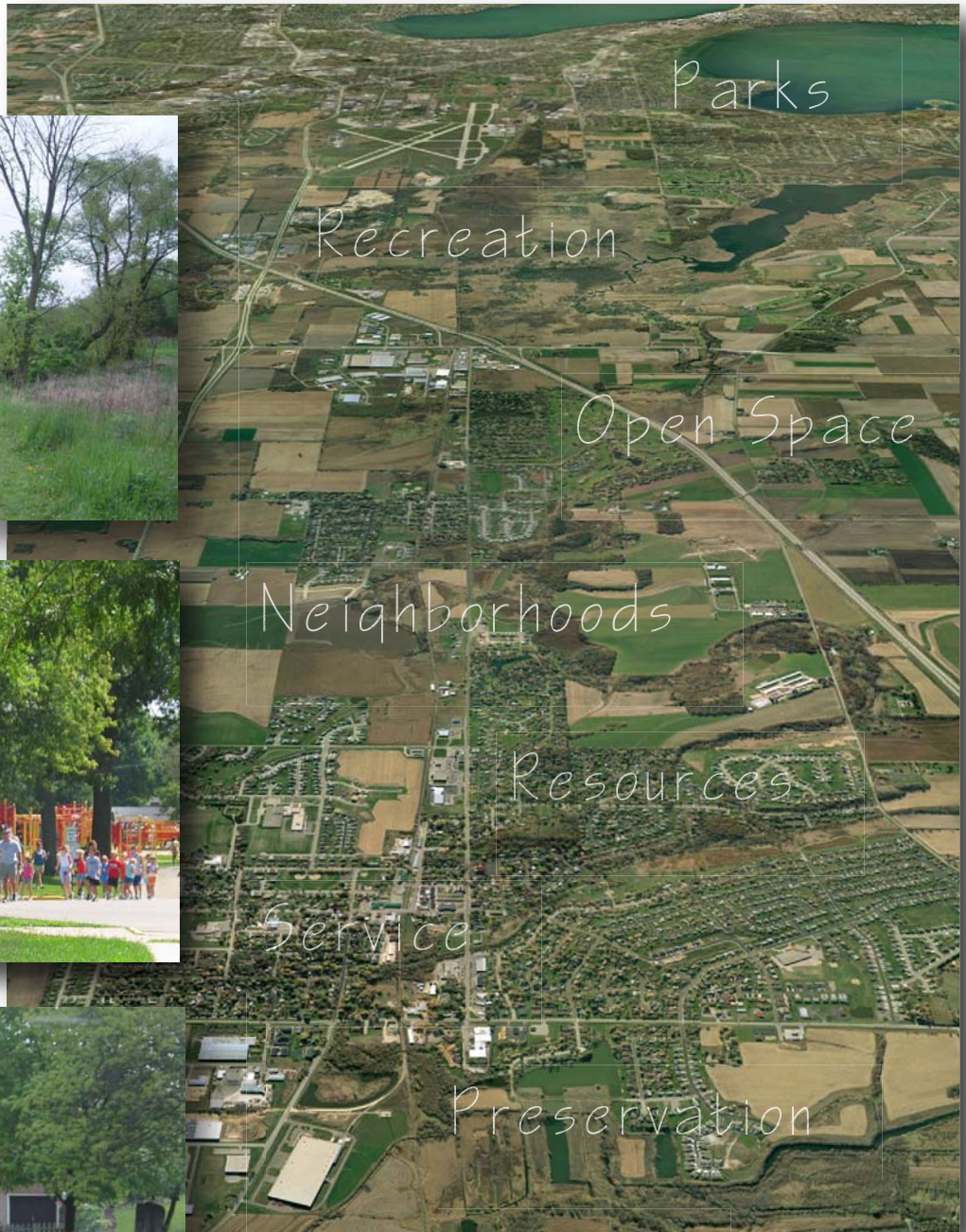


Village of Deforest Park and Open Space Plan



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Recommended by Planning & Zoning Committee: July 25, 2006

