquatic center. Never get to go there because of that. Some parks have limited opportunities for very young children.
- Lack of splash pad. Great parks but this is a must!
- Dog park has a bad reputation
- Member of another athletic club
- Grass too long, not enough garbage or picnic tables
- People sometimes let their dogs off leash.
- Bathrooms should be open much earlier to accommodate people who exercise early in the morning
- Not enough trail maintenance or light
- more lighting, specifically for tennis courts as the daylight shortens
- None of the above.
- Nothing prevents us
- no children
- Not enough tennis courts, no tennis courts with lights
- I want to bike through sun prairie without using city streets
- Not sure of quality of instructions being offered
- cleanliness of park equipment, pet owners no picking up after dogs, litter
- Other interests, but not 'not interested'
- City dog park is a mud hole and has been all summer. The standing water and mud holes need to be cleaned up.
- Very unhappy that ONE citizen has been able to install a memorial that is always messy around. I would like to erect memorials to other citizens in the park (Orfan) but I'm told that it's not allowed. ( which I do agree with but one family should not be allowed either )
- Like the dream park!!
- Grandchild still too young!
- Would love to see more community-friendly hours at the Aquatic Center and the bathrooms open longer at other parks

- No shade, Parks in SP are unusable because there is no shade over play areas. Kids that are too hot can only play a short time.
- Program Full - never called while on waiting list
- All the drug deals it's hard to take our grandchildren at are at the ages of 1 to 10 to play on the children's playground when there are teenagers on the playground
- No known Snowshoe area
- Most parks are too small.
- Skate park is not interesting compared to other local parks
- My husband and I are avid disc golfers to using the Dane County Parks and City Parks that offer this activity interest us far more and we are willing to pay to play.
- Not enough lighting in area & on surrounding streets that I walk on.
- Current availability meets my needs
- We use the parks frequently.
- Ski trails are not groomed, No off road bike trails
- Year - round restrooms are needed
- It would have been nice to have identified town of Bristol people separate from people who may live in Waunakee (both Dane County) but town of Bristol people are within city. Would also have been nice to have option of DON'T KNOW, DON'T USE on many of the questions.
- Would love more trails as we love using the one by Gus's diner. It would be nice if they were plowed and had a few lights though.
- I really wish we had more nature trails to hike, and XC ski trails. Not many to be found, and the XC ski trails are not maintained.
- You cannot safely bike across town. Actual trails off of the roadways would make biking much safer.
- My child has a latex allergy and some parks (like Fireman's park) has rubber tires used on the flooring
- Dog park is too far away.
- Old age
- some days, just do not allow time for it
- Ice rinks not well maintained
- lack of plowing trails in Sun Prairie parks in Winter
- No shade trees. To watch our children playing we end up sitting in the hot sun. No shelter house, no restrooms.
- Spray the damn dandelions before they bloom!
- Need more bike trails that connect to park
- All trails are paved.
- Restrooms and water turned off too soon in fall and on too late in spring
- Lack of interconnected bike trail. No groomed ski trails
- We are blessed with a huge backyard, otherwise we'd be at the parks pretty much daily
- We really miss the see saw not replaced at Bristol park off of Northwynde Passage
- Been very busy with work.
- looking for MTB trails
- Not challenging enough playground equipment-outdated equipment
- Retired, limited mobility
- our park in smith's crossing needs a basketball court

- I would like some MTB trails and bike trails that connect.
- No Disc golf courses in Sun Prairie
- The ice at Wetmore is horrible!
- None
- SP in need of a mountain bike trail network to promote safe, local riding
- lack of mountain bike trails lead us out of the area
- Aggressive dogs within the SP dog park and owners who lack verbal control of their dog or are not supervising their dog.
- Mountain Bike Trails and more bike paths would be great.
- No mountain biking trails
- Very few have drinking fountains
- There is no connected off-street bike path that links Madison with Sun Prairie.
- Facilities are not open in the winter (water fountain, bathrooms), paths within and leading to are not cleared of snow.
- Use of Dane County Parks
- Lack of trails and bathrooms close too soon in fall.
- no longer groom and track cross country ski trails
- We need a splash pad
- Would like more bike trails connecting parks

**7. Please provide your opinion on the number of facilities offered or that could be offered by the City (Too Many, About Right, Not Enough, or No Need) for each of the facilities listed below.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Too Many</b>	<b>About Right</b>	<b>Not Enough</b>	<b>No Need</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Basketball Courts	9	432	68	30	2.12	539
Bike Skills Facilities/Mountain Biking Trails	3	187	291	57	2.60	538
Biking Trails and Paths	8	185	378	14	2.65	585
Canoeing/Kayaking	1	82	284	165	2.77	532
Community Gardens	10	313	176	41	2.33	540
Cultural Facilities	6	235	204	68	2.44	513
Disc Golf	6	172	231	107	2.55	516
Exercise/Fitness Facilities	8	269	208	47	2.41	532
Football Fields	22	359	47	77	2.06	505
Gyms or Indoor Recreation Facilities	9	266	210	45	2.41	530
Hiking Trails and Paths	1	178	368	8	2.67	555
Hockey	11	367	48	85	2.09	511
Horseshoes	9	275	51	162	2.13	497
Ice Skating	2	354	116	47	2.24	519
Indoor/Outdoor Climbing areas	3	170	218	127	2.55	518
Lacrosse fields	10	262	70	150	2.18	492
Landscaping	7	353	85	61	2.18	506
Natural Areas/Wildlife Habitat	6	236	275	18	2.52	535
Outdoor Performance Venues	3	204	255	58	2.55	520
Pickle Ball	16	262	71	150	2.16	499
Picnic Shelters	6	450	60	10	2.10	526
Picnic Tables	5	433	83	7	2.15	528
Playgrounds	20	449	67	3	2.09	539
Public Art Venues	3	222	181	97	2.44	503
Public Golf Courses	20	268	106	108	2.22	502
Restrooms	3	316	213	7	2.39	539
Rugby Fields	10	231	33	214	2.08	488
Senior Recreation Centers	5	318	112	58	2.25	493
Skateboarding	12	310	88	82	2.19	492
Ski Trails	6	248	177	76	2.40	507
Sledding	5	267	222	26	2.44	520
Soccer	26	351	89	41	2.14	507
Softball Fields	24	409	32	38	2.02	503
Swimming	7	368	116	25	2.22	516
Teen Centers	4	208	224	62	2.50	498
Tennis	12	340	110	38	2.21	500
Volleyball	9	358	81	46	2.16	494
Warming Houses	3	300	132	63	2.30	498
<b>answered question</b>						<b>626</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>13</b>

**8. Please rank the top four most important parks and recreation facilities to you or any member of your Household from those listed below.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Basketball Courts	5	8	13	19	1.98	45
Bike Skills Facilities/Mountain Biking Trails	65	25	10	18	3.16	118
Biking Trails and Paths	117	136	64	34	2.96	351
Canoeing/Kayaking	7	19	25	26	2.09	77
Community Gardens	7	15	13	17	2.23	52
Cultural Facilities	5	7	8	4	2.54	24
Disc Golf	33	7	15	12	2.91	67
Exercise/Fitness Facilities	5	15	28	20	2.07	68
Football Fields	0	4	1	2	2.29	7
Gyms or Indoor Recreation Facilities	5	14	26	14	2.17	59
Hiking Trails and Paths	87	91	79	43	2.74	300
Hockey	6	2	5	4	2.59	17
Horseshoes	0	0	2	1	1.67	3
Ice Skating	4	9	10	14	2.08	37
Indoor/Outdoor Climbing areas	2	5	14	17	1.79	38
Lacrosse fields	0	2	4	1	2.14	7
Landscaping	2	2	2	10	1.75	16
Natural Areas/Wildlife Habitat	24	35	38	47	2.25	144
Outdoor Performance Venues	8	5	24	30	1.87	67
Pickle Ball	7	6	6	8	2.44	27
Picnic Shelters	4	14	15	24	1.96	57
Picnic Tables	1	9	14	8	2.09	32
Playgrounds	121	44	26	19	3.27	210
Public Art Venues	2	4	5	8	2.00	19
Public Golf Courses	4	8	9	13	2.09	34
Restrooms	5	19	30	42	1.86	96
Rugby Fields	0	1	0	1	2.00	2
Senior Recreation Centers	3	5	8	14	1.90	30
Skateboarding	3	3	5	4	2.33	15
Ski Trails	6	8	14	16	2.09	44
Sledding	1	14	21	22	1.90	58
Soccer	19	16	14	17	2.56	66
Softball Fields	9	7	6	4	2.81	26
Swimming	21	19	31	28	2.33	99
Teen Centers	10	7	3	7	2.74	27
Tennis	14	17	10	16	2.51	57
Volleyball	2	4	6	7	2.05	19
Warming Houses	1	2	1	5	1.89	9
					<i>answered question</i>	<b>621</b>
					<i>skipped question</i>	<b>18</b>

**9. Please rank the top four most important parks and recreation Programs to you or any member of your Household from those listed below.**

Answer Options	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Rating Average	Response Count
Adult Art, Dance, Performing Arts	24	15	13	24	2.49	76
Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs	73	49	40	45	2.28	207
Adult Sports Programs	33	18	23	22	2.35	96
Adventure Recreation Skills Clinics (i.e., kayaking, bike)	80	37	31	36	2.13	184
Before and After-School Programs	37	28	12	16	2.08	93
Equestrian Riding Lessons	6	4	11	5	2.58	26
Golf Lessons	7	13	19	11	2.68	50
Local History Programs	9	12	22	17	2.78	60
Martial Arts Programs	4	1	5	4	2.64	14
Nature Programs	35	53	41	29	2.41	158
Outdoor Skills Clinics (i.e., hunting, fishing)	11	28	30	16	2.60	85
Pre-School Programs	29	21	12	15	2.17	77
Running/Walking Races	21	30	26	30	2.61	107
Senior Adult Programs	17	19	19	17	2.50	72
Special Events/Festivals	45	57	48	55	2.55	205
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	14	13	16	15	2.55	58
Volunteer Programs	6	14	25	26	3.00	71
Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts	13	19	19	14	2.52	65
Youth Fitness and Wellness Programs	8	19	31	33	2.98	91
Youth Learn to Swim Programs	39	40	29	20	2.23	128
Youth Sports Programs	44	50	47	41	2.47	182
Youth Summer Camp Programs	16	19	27	39	2.88	101
<i>answered question</i>						<b>576</b>
<i>skipped question</i>						<b>63</b>

**10. Listed below are actions that can help the City prioritize limited resources in the future. Which FOUR of the actions listed below are most important to your Household?**

Answer Options	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Rating Average	Response Count
Acquire land for conservation values	54	25	25	33	2.73	137
Acquire land to develop with passive facilities (i.e., trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.)	72	42	38	46	2.71	198
Acquire land and develop with active facilities (i.e., soccer, softball, and baseball fields)	34	30	22	14	2.84	100
Maintain existing lands for conservation values	18	48	35	40	2.31	141
Maintain existing land with passive facilities (i.e., trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, etc.)	61	63	55	50	2.59	229
Maintain existing land with active facilities (i.e., soccer, softball, and baseball fields)	18	42	33	29	2.40	122
Maintain urban forests and forested park lands	24	23	45	42	2.22	134
Develop new walking and biking trails	71	105	88	50	2.63	314
Develop new mountain bike trails	56	22	12	9	3.26	99
Develop a connected City-wide trail system	99	87	81	67	2.65	334
Develop new outdoor swimming pools/water parks	29	23	15	16	2.78	83
Develop new fishing access areas	9	12	12	20	2.19	53
Develop new picnic areas, shelters, and pavilions	8	5	10	14	2.19	37
Develop new playgrounds	11	18	15	20	2.31	64
Develop new adventure/outdoor recreation venues	11	22	42	42	2.02	117
Develop new wildlife habitats and viewing areas	15	16	37	53	1.94	121
Develop new sports fields with outdoor lighting	9	12	22	29	2.01	72
<i>answered question</i>						<b>602</b>
<i>skipped question</i>						<b>37</b>

**11. Compared to other City priorities, how important do you think it is to maintain and improve parks, trails, open space, recreation facilities and services?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very Important	67.9%	426
Somewhat Important	29.0%	182
Not Sure	2.2%	14
Not Important	0.8%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>627</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>12</b>

**12. Please indicate how strongly you agree/disagree with the following statement: "Sun Prairie parks and recreation are of great value to me and/or my community."**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	62.7%	393
Agree	32.4%	203
No Opinion	3.7%	23
Disagree	1.1%	7
Strongly Disagree	0.2%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>627</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>12</b>

**13. What is your gender?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	42.8%	267
Female	57.2%	357
<i>answered question</i>		<b>624</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>15</b>

**14. What is your age range?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18	0.5%	3
18 - 24	1.7%	11
25 - 34	20.2%	127
35 - 44	34.8%	219
45 - 54	20.7%	130
55 - 64	13.4%	84
65 and over	8.7%	55
<i>answered question</i>		<b>629</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>10</b>

**15. Does your household include members in the following age categories, including yourself? Select all that apply.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under age 5	22.0%	134
Ages 5 - 9	27.5%	168
Ages 10 - 14	26.1%	159
Ages 15 - 19	16.9%	103
Ages 20 - 24	7.0%	43
Ages 25 - 34	21.3%	130
Ages 35 - 44	37.7%	230
Ages 45 - 54	23.0%	140
Ages 55 - 64	14.1%	86
Ages 65 - 74	8.7%	53
Ages 75+	2.1%	13
<b>answered question</b>		<b>610</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>29</b>

**16. Please share any additional comments that could assist the City in improving parks, trails, open space, or recreational facilities and services.**

Answer Options	Response Count
	297
<b>answered question</b>	<b>297</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>342</b>

*Responses:*

- Security needs to be improved so existing equipment and grounds are not damaged.
- The City of Sun Prairie must partner with the Sun Prairie Soccer Club and Lacrosse Clubs to further develop a sports field complex capable of hosting tournaments. There is a major deficit of suitable field space for both clubs and the extensive use of current facilities is causing stress on the existing facilities. A sport field complex would serve an immediate community need and also provide economic development opportunities for local businesses should the complex be able to support youth tournaments. Research Reddan Park in Verona - the economic benefit is hard to ignore!
- Maintenance of existing active fields and trails is very important in their continued use.
- I think we need more open fields for children to run and play football, capture the flag, soccer, or any outdoor activity, and they need to be next to parks for the littler ones to play. I also think the parks need to have a little more shaded areas. Maybe that means more trees? I also believe we need more sport facilities for rock climbing, biking, etc. A facility the family can go to/join.
- We're new to town and don't know what is fully offered yet. The park in our neighborhood (Liberty Park) is very basic. It needs a covered area for picnic tables, less giant pine trees and, because of the population age, shuffle board and/or bocce ball courts. I have never seen anyone using the basketball court and the playground is rarely used by the few children in the neighborhood. It is nicely maintained and a good size area, but needs better planning and improvements. It's not a neighborhood gathering place, which it should be.
- Questions 8, 9 and 10 only let me choose one answer under each question
- I emailed Mrs. Jana Stephens about having a league for ultimate Frisbee, carriage hills is a good place.
- It's disappointing that this survey did not include preferences identified in the Gang Report. In that report, PRIORITY FOUR Consider suggestions from the Reality Check event sponsored by the Youth and Families

Commission in April 2014 that invited young people to identify the best things about Sun Prairie and areas where the community could do more to engage youth in positive behaviors.

- The conversation produced ideas about what both the City Council and the School District can do. [Ed note: Although the City and the school district could do things from either of these lists]
- First, the City:
  - Support/promote more positive (fun!) community events
  - Create more safe social spots in Sun Prairie for kids to gather
  - Build a roller blading and/or complete the skate park
- ...And then the School District:
  - Introduce summer school (enrichment) classes
  - Add weekend and summer education activities
  - Support organization of Glee Club
  - Open gym for after-school and weekend activities
  - Plan field trips, including tours of local businesses or institutions
  - Establish career courses and young entrepreneur group
  - Support opportunities for youth with disabilities
  - Support Talent and Gifted (TAG) program
  - Ensure equal distribution of supplies and space to all levels and genders of sports teams (e.g., playing fields)
  - Earmark money for music and arts programs
  - Enforce importance of school before athletics
  - Address bullying
- Pheasant Run Park is surrounded by low income apartments and needs more fun equipment.
- I would like to see bike trail connection to Madison, Cottage Grove, and maybe even Windsor/DeForest.
- Kayaking, mountain biking trail course park.
- Maintaining and growing recreational facilities and services is vital to the community. The biggest thing I notice that is lacking is a teen center and diverse cultural opportunities.
- Please do not put basketball courts in parks that are very near to houses.
- We would love to have more options for summer school age care.
- We need a teen space. I work at the library and see youth in our building that need something to do. I would love to see a teen center/teen library that offered a wider range of programs than just sports
- From Sun Prairie Little League's / SP Youth Baseball & Softball's perspective, priority is maintaining current property in top condition, coupled with development of additional space as needed. Space needs include maintaining and developing fields for ages 6-14 -- whether that's engineering additional space at 910 S Bird, or refreshing unused Sheehan softball fields to make use of that space -- and development of the additional related space needed for things like parking and concessions. Concessions allows for the league to be self-sustaining. We prefer to start at the property at 910 S Bird if possible, before then considering other sites.
- I think an outdoor ice skating rink that has a warming house and ice skate rental, and cross country ski rental (near a trail head) would be nice; but maintaining what we have a linking a city-wide trail is higher priority on my list.
- I really enjoy our parks & would love to see more varied walking/biking trails. Climbing & dance/music also great.
- I would really like to see a splash pad that is attached to a park. Those are a great resource and it would be nice to not have to pay each time we wanted to use one, like we do at the pool.
- "I'm somewhat surprised that none of the questions mentioned special needs kids or adults. When we attempted to take our special needs daughter to the parks around our area (which included a school playground), there was nothing we could do with her. It's nice to have all the recreational facilities in question 7 above, but when you can't even find a

simple swing to support a low tone kiddo in any park or playground there is something wrong with that. Especially in a city that seems to take pride in their parks system.

