



Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Cravath Lakefront room 2nd floor 312 West
Whitewater Str, Whitewater, WI, 53190 *In Person
and Virtual

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 - 5:30 PM

**Citizens are welcome (and encouraged) to join our webinar via computer, smart phone, or telephone.
Citizen participation is welcome during topic discussion periods.**

Topic: Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Time: Mar 19, 2025 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89956876846?pwd=paD48kMrVh0AyHAsugbgJEVEC4y4G3.1>

Meeting ID: 899 5687 6846

Passcode: 627309

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89956876846#,,,,*627309# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Please note that although every effort will be made to provide for virtual participation, unforeseen technical difficulties may prevent this, in which case the meeting may still proceed as long as there is a quorum. Should you wish to make a comment in this situation, you are welcome to call this number: (262) 473-0108.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Members: Steve Ryan (Chair) Stephanie Hicks (Vice-Chair), Brienne Brown, Kathleen Fleming, Dan Fuller, Mike Kilar, Justin Crandall, Deb Weberparl, UWW Vacant, Alternate Vacant.

Staff: Kevin Boehm (Director), Michelle Dujardin (Assistant Director), Megan Groen (WAFC Manager), Jennifer Jackson (Adult Programs), Ethan Cesarz (Athletic/Youth Programs)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A board member can choose to remove an item from the agenda or rearrange its order; however, introducing new items to the agenda is not allowed. Any proposed changes require a motion, a second, and approval from the Board to be implemented. The agenda shall be approved at each meeting even if no changes are being made at that meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved together unless any committee member requests that an item be removed for individual consideration.

1. Park Board Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2025

HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS

No formal Board action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Board discusses that particular item.

To make a comment during this period, or during any agenda item: On a computer or handheld device, locate the controls on your computer to raise your hand. You may need to move your mouse to see these controls. On a traditional telephone, dial *6 to unmute your phone and dial *9 to raise your hand.

Reports

2. Directors Report

CONSIDERATIONS / DISCUSSIONS / REPORTS

3. Discussion and possible action on agreement with Whitewater Youth Soccer Club for the use of Moraine View Park.
4. Discussion and possible action to recommend award of contract to Lepak Wall and Ceiling for construction of 2 offices at the Whitewater Municipal Building for \$12,900.
5. Discussion and possible approval of WAFC Family Membership policy.
6. Discussion on Park and Open Space Plan goals and objectives

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. Update Special Event Application 2025 Q1
8. Whitewater Creek Nature Preserve Planning 2025 Q1
9. Skate Park Update/Planning 2025 Q1

ADJOURNMENT

A quorum of the Common Council may be present. This notice is given to inform the public that no formal action will be taken at this meeting.

Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the Office of the City Manager / City Clerk (262-473-0102) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.



**Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
Wednesday, February 19 , 2025 – 5:30 pm
Cravath Lakefront Room
312 W. Whitewater Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Hybrid Meeting**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Stephanie Hicks, Mike Kilar, Justin Crandal Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.
Late Arrivals: Dan Fuller. Absent: Kathleen Flemming, Brienne Brown
Staff: Kevin Boehm, Michelle Dujardin, Megan Groen, Jennifer Jackson
Guest: Neil Hicks

2. Approval of the Meeting's Agenda

Agenda was changed to start with items 6-9 due to a member needing to leave right at 6:30

- a. Motioned by Ryan. Seconded by Hicks. Ayes: Hicks, Kilar, Ryan, Weberpal and Crandal.
Absent: Brown, Fuller, Flemming

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Motioned by Hicks. Seconded by Weberpal. Ayes: Hicks, Kilar, Ryan, Weberpal, Fuller and Crandal. Absent: Brown, Flemming

4. Considerations/Discussions/Reports

- a. Discussion and possible action on potential agreement with Whitewater Youth Soccer Club for the use of Morain View Park
 - i. Boehm brought this agreement to the park board for the Soccer club to have exclusive use of the park. The soccer club would do all of the registrations and keep all of the money from sign ups. Any improvements needed to the field will still go through Park Board and the City will assist with maintenance of the field. The organization will supply any equipment needed.
 - ii. Kilar confirmed that nothing comes through us, no registrations or other things.
 - 1. Boehm replied that they are already doing all of that
 - iii. No action taken at this time will fill in the blanks and will bring back for final approval
- b. Discussion and possible action approving WAFC Family Membership Policy
 - i. Boehm brought this to the board to put in place a WAFC Family Membership Policy. Boehm mentioned that right now they are using house addresses to say they are a family membership. This will define what a family membership is. Up

to 4 adults living in the same household and 6 others that are under the age of 26 years old. Family memberships is anyone living under the same roof.

1. Ryan asked that with what is written in the policy that means college roommates could state they are a family. Ryan suggested that instead of having the policy state “up to four adults living in the same household” they must be a dependent on the same tax form.
 2. Boehm will reword this policy and bring it back to park board
 3. No action taken at this time
- ii. Dan Fuller joined
- c. Discussion on possible action on WAFC Corporate Membership Policy
- i. Boehm brought this policy to the board 25% off discount, company pays \$10.00/month for each member and then the employee pays the rest. We do have an agreement with Palermo’s and First Citizens Bank.
 1. Kilar: how many do we have from First Citizens?
 - a. Boehm: about 9 at the moment. Palermo’s had one but no renewal.
 - b. Ryan: change family to as defined in membership policy.
 - ii. Motion made by Ryan to approve policy with the change in family definition. Second by Weberpal. Ayes: Hicks, Kilar, Ryan, Weberpal, Crandal and Fuller. Absent: Brown, Flemming
- d. Update on recent approvals by City Council impacting parks
- i. Boehm: Nov. 19th, 2024, Michelle Dujardin brought proposal to council for phase 2 of comprehensive management plan for the lakes. Sewer pact plan and approved by council. Funds will come out of budgeted capital expense in 2026/2027
 - ii. Dec. 17th, 2024, went to council to create lakes district. Council wanted to know what the impact will be. Council wanted community outreach before approving
 - iii. Jan. 21st, 2025, proposal for new comprehensive recreation plan. Budgeted for and approved. Comprehensive plan is all of the community. Big picture. This is vital for state funding for recreation. Should be done every 5 years.
 1. Hicks: Does this list have what is available and in what condition it is in?
 2. Boehm: Yes, it will also define areas of growth. End of 2027 it will be available
 - iv. Feb. 11, 2025 Boehm asked to create an ordinance to create the WAFC Committee. This will look at the future (capital). 5-member board. 1 school district and alternate. 1 city and alternate. And 3 community members appointed by a joint meeting of the two boards.