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Acknowledgements

Village Board

Jeff Miller, President
Eric Beasley
Megan Blount
Abe J. Degnan
Steven Jensen
Erich Ruth
Jack Sullivan

Village Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee

Jack Sullivan, Chair
Eric Beasley, Co-Chair
Dale Jenkins
Ed Neve
Jim Sicher
Bonnie Traugott
David VonBehren

Village Planning and Zoning Commission

Jeff Miller, Chair
Megan Blount, Co-Chair
Paul Blount
Lee Fritz
Ted Kozlowski
Bob Noonan
Jim Simpson

Planning Assistance

Vandewalle & Associates
Dana Jensen, AICP, Project Manager
Mark Roffers, AICP, Principal-in-Charge
Megan MacGlashan, Assistant Planner
Jessica Schmiedicke, Assistant Planner
Jim Schaefer, Landscape Architect
Nicole Anderson, Planning Assistant

Village Staff

Jo Ann Miller, Village Administrator
Julie Wills, Planning and Zoning Specialist
Patrick Vander Sanden, Public Works and
Parks Coordinator
Kelli Bialkowski, Recreation Coordinator &
Parks Assistant



120 East Lakeside Street
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 255-3988
www.vandewalle.com

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements i

Introduction..... i

Background Information..... **3**

A. General Regional Context..... 3

B. Natural Resources 4

C. Population Trends and Forecasts 6

Figure 1: Population Trends in Dane County..... 6

Figure 2: DeForest Population Growth Scenarios..... 6

D. Demographic Trends..... 6

Figure 3: Age and Gender Distribution, 1990- 2000..... 7

Figure 4: Housing Characteristics, 2000..... 7

E. Labor Force and Employment 7

Figure 5: Occupation and Labor Force (Population 16 and over) 7

F. Review of Existing Plans 8

Existing Park and Recreational Facilities **11**

A. Community Parks 11

B. Neighborhood Parks 11

C. Tot-Lots..... 12

D. Special Open Space Areas 12

E. Public School Facilities..... 12

F. Trails..... 12

G. Other Facilities Serving the Village..... 12

H. Accessibility-Universal Design and ADA Compliance..... 13

Map 1: Existing Facilities..... 15

Public Participation **17**

Figure 6: Facilities and Equipment Exercise Results..... 17

Park and Recreation Standards..... **19**

A. Tot-Lots..... 19

B. Neighborhood Parks 19

C. Community Parks 20

D. School Parks 20

E. Special Open Space Areas 21

F. Recreation Trails 22

G. Quantitative Analysis of DeForest Park and Recreation System 24

Figure 7: NRPA Park and Recreation Standards..... 24

Figure 8: Village Park and Recreation Standards..... 25

Figure 9: Projected Park Acreage Needs in 2030..... 26

H. Distribution of Park and Open Space Facilities26
 Map 2a: Community and Neighborhood Park Service Areas..... 27
 Map 2b: Service Area Analysis Map 29

Goals, Policies, and Recommendations 31

A. Park and Open Space Planning Vision..... 31
 B. Goals 31
 C. Policies..... 32
 D. Recommendations..... 33
 E. Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements 34
 Fireman's Park Concept Plan 41
 Figure 10: Improvements and Additions to Existing Park Facilities..... 44
 Map 3: Future Park and Recreational Facilities 47

Implementation 55

A. Pursue External Funding Sources 55
 B. Intergovernmental Coordination..... 55
 C. Activate the Community 55
 D. Village Directives 55

Appendix A: Existing Park and Recreation Facilities 57

Appendix B: Workshop Results 59

A. Park Features Brainstorming Summary 59
 B. Special Facilities Voting Summary..... 62

Appendix C: Park and Open Space Needs 63

Appendix D: Funding Sources 65

Introduction

Communities throughout the country are recognizing that park land, recreation trails and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include helping to meet human needs for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment.