- Vandenburg Park is heavily used but not well maintained. There is often trash in the playground area. This can be a problem in the sandy areas as well. The back portion of the park that is currently not used should be turned into a community garden with additional night lighting.
- The swimming pool is a huge reason why others OUTSIDE of Sun Prairie come to Sun Prairie. To swim. It is a beautiful facility!!!!
- I would LOVE to see the pond off HWY 151 near Reiner Road turned into an ice skating rink! I envision lights at night shining on the ice with families skating and enjoying nature in winter. It would make a great picture for social media and would be a great visual when entering the city via HWY 151. The businesses in the area (i.e., Shoppes at Prairie Lakes / Cabela's / Costco / Woodman's, etc.) could help make it happen by contributing monies. They might get on board if they see the possibility of adults dropping off their children while they shop at their stores.
- The natural areas of the parks are the most important areas. I spend my childhood in the woods in Sheehan Park and learned so much about nature. I also love the sports fields as I grew up playing softball. Thank you so much for all the work you do!
- Please consider adding more inclusive or specialized programming for individuals with disabilities (I.e. Adaptive sports and activities like MSCR). Please also keep those with disabilities on your mind when planning new park space (accessible trails, accessible playground equipment, accessible fishing pier, etc.).
- One of the reasons we love Sun Prairie is because of the park system. The existing parks do a great job in accommodating many diverse activities and user groups. For future planning of the parks, please pay attention to how the different use areas fit together - consider grouping sports facilities, fields and areas together, combine nature areas, trails and quiet areas together.
- Consider designating more acreage for natural areas and supporting existing natural spaces.
- It seems the current nature areas are viewed as places waiting to be developed. These are very special, unique and precious areas that should be maintained and used to promote awareness of the natural environment, including the animals and fauna.
- Consider developing nature awareness classes and walks for youth and elderly. "
- We use the parks as long as there is not snow on the ground and see many other families there too (i.e. Into November or December this year and early in the spring). We have young children that need access to the bathrooms and would like to see them open much longer.
- Please consider adding more inclusive or specialized programming for individuals with disabilities (I.e. Adaptive sports and activities like MSCR). Please also keep those with disabilities on your mind when planning new park space (accessible trails, accessible playground equipment, accessible fishing pier, etc.).
- Would love a splash pad!
- Our top use of the park system is the dog park. We use it frequently but it has been extremely wet this year.
- One of the biggest priorities of the all the facilities should be lighting. The paths and trails get extremely dark and are very unsafe discouraging people from using them during potentially the only hours they would be able to (after work or early in the morning)."
- Make it as bike-friendly as Madison!
- I have heard talk of a desire to locate a pet exercise area on the north side of town. If this is true, I would like to see the City pursue acquiring the parcel just north of Stonehaven Drive and just west of Bird Street for this purpose. This land is currently used for farming but appears that it will ultimately be surrounded by development from the City from the west and the Town from the north.
- Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport. We will need additional outside courts in the next couple of years.

- I would love to see additional trails and a splash pad brought to the city. There are not enough things to do for those with young families. The Patrick Marsh Trail is beautiful, but there is a real opportunity to improve the experience.
- I am not sure at this time. I will wait to attend the November 30th meeting for more information on what the city envisions.
- Love our parks! Would love to see more community classes and activities on weekends for those who work during the week and not at 6 in the morning as tired from working all week!
- I love the number of playgrounds for young children and how widespread they are. I would like to see more walking trails and undeveloped open space for walking and wildlife viewing, I enjoy using the existing trails and open spaces.
- We could definitely use more sledding hills for the kids (and maybe in different parts of the city)! The one at Sheehan is always busy and worn down. It would also be nice to have winter maintenance on the bike trails/walking paths. There are people that would use them in the winter for walking, dog walking, running and walking to school.
- Some facilities or parks have not been kept or up graded equipment in over 15 years that children go to play in.
- Sun Prairie has a ton of parks, but I'm not aware of all of the services they offer or their locations. I'd love to see that information more readily available either through print or on the website. Maybe an interactive map where you could select what you're looking for from a drop down menu and then see a list of all of the parks with that feature, where you could then click a link to learn more about each park (pictures are also helpful).
- The city of Sun Prairie must make sure that the Programs and services of the Parks System are foremost designed for residents of the city.
- It is secondary to provide services and programs for those outside of the city. While we do want to promote our city and parks, and to promote tourism within our city, it is not a priority to provide recreation for outside cities that are not willing to provide for their own residents.
- Earlier in 2016, bike advocates tried to hijack Sheehan Park for a single sport and for a special interest group. The bike group was out of area, organized, and wanted to take over a high use area of the park. Special interest groups such as this should never take over areas that should be intended for general use. Matter of fact, our Sheehan Park area disposed of an alderman that did not represent the interests of our neighborhood nor of the city on this matter.
- The Park system in Sun Prairie is absolutely fantastic...a #10. Credit for the earlier development stages must go to previous leaders such as Bob Hollings.
- One of the important things for the Sheehan Park area is to keep this area reserved for nature. The city has a signature park that needs to keep the southern part of the park for quiet, for family, for walks. "
- I would love to see expansion of the bike trails in sun prairie. An interconnected bike trail system making it more accessible to bike to a destination using trails alone throughout the city would be of great value. Since Sun Prairie is a suburb type city I think developing a system like this would help get people outside and using the trail systems more to get places rather than relying only on vehicle transportation which would also build community and help decrease emissions.
- We are very excited to live in Sun Prairie having moved here in the fall of 2015 from the west side of Madison. There is currently a parcel of land along North Mallard Drive across the street from the home we built in the West Prairie Village subdivision that is slated to become a City park. We would love for the park to be developed in 2017 and include a playground and walking/biking trail connections to other surrounding improvements. We currently use a lot of the walking/biking trails and would like those to continue to be maintained and expanded throughout the city and newly developed areas. We are glad that the opportunity to provide comments is being offered. Thank you!
- Make sure with the boom in building new housing that you keep up with new parks to handle the new residents.
- Build more Pickleball courts
- We live in near Horizon Elementary school and I am amazed at the use the pickleball courts are getting. When I drive by the courts, I often see a group of people playing. I also play pickleball on the courts and appreciate all the people

who are willing to provide tips and strategies to improve my game. I have met so many more people since the courts first opened. Thank you.

- We really need a disc golf course, like Madison, Marshall and even little Waterloo.
- Build a disc golf course and mountain bike trails.
- More green space needed. Esp. Prairie grasslands. Sad to see rich farm soil covered with large box stores and multifamily complex. Too big. Too fast.
- I think there isn't anything in Sun Prairie that attracts people to town in regards to outdoor recreation. Most surrounding towns have a lake or a set of parks or paths that lure them. Example, Fitchburg. I feel we always have to load up to go biking or hiking or even fishing. There isn't enough here to keep people here on a nice summer day. Building a skate park, bike trails, or bike paths will only draw people to town and money to businesses.
- Please consider a more unconventional playground for open-ended and creative play or a splash pad!
- For years Sun Prairie businesses have missed out on many people using their volleyball facilities in the parks as the sand is not good quality volleyball sand. It is rocky and not comfortable. Nobody wants to walk barefoot on rocky sand nor dive into rocky sand and get all scraped up. We have different groups of people that have to drive to Madison parks and to bars that maintain their volleyball courts. This takes away from money that would be spent at Sun Prairie bars & restaurants after we play volleyball. It is no fun to play on the volleyball courts at the parks in Sun Prairie and they are not used because of the quality of sand. It needs to be replaced and maintained (graded regularly).
- I am very concerned about the 20 acres next to Patrick Marsh Middle school and Patrick Marsh. I feel this land needs to be purchased by either public or private funds to keep this from development and possible destruction of Patrick Marsh.
- I would like to see the concession stand at Sheehan open in the summer for softball players and fans to use as well as a place for families to congregate for a meal.
- City doesn't have parks in all the neighborhoods. When every resident is paying property taxes, why city is discriminating on some neighborhoods? For example, I live in Providence neighborhood and we don't have any city maintained park.
- I would like to see more tennis courts in the community. The Orphan park tennis courts are in constant use over the summer. The current facilities could benefit from being lighted until 9 or 10 pm so it could be used more in the evening hours in Spring and Fall
- Parks, recreation, trails and similar amenities that add to the City's quality of life should be integrated as part of present and future development and not merely as an afterthought in hopes of keeping up with what other communities may or may not be doing.
- We love our parks. Bike trails are of special interest to our family. Having most trails interconnected is great, but I would also like a connection to the Dane County Parks and State trails if it is possible. Currently there is no good way to bike to Madison A direct trail to connect to 151 in Madison would be very nice. I work in Madison, but cannot ride conveniently to Madison via 151. The trail currently take me way out of the way and adds way too much time for me to ride to a bus stop.
- I would love to have some mountain bike and skate ski trails so I don't have to drive to Madison. No one with kids has time to make that drive regularly for recreation.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles is a great attraction to future and current residents. Although, my professional life keeps me too busy to enjoy the facilities, I believe the quality services improve quality of living and home values.
- I do not utilize the parks, etc. enough to feel comfortable answering the rest of the questions.
- Could use more playground equipment at the Pheasant Run Park on Sunfield St. Sometimes waiting lines for the two swings and slides. Lots of kids visit this park!
- The Sun Prairie Parks and Recreation needs to have more fitness programs available other than Yoga.

- There seems to be a lot of Yoga and not much choice of other fitness activities.
- I have had to look elsewhere to find other options."
- Other youth sport and recreation programs offered in the Sun Prairie area are too expensive for many of the families in the community and the Parks and Recreation programs are the only opportunities many children have to try (ballet, basketball, tumbling and other sports and arts activities). I hope those activities will increase in number and continue. Also, bike paths---especially those that connect different subdivisions will always build community and increase housing value.
- Some parks do not have toilet facilities prompting people not be able to stay there for long or look for parks that are closer to them so they can shuttle between parks and home. I know some are in residential areas and small not to be able to accommodate these facilities.
- The West side of town being a developing areas should be considered for future parks as it grow.
- Would love to see a disc golf course in Sun Prairie.
- The bike trails located in the industrial park are not well maintained. We ride on the road when we bike in that area. The bike paths in other areas of the city are well maintained. However, they have turned into dog trails. Many dog owners do not have their dogs on a leash. It is very intimidating when we are on a bike trail, and we are approached by owners with dogs (some with 3 dogs). Even when they are on a leash, it is uncomfortable so we are forced to ride on the road. Dog owners could walk on the sidewalk or road; we hope that this could be addressed so the bike paths can be used as bike paths.
- There needs to be a hockey / ice skating rink at Orfan Park with lights. Quit wasting your resources by constructing a rink at these other parks where they don't get used. We have a beautiful space at Orfan Park that doesn't get utilized in the winter.
- A disc golf course or two would be ideal.
- Would love to see partnerships with existing youth sports programs to collaborate on the growth and development opportunities. While there may be few options in the same area (like soccer - parks program or Club program), could likely make it more affordable for more participants if working together.
- Need more tennis courts and safe biking trails off roadways
- I would love to see more trails for running/walking/biking and for them to have WINTER maintenance! That would be important to our family for staying active in the winter. Also, we'd LOVE to see a free splash pad in walking distance so we don't have to travel to other communities to use theirs.
- Please, please, please put in some disc golf courses in the city parks!!!!
- I am in Town of Burke and will eventually be in the City of SP. I have lived in SP from 1967 until 1985 then moved to TofBurke. I will be too old to do a lot when we are acquired by SP, but feel great pride to say I have been here since "...".
- In all, I am very happy with the parks department, they do a great job! Thank you!
- It would be nice if more youth swimming and recreational classes were offered on the weekends.
- Make use of volunteers (solicit and organize them) to help with invasive weed control where needed.
- Having access to mountain bike trails would be very beneficial to my household and the community.
- Disc golf would be a huge addition to an already great park system
- Would love to see a splash pad put somewhere in Sun Prairie
- I would like to see the City plow the paved trails connecting parks in the winter. I do not see any cross country skiers but it would be nice to walk/jog on these trails.
- Sun Prairie needs disc golf!
- My brother's my dad and I love being able to disc golf together. It is a great cheap stress reliever.

- A disc golf course would be greatly appreciated!
- We need more open space in Smith's Crossing. There are undeveloped parcels between O'Keefe and Wild Iris that would work well as open space parks. They are used basically as dumping grounds right now.
- I would love to see a disc golf course established in Sun Prairie, as well as an additional public pool/water park!
- I live on the far east side of Madison and would love to see the development of Disc Golf in your city parks! Vallarta-Ast DGC in Token Creek Park is very close to Sun Prairie as is Bird's Ruins in Marshall. It would be great to have them connected with a course or two in the Sun Prairie area!
- How about letting the community help in maintaining h parks
- It's important to me as a parent to a young child that the park closest to us is updated. It is old, seems uncared for and it feels like the residents in the area can sense it. I am speaking specifically of Pheasant Run on Sunfield. My daughter won't play there long, so we really just stopped going. We have been to other parks that are nicer (more to do on newer equipment, wood chips are a whole lot nicer than dusty pebbles) and it just increases the fact that in all it's really a crappy park. I prefer not to have to drive to a park, but we go to Sheehan across from the library instead because there is more to do and we stay for a long time. If we had a better park in our neighborhood we would definitely utilize that more often than anywhere else because it's close. Consider updating older parks.
- Disc Golf is a must!
- Hello, I am an avid disc golfer and would love to see the sport continue to grow. All ages (4+) can disc golf and it's a great way to get that step count up! I know plenty of Madison disc golfers would play. Although the fee to Play deters many beginners. It used to be one of many great things you could do for free. Just a word of warning
- I would love to see more trails for running/walking/biking and for them to have WINTER maintenance! That would be important to our family for staying active in the winter. Also, we'd LOVE to see a free splash pad in walking distance so we don't have to travel to other communities to use theirs.
- We are a growing community and our parks and facilities and sports fields need lots of attention to keep up.
- Need more disc golf courses.
- Power wash plastic playground equipment. The mildew buildup is gross and is a big problem on most of our playground equipment.
- Our softball umpires need to be a bit more customer friendly. We don't have a batter's box that is visible after 6:15.
- Weed control is a huge concern. Weed killers kill weeds, not people. Spray the weeds! The golf courses seem to manage them just fine.
- I am avid disc golfer living in Sun Prairie. I was surprised and excited to see the mention of disc golf in Sun Prairie throughout the survey. The disc golf community is growing every day. Madison hosted the PDGA AM Worlds if Disc golf summer just this summer.
- A course here in Sun Prairie would be so great. I am excited to see things develop. "
- Really could use a large soccer facility that could be used for tournaments. Also desperately need more recreation/activities for children/teens. Roller-skating?
- All of the parking lots in the larger parks have not been restriped/painted for at least five years and all of the markings for cars to park are almost gone. That is ridiculous. They used to be restriped every two years!
- We are Town of Sun Prairie residents and spent 99% of our time in Sun Prairie
- We live near as soon Park and would really enjoy having a facility that is nicer and cleaner than something many people could have in their backyard. It's such a large, beautiful area but so, SO underutilized.
- Moved to SP BECAUSE of parks!
- The dog park (or a new dog park) needs an area fenced off inside the main park for small dogs and puppies. We don't feel safe taking our small dogs to the Sun Prairie dog park because the large dog owners tend to be socializing and not

paying attention to their dogs. Instead, we go to the Token Creek dog park where there is a separate fenced area for small dogs inside the main dog park.