5. Hearing of Citizen Comments

- a. No Citizen Comments

6. Staff Updates

a. Director’s Report

- i. Kevin Boehm

1. Megan started in January as the Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness center Manager.
2. The board will start working on the Parks and Open space plan. Handed out is the 2018 plan. Will discuss in the next meeting.

b. Event Programs and Lakes Update

- i. City guide is out. Will have print in both English and Spanish
- ii. Swim lessons has waiting lists. Baby sitter course March 24 and 25 with Roberta Flanders. Offering lifeguard courses, Easter egg hunt at WAFC April 12. Now offering Silver Sneakers. DDP Yoga is a huge hit!
- iii. March 15th Polar plunge at the WAFC with a Cardboard boat race and a free open swim
- iv. Christmas at Cravath Dec 6- Jan 6. Great turn out and responses.
- v. Seniors in the Park's Garden Club did a winter sowing program to get their gardens started.
- vi. Shooting starts and little dribblers went well and all player got a basketball.
- vii. Baseball softball registration is open 4 tournaments meeting the minimum, 2 tournaments need 1 more team to make it a tournament, this is from only 3 tournaments from last year.
- viii. Ethan Cesarz and Michelle Dujardin will be on a panel to engage children.

c. Lakes update

- i. **Dujardin:** Council wanted the lakes committee to offer educational sessions to the community. The first lakes summit was not very well attended. March 4th will head back to council on the committee's goals. Resolution will go back to council on May 6th for final decision.

7. Future Agenda Items

- a. Update Special Event Application 2025 Q1
- b. Whitewater Creek Nature Preserve Planning 2025 Q1
- c. Skate Park Update/Planning 2025 Q1

8. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment at 6: 17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Jackson
Jennifer Jackson

**FIVE-YEAR FACILITY USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF WHITEWATER
AND
WHITEWATER YOUTH SOCCER CLUB**

This Agreement is made and entered into this ___ day of _____, 2025, by and between the City of Whitewater, hereinafter referred to as "City," and the Whitewater Youth Soccer Club, hereinafter referred to as "Organization." The City and Organization shall collectively be referred to as "Parties."

WHEREAS, the City owns and operates recreational facilities for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Organization provides a recreational soccer program for the community that the City does not or cannot otherwise provide; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to establish the terms and conditions for the Organization’s use of City facilities at no charge in accordance with Group 2 Facility Use Policies, as outlined in the City of Whitewater Facility Rental and Reservation Policy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department will discontinue its Start Smart Soccer program to avoid competing with the Organization’s recreational soccer program.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Term of Agreement

This Agreement shall commence on _____, 2025, and shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years, terminating on _____, 2030, unless earlier terminated in accordance with the provisions herein.

2. Recreation Program Requirement

The Organization agrees to provide a recreational level soccer program in addition to any club-level programs it may offer. The recreational program shall:

- Promote and develop interest in the sport of soccer.
- Be instructional, recreational, or competitive in nature.
- Be open to the entire community without restriction on participation.
- Include a description of how the Organization meets these criteria.

3. Non-Discrimination in Participation

All participants shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the Organization’s recreational soccer program. No participant shall be denied access based on race, gender, ability, or any other discriminatory factor.

4. Facility Use Schedule

The Organization is authorized to use the City's recreational facility, Moraine View Park, located at 1201 Innovation Dr, Whitewater, WI 53190, as follows:

- General dates of use: April 15 – October 15.
- A schedule of facility use, including field availability, planned events, and general usage plans, shall be provided by the Organization.

5. Contact Information

The Organization shall provide the following contact information for responsible persons within the Organization:

- Name: Brenda Valadez
- Phone: 920-728-2173
- Email: general@whitewaterunitedfc.com
- Mailing Address: PO Box 466 or 129 N. Park St Whitewater, WI 53190

6. Fee Schedule

The Organization shall provide a fee schedule detailing participant costs and any financial assistance or sliding scale fees available for low-income participants.

7. Responsibilities of the City

- The City shall be responsible for the overall maintenance of the facility, including mowing, trash removal, and general upkeep.
- The City shall allow the use of a facility to hold board meetings monthly at no charge to the organization.

8. Responsibilities of the Organization

- The Organization shall provide all necessary maintenance required to operate its programs, including but not limited to:
 - Line painting
 - Chalking
 - Nets
 - Specialized equipment
- If the Organization requires the City to provide any of the above items or labor, the Organization shall reimburse the City fully.
- Any improvements to the facility must be approved by the Park and Recreation Board prior to commencement of work.

9. Financial Accessibility for Low-Income Participants

The Organization shall establish a reduced fee structure or scholarship program to allow participation regardless of economic status.

10. Insurance Requirement

The Organization shall provide proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$500,000, naming the City of Whitewater as an additional insured. Proof of insurance shall be submitted annually before the commencement of program activities.

11. Independent Operation

The Organization shall be formed, financed, developed, governed, and administered wholly by the Organization and shall not be considered an agent or employee of the City.