The primary purpose of this *Plan* is to proactively account for the Village's future park and recreation needs. Furthermore, the recommendations presented in the *Plan* will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces in the Village to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community's natural resource base into the future. Although, this *Plan* addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2030), it focuses on recommendations for development over the next five-year period.

This *Plan* was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The *Plan* must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. This *Plan* was also prepared as a detailed component of the Village's Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

Background Information

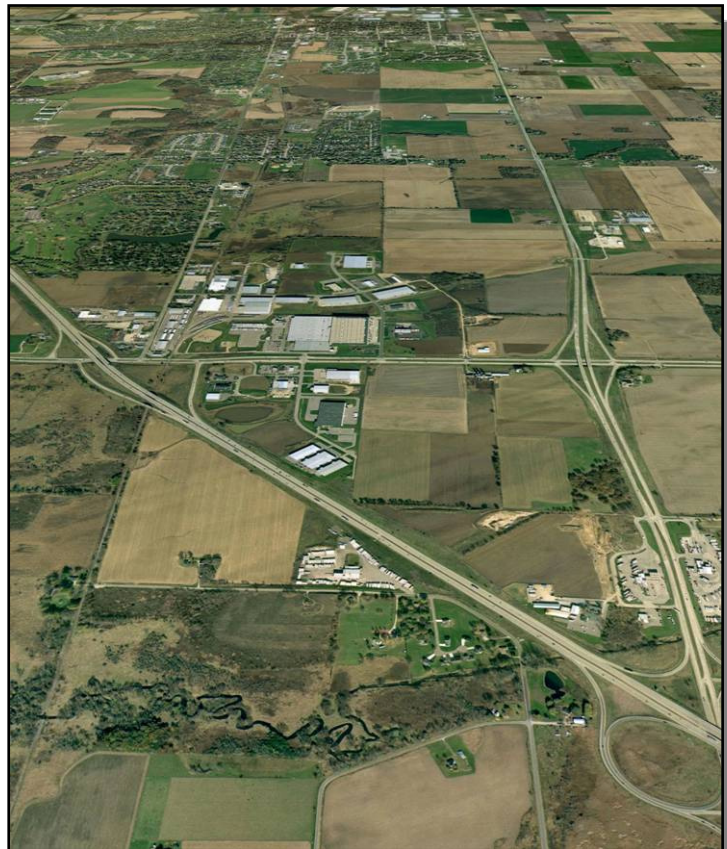
A. General Regional Context

Incorporated in 1903, the Village of DeForest is located in northern Dane County, between U.S. Highway 51 and Interstate 90/94. The southern extent of the Village is approximately two miles north of Madison, 80 miles west of Milwaukee, and 150 miles north of Chicago.

DeForest is expansive in area – unique in having two portions of the Village that are geographically isolated. The north is characterized by both historic and recent Village development. The southern portion of the Village, a recent addition, includes the North Towne Corporate Park and vacant areas planned for mainly commercial and office/research development.

The Village is characterized by:

1. Rapid growth in the 1990s and beyond. The estimated 2005 population was 8,288.
2. Excellent access to the Village via Interstate 90/94/39, Highways 51, multiple major interchanges, and several state and county highways.
3. An interconnected system of natural resources that includes the Yahara River crossing the northern and southern portions of the Village.
4. Exceptional schools, a well-educated workforce, and quality job opportunities in a variety of industries.
5. Productive agricultural land defining the Village's edges.
6. A mixture of high-quality housing types in a variety of neighborhood settings.



With respect to its natural features, DeForest is located with the Yahara River valley on ground moraine created during the last ice age. Glacial deposits dammed large pre-glacial valleys, forming a chain of large lakes and wetlands, including Cherokee Marsh. The retreat of the glacier helped form the natural resources the Village enjoys today, including the Yahara River and its tributaries. The fertile soils deposited in the river valley contributed to the establishment of agricultural activities in the DeForest area during the mid-1800s. James Stevenson and Isaac DeForest helped to plat the woodlands that became DeForest in the 1850s.