- Please fix the bucket swing at Orfan Park, it is broken\*\*\*\*
- We need a splash pad. Many other smaller cities have multiple splash pads and Sun Prairie needs at least 2 or 3. They would get used a lot during the summer.
- Need to finish the skateboard park. Need to build a shade structure and drinking fountain at skate park.
- Dog parks are not mentioned on this survey. There is a huge population of dog owners in this city and they absolutely need to be considered.
- More handicap accessible fishing including wheelchair/motorized scooter accessible fishing piers. Expanded swimming hours. An adult/elders only outdoor swimming pool.
- Critical need for facilities for shooting sports.
- The volleyball courts do not have nice sand like the Madison park courts. We should invest in better sand so that the courts can be effectively utilized.
- The bike trails are a very important component especially as traffic increases with our population. Trail Maintenance within the business park needs improvement.
- NEED SPLASH PARK. We frequently visit other smaller cities just to go to splash parks (Deforest & Conservancy Place). With the size of our city, resources and being on the fastest growing cities and need for more elementary schools which is the demographic age of splash park users. Feel free to contact me for additional discussion.
- I think additional facilities are not needed as many current facilities are unused. Maintenance of current facilities should be focus.
- Consider the maintenance and cleanliness and safety. Could student and, or other civic organizations partner with these areas.
- Please provide other waste receptacles at other entrances/locations in the parks, such as Sheehan Park and it would be great to have pet waste bags and receptacles at several key spots along the trails.
- I bring bags with me and pick up after my dogs and keep them on leashes, unfortunately not everyone does the same. The only waste cans are in the parking lot and picnic areas and I notice that folks have a hard time even placing their food waste in the numerous receptacles in those locations.
- The dog park is of particular interest to me.
- Some of the playground equipment at Thoreau Park is broken and needs replacing. Also, would LOVE to see a splash pad in Sun Prairie!!
- Please continue to enhance bike and trail systems; linking together where appropriate. Thanks.
- Have you thought about buying the 21 acres for sale on Bird Street to add to the Sheehan Park and increase hiking, biking and ski trails?
- It would be nice if the city placed a higher emphasis on keeping the grass mowed and weeded in public areas around the city. Also, nicer landscaping in public areas would be appreciated.
- "I moved to Sun Prairie because parks and recs is so much better here than where I grew up in Stoughton, WI. I've been living here 13 years and love the trails, parks, recreational facilities that Sun Prairie offers. My only suggestions is to improve the bike trails as they are limited and I end up going out into the country to get a solid bike ride. Riding on the roads in the country is not fun as it's just crazy busy in Dane County with the number of cars on the road.
- Also, it's near impossible to ride on the trails through roundabouts, especially during high traffic times. That should be addressed. Waiting 20-30 mins to get through 1 roundabout is not acceptable.
- It would also be nice to see an 18 hole disc golf park go in locally. As I already purchase season passes for Dane County and Madison disc golf, it would have to be a great deal and a great park for me to be willing to pay though...

Just a thought to ponder as most disc golfers would be in the same boat. Heistand and Token Park are close and awesome courses!

- A mountain bike trail would be nice too. Just tried one for the first time up in MN <http://www.lebanonhills.com/> a couple weeks ago. It was a ton of fun!
- Thanks for taking the time to listen. It's appreciated!"
- Good job
- Splash pad would be great on the west side of town
- I wish the bathrooms were open later in the year. They are used so much, it's very inconvenient. Wish bike trails connected more. Love the parks. Love the programming. Wish the pool in the summer had longer hours seems like it's closed lots. Maybe swim lessons can happen in smaller quantities while open swim happens?
- I wish the public bathrooms were cleaner, but I know it's a challenge to keep them clean. I also wish there were more NO DOGS ALLOWED signs posted at all the city parks because I was attacked by a dog that was off its leash at Sheehan Park. Another dog owner had their dog off the leash at Sheehan Park and even though I told the owner I was nervous about her dog, she just laughed it off. "She'd probably lick you to death!" That's not the point, lady. I don't want your dog near me, and I don't want it off the leash. Otherwise I think that the parks are beautiful in Sun Prairie, and the Recreation area offers a lot of good programs. I just don't like to drive all the way to the Westside Community Center for programs because I have to go through about three roundabouts and I hate them. Maybe you could have more programs at the public library, or at the Colonial Club.
- We need a splash pad in Sun Prairie.
- Would like to see all parts of the bike path connect!
- "West Prairie Village had plans for a park to be developed. We have lived here since 2010 and there is still no park. We would like to see the city begin action to develop the park that was in the plans for this neighborhood. There are so many children in our neighborhood. For the past 6 years, we have had to walk across Thompson or cross highway 19 to get to a park. Both roads are very busy and not friendly for small children, especially since there is no cross walk unless you are in front of the school. Please give us the park that was in our development's plans.
- Thank you!"
- "We have been very pleased with the number of parks the city has and how well maintained they are. We think the city has done a great job developing and maintaining the parks/ playgrounds in the city. Do not feel more parks are needed. There are plenty of great playgrounds just continue to maintain them as you have.
- Continue to invest in the great programs and Recreational activities (including preschool, before/after school, summer camps) for the youth of the community if there is an area where you have additional funds you want to focus. Another area would be to continue to develop & invest in indoor activities during wintertime for youth. Our family's main priority is investment in enrichment for the youth of the community
- Thanks for everything you do for the community continue your great work.
- We could use more tennis courts in Sun Prairie - especially ones that are lighted. In the alternative, the city should use its leverage with the school district to get them to maintain/upgrade the courts behind CHUMS for public use, and light the high school courts for public use. More biking - including mountain biking - resources would be great. There are an awful lot of stop signs on current city bike paths - a bicyclist can just get up a good bit of momentum on a path, then encounter a stop sign. (It would also be nice to see police on bikes in the community.)
- The current SP Dog Park needs to be improved upon. We go daily and there are always dogs without tags and I have never once seen a park person there checking tags (as they do in all other Dane Cty Parks). Therefore I've heard a LOT of people say they don't utilize it because aggressive dogs come and many without tags. I have witnessed aggressive dogs there and my dog was attacked by one without tags and vaccines as well. Also it is so muddy all the time. There is a need for wood chips or dirt to fill in the park holes all over. Very easy to trip in a hole covered by

grass. I think a few simple things could be done to significantly improve the existing dog park. I do feel that a second Dog Park in the North side of town would be great and would address the growing population. We have the option to live anywhere in the state and we choose Dane Cty specifically due to the awesome dog park areas for our pup.

- We have an amazing youth program for mountain biking in Sun Prairie. The coaches are fantastic and it is a healthy sport that can last a lifetime. HOWEVER, there is nowhere to ride mountains bikes in Sun Prairie! This is a huge miss. MTB trails can be used for hiking and skiing in the extended seasons, so are a great way to utilize space. They are also wildlife-friendly.
- We are anxiously awaiting a park for West Prairie Village. So many families that could benefit and have been told it was coming 5 years ago. It is hard for many families to cross Thompson Rd. For the nearest park without a cross walk.
- I like the parks in Sun Prairie area. But we don't know where those are and its facilities.
- "Develop bike trails so people can get around the city without using many streets. There are no bike lanes in this city for some reason.
- Keep the skating pond ice in better shape. It's often crappy and tough to skate on.
- Fish stocking and fishing access in the Patrick Marsh pond would be nice."
- Pleasant Prairie, WI Recplex
- A Designated Archery range would be useful for many residence. I know there is a city ordinance prohibiting archery shooting within city limits. I know of many residence including myself who have to find a place to practice at a safe and legal location. Often this means traveling out of town.
- Considering the increasing diverse population, more culturally diverse activities should have been included as options in this survey such as cricket. It would be interesting to know how and why these activities were chosen. By excluding certain activities in this survey, some community members may feel excluded.
- Tennis courts are a big deal for our household. 3 members play 3-5x/week. Have been playing in Orfan Park for 12 years...one of the main reasons we purchased in the neighborhood because the courts were being built. They are now showing their age and are VERY well utilized. We have seen this grow over the years (which is good for the sport, bad with so few courts!)
- Many of the prime times are booked for city rec lessons (which we support) but given the limited city facilities in the neighborhood it is frustrating to not have Saturday mornings or many weekday evenings available. For a city of 30K, Orfan park courts are really the only truly public courts....the high school & middle school often have kids programs on them & other courts are technically not city owned (although they typically allow non-neighborhood residents). Landscaping around the fences and area are sub-par with comparable city parks & courts will need resurfacing soon -- the new ""sign"" board up by the street entrance is odd...erected but nothing ever on it...seems like that money could have been better spent on some perennials or landscaping -- better water fountain (it's always leaking!)
- On the upside, the wind guard for the courts finally arrived this season -- maybe we will get lights someday too--that would expand playing time greatly-especially in spring/fall. Moving the pickle ballers to their own facility helped alleviate the crowding (+they were REALLY RUDE people!)
- Second issue is connecting the west & east sides of the city....would be nice to have a trail to connect from east of downtown (heading towards Marshall) all the way to C plus to the high school ....bike paths would allow (older) kids to visit friends without driving all over....biking through the city not an easy solution & would encourage healthy activity
- Appreciate being asked...parks are so important to the quality of life, not to mention property values! Thanks for your consideration
- Aquatic center is very nice--could be open until 7:00pm on warm summer days.
- Bike paths are important."

- Please consider the park that is pending in West Prairie Village. It would provide a play and recreation space to so many families. We've been looking forward to it for over 2 years.
- Currently I see the woodland areas in the parks system poorly maintained and declining rapidly, i.e. Sheehan Park West; Shonas Highlands. Many dying trees and the understories completely overrun by invasive plant species.
- Since the Museum is part of the Recreation Dept it needs to better advertise and it needs to let people know about the benefits the Museum offers.
- Recreation needs to work with the SP Media Center and the SP Library to promote cultural events and gathering events that bring the community together. The Recreation Dept could promote the best of Sun Prairie through art workshops & community art. Art contests featuring SP topics, photography contest of SP topics; then hang the winning art & photos in prominent places in the community.
- Work with the SP Schools to obtain the land in 200 block W. Main St that faces the street and create a walk-in floral garden dedicated to Georgia O'Keeffe and have the Rotary Club support & maintain it. It could all be lit up during the winter holidays, a reflective area with a gazebo during the summer (this would complement Cannery Square by being a natural garden and a bookend for the west end of downtown or a gateway to the downtown)."
- Our present dog park is a nice one when there is no standing water or mud holes. The east and south sides of the park are unusable at this time and has been all summer. I know numerous people have stopped going to the dog park because of the conditions.
- Because of the drinking water available for the dogs I like this park.
- I have heard rumors about possibility of a north dog park. This is a great idea.
- I take our dog to the dog park almost daily.
- I feel the city has been doing a good job of creating interactive play grounds for the children.
- We moved to the community last fall and built a new home in a new development (West Prairie Village). It's a beautiful area with great families and LOTS of kids in the neighborhood. We were told a new park was in the works during the building phase but now have come to learn it isn't high on the priority list. We have 2 children that love going on walks and to the parks to play. Unfortunately, the nearest parks are quite a distance away and most nights we can't go because of the time it takes to walk to/from the park. Hoping this potential park once again becomes a focus, especially as more and more families move to the area.
- I think the City does a great job with S.P. parks, trails, etc. Thank you! My only four suggestions are: 1. It seems to me that as S.P.'s population continues to grow, just like we need more schools, we need more park and rec space. I would love to see Sheehan Park expand, in cooperation with the farmer/land owner, to include that space adjacent to the park. Related, I LOVE the fact there's an unpaved walking path where it's common to see deer, waterfowl, cranes, fox, etc. It helps me feel like I'm getting away from ""civilization"" a bit. (I would encourage dogs to be on leashes. I've seen deer and cranes chased off because somebody doesn't want to follow the rules.). 2. I think we need to take global warming into consideration. The times of year for bubblers and toilets to be closed made sense at one time. Those times should be expanded. 3. I would appreciate the city continuing to connect trails w/in S.P. as well as with neighboring towns, cities, and Dane County. 4. I appreciate the reasons for closing the walking trail through Sheehan in the winter. However, I'm not sure the fact that many of those neighborhoods/ subdivisions DON'T HAVE SIDEWALKS (because of previous poor city planning) has been factored into that decision. That is, it is very difficult to walk in those neighborhoods in the winter and, if Sheehan's paved walking trail were maintained, we would have a nice, safe place to walk away from traffic. Thank you for your consideration!
- Way too many dogs allowed to run free in the parks--police are very slow to respond. Also way too many folks don't pick up after their dogs on the bike paths etc. unless someone is watching. Especially in the spring with first melt you can't even walk the paths and trails because of this.

- We live in West Prairie Village and would really like to see a park in our area that our children don't have to cross Thompson for. There was a spot designated for it but apparently we are getting the run around due to wetlands, the developer, etc. We are all fine if it moves but would all like to see a park while our kids are young and able to use it. Crossing Thompson is dangerous for adults as well...I will never let my kids do it alone, which is sad as all the parks are on that side.
- More dog accessible park areas. Doesn't have to be an off-leash area--I would like to at least be able to walk my dog on the paths in a park on his leash.
- I would like to see a larger green space park developed on the west side of town. With the addition of the new high school it would be good to see a green space developed alongside all of the sports facilities that will go along with the construction of the school.
- Additional resources need to be dedicated to a dog park and biking trails.
- We both think Sun Prairie's parks will be great when we have kids. That being said, we would really enjoy having more options for adults. I've lived in places that have fishing ponds, kayaking, rock climbing, etc. and would love to have those kinds of things to do.
- Could look at opening bathrooms earlier in the season and closing them later (maybe matching up with daylight savings timeframe). It is great that you have the bike map online and printed at city sites.
- I feel that the park in the Industrial Park should be reincarnated and kept up. It was a nice place once and could be again w/o a lot of work.
- As the city expands its essential we preserve some areas for local wildlife. It would also be nice to have trails connecting parks and wildlife areas
- Would love to see the Sun Prairie Skate Park developed more. There is an increasing need for this to help keep kids at the park and not at businesses. I think this should be a #1 priority in park development. So many kids are taking up this sport, it helps keep kids active. Would love to see a park similar to the Madison Central Park Skate Park. 2nd, it would be nice to add more bike paths, especially those that would connect the subdivisions off of bird such as Bristol gardens. I always worry when I see bike riders/walkers on bird headed out those communities.
- Mountain bike trails please!!
- My husband is blind and has a guide dog. Having access to and additional bike paths/sidewalks and having them maintained, i.e. no grass ruts on them, plowed during snow months is extremely important to us! We often use the parks/playground areas to meet and greet our neighbors and residents throughout the city. Transportation to and from the city parks is an important aspect to any development of our city park & rec infrastructure.
- We are VERY frequent users of City parks and programs. One of the reasons we chose Sun Prairie was because of so many neighborhood parks - that is a huge asset and something we are proud of. They are well maintained overall but it does bother us that parks in wealthier neighborhoods are so much nicer than parks in more modest neighborhoods. We need equity here.
- Our biggest gap is in PROGRAMMING and services. Beyond the summer programs, we are NOT meeting the needs of kids and families and need to do more. We need a robust youth center and park to keep youth active and engaged and build community.
- We love biking and are disappointed with bike trails in the City. They are not well maintained and not safe for children. Need more bike lanes and paths, particularly on roads without safe sidewalks (like the north end of Bird Street) "
- Just putting a playground set in an area with a garbage can and a picnic table does not make a park usable by SP citizens. I like that most neighborhoods have a park nearby but the Dream Park is the only park that an adult can interact our kids at.