12. Termination of Agreement

Either Party may terminate this Agreement with thirty (30) days' written notice to the other Party. In the event of a breach of any provision, the City may terminate this Agreement immediately.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date first written above.

CITY OF WHITEWATER

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

WHITEWATER YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

	<h2>Park Board Agenda Item</h2>
<p>Meeting Date:</p>	<p>March 19, 2025</p>
<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Discussion and possible action to recommend award of contract to Lepak Wall and Ceiling for construction of 2 offices at the Whitewater Municipal Building for \$12,900</p>
<p>Staff Contact (name, email, phone):</p>	<p>Kevin Boehm, kboehm@whitewater-wi.gov, 262-473-0122</p>

BACKGROUND
(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

I am requesting the construction of two enclosed office spaces within the Community Development Authority area of the Whitewater Municipal Building to replace the current open cubicle setup. The existing area consists of two cubicles that are fully open to the common space, which does not provide the necessary privacy or functionality for the employees who will be utilizing the offices.

The new office spaces will accommodate the recently hired Community Development Authority Administrative Assistant and the Parks and Recreation Athletic Coordinator. The need for office space within the Whitewater Municipal Building has increased due to changes in office assignments. With the open City Attorney position, that employee will take over the former Parks and Recreation Director's office attached to the Administration wing. Additionally, the former Athletic Coordinator's office was too small and only accessible by passing through one of two other offices. As a result, that space will be repurposed for legal document storage for the City.

To complete this project, I reached out to nine local contractors using a list provided by Home Lumber and other contacts. However, I received only two quotes:

- **Lepak Wall and Ceiling:** \$12,900
- **Gilbank Construction:** \$29,674

Because the bid from Lepak Wall and Ceiling is below \$25,000, this project does not meet the state guidelines requiring a public construction project to go through a formal public bidding process.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
(Dates, committees, action taken)

FINANCIAL IMPACT
(If none, state N/A)

\$12,900 from contingencies account 100-51110-910

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the importance of providing adequate workspace for these employees and the limited availability of office space within the municipal building, I recommend moving forward with this construction to ensure both efficiency and privacy in daily operations.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Lepak Wall and Ceiling proposal
2. Gilbank Construction proposal

BID PROPOSAL

LEPAK WALL & CEILING, INC
W5386 BLUFF RD
EAGLE, WI 53119

WE HEREBY SUBMIT SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES FOR:

**** Provide labor & materials for office buildout including:**

Steel stud framing	
Sound Insulation	
Drywall including sand texture finish	
Hollow metal door frames	
Solid core flush doors	\$12,900.00

**** NOT INCLUDED:**

Finish painting of walls or door frames
 Stain, seal & finish of doors
 Vinyl base

Proposed cost for afformentioned work	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$12,900.00</i>
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GILBANK CONSTRUCTION, INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Commercial • Industrial • Residential

P.O. BOX 718 • 301 SCOT DRIVE • CLINTON, WISCONSIN 53525-0718

Established 1965

To: City of Whitewater
Att: Dan Buckingham
Re: 2nd Floor Municipal Offices
Date: 01/27/2025

Dan,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit a proposal for the following work at 312 West Whitewater Street. Following is a complete quote and scope of work.

Note:

- Normal working hours assumed.
- No abatement or contaminated materials removal/disposal included.
- I have only included work clarified in the scope below and the drawings attached
- Unforeseen conditions not listed below would be handled as approved change orders to the scope below.
- Final schedule to be determined after receipt of order.
- Permit by owner

Division 01 00 00 General Conditions

- Site Coordination
- Inspections through final occupancy
- Temporary restroom facilities
- Dumpsters and disposal
- Construction cleaning and final cleaning

Division 02 00 00 Demolition

- Removal of door from adjacent office

Division 07 00 00 Building Envelope

- Batt insulation for sound reduction in walls

Division 08 00 00 Openings

- (1) new man door
- (1) door re-used from adjacent office space

Division 09 00 00 Finishes

- Steel stud framing of (2) new office spaces per plans
- Gypsum patchwork in existing office following removal of 3070 door
- Gypsum in new offices

- Paint will be by owner
- Drop ceiling adjustments in new office spaces to accommodate wall construction

Division 23 00 00 Mechanical

- Furnish and install (1) GRD
- Relocate (1) GRD
- No plan approval fees included if necessary

Division 26 00 00 Electrical

- Demo existing electrical for new wall
- Relocate existing light fixtures
- Provide and install (2) light switches
- Provide and install (4) duplex receptacles fed from local circuit
- Provide and install (2) data rough-ins
- No plan approval fees included if necessary

Total estimated cost... \$29,674.00

Owner acceptance

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Proposal valid for 15 days

Sincerely,

Russ Tabaka

Gilbank Construction, Inc.

CITY OF WHITEWATER POLICY		TITLE: WAFC Family Membership Policy
POLICY SOURCE: Parks and Recreation Department	Parks and Recreation Board Approval Date: 3/19/2025	TEXT NAME: G:\Park & Rec\General Information\Policy\WAFC Family Membership Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish standard procedures for defining and verifying family memberships at the Whitewater Aquatic & Fitness Center (WAFC) to ensure consistency, fairness, and proper eligibility verification.

II. AUTHORIZATION

The administration and enforcement of this policy shall be the function of the Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department. WAFC staff will ensure compliance with the membership guideline.

All membership applications and changes must adhere to the requirements stated in this policy. Any disputes regarding membership eligibility or verification shall be handled by WAFC management.

III. DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

A **Family Membership** is available to individuals residing at the same address who are related by blood, marriage, legal guardianship, or a committed domestic partnership. Membership includes:

- Up to two (2) adults living in the same household.
- Any adult(s) and their legal dependents under the age of 24 who **reside** in the household, with a maximum of 10 members per membership.
- All household members over the age of 18 must provide proof of residency to be included in the membership.
- Acceptable proof of residency includes a utility bill, lease agreement, or official document displaying the individual’s name and the same address as the account holder.