- I would like shaded play areas not just trees covering the picnic table. Slides are unusable in summer and burn kids legs. Shade pavilions are needed, not full massive structures for grilling or bathrooms but shade structures for us to be able to get outside. "
- Additional bike and pedestrian paths/trails will get more people out biking/walking/running safely. This will improve the health of people in our community and decrease traffic congestion.
- The city needs trails for mountain bike riders.
- As a Wisconsin tax payer -- do not spend funds on any programs that are orientated to one group or another.
- Create 'cool' vibe using parks and rec. Community gardens, trails, events, nature stuff. Take a look at near East side Madison for ideas. We should want to draw in young professionals from that area by creating a cultural and hip environment.
- MORE SWIMMING LESSON SESSIONS, PLEASE!!! We could not get signed up within 15 minutes of the registration opening - and were never called while on waiting lists. We cannot afford club memberships - it is important my child learns basic swim techniques.
- Also - Splash Pads??? Other area communities (Middleton, Fitchburg) have them and they are extremely popular. Why do I not see any thoughts regarding splash pads in this survey???"
- With the rapid growth Sun Prairie has experienced and continues to experience, I feel it is increasingly important to preserve a proportional amount of green space within the city. Most parks are small and serve neighborhoods with small children well, but it seems that as the community changes, more large spaces for recreation and nature preserves should be included for healthy environmental stewardship.
- I hear Nashville has an awesome health and wellness program. It would be nice to have. Drop in programs or a gym. Ms Christy is a great dance teacher!
- I would like to see more opportunities for older teens (high school) to play recreational baseball or softball that is separate from the school. So many kids like to play...but with a school system as large as sun prairie, not many of them have an opportunity to play if they don't make the school team.
- Also, I would like to see more classes/recreational programs offered for older teens to do along with their parents. Often the classes offered are for kids or adults...not both."
- No more school funding!
- General, regular upkeep. Include low hanging branches, worn seating, clear sidewalks.
- A splash pad someday would be awesome
- We would LOVE to see a full-size indoor soccer facility built in this city!!
- A walking/biking path from St. Albert to Egge would be awesome. Please work with Town of Bristol to get that done!"
- Sun Prairie's commitment to parks, green space, and quality of facilities is among the top reasons why I choose to live here. Within my neighborhood, I am within walking distance of several parks and facilities that help encourage physical activity, being outdoors and foster a wonderful sense of community. Sun Prairie should remain committed to keeping our city beautiful by maintaining existing park areas and, where possible, acquiring additional land.
- Disc golf is a growing outdoor activity that is popular among various ages, in 2016 the amateur world disc golf tournament was hosted in Madison, WI and sold out within the first few minutes of registration being available. Both the City and County courses have annual and daily fees associated with the upkeep of the course, which really is quite minimal overall. I would be a huge advocate for this type of initiative as well as knowing many other local disc golfers that would be delighted to have another venue within the Dane County area to utilize.
- It seems as Sun Prairie has a lot of parks; unfortunately, they don't appear to use that much. Before new facilities are developed ascertain current usage levels. Bike trail would be very welcome and a readable map of existing trails would be really nice.

- Very glad to see mountain biking on this survey. There is a bunch on the west side of Madison, but east side has nothing. You'd really shine in this space. Silent sports are great!
- Reiner Road area does not have sidewalks on both sides of the street, not easy to walk to shops, navigate. Overall, not enough street lights are present.
- Please lay mulch or something over the permanent puddles at the dog park.
- Great current program, thanks for asking how to improve it.
- "The Sun Prairie dog park could use expansion and better maintenance.
- I would love to see creation of a city-wide trail system and I think we should promote the use of Sun Prairie's trails, etc.
- The ice rinks have been poorly maintained over the past few years. The weather was a contributing factor, but the time given to creating good skating ice was not taken by city staff. Very disappointing.
- Security at the parks to maintain the facilities we have should be a high priority.
- Bathrooms at parks should be open longer in the fall - dependent on weather, not a cutoff date.
- Overall we are very happy with Sun Prairie's park facilities. "
- We need more biking and hiking trails. A connected system of biking and hiking trails in Sun Prairie will allow us to stay in Sun Prairie (where we pay taxes anyways) and not have to drive far to Madison or in Dane County such as Devil's Lake or other nearby cities to enjoy these outdoor activities. We want to stay close to home but Sun Prairie does not offer these amenities.
- The Memorial Heights Park and green space is in my backyard. We hardly use the space because it is in such poor condition. All of the rubber mats are ripped and turned up at the corners, causing children to fall and get hurt. My youngest child fell and broke an arm at that very park last summer. I used that park as a child and it has not changed or been updated since that time. I think the Memorial Heights space needs to be updated. The playground and sand (which I hear is not to code) should be updated and changed as well as updated the "baseball field" which is only a home plate and backstop. There is also another large green space on the other side of the park which could be used differently.
- "The city has grown rapidly on the west side of town, but the development of parks and rec facilities have not kept pace with that growth. It seems that all of my kids' activities (soccer, swimming, baseball, arts and crafts, and gymnastics) are on the east side of town. It would be nice to have such facilities on the west side. Also, I live in West Prairie Village and it is bothersome that there isn't a park nearby for my kids to go to without crossing a busy street (Thompson Rd). There are a lot of kids in this neighborhood, and they are all in the same boat.
- My other comment has to do with swimming lessons. My kids had to take lessons privately at the YMCA because lessons at the aquatic center fill up so fast. You must realize that the limited time slots and sessions you offer for swimming lessons is SEVERELY lacking for a city of over 30,000. Yes, we have the YMCA and the Prairie Athletic Club, but not everyone can afford to attend these gyms. And having private options shouldn't give license for the public options to lag behind. It is a disservice to the children of our community. We don't necessarily need another aquatic center per se, but we do need another pool, preferably on the west side of the city, where kids can take swimming lessons."
- Indoor rock climbing and gymnastics would be fantastic but it is important to maintain the wild life habitats we have and create more space to live with animals in our community. Thank you for all you do to create a safe and fun environment for all life in this great city!
- "Considering the way
- Sun Prairie is growing they need to look at parks, walking trails, etc. on the west side of town. We are growing in this direction and need to encourage people moving to this area that there are facilities/programs for them to use for themselves and their families."

- We need more baseball diamonds. Places where my husband and son can go to practice hitting or boys can go to practice together.
- Greater community involvement in nature programs for all ages.
- The city of sun prairie has grown immensely in the 12 years I have been here, yet the Recreation Dept has the same number of full time staff. How is this justified? There is only so much, so few can do. It is time that additional FULL TIME staff be added to this dept to attempt to CATCH UP to the growth.
- As a town of Bristol resident, it would be nice to have bike trails to connect us and many of subdivisions to Sun Prairie. The narrow country roads are too dangerous to have kids riding their bikes. If there were trails, I would feel more comfortable accessing City resources, but for now, we are cut off. For example in the summer, our babysitter could utilize parks, lessons, rec activities but as is, we are cut off without safe access via bike. "
- Increasing the hours for swimming would be very helpful.
- Increasing the number of hiking trails or increasing our knowledge of where they are would be appreciated.
- Offering skate/ski rental for outdoor use would keep us from leaving the city for this.
- We almost sold our house and moved out of Sun Prairie recently. The number of parks within walking distance to our house adds to our quality of life so much here. We couldn't find another community that even came close. That was a big factor in our decision to stay in SP. Thank you for all of these beautiful parks!!
- I love the biking trails that Sun Prairie currently has as they do a great job of maintaining them in the summer. We are avid runners, walkers, and active individuals in both summer and winter and if we could have three things it would be 1) a more connected trail/bike path around the city 2) additional lighting around bike paths for November/December time when it gets dark early and 3) bike trails plowed in the winter.
- I would also love to see additional XC skiing trails in the winter.
- We have two huskies and would love to have a larger dog park. We currently don't go to the Sun Prairie dog park as it is muddy, small, and on the other side of the city for us. Instead we go to the Token Creek dog park which we find much larger and well maintained. We'd love to support Sun Prairie though and would enjoy a larger fenced dog park and maybe one with some woods and trails and/or some trails to hike or XC ski around the outside of the fenced area.
- I love how well kept SP parks are and thank you for everyone who helps make them that way. I'm very excited to hear about this survey and I hope you take the time to consider my suggestions."
- The West Prairie Village development sorely needs a playground within the bounds of the community. Currently, children have to cross a busy street in any direction to access a playground.
- I would like to see the woman's softball field (across from the library) be as well maintained as the men's.
- My biggest need is SOFTBALL practice areas for pitching (pitching lanes) and batting that are not on fields. We have numerous times tried to find a field for my daughter to practice, but they are either in use or non-usable due to lack of maintenance. This would not require a separate park, but could be available within current parks -- Sheehan, near the library, for example.
- It is very disappointing that as large as Sun Prairie is it does not have a dedicated soccer complex. The very large community of soccer families in Sun Prairie give money regularly to play in tournaments in other communities (Reddan Park in Fitchburg) and do not have opportunities to host tournaments and generate funds for the Sun Prairie program because of lack of SPP&R support. Even DeForest has a soccer park! This is a sport that all races, ages, and both genders participate in yet and is not recognized as an important enough part of the community to provide a soccer park that would better represent Sun Prairie to all of Dane County and the state of Wisconsin. We have a winning high school soccer team and the parks and rec have done little to support it.
- It would also be nice to see more trails weaved in and out of our community connecting neighborhoods and in more natural settings. "

- Please build a better Outdoor Performance Venue.
- The instructor of Skateboarding should be cloned. She is an ideal instructor. We do not join specific courses because of the behavior of some of the leaders. Watch how she does it and please encourage your other teachers/leaders to follow suit. Also the timeline of the skateboarding class is ideal - longer but only 1 week. This allows flexibility for my kids and allows them to do other activities, plus the ones they enjoy. Keep the classes smaller like she has 8ish students.
- Do not build anymore, it's time to consider maintaining and improving what we have. Consider a community volunteer day to help fix up or clean our parks? If this is offered, I've never seen it, but would love to do something like this.
- We would really like to see a soccer complex developed within the city.
- I feel strongly that we need adequate soccer fields to support the local soccer community. There is a strong need due to continued growth in youth soccer in Sun Prairie.
- I live next to a city park that has been underutilized for over thirty five years since I've been here. The playground equipment has been updated for safety and that has been the only improvements in that time. There is plenty of unused space for a tennis court, basketball court, horseshoe pits, even a ski jump. I think planning to appease some special interest groups at the taxpayer expense is illogical and an unwise use of money, so you can skip the ski jump next door. You should improve what we already have.
- The parks with playgrounds are typically well maintained. Thank you! The only exception I have seen is Memorial Park, which has old squares of turf that curl up at the corners. My one year old neighbor tripped on it and fell face first 3 times within 15 minutes of play.
- For a city this big in a state with a great commitment to outdoor recreation, I am surprised that we have so few trails for hiking and XC skiing. The trails at Sheehan Park are not well maintained, and are in an area where they are typically walked across and ruined, so not well placed. Not a great place to ski. I haven't lived in the area long enough to have too many suggestions, but I would love to see trails at Patrick Marsh to hike and ski. I would hope there are other areas to potentially develop in this manner.
- I would also love to have a place to kayak and canoe with my family, even if it were a small pond for lessons and skill building to take to bigger lakes and rivers.
- We especially enjoy disc golf and outdoor volleyball and would be most excited to see more space dedicated to that. However, if there's only enough funding to maintain current facilities, we are okay with that. Sun Prairie already has lots to offer.
- In the past there were more options for kids 2-3 years old. Now those options are very limited, especially toward what is available to them in the evenings. Programs such as Nighttime Nutties or a class where the kids sing, dance, play games, easy crafts, and stories would be great.
- We live in West Prairie Village, and would very much like to see the park completed in our neighborhood. We currently have to cross busy roads in order to get to any local park, and it has cut down on our kids' ability to use those spaces. We made the choice to build here after living in Wyndham Hills for 10 years with all the fantastic park space right down the street, and several other great parks within safe walking distance, and losing that has been one of the largest drawbacks of our move. I know the land is set aside here, and there has been issue with the watershed, but even if it has to be scaled down from the original plan we would love to see something put in as soon as possible so our kids can enjoy it before they get too old for parks. This neighborhood is absolutely full of kids who are prime park age right now!! Along with that, increasing the connections of the bike paths would be great since we like to bike all over during the summer rather than drive. Finishing the path to Wyndham Hills was great for us while we were there. The more paths the better!
- More restroom facilities, more shaded areas at the parks, we love concerts in the park, more of those would be great.

- An interconnected path system would provide all city residents an opportunity to take advantage of the wonderful facilities in place today, as well as incoming facilities.
- We chose to live in Sun Prairie because of all the parks. We've always lived within walking distance to a park with a playground (usually multiple options) which is great. I would like it if there were additional drinking fountains in more parks & accessibility to restrooms is lacking. Some parks have restrooms but they're not always available. As a runner, I would also love to see a trail system that connected with other communities (like the one that now goes to East Madison) or country side (like the snowmobiling trails in winter).
- We live right next to Carriage Hills Park. Usually the playground and shelter is well-maintained. There is often so many goose droppings around the path by the pond that it is almost un-usable. If that could be checked and cleaned every week or so, we would really appreciate it. Also Blankenheim Park is another park near us and the playground has become very rusty. Needs to be repainted or have new playground equipment. Thank you!
- "There is next to no nature within the Sun Prairie parks. When we want to hike or be in nature, we have to leave Sun Prairie and drive pretty far to find hiking trails and nice, natural surroundings. We love the Sun Prairie park system, but this is one area where we think Sun Prairie parks really fail.
- More naturalistic, adventure playgrounds are becoming popular around the country. It would be nice if Sun Prairie considered something like that, including trees, rocks, stumps, streams, etc. as areas where children (or anyone) could play in and interact with nature. For pre-teens and teens, it would be neat to have older kid adventure opportunities too - like kayaking, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing. There could be a nature center in the same area that would host programs - like environmental education, nature art, nature photography - and nature clubs for kids and families.
- We would bike more places (for fun and for running errands) if there was a connected trail system in Sun Prairie. It would also be great if there was a safe trail (no shared roads with cars) to get us into Madison.
- Overall, we love Sun Prairie parks! We moved here from Cottage Grove in large part because we loved the parks!"
- I think our city would greatly benefit from a large natural city park much like Middleton's Pheasant Branch where there are bike/walk/hike trails. A more connected City bike trail system that, if possible, passes through more natural parts of the city (not just along the sides of roads) would be great as well.
- We live in Westwynde situated within walking distance to three city parks. None of which have soccer nets. Soccer is a very well attended sport in this community. I would like to see more soccer nets available for the kids to practice at.
- The dog park is a mess. The paths are mown regularly, but the mud is a serious issue that prevents a lot of people from visiting. If there was a way to put wood chips or gravel or something on the paths it would be a huge help. This has been discussed regularly on the Sun Prairie Dog Park Facebook page.
- "We recently traveled to Colorado and was thoroughly impressed with the Philip s. Miller Park in castle rock, CO. See their website. A fantastic park including an amphitheater, zipline, recreation fields, hiking trail, lake (?) etc... no doubt a costly project, but an inspiration for other communities. Perhaps some of these ideas could be looked into for long term planning for Sun Prairie. We certainly can't compete with the mountainous terrain, but we can dream big, can't we?! I do know the facility is a focal point for sport and recreational enthusiasts in the area. A great family venue.
- Need more fishing lakes, biking areas, hockey/ skating areas, sledding hills, walking trails, disc golf, recreation areas. City soccer complex.
- We would really like to see a splash pad in our community. We travel to Windsor, Fitchburg and several Madison splash pads for our young children. It would be nice to have one for the children in our community a school it would be something all kids could do no at no cost. I would love to help with the planning and development of this valuable activity.
- My wife and I run and frequently travel to places like Burke Town Park. Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Middleton) and other area that have nice running trails with beautiful natural views. It would be nice to see some areas of Sun

Prairie with similar features - I know we might not have the same classification of land as the area near Pheasant Branch, but something similar or a connected biking/running/roller blading path would be great. We have great biking trails, but it would be nice to see them connect more as well as increase in number.

- Adult yoga through parks and rec is very important to me. Kids programs are important too, especially preschool art. All the playgrounds are well maintained.
- We need dedicated mountain bike trails!!! The closest is Cambridge, then Blue Mounds or Kettle Moraine. Having several cyclocross races here has brought a ton of people to the city. So many more would come for mountain biking, and the potential to hold races should be seen as a revenue source for the city and local businesses. Cycling is already huge in Dane County, but there are limited options for serious mountain biking.
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- Please explore a city sponsored beer garden like Port Washington created! Their garden is just off the Ozaukee County Interurban Bike Trail. Riders stop, socialize, listen to music, and have option to purchase food and beverages. The Park and Rec Dept asks community groups to host the beer garden for the Saturday. Their time earns them a percentage of the sales. Here's a link to more information: <http://www.ozcomtbr.com/port-washington-beer-garden-at-upper-lake-park-saturday-am-trail-ride/>
- I've spoken with the coordinator from the Park and Rec Dept and it's been a huge hit! They've had so much interest, community groups were on a waiting list this summer!"
- Please explore a city sponsored beer garden like Port Washington created! Their garden is just off the Ozaukee County Interurban Bike Trail. Riders stop, socialize, listen to music, and have option to purchase food and beverages. The Park and Rec Dept asks community groups to host the beer garden for the Saturday. Their time earns them a percentage of the sales. Here's a link to more information: <http://www.ozcomtbr.com/port-washington-beer-garden-at-upper-lake-park-saturday-am-trail-ride/>
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- More sledding trails for the winter with a warming house would be great. If the city can afford, perhaps a tow rope. You can rent that facility for use in the winter.
- We need an indoor swimming pool that kids can use to develop their swimming skills in the winter.
- Need to mow, weed and maintain parks better. Some smaller ones look pretty shabby
- Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the country I would like to see more courts
- I use and value the SP Community Gardens. The SP Community Garden Organization appreciates the help the city provides to help keep it running
- I think you do a good job.
- "I use the Dog park, and the Water shed for the dogs is Great, Thank You for that. A wind brake would be nice for the winter months.
- I do not use the other parks much"
- I have heard MANY comments regarding the increasing taxes and predictions that citizens are going to start leaving this community due to uncontrolled growth and spending. It should be a top priority to get and keep taxes lower.
- Would love to see the city develop a mountain bike trail and better more cross country skiing trails. Biking around the city isn't always as safe as I would like it to be.
- Another dog park would be great.
- We could really use some new multi-use trails, for Mountain biking especially!

- They could be designated biking only on certain days and other use like hiking or skiing on other days if need be. And more bike paths around town especially some that could connect to downtown Madison!
- Tennis courts in Stonehaven Park would be a nice improvement.
- Please do what's possible to reduce our tax burden.
- The soccer fields are not as well maintained as other cities. We are in need of a soccer complex.
- I would love to see a preserved area of land that consisted of trails for walking, in woods and open prairie. Also, that had accessed to a manmade lake or pond stocked with fish for fishing. Able to use a canoe or kayak on it. Or fish from pair or shore access. DeForest Sundfish Pond and trails area is a good example.
- Plow park trails in winter so people can enjoy them...not just parking lots.
- Rest rooms often are out of hand soap and lighting is poor."
- I'd love to see a more integrated bike pathway system. At this point, it's very segmented.
- Also, my family often goes to splash pads in other parts of Dane County. There is one in Deforest as well as others throughout Madison that we visit in the summer. This would be a great benefit to the residents of Sun Prairie. Especially with the growing number of families and young kids.
- It would be great to have an indoor/outdoor facility like Middleton has on Allen Blvd. that could be rented by families or groups for events.
- Spray the damn dandelions before they bloom each year! They are unsightly once they go to seed and they populate all the surrounding yards with seeds.
- We really want more bike paths and gravel trails to run, walk and bike on. We also love ice skating and wish there were more outdoor rinks maintained. The City is beautiful and has a lot of great parks but we need to plan for the future and preserve land so that more recreational facilities can eventually be developed. If all the land is built on and privately owned that will be very hard to do. More connected bike paths would be so great!
- Love to bike and hike on trails
- Connect the biking trails and make them safer to access. Maintain the current natural areas and restrict development in or near those areas and have bike/hike trails throughout.
- Need some running/biking trails that are not paved, pavement pounding is bad on your knees.
- Programs for youth should always be a priority- it is what makes Sun Prairie a great community. We do need more outdoor programs for youth that are affordable to all families. Today's middle class families enroll their kids in programs, so we need the city to provide exceptional opportunities to attract kids from all socio-economic backgrounds. Adventure and outdoor skills programs would be an interesting path to pursue.
- More hiking/walking trails with better access points (i.e. Carriage Hill Park access off of Thomas - there none).
- A splash pad would be a welcome draw.
- Nature/biking trails on East side of town.
- Dog park on east side of town.
- Publish a more detailed map of walking/biking paths. It takes searching to find a good map.
- With the continued warmer weather in late fall and early spring the restrooms could be left open a couple extra months.
- Trails are great, but so much better if they actually get people across the city.
- Add another dog park on the other side of town. Also, maintain existing dog park to reduce/prevent all the muddy paths (which are getting worse and worse each year).
- "I am happy to be a part of this important future development in our community. I am a parent of 5 kids ages from 1 to 17 and was wanting to find a small and nice community to live with my family when I was in Madison. Meanwhile,

Sun Prairie having to be one of the fastest growing community and with all these future plans, I believe our kids would really love the community if some these things are available in the future.

- Thank you so much for your future plan.
- Excellent parks but need more emphasis on conserving / developing green space - natural forested areas and wetlands.
- We moved to Sun Prairie two years ago to be closer to family, including grandchildren. We use, enjoy and appreciate the Sun Prairie parks and conservancy areas. With all of the expansion on the west of Sun Prairie, it is important to be pro-active and include recreational and nature space as the city grows.
- I know that Patrick Marsh is not part of the city's system, but access to it could be improved (i.e., at the minimum a good road shoulder to walk/bike on), thereby easily/inexpensively expanding recreational opportunities to city residents.
- There is only one garden area, correct? The city is no longer centralized, so perhaps more garden areas could be made available to apartment dwellers.
- Biking consideration could be made. For example, on Windsor Street the storm sewer grates run parallel to the road (vs. at an angle or perpendicular), making a bike tire hazard
- Thank you for such a wonderful community to live in. We love it here!
- We really need mountain biking trails with technical features.
- Provide an outdoor musical performance area like a large band stand gazebo or band she'll.
- I feel that the city could use a park on the West side of town near Grand Ave and Hwy 19 to serve all of the neighborhoods along Hwy 19. It also would be nice to have a splash pad somewhere in town
- We would love to see mountain biking trails in SP! Driving to Whitewater or other areas is too far when you want a quick ride. It would be SO appreciated and loved!!!!
- It's been still warm in October and November so it'd be nice if the restrooms were still open not only until Oct 5.
- Please expand the existing pickleball courts at WH.
- I would like to see outdoor arts venues, such as a performing space for groups such as the Sun Prairie Community Band.
- The addition of a splash pad!
- The bike paths, particularly the path between 151 and Hoepker Rd behind Cabela's and the path that runs along Hoepker to American Parkway needs better snow removal in the winter. Last winter it was rarely cleared. Many people walk their pets and run on this trail all year long.
- More nature trails would be great, like the land around Sheehan Park. I think it is important to preserve green space for people to hike or bike in around neighborhoods instead of turning all the land into shopping centers or houses.
- Also, I don't think Sun Prairie needs another pool, but a splash pad would definitely be useful!
- I took the survey thinking mostly about parks, because I feel like the parks and rec department doesn't offer very many programs compared to other park districts. They could definitely offer lots more programs for kids, like ballet or gymnastics. It is a shame that only the people who log onto registration the very minute it opens can get their kids into a ballet class; it's a good way for kids to experience fun and healthy activities when they can't afford \$250 a semester for private lessons.
- SP parks are great! I always brag to friends of other communities about our wonderful parks and paths all over the city.
- I really want to see a basketball court put in at the smiths crossing park.
- I would like bike paths that connect and lead somewhere. Currently we have a good start, but the paths don't connect. It's really hard with young kids to get on a busy street and try and find the next leg of the trail.

- Sun Prairie has done a good job to maintain a cohesive trail/path system throughout the city and urban development. I would prefer to see that the land adjacent to the trail/path be kept as natural as possible. I have noticed an increase in grass and mowing alongside trails which I believe detracts from the environment. I enjoy viewing the natural flora and fauna and believe Sun Prairie should maintain the natural environment within and surrounding the parks/trails. Being that Sun Prairie is named for the land that was once here, I feel it would be beneficial to keep as much of the prairie here for human enjoyment and to ensure the natural world still has a place here.
- Disc golf is becoming a very popular sport that has little maintenance other than occasional mowing of grasses, or tree trimming if it involves a wooded area. There are not enough of these facilities in the area, as overcrowding has become a problem. Also most places are now involving fees which is ok if it is within reason.
- Don't flood the ice rinks by spraying water from a truck, get the hose down at ice level or it creates bumpy ice. Kids who can't skate well get hurt catching a skate on the bumps and grooves.
- A mountain biking park would be terrific. Sun Prairie is home to one of the state's largest youth mountain biking teams, which won several state-wide awards this year. My son is on the team and it would be great if there was a local park. The current closest is in Cambridge. I think this would bring in people from outside of Sun Prairie too. Those bikers will be hungry/thirsty and can bring in tourism dollars.
- I also like the idea of all the bike trails being connect. How great would it be to be able to bike from one side to town to the other, safely on a bike trail. Several of the paved trails seem end in odd spots.
- We are in definite need of additional pool space in Sun Prairie. The aquatic center hours are quite short and it's difficult to have swim teams, swim lessons and open swim. Sun Prairie is a community with a very strong swim team in both Storm and Piranhas and we need to have more options and more space to help this sport continue to grow.
- I would really like it if there was a bigger playground in the park in the Fox Point neighborhood.
- It would be so nice to have bike trails connecting the town of Bristol to the city of sun prairie. Bird and Bristol are too dangerous for biking and running.
- "Would love to see some mountain bike trails added. Would also love to see a gravel or paved bike trail developed along the rail corridor from Madison to SP and from SP to Waterloo and into all the other towns along that corridor.
- The parks lack any off road mountain bike trails. The existing city wide bike trail system lacks continuity and is scattered all about so it is hard to ride from one end of town to other. The pool annual fees are too costly.
- Please add additional pickleball courts! The 2 current courts do not offer enough space for everyone who plays. It is the fastest growing sport in the county and more facilities need to be provided. Also please add wind shields and lights to the courts.
- Also, keep in mind that providing additional courts could lead to increased revenue for Sun Prairie, since money-making tournaments could be held.
- I would like to finally see tennis courts added to Stoneridge Estates Community Park
- SP youth need a MTB trail network that they can access regularly to practice their skills safely. Other communities have this, and it brings families together over an activity that all can participate in and enjoy.
- Something needs to be done with the dog park so people and their pets feel safe.
- Work with the school district to co-use fields, pools, etc. We don't need to spend more money and build another pool, football field, etc., especially if in the future the school district decides to build another high school with identical facilities.
- The city needs more green/open spaces and not apartment buildings.
- Offer lessons for all ages in new sports, such as pickleball.
- We are in dire need of a single track trail system. Our neighbors like Fitchburg and Cambridge have these and they are invaluable assets to the community.

- "Sun Prairie has a long tradition of supporting bicycle events such a Cyclo - Cross at Sheehan Park. I hope this continues in the future.
- Mountain Bike trails and connecting bicycle trails in the city as well as connecting other communities would greatly benefit the city.
- There are two large mountain bike teams ""Sun Prairie Youth MTB"" as well as "" Sun Prairie Composite High School"" team that do not have any trails to practice on in the community. MTB trails could be build and maintained by private groups to no cost to the city, approval and land is needed to proceed."
- A bike path connecting Bristol neighborhoods north of Sun Prairie is long overdue!! Would love to see that on the top of the to do list!
- Creating a system for kids and community members to move easily across and around the city will vastly improve SP's livability, especially considering how the town is cut through by 151. A connected city will go a long way to keeping SP its own vibrant community and not just a bedroom community for Madison.
- "I love the amount of parks that are offered but very few offer a drinking fountain.
- There are lots of biking/running trails but there is such a disconnect between the east side of Sun Prairie and the west side.
- On the east side in the Weybridge neighborhood there is one park, I would love to see more developed and planned for as more houses go up
- An east side pond (could also go as a winter ice rink)
- Would love to see more hiking trails developed
- Would love to see more biking (including mountain biking) trails developed
- There is no connected off-street bike path that links Madison with Sun Prairie. As distracted driving accidents spike in frequency and severity, more runners, cyclists, etc. are looking for ways to maintain their mileage while also separating themselves from traffic.
- In Madison, I can leave my house and get my 30-mile, 2-hour ride in with very minimal time spent on actual roads. If you work with Madison to develop a path that connects the two cities, you'll draw a large number of cyclists/runners/etc. into Sun Prairie.
- Finally, as a resident of the east side of Madison, my closest off-road mountain bike trails are about 30 minutes away via car. I wish there was a closer option in Sun Prairie. "
- "Facilities are not open in the winter (water fountain, bathrooms), paths within and leading to are not cleared of snow.
- Signage from multi-user path, park areas, and common city areas (e.g.: Cannery square) to park facilities and attractions with distance indicator.
- Protected bike lanes and/or dedicated paths to travel between parks and facilities.
- Dedicated mountain bike park for low- and high-skill level to hold events, including pump tracks, and skills course. Park could be used in winter for snowshoeing, XC skiing, and other outdoor activities.
- Mountain Biking, City Trail System, trail that connects to Madison
- It would be nice if we had a much larger park with trails such as McCarthy Park and Token Creek. I think Sun Prairie should pursue developing the bike trail that will connect Patrick Marsh area with McCarthy Park and the Capital city trail along with Dane County.
- Thank you so much for letting us have cyclocross races in Sheehan Park every year. It is always appreciated!
- Diverse outdoor recreation opportunities are a huge reason I've considered leaving Sun Prairie, and are a major advantage for any small city.
- Please improve and encourage multi-modal transportation.
- And please work with the city of Madison to extend metro to sun prairie to downtown Madison.

- Non-connected bike paths are a pain. Would love to ride with kids around town with little actual road riding.
- Working with local community members willing to volunteer both resources and time to provide trail networks the entire population can use. Please do not take only a handful of local property owners who feel they have the perceived right to stranglehold public spaces to their own private agenda and advantages.
- We love Mountain Biking and have the space here in Sun Prairie (plus demand). We could attract people to the area to enjoy this sport.
- We live near Sheehan Park and enjoy gardening, walking and biking and value having the picnic and sports areas used by people of many ages and ethnicities. As the city continues to diversify, so should access to public spaces and recreational options that people of all incomes and abilities enjoy. A particular concern to us is for the city to include more prairie and native plantings to our current parks and to any new ones that are created. Large expanses of grass look inviting but much of it is not used, has to be mown over and over, gets treated with chemicals, and could instead have some of it set aside for beds planted with flowers and shrubs native to the region. Lawns are deserts to birds, and the bees and insects that are pollinators and it would be exciting to have a city-wide emphasis on doing the above.
- I don't know why the city cannot resume grooming and tracking cross country ski trails as they have in the past. Money has been wasted on a skate park and additional things have been added like pickle board courts. Cross country skiing is healthy, gets people outdoors and keeping good trails should not have been dropped.
- The city needs a splash pad. All lot of other communities have these. Sun prairie needs to get with the times and build one. The aquatic center has too limited of hours. It needs to be open all day and more accessible hours please.
- Sometimes, small improvements can go a long way. We don't need to rebuild or spend a lot of money, but just enough to make sure a quality system is in place. Just be practical.
- Great recreation and parks was one of the factors that favored our moved to Sun Prairie! Would love to have a safer way to bike across town, many things in biking distance, but don't feel comfortable biking on roads with kids.

**17. The City will hold Parks and Trails Public Input Workshops the evenings of Thursday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 30. Would you like to be notified of these and other future opportunities to participate in the planning process?The City of Sun Prairie will not sell or give away your email address for any reason.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No, thank you	71.9%	440
Yes, please email me a reminder about these Workshops and other	28.1%	172
<i>answered question</i>		<b>612</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>27</b>

**18. Thank you for providing your input, this is the end of the short version of the survey, if you would like to continue with the longer version of the survey, please select that option below.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, please continue taking the survey.	42.0%	264
No, I've had enough - take me to the end.	58.0%	365
<i>answered question</i>		<b>629</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>10</b>

<b>19. The park closest to my home is:</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Birkinbine Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Blankenheim Neighborhood Park	1.3%	3
Blooming Meadows Neighborhood Park	1.8%	4
Cardinal Crest Neighborhood Park	2.7%	6
Carriage Hills Neighborhood Park	3.6%	8
Davison Neighborhood Park	2.2%	5
East Meadow Neighborhood Park	0.0%	0
Evergreen Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Fox Point Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Gateway Neighborhood Park	2.2%	5
Glacier Crossing Neighborhood Park	1.8%	4
Grandview Neighborhood Park	0.4%	1
Hunter's Ridge Neighborhood Park	1.8%	4
Memorial Neighborhood Park	1.3%	3
Misty Meadow Neighborhood Park	0.4%	1
Oakridge Neighborhood Park	3.1%	7
Oakview Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Pheasant Run Neighborhood Park	1.8%	4
Renstone Neighborhood Park	5.8%	13
Royal Oaks Neighborhood Park	0.4%	1
Schey Neighborhood Park	1.3%	3
Shonas Highlands Neighborhood Park	1.3%	3
Stonehaven Neighborhood Park	3.1%	7
Sunny Valley Neighborhood Park	1.3%	3
Thoreau Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Uplands Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Valley Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Vandenburg Heights Neighborhood Park	0.0%	0
Westwynde Neighborhood Park	3.1%	7
Willowbrook Neighborhood Park	0.9%	2
Windy Ridge Neighborhood Park	4.0%	9
Carriage Hills Estates Community Park	5.3%	12
Liberty Community Park	2.7%	6
Orfan Community Park	8.0%	18
Stoneridge Estates Community Park	4.0%	9
Smith's Crossing Community Park	2.2%	5
Wetmore Community Park	3.1%	7
Wyndham Hills Community Park	4.4%	10
Sheehan Park	8.4%	19
Family Aquatic Center	0.0%	0
Pet Exercise Area	0.9%	2
Angell Park	8.9%	20
	<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>225</b>
	<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>414</b>

<b>20. Do you use this park regularly?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Yes	64.6%	146
No	35.4%	80
<i>answered question</i>		<b>226</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>413</b>

<b>21. If you indicated that you do not use the park closest to your home regularly, please select all that apply from the list below to indicate why.</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
No amenities/facilities offered for my desired activities	49.4%	43
Lack of maintenance/upkeep	10.3%	9
No bike/walk paths to get there	11.5%	10
Not a pleasant place to be (noise, view, safety)	6.9%	6
Low accessibility (location or special needs)	4.6%	4
Not enough space	9.2%	8
Parking limitations	4.6%	4
I'm not an outdoors/park person	1.1%	1
I'm too busy	19.5%	17
Other (please specify)	37.9%	33
<i>answered question</i>		<b>87</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>552</b>

*Other (please specify):*

- High school kids are frequently lounging on the playground equipment so it's difficult for my elementary school age kids to play, and the older kids use inappropriate language.
- Play equipment is old or broken, field is barely maintained mostly cutting grass.
- no city park in our neighborhood
- We are really midway between Windy Ridge & Wyndham Hills - we do use Wyndham hills more frequently due the nearby school and soccer fields.
- nothing to do there, wading pool would be nice, more park benches
- I only use it as a walk through
- We enjoy going to other close parks more (e.g. Angell Park)
- My kids mostly use this park.
- Ice rink not smooth to skate on
- Prefer walking paths and hiking.
- Stonehaven is much nicer
- Prefer parks with more trees and shade, less noise.
- I ride bike to LL field!
- I prefer Angelo park
- We do in fact use the park, but it is in horrible condition and I have heard that it is not up to code due to the sand.
- My kids can't go there without crossing Thompson Rd, which I do not feel comfortable with. There is no crosswalk to cross Thompson within a half mile of my home.
- Use it most often when grandkids are here for playground facilities and sledding. Also like the pickle ball court
- There are no bike paths from the country subdivision to get there safely.
- The big slide is uncomfortable for kids and adults alike to go down. That makes it worth walking to a different park.
- Primarily geared to small children. Our children are older.
- Small park for younger children which does not meet the needs of my household

- No water or rest room.
- nice park, do not use it
- The park we use most often (Bristol Ridge) isn't listed, we live in the town of Bristol
- my dog cannot be there, and we don't have kids who would play there
- No dogs allowed. We need to be more dog friendly
- The park behind the Colonial Club-The path was so gross with geese excrement it was avoided.
- Park does not have features that match my family's interests
- I don't have children
- live outside of the city limits, so too far, and no trails to get there
- I don't really consider this a park. Especially a neighbor park. It is in the Shonas neighborhood but simply has a bike/walk train through it. I define a park has a place where there are benches, or picnic tables, or playground equipment, or other activities available
- Choose to go elsewhere for outdoor/recreational activities
- It's just an open field. Should even be a Park other than to keep registered sex offenders away from the neighborhood.