IV. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION & VERIFICATION

To ensure accurate membership records, the following procedures apply:

A. Adding Family Members

- Individuals over the age of 16 must be present to be added to an account.
- Proof of residency is required for members 18 and older.

B. Membership Photos & Cards

- A photo must be taken for each household member over the age of 13 when they are added to the account.
- Membership cards will not be issued to anyone who is not physically present at the counter at the time of registration.

V. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES & UPDATES

Any additions to a family membership must follow the verification process outlined above.

Members must notify WAFC staff of address or membership composition changes to maintain accurate records.

VI. ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

WAFC management reserves the right to request additional proof of residency if concerns arise.

Any misrepresentation may result in membership revocation of membership privileges without a refund.

VII. APPROVAL & REVIEW

This policy is subject to review and modification by the City of Whitewater Parks and Recreation Board to ensure alignment with operational needs and community standards.

SECTION FIVE: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The initial task in preparing any type of planning document includes the formulation of a series of goals and objectives that outline the City's intent throughout the planning document. These goals and objectives will serve as a guide for the City to follow in providing a desired community-wide park and recreation system.

Goal: A broad statement of direction, purpose, and general public priorities. A goal should be based on the stated needs, key issues, and opportunities of the community. A goal should be long-range, timeless, and optimistic.

Objective: Defined as a more-specific and quantifiable aim within a limited time frame. Objectives should be derived from stated goals, quantifiable, specific, and within a limited time frame. Objectives are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

A goal provides the City with its long-term destination; objectives act as mile markers along the way. All recommendations listed in the plan are specifically designed to address the goals and objectives listed here. In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this Plan.

The following list of goals and objectives is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this Plan, including input and discussions with citizens, City staff, and the Park and Recreation Commission. It is important to note that the listing that follows are not presented in order of priority. Rather, all of the goals and objectives have equal weight or merit as they guide future community decision-making.

GOAL #1: Maintain an adequate amount/acreage of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

Objectives:

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current demand, demands created by increasing populations, and environmental significance of the land.
- Strive to maintain the current per capita ratio of acres of land suitable for active recreation.
- Continue to acquire lands adjacent to existing park and recreation facilities to accommodate future growth/needs of the City.
- Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land for dedication in the parkland dedication ordinance.
- Preserve primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands, streams, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater and flood management areas, where appropriate.
- Explore the need for special recreational facilities, such as dog parks, splash parks water recreational opportunities, community gardens, and facilities for indoor recreation., through more detailed park and recreation master planning following the adoption of this Plan.
- Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
- When possible, acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.

GOAL #2: Ensure that open space, recreation facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents and visitors, especially the older adults and disabled.

Objectives:

- Provide for barrier-free access to all new park facilities and play areas.
- Strive for compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities, particularly in Veteran's, Tower, and Phoenix Park.
- Continue to encourage participation of elderly and disabled citizens at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication between the Parks and Recreation Department and the public.

GOAL #3: Coordinate development review with all departments/agencies responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objectives:

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Park and Open Space Plan before subdivision plats are approved. All new development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Platting Ordinance.
- Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via the zoning ordinances.
- Mini Parks and 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. All new residential development should be within walking distance of a park.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the park and open space needs of new and existing City residents.

GOAL #4: Coordinate use and maintenance of recreational facilities among the City of Delavan, Delavan-Darien School District, Walworth County, and appropriate public recreation associations.

Objectives:

- Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative City, County, School District, and organized athletic organizations development projects to help improve and expand recreation opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- Continue to explore additional governmental opportunities to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the area.
- Continue to work with Walworth County and neighboring municipalities to connect the City's trail system to Elkhorn, the White River Trail, and other recreational amenities in Walworth County. Support regional trail initiatives whenever possible.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Walworth County, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and to coordinate planning for potential future bicycle trails and routes.

GOAL #5: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and tot-lot facilities.

Objectives:

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development or land use changes occur.
- Use park service area criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (1/4- to 1/2-mile for a neighborhood park and 1-mile for a community park).
- Encourage construction and maintenance of smaller, private parks with multi-family residential developments.

GOAL #6: Provide residents and visitors with safe and reliable park facilities and equipment throughout the city park system.

Objectives:

- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment at all city parks.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.

GOAL #7: Continue to develop interconnected biking and walking trails that provide easy and safe access to all neighborhoods.

Objectives:

- Advance trail and bike path planning.
- 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.
- The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and other destination should be emphasized in ongoing city planning and acquisition efforts.
- Work with Public Works Committee to improve greenway landscaping and help define possible trails through the greenways.
- Work with Plan Commission and Public Works Committee to add routes or bike lanes, when needed, on newly constructed streets that will serve to connect the existing system of biking and walking facilities.

GOAL #8: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and future park facility development.

Objectives:

- Use the Park and Open Space Plan's capital improvements program as a guide and continue to establish yearly park budgets.
- Invest funds to develop facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs to increase park use.
- Commit to annual funding for both capital and operation funding for maintenance equipment and related facilities to ensure the system meets with expectations of residents and visitors.

GOAL #9: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the City's park system.

Objectives:

- Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- Explore opportunities to partner with neighboring communities or athletic organizations to fund and develop multi-purpose parks, athletic facilities, and multi-purpose centers.
- The City's parkland dedication and improvement fee ordinances should continue to reflect the current demand for parkland. Also, alternative means of reserving lands required for open space should be explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (ex. nonprofit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of development rights).
- Cultivate the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- Continue to update the City's Park and Open Space Plan every 5 years to maintain grant eligibility; ensure a significant public participation process.
- Pursue the development of revenue-generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.