**22. Please rate your satisfaction with the following parks or facilities you have visited within the last 12 months. If you are not familiar with the park or facility, you may leave that line blank.**

Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Rating Average	Response Count
Angell Park	52	94	26	5	1	4.07	178
Family Aquatic Center	41	85	24	10	3	3.93	163
Sheehan Park	50	104	19	9	0	4.07	182
Pet Exercise Area	8	29	33	13	2	3.33	85
Birkinbine Neighborhood Park	1	3	26	1	0	3.13	31
Blankenheim Neighborhood Park	0	9	27	1	2	3.10	39
Blooming Meadows Neighborhood Park	3	5	29	0	0	3.30	37
Cardinal Crest Neighborhood Park	4	14	28	2	0	3.42	48
Carriage Hills Neighborhood Park	22	41	20	4	0	3.93	87
Davison Neighborhood Park	1	1	26	5	2	2.83	35
East Meadow Neighborhood Park	0	4	26	0	0	3.13	30
Evergreen Neighborhood Park	1	5	26	0	0	3.22	32
Fox Point Neighborhood Park	2	3	33	0	1	3.13	39
Gateway Neighborhood Park	6	11	29	1	2	3.37	49
Glacier Crossing Neighborhood Park	2	4	25	2	0	3.18	33
Grandview Neighborhood Park	0	5	26	1	3	2.94	35
Hunter's Ridge Neighborhood Park	3	12	25	1	0	3.41	41
Memorial Neighborhood Park	1	3	28	2	1	3.03	35
Misty Meadow Neighborhood Park	2	6	25	2	1	3.17	36
Oakridge Neighborhood Park	3	6	24	4	1	3.16	38
Oakview Neighborhood Park	3	2	26	3	0	3.15	34
Pheasant Run Neighborhood Park	1	3	27	3	1	3.00	35
Renstone Neighborhood Park	9	22	23	2	0	3.68	56
Royal Oaks Neighborhood Park	5	16	25	7	1	3.31	54
Schey Neighborhood Park	0	4	28	2	0	3.06	34
Shonas Highlands Neighborhood Park	3	9	27	2	2	3.21	43
Stonehaven Neighborhood Park	21	39	17	6	2	3.84	85
Sunny Valley Neighborhood Park	1	4	28	1	0	3.15	34
Thoreau Neighborhood Park	3	3	25	2	0	3.21	33
Uplands Neighborhood Park	1	9	25	0	0	3.31	35
Valley Neighborhood Park	0	1	28	2	1	2.91	32
Vandenburg Heights Neighborhood Park	2	4	25	4	1	3.06	36
Westwynde Neighborhood Park	11	20	24	4	0	3.64	59
Willowbrook Neighborhood Park	3	4	25	1	3	3.08	36
Windy Ridge Neighborhood Park	1	8	25	1	0	3.26	35
Carriage Hills Estates Community Park	24	28	19	4	1	3.92	76
Liberty Community Park	9	16	24	2	0	3.63	51
Orfan Community Park	53	42	16	2	1	4.26	114
Stoneridge Estates Community Park	19	26	20	2	0	3.93	67
Smith's Crossing Community Park	9	22	23	1	0	3.71	55
Wetmore Community Park	17	41	23	5	1	3.78	87
Wyndham Hills Community Park	18	19	18	2	0	3.93	57
						<i>answered question</i>	<b>225</b>
						<i>skipped question</i>	<b>414</b>

**23. What are the best ways for you to learn about City programs, parks, and facilities? Check all that apply.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Parks & Recreation Guides/Brochures (REC)	75.3%	171
City Website	57.3%	130
Newspaper	23.8%	54
Radio	3.5%	8
Cable Access Television	2.2%	5
Flyers at Facilities/Park Office	11.9%	27
From Friends and Neighbors	23.3%	53
E-mail Bulletins	37.4%	85
Conversations with Parks Staff	3.1%	7
Twitter	5.3%	12
Facebook	39.2%	89
School Flyers and Newsletters	20.3%	46
Other (please specify)	3.1%	7
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>227</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>412</b>

*Other (please specify):*

- It would be nice if the newsletter was updated on a regular basis
- Mail info - what's happening each season
- REC Connection online - no need to get the printed copy...
- Flyers posted at the Library
- word of mouth
- Mailings or newsletters
- Mail.

**24. Please rank the top four parks and recreation facilities you feel are most important for your Community from those listed below.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Basketball Courts	1	7	8	3	2.32	19
Bike Skills Facilities/Mountain Biking Trails	13	11	7	6	2.84	37
Biking Trails and Paths	52	47	23	13	3.02	135
Canoeing/Kayaking	2	2	4	5	2.08	13
Community Gardens	0	4	12	13	1.69	29
Cultural Facilities	5	2	7	5	2.37	19
Disc Golf	7	3	2	1	3.23	13
Exercise/Fitness Facilities	2	13	10	6	2.35	31
Football Fields	0	2	2	1	2.20	5
Gyms or Indoor Recreation Facilities	1	5	8	9	1.91	23
Hiking Trails and Paths	31	26	25	30	2.52	112
Hockey	2	0	0	3	2.20	5
Horseshoes	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Ice Skating	0	4	2	3	2.11	9
Indoor/Outdoor Climbing areas	0	2	1	1	2.25	4
Lacrosse fields	0	2	1	0	2.67	3
Landscaping	0	1	0	5	1.33	6
Natural Areas/Wildlife Habitat	9	18	17	19	2.27	63
Outdoor Performance Venues	1	1	8	9	1.68	19
Pickle Ball	4	1	1	2	2.88	8
Picnic Shelters	3	6	12	4	2.32	25
Picnic Tables	1	4	2	2	2.44	9
Playgrounds	50	17	12	8	3.25	87
Public Art Venues	1	0	0	4	1.60	5
Public Golf Courses	1	1	2	0	2.75	4
Restrooms	2	5	14	16	1.81	37
Rugby Fields	0	0	1	0	2.00	1
Senior Recreation Centers	4	1	7	5	2.24	17
Skateboarding	1	0	2	1	2.25	4
Ski Trails	1	1	2	2	2.17	6
Sledding	0	4	2	8	1.71	14
Soccer	10	4	5	4	2.87	23
Softball Fields	2	4	2	5	2.23	13
Swimming	7	9	11	11	2.32	38
Teen Centers	6	4	4	8	2.36	22
Tennis	1	6	3	2	2.50	12
Volleyball	0	3	0	2	2.20	5
Warming Houses	1	0	1	0	3.00	2
<b>answered question</b>						<b>221</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>418</b>

**25. Please indicate how likely you or any member of your household are to participate in each of the recreation programs listed below. (Very Likely, Likely, Don't know, Unlikely, or Very Unlikely).**

Answer Options	Very Likely	Likely	Don't Know	Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Rating Average	Response Count
Adult Art, Dance, Performing Arts	16	46	30	58	58	2.54	208
Adult Fitness and Wellness Programs	29	96	38	38	15	3.40	216
Adult Sports Programs	20	58	53	57	20	3.00	208
Adventure Recreation Skills Clinics	28	72	50	37	19	3.26	206
Before and After-School Programs	15	37	24	52	77	2.32	205
Equestrian Riding Lessons	8	25	31	42	100	2.02	206
Golf Lessons	11	50	23	56	67	2.43	207
Local History Programs	16	44	56	51	44	2.70	211
Martial Arts Programs	3	38	40	57	67	2.28	205
Nature Programs	28	88	52	21	21	3.39	210
Outdoor Skills Clinics (i.e., hunting, fishing)	19	59	43	37	47	2.83	205
Pre-School Programs	23	18	11	41	110	2.03	203
Running/Walking Races	34	69	36	39	30	3.18	208
Senior Adult Programs	7	23	26	35	113	1.90	204
Special Events/Festivals	72	103	27	5	6	4.08	213
Tennis Lessons and Leagues	15	40	36	59	55	2.52	205
Volunteer Programs	15	74	75	30	13	3.23	207
Youth Art, Dance, Performing Arts	18	52	30	29	77	2.54	206
Youth Fitness and Wellness Programs	20	69	26	25	66	2.77	206
Youth Learn to Swim Programs	42	38	21	25	77	2.72	203
Youth Sports Programs	45	58	16	17	65	3.00	201
Youth Summer Camp Programs	27	40	37	23	75	2.61	202
Other (please specify below)	17	1	21	3	19	2.90	61
Other (please specify)							23
<b>answered question</b>							<b>221</b>

*Other (please specify):*

- Day travel trips
- Nature awareness, plant identification
- Pickleball league
- I would love a disc golf course and think it would bring people to the community.
- Disc golf
- handicap fishing pier, wading pool, wheelchair accessible path/trails
- Dog Parks #1
- Shooting sports car
- Summer archery
- Dog Park
- gardening/landscaping how to's
- a usable dog park
- Perhaps I'm unaware but would participate in an annual clean up the parks day (i.e. pick up trash)
- Dedicated walking paths - no bikes!
- Disc Golfing
- splash pad
- Concerts
- Preschool/5 year old art and yoga
- I don't have children, but my nieces/nephews would use some of the above when they visit.
- Mountain biking trails
- Mountain Biking rides
- pickleball
- Trail running and bike riding

**26. Listed below are actions that can help the City prioritize limited resources in the future. For each of the following, please indicate the importance of taking the specified action (Very Important, Somewhat Important, Not Important, or Not Sure).**

Answer Options	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure	Rating Average	Response Count
Acquire land for conservation values	76	86	34	10	3.11	206
Acquire land to develop with passive facilities (such as	94	88	20	6	3.30	208
Acquire land and develop with active facilities (such as	41	82	65	15	2.73	203
Maintain existing lands for conservation values	117	75	9	6	3.46	207
Maintain existing land with passive facilities (such as	142	58	4	2	3.65	206
Maintain existing land with active facilities (such as	110	78	9	5	3.45	202
Maintain urban forests and forested park lands	123	71	6	4	3.53	204
Develop new walking and biking trails	147	49	14	3	3.60	213
Develop new mountain bike trails	43	59	87	18	2.61	207
Develop a connected City-wide trail system	146	44	14	6	3.57	210
Develop new outdoor swimming pools/water parks	33	55	97	21	2.49	206
Develop new fishing access areas	29	44	98	32	2.34	203
Develop new picnic areas, shelters, and pavilions	19	82	78	22	2.49	201
Develop new playgrounds	32	83	67	22	2.61	204
Develop new adventure/outdoor recreation venues	45	92	49	21	2.78	207
Develop new wildlife habitats and viewing areas	67	72	46	17	2.94	202
Develop new sports fields with outdoor lighting	28	59	88	26	2.44	201
					<i>answered question</i>	216
					<i>skipped question</i>	423

**27. If an additional \$100 were available for the City of Sun Prairie's parks, trails, and recreation facilities, how would you allocate the funds among the categories listed below? (Please enter only numerical responses below, and be sure your total adds up to \$100. \*\*Hint: If you want to divide your \$100 equally among the five categories, allocate \$20 per category.)**

Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks, trails, and recreation facilities	34.47	6,688	194
Acquisition of new park land	19.42	3,087	159
Acquisition of more open space for conservation	18.63	2,887	155
Develop new trails	30.37	5,953	196
Develop recreation facilities	19.80	3,385	171
		<i>answered question</i>	220
		<i>skipped question</i>	419

**28. Costs for acquiring open space and constructing new trails, wildlife habitats, and recreation facilities may require some additional tax support. What is the maximum additional amount you would be willing to pay, on an annual basis, for the parks & recreation improvements that are most important to your household?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
\$50 or more per year	32.3%	72
\$40 - \$49 per year	9.0%	20
\$30 - \$39 per year	11.2%	25
\$20 - \$29 per year	19.7%	44
\$10 - \$19 per year	16.1%	36
Zero - no increase	11.7%	26
	<i>answered question</i>	223
	<i>skipped question</i>	416

**29. Costs for maintaining existing open space, parks, trails, wildlife habitats, and recreation facilities and services may require some additional tax support. What is the maximum additional amount you would be willing to pay, on an annual basis, for the parks & recreation improvements that are most important to your household?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
\$50 or more per year	26.9%	60
\$40 - \$49 per year	11.2%	25
\$30 - \$39 per year	10.3%	23
\$20 - \$29 per year	21.5%	48
\$10 - \$19 per year	25.1%	56
Zero - no increase	4.9%	11
<i>answered question</i>		<b>223</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>416</b>

**30. Why would you use a bicycle-pedestrian trail/path? Check all that apply.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Recreation	85.8%	194
Active transportation route to a destination	51.8%	117
Experience nature and wildlife	64.2%	145
Exercise and fitness	87.6%	198
I wouldn't use it	5.3%	12
Other (please specify)	7.1%	16
<i>answered question</i>		<b>226</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>413</b>

*Other (please specify):*

- Safe place to ride and walk
- Dog walking
- This is a poor mix. Keep the group separate. Bikers have been poor to warn walkers of their proximity. Walkers have been equally a problem because they walk in groups, side by side, and often have headsets on and are unable to hear that a biker is trying to pass. The worst scenario is to have off trail bikers be in a park that is a high use area.
- Walk the dog
- Casual relaxation with others.
- walking our dog
- Activity for me and my grandchildren
- Transportation should be the City's #1 priority and how people would use bike paths should be part of that conversation. We would bike everywhere if we could. We can't right now.
- I use them for walking
- yes please, the more the better
- Family time
- I'm always looking for different routes to run.
- errands, commuting
- MTB recreation
- Ride to school

**31. How would you feel about having your home adjacent to a City park or bicycle-pedestrian trail/path?**

Answer Options	Very Positive	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Very Negative	Rating Average	Response Count
Adjacent to a City park	107	65	43	7	4	4.17	226
Adjacent to a bicycle-pedestrian trail/path	109	62	38	12	5	4.14	226
<i>answered question</i>							<b>226</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>413</b>

**32. City of Sun Prairie Email Notifications. Sign up below to get emails from the City of Sun Prairie and keep up-to-date on City services and issues. The City of Sun Prairie will not sell or give away your email address for any reason.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No, thank you	59.1%	123
Yes, please add me to the City's email list. My email address is.	40.9%	85
<i>answered question</i>		<b>208</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>431</b>

# APPENDIX C. PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS

## WORKSHOP EVALUATION FORM (NOVEMBER 17, 2016)

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the overall usefulness of this Workshop?

Poor, Not useful							Excellent, Very informative			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Average
					1		2	2	5	9.0

2. What were the most significant outcomes of this Workshop for you?

- Chance to provide input – learn more of existing areas/plans.
- Lots of good ideas.
- We were listened to regarding our ideas.
- A sense of what is possible and that good things are coming!
- Hearing others important topics, items to them.
- Insight into thoughts and opinions of the status of the parks from other residents.
- Learning about park trails and systems.
- Seeing all the wonderful ideas for a better Sun Prairie

3. How could we have improved this Workshop?

- More information about existing areas/plans.
- Well done!
- Time was a bit rushed, but necessary to keep total time to 2 hours.
- I felt like more background on the existing facilities would have been helpful – a review of how many diamonds, courts, etc. and some data on existing use, bottlenecks, etc.
- Done very well. Enjoyed it.

4. Please offer any comments, suggestions, or opinions you have on the City’s park and open space planning process in the space provided below.

- Look to understand all interests, care to not just hear the special groups/interests.
- Excellent planning and implantation so far, keep up the good work.

### PART 2: FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK

The City has identified a need for a new community park. This park would be at least 40 acres and would serve the City’s growing population in the coming years. We are interested in your thoughts about what facilities the new park should include.

1. In the space provided below, list the facilities that you think the new park should include. When you have finished, prioritize the facilities by ranking each one in order of their importance to you.

Facility Needed	Rank (e.g. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
• Nature areas/preserve	1, 5, 4, 7
• Picnic/shelter areas	3, 3, 2, 3
• Walking/Nature trails	2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3
• Biking Paths/bike path connections	4, 3, 1
• Playfields	5, 4, 4, 4

Facility Needed	Rank (e.g. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
• Swings (single/mom & child)	1
• Tire swing	4
• Climbing wall	2
• BBQ's	3
• Fire pit	5
• Food stands	6
• Overnight camping area for scouts	
• Soccer Complex/Athletic Fields	1, 6
• Baseball/Softball	3, 6, 6
• Disc golf	2, 6, 4
• Bike Trail (single track)	4
• Tennis courts (lighted)	6, 4, 5
• Music pavilion/Outdoor performance venue	7, 6, 1, 2
• Playgrounds	2, 3, 2
• Sledding hills	5, 7, 5, 2
• Ice skating	6
• Basketball	7
• Active recreational facilities (west of Grand Ave, north of Hoepker, south of 19)	2
• Restrooms	1, 2, 6, 1
• Multi-use bicycle/pedestrian paths	5, 3, 7, 2
• Mountain bike trails	1, 1, 1, 1
• Soccer fields	5
• Dog Park	1, 3
• Cross-country ski/snow shoe trails	3, 3
• Paved recreational trails	5
• Splash pad	3
• Trees/forested areas	4
• Pickleball courts	1
• Lifetime activities – horseshoes, lawn bowling	2
• Indoor recreational facilities	4

2. In the space provided below, the **RECORDER** will list everyone's top recommendations.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog park/public parks that allow dogs</li> <li>• Nature/hiking trails (4)</li> <li>• Mountain bike trail (2)</li> <li>• Outdoor performance venue (pavilion/band shell)</li> <li>• Picnic/shelter areas trails (2)</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Playground/splash pad (3)</li> <li>• Multi-use bicycle/pedestrian paths (3)</li> <li>• Soccer athletic complex</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disc golf</li> <li>• Baseball/softball</li> <li>• Bike path connectivity</li> <li>• Active recreational facilities – west side</li> <li>• 8-courts pickleball</li> <li>• Tennis courts complex</li> <li>• Lifetime activities – i.e., horseshoes, lawn bowling</li> <li>• Winter/ski trails</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

3. Below are the overall GROUP recommendations.

- Mountain bike trails
- Winter use – ski and winter cycling
- Walking trails
- Nature
- Dog park
- Outdoor performance facility
- Picnic shelters
- Playground
- Playfields
- Play courts – tennis, pickleball
- Lifetime grass courts – bocce, horseshoes

**PART 3: RECREATION PROGRAMS**

1. Are there any recreational programs that you or members of your household would like to participate in but cannot or do not? What barriers prevent you from participating in more City programs? Check all that apply.

1	Not interested
8	I'm too busy
1	Lack of childcare
	Security is insufficient
2	Programs are too far from my home
	Lack of ADA accessibility
	Fees are too high
4	The programs don't fit into my schedule.
	Poor customer service by staff
1	I don't know the locations of facilities

2	Do not know what is being offered
	I don't know how to sign up
2	Lack of transportation
1	Lack of personal resources (money, equipment, etc.)
1	The programs I'm interested in are always full
2	The City doesn't offer programs I am interested in
<i>Other (please specify below):</i>	
2	Adult age group activity group
1	Participation in programs at PAC

2. What new programs would you be interested in if the City were to offer them?

- Nature study (2)
- Plant/tree identification (2)
- Conservation study
- Tree trimming (3)
- Exercise classes – fitness programs
- Candy making
- Life skills (i.e., budgeting, meal planning, banking, repairs, etc.)
- Gardening
- Historical tour of city sites
- Nature classification walking tours (3)
- Senior specific programs
- Senior recreation (horseshoes, shuffleboard)
- Ballroom, swing, line dancing
- Teen open mic night
- Student community band
- Youth enrichment classes (knit, crochet, art/drawing, etc.)
- Sand volleyball leagues – adult and teen (2)
- Horseback riding – recreational program
- Cross-country skiing (4)
- Music classes for kids (piano, etc.)
- Hunter's safety (2)
- Fishing
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Camping/hiking programs
- Nutrition education programs
- Archery
- Adult tennis league
- Rock climbing
- Kubb tournaments
- Exercise course along trails
- Wildlife area with trails
- Indoor recreation facility

**3. Select one new program that you or another member of your household would attend if the program were offered.**

- Nature walks
- Nature study – conservation
- Walking nature study
- Cross country skiing/ski club (3)
- Horseshoes, shuffleboard, lawn bowling, beanbag toss (2)
- Square dancing/dance classes (2)
- Tree trimming/yard maintenance (2)
- Outdoor sand volleyball league (3)
- Golf league
- Disc golf
- Paint ball
- Candy making
- Euchre
- Youth mountain biking
- Youth ski program
- Life skills
- Scavenger hunts around Sun Prairie
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Youth piano lessons (affordable)
- Senior oriented programs
- Art programs
- Adult tennis league
- Adult basketball (pick-up games)
- Outdoor amphitheater

**4. Next the whole group voted on the new programs identified in question 3. Below is the compiled list, sorted from greatest interest to lower interest.**

<b>New Programs</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Canoe/Kayak	7
Nature Walks/Study	7
Cross Country Skiing	6
Mountain Biking	6
Disc Golf	6
Tree Trimming Training	3
Card Games	2
Lawn Games	2
Sand Volleyball	2
Dance Classes	1
Paint Ball	1
Piano Lessons	1
Scavenger Hunts	1
Candy Making	-
Golf League	-
Life Skill Classes	-

## PART 4: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDS

1. List facilities that you think the City needs but which are currently missing from the City parks and recreation system. Rate how often you expect you or a member of your household to use the facility.

Examples of facilities may include community gardens, basketball courts, soccer fields, etc.

Facility Needed	Frequency of Use by You and Your Household				
	Multiple Times a Day	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week or less	I/we wouldn't use this facility, but there is a community need.
Nature Areas/Open Space		1			1
Walking/Hiking Trails		1	2	2	
Bike Trails/Connectivity	1	3	2	1	1
Playfields/Open Space			1	1	
Tennis Courts (lighted)			2	1	
Hills to Ice Block on			1		
Splash Pad				2	3
Ice Skating Areas			2	1	
Better Lighting		1			
Tot Lots (small play area)					1
Running Areas/Trails				1	
Shelters (enclosed)/pavilion				2	1
Neighborhood Park w/Pool				1	
Athletic Fields		1			
Athletic Complex (tournament size)				1	1
Nature/Wildlife Preserve		1	1	1	
Dog Park (northern)	1	1			3
Bike Trail (single track)				2	
Disc Golf			2	3	
Outdoor Performance Venue/Music				5	2
Update Pool Facility			1		
Soccer Fields / Football					7
Horseshoes/darts/etc.				1	1
Cross-country ski/snow shoe trails				2	2
'Showcase' community garden			1	1	
Mountain bike trails			3	1	
Baseball fields					1
Sledding Hill				1	1
Playgrounds			1		
Skate park					2
Interpretive Exhibits				1	
Batting Cages			1		
Camping facility				1	
Paved Trails					1
Oval track (open to public)			1		

Facility Needed	Frequency of Use by You and Your Household				
	Multiple Times a Day	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week or less	I/we wouldn't use this facility, but there is a community need.
Basketball courts (westside – lighted)					1
City bike trails			1		
Archery Range				1	
Groomed cross-country ski			1		
Baseball field improvement (Oakridge)			1		
Warming house				1	
Pickleball			2		
Paintball					1

The Facilitator will help the group determine the group's overall top 2 recommendations for each of the five categories below. The Recorder will record these top 2 recommendations in the space provided.

**New or Improved Facilities in Existing City Parks**

- Windy Ridge – add basketball
- Oak Ridge – improve ball field
- Sheehan – utilize lower for soccer and disc golf
- Pet exercise areas
- Single Track
- Connect all paths and trails
- Fishing pier ADA

**New Parks**

- Burke Quarry
- Community Park east of Hwy N
- Northside – outdoor performance venue
- Westside
- Reserve Platt (R1)
- Westside Community Park (R3)

**Natural Areas**

- Burke Quarry
- Token Creek
- Maintain/preserve
- Patrick Marsh Trail (G1)
- Sheehan Natural Preserve (G2)

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails**

- Finish Sun Prairie “Loop”
- Connect trails
- Connect trails – southwest side
- Smith’s Crossing connectivity
- Bridge @ providence

**Other (if applicable)**

- Dog park on north side
- Improved pedestrian crossing (Hwy 19 & C)

## WORKSHOP EVALUATION FORM (NOVEMBER 30, 2016)

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the overall usefulness of this Workshop?

Poor, Not useful					Excellent, Very informative					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Average
						1	4	5	7	<b>9.06</b>

2. What were the most significant outcomes of this Workshop for you?

- Good participation. Whatever the outcome, I know it will be a good Rec plan.
- Overall knowledge of this growing area
- Recognition that low-income families need park service too and safe biking.
- Learning more about the city, growth, and park & recreation. I also enjoyed hearing what other residents are interested in.
- Very good!
- Increase my awareness of different interests.
- Understanding and considering needs; having input.
- I got to learn what interests other people would like to see improved on or added in the town. I got to voice my concern on what I would like improved.
- Knowing what the city is willing to add to help its residents.
- Meeting new people and hearing their ideas. Seeing who the Park & Rec people are.
- To hear other people’s input on what they would envision.
- Identifying new areas for parks and hearing other people’s ideas and needs.
- Different ideas and interest.
- Good opportunities to hear from many interests.
- Learned a lot more about the City of Sun Prairies.

3. How could we have improved this Workshop?

- Good format – well managed.
- Well run! No improvement needed.
- Not sure – maybe send information to read beforehand.
- I thought it was great – a quick 2 hours!
- Well done as is.
- It was great, moved along well.
- Where are the city boundaries? Can we expand the boundaries?
- Maybe more time and examples of what other area municipalities are doing.
- Give people overview of Sun Prairie area/land available/potential land purchases by city and areas unavailable because owned by developers, etc.

4. Please offer any comments, suggestions, or opinions you have on the City’s park and open space planning process in the space provided below.

- We have a great city program in place. Fine tuning a comprehensive whole is a continuing process.
- Overall, serving families with recreational accessibility.
- None at this time, but look forward to hearing recommendations. One comment I heard was fewer but larger parks with specializations for destinations.
- Keep the public informed.
- Suggestion of recreation programs – maybe have each person list 3 so we have more choice at end.

- We need to keep more open space and wild areas.
- Great workshop!
- There are quite a few small parks, seems there should be more, larger useful parks for the size of Sun Prairie.
- Great – loved that you had two meetings.

## PART 2: FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK

The City has identified a need for a new community park. This park would be at least 40 acres and would serve the City’s growing population in the coming years. We are interested in your thoughts about what facilities the new park should include.

1. In the space provided below, list the facilities that you think the new park should include. When you have finished, prioritize the facilities by ranking each one in order of their importance to you.

Facility Needed	Rank (e.g. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
• Mountain bike trails/course (world class)	1
• Multi-use athletic fields	
• Running/walking paths/trails	4
• Dog parks need to be better maintained	
• Pickleball courts	1, 1, 3
• Soccer fields	5, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2
• Playfields	4, 3, 7, 2, 1
• Multi-use bicycle/pedestrian paths	3, 1, 3, 1, 3, 2
• Picnic areas	6, 3
• Pavilions/band shell/shelter facility	2, 6, 5
• Dog parks	1, 3, 1, 5
• Community center	2
• Walking paths/nature trails	2, 4, 3, 4
• Golf course	4
• Playgrounds	5, 5, 6, 2
• Nature study/wildlife corridor	6
• Cross-country skiing	7, 3, 6, 4
• Splash pad	2, 3, 3, 1
• Snowshoeing paths	4, 3
• Hiking trails	3
• Tennis courts	2, 7
• Fitness stations	3
• Baseball/softball fields	6, 5
• Basketball courts	4
• Indoor soccer facility/recreation facility	4
• Area for farmers’ market!	
• Bike paths/commuter bike trail	
• Skate park	4
• Leisure activities – horseshoes, bocce ball, corn bag, miniature golf	2
• Youth tennis/quick start	
• Disc golf	1, 7

<b>Facility Needed</b>	<b>Rank (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>
• Volleyball	
• Small community forest	
• Ice skating	4
• Concession stands	2
• Multi-purpose gathering site	
• Sledding hills	1
• Botanical garden	3
• Amphitheater	2
• Passive nature area/conservation	5
• Aquatic center	6

2. **In the space provided below, the RECORDER will list everyone’s top recommendations.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amphitheater/pavilion w/bandshell</li> <li>• Community forest</li> <li>• Commuter bike path</li> <li>• Concession stands</li> <li>• Conservancy areas</li> <li>• Disc Golf</li> <li>• Dog park</li> <li>• Garden park</li> <li>• Golf course</li> <li>• Hiking trail</li> <li>• Ice skating</li> <li>• Indoor recreation facility</li> <li>• Leisure, life-long activities (bocce, mini-golf, horseshoes, corn hole)</li> <li>• Mountain biking trails</li> <li>• Multi-use athletic fields/playfields</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use walking/biking path</li> <li>• Multi-use trails (walking, running, cross-country, snowshoeing)</li> <li>• Passive recreational facilities</li> <li>• Pickle ball courts</li> <li>• Playfields</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Skate park</li> <li>• Sledding hills</li> <li>• Soccer fields</li> <li>• Splash pad</li> <li>• Tennis - Youth tennis (quick start courts)</li> <li>• Tennis courts</li> <li>• Volleyball</li> <li>• Walking path/natural trail</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

3. **Below are the overall GROUP recommendations.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletic fields (soccer, football) (3)</li> <li>• Multi-use paths (4)</li> <li>• Pavilion with bandshell and concession stand (2)</li> <li>• Dog parks</li> <li>• Disc golf</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive recreation</li> <li>• Pickle ball</li> <li>• Mountain bike course – multi-level</li> <li>• Splash pad</li> <li>• Skate park</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

**PART 3: RECREATION PROGRAMS**

1. Are there any recreational programs that you or members of your household would like to participate in but cannot or do not? What barriers prevent you from participating in more City programs? Check all that apply.

3	Not interested		2	Do not know what is being offered
7	I'm too busy		1	I don't know how to sign up
1	Lack of childcare		3	Lack of transportation
	Security is insufficient			Lack of personal resources (money, equipment, etc.)
1	Programs are too far from my home		1	The programs I'm interested in are always full
	Lack of ADA accessibility		1	The City doesn't offer programs I am interested in
	Fees are too high		<i>Other (please specify below):</i>	
2	The programs don't fit into my schedule.			
	Poor customer service by staff			
	I don't know the locations of facilities			

2. What new programs would you be interested in if the City were to offer them?

- Early morning fitness classes /weekend yoga
- Sky diving
- Multi-cultural programs
- Bridge lessons
- Fitness classes
- Ropes course
- Babysitting course (2)
- Bike repair/maintenance course
- Fishing program
- Outdoor yoga
- Biking groups (2)
- Hiking trips (field trips to Devil's Lake)
- Music lessons
- Triathlon training
- Spanish programs
- Running for boys
- Indoor soccer
- Swimming in winter (partnering with district)
- Nature programs (2)
- Ultimate Frisbee (3)
- Disc golf (2)
- Nature hikes/outings
- Parent/child art, music sport programs
- Horseshoes
- Lawn bowling/bocce
- Badminton
- Water aerobics
- Intermural (pick up) basketball
- Music lessons
- Large body of water access

**3. Select one new program that you or another member of your household would attend if the program were offered.**

- Youth centers (3)
- Babysitting class
- Indoor tennis
- Walking/bike paths
- Badminton
- Multi-cultural food course
- Swimming lessons in winter
- At work wellness programs (yoga, Pilates, etc.)
- Disc golf/ultimate Frisbee (3)
- Mother/daughter classes
- Environmental/nature
- Small engine repair
- Bicycle repair
- Hiking trips (organized field trips)
- Music lessons
- Pickleball (if offered on east side)
- Pickleball

**4. Next the whole group voted on the new programs identified in question 3. Below is the compiled list, sorted from greatest interest to lower interest.**

<b>New Programs</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Organized hiking trips	10
Pickle ball programs	10
Disc golf	9
Environmental/nature programs	8
At work wellness programs (yoga, Pilates, etc.)	7
Indoor swimming lessons	7
Music lessons	4
Ultimate Frisbee	3
Small engine repair	2
Badminton	0
Multicultural food course	0

## PART 4: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDS

1. List facilities that you think the City needs but which are currently missing from the City parks and recreation system. Rate how often you expect you or a member of your household to use the facility.