- Regarding the theme of safety, users commented that they general feel safe while utilizing the trail system, but there are suggestions that could improve year-round feasibility. Commenters suggested continuing to clear/sweep the trails throughout the winter months (63% of trail users reported utilizing the trail system at least once per week beyond the summer months), repair areas with cracking and settling as needed, improve signage to clarify user right-of-way and at dangerous street crossings, and consider additional lighting or emergency call boxes for added safety during dark or quieter usage times.
- The theme of inclusion addressed users concerns with the closing of availability of amenities such as bathrooms and water fountains from November thru March and how restricting dogs year-round affects those who feel safer with them on the trail and who may benefit from their assistance. Users also requested the continued improvement of trail connectivity for users with mobility issues, as well as improving designated locations for skating or BMX and the addition of safe public bicycle racks city-wide.
- Finally, surveyed users addressed quality of life. They believe the trail system is an invaluable asset for health and wellness in Janesville. In order to continue to support healthy active lifestyles, they requested more bathroom and drinking water access, as well as more trash and dog waste containers.

These results help to shape and inform the goals, objectives, and strategies presented in this Chapter, as well as the more detailed recommendations provided later in this *Plan*.

B. Goals, Objectives, Strategies

In order to conduct a meaningful and directed planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and strategies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys 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.

Strategies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Strategies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and strategies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst City Staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members. These serve two basic purposes. First, they provide the foundation upon which a parks and open space system will be developed. Second, they establish the general criteria on which alternative plans and parks and open space systems will be evaluated.

Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a variety of quality parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors.
2. Preserve the City's and region's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

Objectives

1. Continue to provide an exemplary level of service related to parks and recreational facilities, maintaining current ratios of parkland and open space in current as well as future neighborhoods.
2. Provide adequate recreational facilities aligned with demand for those facilities.
3. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each future neighborhood area in the City.
4. Develop a highly interconnected system of City and Regional parks and open space that maintains and enhances the quality of life in the community – including providing for the health, well-being and safety of residents of the City.
5. Protect areas of special geological, geographical, biological, and historical significance – for instance the Rock River and its shorelines, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, prairies, Native American sites, and segments of the Ice Age NST.
6. Preserve sensitive environmental and natural resources by focusing low-impact recreational uses in these areas.
7. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.
8. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City that connect with other facilities in the area.
9. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

Strategies

Location/Service Area/Acreage Standards

1. For all new parks and recreational facilities, follow size and service area standards for new parks, provided in Chapter Four.
2. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Janesville residents; generally, within ½ mile.
3. Strive to equitably provide new recreational facilities throughout the City.

Considerations for Neighborhood Planning and Park Design

4. As a component of the City's detailed neighborhood level planning efforts, continue to identify the locations of future parks, open space corridors, and trails to ensure that these areas are included in development proposals.
5. Require new park and open space facilities to be sited in areas identified as *Planned Neighborhood* on the *City's Future Land Use Map* (adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan).
6. Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place, strongly integrating them into future neighborhood and development design through neighborhood plans, and preliminary plats.
7. Encourage parks to have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.

8. Preserve environmental corridors, natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, shoreland areas, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation and greenbelts, where appropriate.
9. Plan for and implement new bicycle and pedestrian paths in proposed and future development areas consistent with recommendations of this *Park and Open Space Plan* and the *2015-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan*.

Transportation, Trails, and Connections

10. Strive to link existing and future parks through a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.
11. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and/or vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities, corresponding with the orientation and service area of the park.
12. Connect missing links in the bicycle and pedestrian trail system through acquisition or trail easements. Priority segments are described in Chapter Five.
13. Work toward the development of an urban Riverwalk on both sides of the Rock River between Racine Street and Centerway.
14. Complete the Janesville Heritage Trail Loop to coincide with the existing and planned riverfront trail (Riverwalk) and off-river trail, spotlighting the unique historical and cultural assets of the City.
15. Promote the Rock River corridor as an environmental corridor of regional significance and work to continue to acquire riverfront park and open space to build an interlinked regional park and open space system.
16. Continue to coordinate with the National Park Service, Ice Age Trail Alliance, and other partners on planning for the Ice Age Trail through Rock County.

New Facilities

17. Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
18. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including youth, teenagers, young adults, families, and senior citizens.
19. Continue to actively pursue the acquisition of riverfront property for park and open space facilities.
20. Identify and work toward acquisition of a site for a future regional park, potentially in collaboration with Rock County, and/or other surrounding jurisdictions.
21. Provide for open space and recreational facilities in Downtown Janesville, consistent with ARISE.
22. Continue to designate, preserve and provide public access to greenbelts along key environmental corridors, and areas supporting recreational corridors and connections.
23. Prioritize the development of new parks, or portions of new or existing parks, to focus on natural resource preservation and passive, nature-based recreation.

24. Participate in, and encourage County participation, in State and regional efforts to connect natural areas of significance through open space preservation – for instance, the Yahara River corridor, to Lake Koshkonong, or to the terminal moraine.

Existing Facilities

25. Maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
26. Continue to prioritize maintenance of and investment in parks and open spaces in the City's historic and existing neighborhoods as key public gathering places to demonstrate the City's continuing commitment to maintaining the quality of life in these areas.



Peace Park

Access and Service

27. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bike connections between park and open space facilities in line with State and AASHTO standards.
28. Meet compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design guidelines, including park design that is barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Acquisition and Development Implementation Strategies

29. Identify and acquire land for park and open space in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
30. Acquire parklands through land developer dedications, when feasible.
31. Explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.
32. Consider preparation of a needs assessment for parks fees, and applying park impact fees.
33. Work in collaboration with local school districts to provide parkland and recreation facilities, including exploring the promotion of shared facilities to maximize the efficiency of land use.
34. Work in collaboration with Rock County to provide park and recreational facilities. In particular, regional park and open space facilities.
35. Enforce the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the City of Janesville zoning and subdivision ordinances.
36. Encourage and dedicate resources to collaborating with friend's groups for maintenance and improvements to parks and trails.