Examples of facilities may include community gardens, basketball courts, soccer fields, etc.

Facility Needed	Frequency of Use by You and Your Household				
	Multiple Times a Day	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week or less	I/we wouldn't use this facility, but there is a community need.
Mountain biking trails/course	1			2	2
Community gardens	1		1		4
Cross-country ski trails				2	
Pavilions/band shell				2	2
Walking/biking paths		2	2	2	
Pickleball (east & west)		1	2		1
Youth center			1		
Dog Park (west side)			1		
Transportation to get to programs			1		
Dog park		2	1		
Indoor tennis				1	
Commuter bike path	1				
Golf					1
Splash pad			2	2	3
Ropes course					1
Fitness stations				1	
Soccer fields		1	4		1
Tennis courts		1			2
Hiking trails			1		
La Crosse field					2
Sledding hills			1	1	
Disc golf				1	1
Basketball courts					1
Nature trails				1	
Baseball field					1
Football field					1
Indoor soccer/rec facility		1		1	
Farmers market				1	
Open Space					
Playfields			1		1
Skate park					1
Farmers Market area				1	
City forest				1	
Fishing dock at business park				1	
Water aerobics			1		

Facility Needed	Frequency of Use by You and Your Household				
	Multiple Times a Day	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week or less	I/we wouldn't use this facility, but there is a community need.
Intermural (pick-up) basketball			1		
Bicycle repair				1	
Small engine repair				1	
Beach				1	
Multi-Cultural Center (Native American)				1	
Public art installation	1				
Community center			1		
Nature conservancy			1		

The Facilitator will help the group determine the group's overall top 2 recommendations for each of the five categories below. The Recorder will record these top 2 recommendations in the space provided.

**New or Improved Facilities in Existing City Parks**

- Pickle ball complex (6 additional courts) – Windham Hills
- Disc golf and cross-country ski (Sheehan Park)
- BMX/Mountain Bike
- Sheehan Park improvement
- Eastside parks – add improvements
- Soccer field
- Windy Ridge Park – expand nature preserve
- Splash pad – Wetmore Park
- Sledding hill
- Improve drainage at Sheehan soccer fields and others
- Splash pads

**New Parks**

- Bike park (near SPHS)
- Dog park (Egre)
- Mid-town (Westside school) splash pad, etc.
- North (off CTY N) Park – new
- Expand Liberty Community Park and preserve part of it
- Lake in the head waters of Koshkonong
- Community park at Hwy 19 and Town Hall Rd
- Southern Sheehan Park forest protection
- Patrick Marsh preservation

**Natural Areas**

- Patrick Marsh and surrounding lands
- Continental development
- Patrick Marsh – protect
- Quarry – south – protect by purchase
- Expand Liberty Community Park – preserve part of it for trails
- Thoreau Park
- Improve safety of existing paths
- Expand bike path system within City
- Connect to Twin Lane in Town of Sun Prairie

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails**

- West side (see map)
- Main Street heading west – bike/ped path
- North Bird Street
- Thoreau Park – all the way through Sheehan Park

**Other (if applicable)**

- Davison Park – update park equipment
- Windham Hills – pickle ball, sledding hill
- Area for Farmers market

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## APPENDIX D: OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

The City of Sun Prairie hosted an Open House on Thursday, January 26, 2017 to provide an opportunity for the public to see and comment on the Draft Parks and Open Space Plan. There were 30 attendees registered at the event. The Plan was last updated in December 2008 and is now being updated to reflect the current conditions and future needs of Sun Prairie's park, recreation, and open space system. The Plan includes recommendations for new and existing park and recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian trails, and natural and open space areas.

The purpose of updating the Plan is to provide a clear vision for the future of Sun Prairie's park system and to provide the basis for obtaining state and federal grants for park, trail, and natural area improvements. Parks and Forestry Commission members, City Staff, and the Planning Consultant are here to answer your questions or discuss your ideas.

Attendees were given the opportunity to view exhibits, survey results, and the Draft Plan, see maps of existing and recommended future facilities, ask questions, and most of all, to provide ideas and thoughts on the Draft Plan.

1. Did you take the Community Survey offered during winter of 2016? Yes (9) No (7)
2. Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposed goals, objectives, or policies in the Draft Parks and Open Space Plan? (Refer to the exhibits of goals, objectives, and policies, and the Parks and Open Space Plan.)
  - I would like to see the community center built on the Main Street Corridor – Central City Area.
  - To pursue a larger parcel for active recreation uses is very exciting, to purchase an area that allows multiple field areas would provide a need for areas that currently do not exist within the city. A park similar to a Ripp Park in Waunakee would be welcomed.
  - Community Center building would be an excellent addition. Space is tight for Wisconsin spring activities as we await for Mother Nature to make space available.
  - I am concerned with Pickleball being included with tennis and basketball. Also, there was at one time the mention of trying to bring tournaments to Sun Prairie. We need more courts in one place.
  - Goals appear detailed and broad enough to cover the plan. Objectives are good too. Please be sure connectivity is a focal point between paths. The policy approach for the city to NOT accept unusable land should absolutely be adopted. The unsuitable shape/dimensions/usability aspect could be softened to allow for a corridor or pathway type park. See new DeForest park path for example (Upper Yahara Environmental Corridor).
  - No
  - Great that you want areas in close walking distance.
  - Conserving and preserving natural features and resources is a key value. Parks would be enhanced by planting interspersed bird and pollinator features since acres of grass are wildlife deserts. With the city name – Sun Prairie – some of these features should be prairie, similar to the open area in front of the library. Another suggestion is planting some rain gardens in low-lying areas. The east end of Sunny Valley Park in our neighborhood always floods when there is rain or snow melt. Some deep root plants/shrubs could alleviate that. We also hope the city will not use chemicals in the parks since there are lots of children who play games and dogs that are walked through the park. We walk through Sheehan Park often and love the park except for summer. Mosquitos! Can the city put up bat houses in areas where flying insects are a nuisance? They are an alternative to chemical spraying.
  - Multi-use courts (pickleball, tennis, basketball) would cause conflict between court usage and players. Before dedicated pickleball courts (in Wyndham Hills) and we shared with tennis in Orfan Park, we had many conflicts, long wait time to use courts, misuse of courts. Scheduling would be a nightmare. No to multi-use courts.
  - Pickleball courts should be used just for pickleball. Multi-use courts would be difficult – a tennis player next to a pickleball player just wouldn't work. We want these courts to be used and if it becomes difficult to play or schedule, they won't be used.

- Might be hard for developer to maintain recreation facilities in multi-family buildings. Maybe new owner, HOA, Neighborhood Association, or management. We want to make sure these spaces don't increase lot size/impervious surface, or reduce available land for neighborhood parks.
  - Yes, but not at this time.
3. Do you have any comments or suggestions on the proposed Planned Facilities Map? (Refer to the Exhibit of Map 4.)
- I think the goals/plans for the bike paths are excellent.
  - Adding larger community parks would serve the growing community well.
  - I strongly support acquiring additional land to build athletic facilities and then improve previously beat down areas.
  - I don't feel we need a second dog park, nor lighting at any dog park.
  - I would like to see a new neighborhood park in West Prairie Village as proposed. The area has a need with all the new construction and continued development.
  - A neighborhood area created near Manley Drive.
  - Pickleball courts are combined with basketball? Not conducive for pickleball – due to boundaries, height of net, size of courts – configure zoning. Require dedicated pickleball courts (pickleball is the fastest growing adult activity – not addressing growth of Sun Prairie).
  - It would be great if there was a way to connect the Ironwood Estates neighborhood with the park proposed by the new elementary school without having to use Grand Ave. Also, as school children would use the facilities during school hours, if there could be a separate area for toddlers or non-school children to play on during the day.
  - Suggestion: Include a walking trail to connect the new park for the new elementary school to the Ironwood Estates neighborhood. Also, this new park should model that of the Wyndham Hills Community Park, with a separate part of the park designed for younger/toddler aged children that could be accessible for the public to use during the school day.
  - Great to build more neighborhood parks. Improve fields so soccer can be played at Patrick Marsh and Prairie View. Fix flooding at Royal Oaks.
  - Love the option of a second dog park (special use facility #1), but is the location too close to Token Creek County (dog) park? Would it make more sense to move the proposed site of the new dog park further east to help spread the distance between city and county dog parks?
  - Please don't spread new pickleball courts to different parts of the city (2 at Libertyville, 2 at Wetmore). For future tournaments, need a complex of 6 to 8 courts. Players like to play with similar skill levels, friends, etc. Because of this, more courts at one spot is better. You don't want crowds or empty courts. Be careful that proposed courts/park don't anger neighbors with noise.
  - Please do not spread pickleball courts all over. This is a special sport and people like to come together to play. To hold a tournament, the courts should be in close proximity.
  - There is an increasing need for well-drained athletic fields with soccer and lacrosse growing in popularity. It seems McFarland and DeForest have soccer complexes that accommodate tournaments. We have more kids participating and our fields are overused.
  - O'Keefe to Linnerud should be your primary "through" bike route. Wide streets and consistently two lane traffic (Linnerud). Easy transition for those coming up Reiner from Madison.
  - Yes, but not at this time.

4. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions on the Draft Parks and Open Space Plan?

- There are more users than facilities available. The Grand Ave area now supports youth tournaments and could keep more spending within the city.
- Many outdoor clubs are growing at very quick rates. SPSC Soccer (2012 = 300 members; 2017 = 900 members). Lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee all continue to grow rapidly and space is limited. As the community continues to grow, the clubs and activities will too.
- We can bring more people to Sun Prairie for tournaments that will have them spend money on food and housing, if we put more courts in one location. We need 6-8 courts with parking, bathrooms, water, away from neighbors.
- Parkland dedication change should be a priority with respect to residential developers. It can and does rob a neighborhood of park space by burdening the city with unusable land.
- More skate parks; more soccer fields
- Would there be a way to incorporate neighborhood splash pads throughout the city to existing or proposed parks? What would the potential tax levy increase be for the proposed park facilities? Is there any plans for a sledding hill in the city?
- If the new park that accompanies the new elementary school must be used solely by the elementary students during the school day, a small community/neighborhood park should be added to the Ironwood Estates neighborhood (possibly in the available area directly to the west of the Ironwood Estates neighborhood, if a school ultimately is not going to be built there). Also, splash pads could be added around the city.
- I strongly suggest to purchase land for additional athletic facilities.
- We like to bike to shops and the doctor/dentist offices and have a hard time crossing Main Street, even with lights. If some adaptation to the traffic lights could account for bikes and pedestrians, it would be less onerous getting across, especially during high traffic times of day. We often see people who live in the apartment complex on West Main Street who race across the street in between cars. Better pedestrian traffic light timers or green light spacing would make crossing safer.
- No to multi-use courts – pickleball, tennis, basketball; No to courts spread throughout city; Yes to 6-8 dedicated pickleball court complex with parking, bathrooms, water, shade – and away from neighbors.
- Pickleball courts need shade when not playing, bathrooms, and parking.
- Off-street implementation needs to coincide with transportation – parking on one side, street widths, turn lanes, etc. Streets shouldn't be widened to add bike lanes (not all streets). New bike lanes on heavily traveled streets need higher visibility.

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## APPENDIX E: PARK IMPROVEMENT FEE CALCULATIONS

The following is the calculation methodology for Figure 14, Row H.

**Figure 17: Road and Utilities Improvements Calculation**

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards) in Acres	5	25
B. Typical Park Size in Square Feet (Row A * 43,560)	217,800	1,089,000
C. Conceptual Road Frontage on Two Sides in Linear Feet ( $\sqrt{\text{Row B} \times 2}$ )	934	2,088
D. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$400	\$400
E. Parkland Portion (Half) of Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$200	\$200
F. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost for Typical Park (Row E * Row C)	\$186,800	\$417,600
G. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Acre for Typical Park (Row F / Row A)	\$37,360	\$16,704

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## APPENDIX F. POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
<b>Wisconsin Stewardship Programs*</b>						
Aids for the acquisition and development of local parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$4M available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.</li> <li>Priority for land acquisition.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$1.6M available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Acquisition of Development Rights	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$1.6M available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds are available to acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development are in place.</li> <li>May include enhancements of nature-based outdoor recreation.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	To acquire lands, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>\$800,000 available each year.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate.</li> <li>Projects must comply with ADA.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218
<b>Federal Programs</b>						
Land and Water Conversation Fund (LAWCON)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% local match per project.</li> <li>Land acquisition.</li> <li>Development of recreational facilities.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218

\*2017 funding to be determined

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
Recreational Trails Act	To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50% local match per project.</li> <li>▪ Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.</li> <li>▪ Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages.</li> <li>▪ Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands).</li> <li>▪ Acquisition of easement or property for trails purchase.</li> </ul>	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan</li> <li>▪ Funds may be used on trails which are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Cheryl Housley South Central Region (608) 275-3218
<b>Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)</b>						
Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)	Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This program includes rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures/restoring railway depots, as well as streetscaping “Main Streets” and landscaping near transportation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funded through TEA-21.</li> <li>▪ 80%/20%.</li> <li>▪ 20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed).</li> </ul>	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-construction projects over \$25,000.</li> <li>▪ Construction projects over \$100,000.</li> </ul>	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)	Provides flexible funds, which can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway projects through the Federal-aid highway system, bridges, transit facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funded through TEA-21.</li> <li>▪ 80%/20%.</li> <li>▪ 20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed).</li> </ul>	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips.</li> <li>▪ Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.</li> <li>▪ System-wide bicycle planning.</li> <li>▪ Non-construction projects over \$25,000</li> <li>▪ Construction projects over \$100,000</li> </ul>	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<b>Federal Transit Administration Grants</b>						
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; includes intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations; most funds are to be directed toward transit itself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20% local match per project.</li> </ul>	Early spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis.</li> <li>▪ Congress / Administration can pick the projects although the authorization bill contains a list of specific earmarks.</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transit.	John Duffe (608) 264-8723

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
<b>Section 402-Highway Safety Funds (MAP-21)</b>						
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	Transportation improvement projects that expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment. Categories of eligible projects include trail facilities, constructing safe routes for non-drivers, converting abandoned railroad corridors to trails, environmental mitigation activities, The Recreational Trails Program, and The Safe Routes to Schools program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20% local match per project.</li> <li>▪ \$15M total funding</li> <li>▪ The minimum project cost is \$50,000 for non-infrastructure and \$300,000 for infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>	Announcement pending.  Solicited every other year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TAP incorporates the following three WisDOT multi-modal transportation improvement programs: Safe Routes to School (SRTS); Transportation Enhancements (TE); and The Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF)</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<b>Other Programs</b>						
PeopleForBikes Community Grants	Provides funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to \$10,000 available per project</li> </ul>	Spring and fall cycles: January and July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funded by partners in the bicycle industry</li> </ul>	peopleforbikes.org	Zoe Kircos, Director of Grants and Partnerships, at 303-449-4893 x106 or zoe@peopleforbikes.org
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements.		No specific date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General downtown program.</li> <li>▪ May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping.</li> </ul>	National Main Street Center 202/673-4219	Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Dev. (608) 266-7531
Surface Transportation-Environment Cooperative Research Program	Federal program designed to evaluate transportation control measures, improve understanding of transportation demand factors, and develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20% local match per project.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$500,000 is made available for the development of a national bicycle safety education curriculum.</li> <li>▪ \$500,000 per year is made available for grants to a national not-for-profit organization engaged in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety to operate a national clearinghouse, develop informational and education programs, and disseminates techniques and strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety.</li> </ul>	FHWA	U.S. Department of Transportation 202-366-4000

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$200,000 is made available for a study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes.</li> </ul>		
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$450,000 to \$500,000 available annually.</li> <li>▪ \$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match.</li> <li>▪ Match may include in-kind services and donations.</li> </ul>	November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50 to 60 grants made per year.</li> </ul>	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	Dick Rideoyt (608) 267-0843