Promotion of Parks, Recreation and Open Space

37. Encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, social media, signage/wayfinding, and other methods.
38. Embrace the City's parks, recreation and open space system as a key component of the City's quality of life.
39. Consider organizing and promoting the City's parks, recreation, and open space facilities as part of an initiative for health and well-being – leveraging private and outside investment and regional cooperation.

- **Continuing to providing a high standard of services to the residents of the Town of Lake Mills in a fiscally responsible manner.**

All of the goals, objectives, and policies of this plan strive to further the four primary opportunities and address the six growth issues, providing vision and coherence.

2.2 Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations were developed for each of the nine required planning elements to pursue the opportunities mentioned above and to enhance the Town's distinctive features. Specific goals, objectives, and policies for each of the other eight elements are listed in those chapters.

Goals describe the future state of the Town in the twenty year planning context.

Objectives are measurable actions that the Town of Lake Mills will pursue to accomplish the community goals and vision.

Policies are the adopted ordinances, regulations, plans, and projects that enable the Town to reach the twenty year objectives and ultimately its goals.

The following goals, objectives, and policies are general guidelines for the use of land in the Town of Lake Mills and respond to the issues and guiding opportunities that were developed through the planning process.



An old silo and a new home in the Town of Lake Mills.

Issues and Opportunities Goal I

Enhance and protect the assets of the Town of Lake Mills that give us the high quality of life that we enjoy. Those assets are rural atmosphere and agricultural resources, scenic beauty, historic heritage, natural resources, groundwater resources, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and effective transportation networks.

Objectives

- Follow the Jefferson County Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinances and the Town of Lake Mills Land Use Plan and Land Division Ordinance when making development and re-zoning decisions.
- Direct growth to the Town Growth Area, the Sanitary Sewer Service Area, and the City of Lake Mills North and South Growth Areas where services may be provided efficiently and to prevent fragmentation of our natural areas and farmlands.
- Encourage the preservation of agricultural land, natural resources, historic landmarks, and scenic beauty.
- Plan for wellhead protection and the future effect of growth on groundwater quality and quantity.

Issues and Opportunities Goal II

Balance the rights of all citizens as a community and those of the individual by encouraging active participation in Town government.

Objectives

- Encourage citizen participation in Town government.
- Educate residents and property owners on Town government processes and about the Town itself.
- Provide citizen input opportunities in the decision-making process for new developments and Town facilities.
- Encourage citizen participation in plan development and ordinance development and revision.
- Work to involve commuters and summer-home owners in Town government and activities.

Issues and Opportunities Goal III

Maintain and enhance the working relationship between the Town of Lake Mills and the City of Lake Mills, Jefferson County, and surrounding jurisdictions to provide services and emergency protection efficiently.

Objectives

- Continue to participate in the Lake Mills Extraterritorial Zoning Committee
- Continue to participate in land use planning and zoning with Jefferson County.
- Maintain emergency and fire agreements to serve the residents and property owners in the Town of Lake Mills.

The Issues and Opportunities Element Chapter continues with demographic information and trends for the Town of Lake Mills.

2.3 Demographic Information and Trends

This section of the Comprehensive Plan provides demographic background and trend data on population and households. In many cases, the most recent data on the township level is from the 2000 U.S. Census. More recent population data and projections are from the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration.

Population

Since 1970 the population of the Town of Lake Mills has grown from 1,472 persons to 2,021 persons in 2006 or by 37.3 percent in 36 years. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) estimates that by the year 2025 the population will grow to 2,532 persons, an increase of 25.3 percent over the next

Section 2: Mission, Goals, Objectives, & Policies

2.1 Mission

The mission of the CORP as developed by the Parks & Recreation Commission is as follows:

The mission of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is to guide the decisions on park improvement, development, and acquisition, and the collaboration with other entities on and creation of recreation opportunities for the City of Milton's community members. The plan also serves as the City of Milton's CORP for grant purposes.

2.2 Goals, Objectives, & Policies

The Goals, Objectives, and Policies listed below were taken from Chapter 5: Utilities and Community Facilities of the City of Milton Comprehensive Plan adopted on October 6, 2015.

Goals

Maintain the City's high quality of life through access to a wide range of sustainable public services and facilities, coordinating with future land development plans.

Objectives

1. Implement and update the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
2. Preserve attractive areas for eventual park or recreational purposes.
3. Provide parks within walking distance of all new residential areas.
4. Emphasize family-oriented and passive recreation facilities within City parks.
5. Coordinate with other area partners on the joint provision of recreational facilities and services to Milton residents, where feasible and appropriate.
6. Encourage expansion of Rock County parks and recreational facilities in the Milton area.

Policies

1. Follow the recommendations of the City of Milton Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan when making park acquisition and development decisions. Update that plan as appropriate to reflect ideas put forth in the City of Milton's Comprehensive Plan.
2. Support the design and development of a regional bicycle and pedestrian trail system within Milton and connecting Milton to Janesville, Jefferson County, and the Ice Age Trail.
3. Use a combination of public park lands; private recreational space; site, neighborhood, and transportation corridor planning; and regulations to achieve permanent community separation between Milton and Janesville.

4. Encourage development of additional County park lands and facilities within the Milton area, particularly southwest of the City to support community separation objectives.
5. Design all parks with multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
6. Coordinate acquisition of park and open space lands with urban growth and development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
7. Acquire neighborhood parks in developing areas through park land dedication requirements, or through use of fees-in-lieu of dedication.
8. Design park facilities to meet the needs of all residents of the City including special groups such as the elderly, the disabled, and pre-school age children.
9. Work with the School District of Milton, neighboring jurisdictions, YMCA, and Rock County to provide joint park and recreational services and facilities, where feasible and appropriate.
10. Emphasize the development of more family and passive recreational facilities within Milton parks, such as trails, gardens, natural areas, picnicking areas, shelters, wading pools, and sledding hills.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys 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. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this Plan including public input and discussions amongst City staff and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members.

Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors. Such facilities should be diverse in accommodating to many different groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, adults, and young families.
2. Preserve the City's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.
3. Prioritize improvements and expanded facilities in existing parks and undeveloped City-owned properties, in addition to the development of new parks in key locations.

Objectives

1. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Elkhorn residents, generally within $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
2. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities available (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.
3. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each planned residential neighborhood.
4. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
5. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City which connect with other facilities in the area.
6. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.
7. Leverage public-private partnerships, local associations and foundations, and other creative funding sources to help improve and meet the long-term park and recreational needs of the community.



Policies

1. All residents should be provided with an opportunity for engaging in recreational experiences, and recreational facilities should be equitably located in the City.
2. The City should continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them. In addition, focusing on developing several City-owned parcels that could be used for additional parks.
3. 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. All new residential development should be within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a park.
4. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood and development designs and linked by a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.

5. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
6. The City should continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, the surrounding land uses, and natural resource features.
7. The City should explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.
8. The preservation of primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, lakes, ponds, streams, lakeshores, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation, and as stormwater management areas, where appropriate.
9. All new residential development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the City of Elkhorn's zoning and subdivision ordinances.
10. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts, and should follow State and AASHTO standards.
11. The City should encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, wayfinding signage, and other materials.
12. The City should explore opportunities to work in collaboration with the School District and Walworth County to provide parkland and recreation facilities, better integrate programming, and improve services City-wide.
13. The City should partner with stakeholders to consider formation of a Friends of Elkhorn Parks group to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the City's park facilities.
14. The City should examine policies regarding waiving park usage fees for nonprofit groups and consider requiring these groups to provide non-monetary assistance. Groups could donate time for park maintenance, invasive species removal, or equipment construction or upkeep.
15. The City should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
16. The City should continue to follow the Comprehensive Plan to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and the locations of parks, open space corridors, and trails.
17. The City should provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including children, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens.
18. Continue to work with the DNR and Walworth County on future planning of bicycle routes, trails, and infrastructure to promote connectivity throughout the area.
19. Participate in Walworth County's update of their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
20. Develop a City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to further prioritize active transportation facilities, connections, and utilization. Prioritize the connection of the White River Trail to the park system, downtown, and other regional multi-use trails.
21. Work with the Police Department, the School District, and other local groups to develop bicycle and pedestrian educational programs like bicycle rodeos and other trainings to increase safety and utilization of trails, paths, sidewalks, and streets.
22. Implement the City's Sidewalk Improvement and Maintenance Program to prioritize upgrading existing sidewalks and infilling gaps in the sidewalk network.
23. Prioritize new facilities and upgrades to existing facilities through the City's 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan.
24. Develop a partnership with the local non-profits and private businesses to help in the long-term maintenance and upgrading of facilities.
25. Seek becoming a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community and work with Walworth County to maintain its Silver-level Wisconsin Healthy Community status.
26. The City should explore developing new facilities, infrastructure, and programming for outdoor winter recreational opportunities.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

An early step in the park and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The terms goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. For the City of Whitewater Park and Open Space Plan, 2008- 2013, considerable attention was given to identifying the community's priorities with respect to planning for future Park and Open Space needs. These priorities point out the critical themes that the goals, objectives, policies, programs, and recommendations of this plan should be based upon. The "highest" priorities identified in the public participation process are summarized in the following section.

Improved interconnectivity and visibility of City parks and open spaces throughout the community

- Parks connected by trail system
- Multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city
- "Safe Routes" to school as a grant program to enhance trail development
- Maintain/improve access and use for disabled
- Maintain/ enhance access and use for Senior population
- Improved signage
- Improved and/ or updated park maintenance
- Continue to build on publicity (mapping, brochures, outreach, etc.)
- Focus on new "Comfort Spots" - beautification with natural enhancements as well as limited physical improvements to encourage passive use
- Incorporate into new residential and commercial developments
- Establish as more well-defined components of larger neighborhood and community parks

Greater diversity of sports facilities

- Youth soccer fields
- Adult outdoor sports (e.g., softball)
- Winter sports

Lakes and water-centered activities and uses

- Improved water-quality
- Potential for outdoor swimming opportunities - address potential health risks

Park and Open Space Goal: Ensure provision and stewardship of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors - including special groups such as the elderly, the disabled, and pre- school age children - and to enrich the aesthetic and scenic quality of the City's neighborhoods, gathering spots, and entry points.

Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:

Objective 1. Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural

resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole, realizing that these resources are finite and, for the most part, irreplaceable.

- 1.1 Encourage public awareness of the City's environmental and cultural resources by promoting appropriate educational programs.
- 1.2 work to preserve conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure. Direct public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a priority.
- 1.3 Pay special attention to preserving pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation, and reservoirs for stormwater.

Objective 2. Provide quality recreation and open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood.

- 2.1 Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All residents should be within a 10-minute walk (1/2 mile) of a neighborhood park or community park with active recreational facilities.
- 2.2 Working with the School District, provide community parks for more intensive and specialized recreational needs. All new residents should be within 1 ½ miles of a community park.
- 2.3 Provide or require smaller parks and recreational facilities within intensive development areas, such as in or near multi-family residential developments.

Objective 3. Coordinate public park and open space lands with private developments and other uses of land.

- 3.1 Work with the development community, property owners, and environmental interests to site and design parks and other open spaces to meet multiple objectives.
- 3.2 Site and design parks and associated facilities to avoid nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
- 3.3 Combine parks and recreational facilities with school facilities where appropriate and feasible. Continue to coordinate recreation service provision with the Whitewater Unified School District and the University.
- 3.4 Whenever possible, require that residential developments dedicate parkland, provide recreational facilities, and dedicate or otherwise preserve conservancy areas like wetlands and floodplains. In such special cases that this is not possible, the City will require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland

dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development.

- Objective 4.** Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages and abilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy parks and open spaces.
- 4.1 Provide supervised and coordinated recreational activities for all City residents on a year-round basis. This may include offering recreational programming for youth after school and in the hours and days that school is not in session.
 - 4.2 Encourage active citizen participation in developing recreational programs and parks. This may include setting up a youth services committee of students from 6 to 12th grades to explore recreational programming opportunities for that age group, and implementing appropriate recommendations.
 - 4.3 Encourage educational opportunities in park and recreation activities and work with county extension, 4-H, and the School District to assist with developing and operating programs such as community gardens, nature center(s), arboreta, botanical gardens, and lake and stream testing.
 - 4.4 Maintain all parks to ensure the safety of users and replace worn or damaged equipment.
 - 4.5 Provide special use areas and unique recreational facilities where necessary to protect an exceptional resource or supply a community demand.
 - 4.6 Maintain all facilities in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Operate all services, programs, and activities so they are accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with ADA guidelines.
- Objective 5.** Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to parks and recreation facilities.
- S.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
 - S.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
 - 5.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.
- Objective 6.** Acquire and develop new recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by City parks.

- 6.1 Direct new park and open space facilities to current and future population needs.
- 6.2 Acquire park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate coordinated neighborhood and park development.
- 6.3 Coordinate land acquisition, planning, and transportation programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
- 6.4 Cooperate with other governmental bodies, including the Whitewater Unified School District and the University to provide joint recreation service wherever possible.
- 6.5 Review and update the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* every five years.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

3.1 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

The mission of the Fort Atkinson Parks & Recreation Department is "to enrich the quality of life for all participants by providing enjoyable, wholesome, recreational experiences."

The following goals, objectives, and policies for the department come from the City's 2022 Amended Comprehensive Plan.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal: Maintain and preserve existing facilities, effectively plan for future facilities that serve all residents, enhance opportunities for recreational tourism, and preserve the environmental integrity of the community.

Objectives:

1. Ensure the equitable distribution and maintenance of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities throughout the City to provide all residents access to such facilities.
2. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle access between residential neighborhoods and schools, parks, and other recreational facilities.
3. Work to permanently preserve environmental corridors and other environmentally sensitive areas for passive recreation and to protect natural resources.

Policies:

1. Provide neighborhood park facilities that are safely accessible by children within all residential neighborhoods.
2. Site new parks in areas that promote neighborhood accessibility and interaction. All new neighborhoods should be within walking distance of public park space.
3. Provide sufficient community park facilities to serve community-wide park and outdoor recreation interests.
4. In areas of the City that are not currently served by neighborhood parks, work to identify land appropriate for parkland acquisition.

5. Integrate drainage-ways, greenways, and environmental corridors into the City's permanent open space system. Such environmentally sensitive areas should not be used as substitutes for Neighborhood or Community Parks due to the fact that such areas cannot typically be used for active recreation.
6. Provide "special purpose" parks, plazas, and open spaces within commercial and industrial areas that provide aesthetic enhancements in otherwise developed environments.
7. Continue to enhance the City's trail system by linking Neighborhood and Community Parks, schools, and residential neighborhoods. Where feasible, the trail system should follow or utilize environmental corridors.
8. Continue to improve and expand access to the Rock and Bark Rivers, without impairing water quality or ecosystems.
9. Coordinate City park, trail, and open space planning and improvements with the Towns of Koshkonong and Jefferson and Jefferson County. Where feasible, provide continuous trail and pedestrian access between City and regional recreational facilities.
10. Require that all proposed residential developments dedicate land for public parks or pay a fee-in-lieu of park land dedication and/or park impact fee.
11. Design park facilities to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

National Park, Recreation, and Open Space Standards

The following policies have been adapted from the *National Park, Recreation, and Open Space Standards*, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association, for application by the City.

1. The park and recreation system should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.
2. Advance land acquisition based upon a park and open space system should begin immediately in order to prevent the loss of high quality sites to other development interests.

3. Facilities should be centrally located within the area that they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access, and be distributed so that all persons in the community can be served.
4. Land acquired for use as parks or recreation areas should be suitable for the specific intended use, and when possible, for multiple uses.
5. Land adjacent to recreation and open space areas should be used in ways that will not interfere with the purposes for which the recreation or open space land was intended, and in addition, recreation and open space areas should be compatible with surrounding land uses.
6. The design of individual park and recreation sites should be as flexible as possible to reflect the changing patterns of recreation needs in a given service area.
7. Special efforts should be made to provide for easy access to and the use of all facilities by the elderly, ill and handicapped, very young, and the other less-mobile groups in the community.
8. Recreation and open space land should be protected in perpetuity against encroachment by other uses that will inhibit the recreation or open space nature of the land.
9. Park and recreation areas should be used to separate incompatible land uses and guide future urban development.
10. Neighborhood and community level recreation areas should adjoin schools whenever possible. This can enhance the school environment and prevent duplication of facilities.
11. Citizen involvement in the recreation and open space decision-making process should be encouraged and expanded.
12. Facility development must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation.

COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

The New England ADA Center is a good resource to use and offers checklists to evaluate accessibility at existing park facilities. The fillable checklist forms can be found here: <http://www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html#rec>