B. Natural Resources

A survey of DeForest's natural environment provides an important framework for guiding the park and open space planning process. There are several characteristics of the Village's natural landscape that will help direct the development of future park and recreational facilities.

1. Topography

DeForest is located with the Yahara River valley on ground moraine created during the last ice age over 10,000 years ago. The topography in the Village of DeForest is characteristic of the rolling moraine terrain in the central portion of Dane County east of the "driftless" (unglaciated) area, consisting of relatively flat or undulating glacial deposits, wetlands, and lakes. Topographic relief ranges from about 1,030 feet above sea level near Campbell Hill Park to 860 feet above sea level adjacent to Token Creek.

2. Soils

The soils underlying the Village consist primarily of silt loams, including Plano, Ringwood, Otter, Virgil, St. Charles, Batavia, Dodge, McHenry, Hixton, Elburn and Pecatonica. These soils are generally suited for development and have 2% to 12% slopes. Kidder loam soils are found in very limited steep slope areas. These slopes range between 10% and 35% and pose severe limitations to development.

Soils within the floodplain of the Yahara River and Token Creek include Otter silt loam, Houghton muck and Wacousta silty clay loam. These soil types have very severe limitations to development due to high compressibility, very low bearing capacity, seasonal high water table and occasional flooding. These floodplain soils are generally unsuitable for development due to high water tables and hydric conditions. Development is generally prohibited in these areas.

3. Groundwater

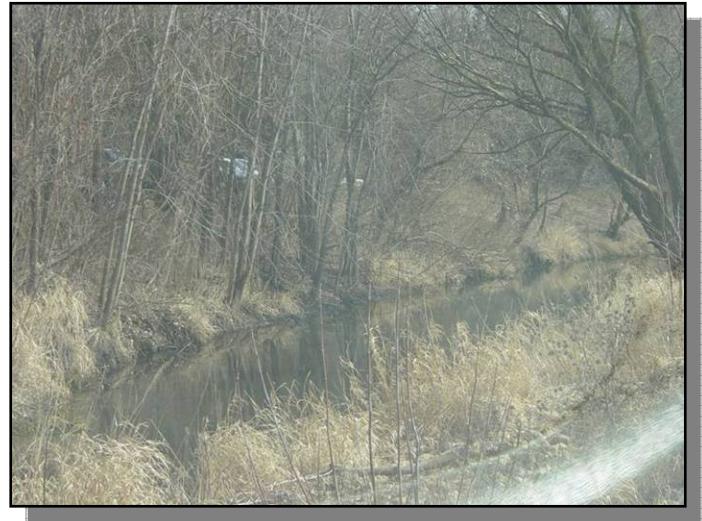
Groundwater resources are plentiful in the planning area at both shallow and deep levels. Water supplies are drawn from both the upper sandstone and unconsolidated aquifers, which provide water for shallow domestic wells in rural areas, and the deep sandstone (Mt. Simon) aquifer, which is a higher-quality source of water for nearly all of DeForest's municipal wells.

Groundwater in Dane County is generally of good quality. However, there are known water quality problems in some areas due to the impacts of certain land use activities. In rural areas, nitrate-nitrogen is the most common and widespread groundwater contaminant. Nitrate-nitrogen is highly soluble in water and is not appreciably absorbed in the soil; thus it can seep readily through the soil and into the groundwater. Potential sources of nitrate pollution include on-site wastewater systems, animal feedlots, livestock waste applications and facilities, sludge and septic application, lawn and agricultural fertilizers, silage juice and decaying plant debris.

There are several areas within the Village that function as important locations for groundwater recharge. One important example is the eastern portion of the DeForest South Area, which provides the important function of infiltration to the Token Creek.

4. *Surface Water*

The Yahara River, the Village's predominant surface water feature, links the southern and northern portions of the Village. The river flows through the Village from the north to the southwest, and has a relatively low gradient of 4.4 feet/mile. The Upper Yahara River and its upper watershed areas (including the headwaters in Columbia County and its tributaries) is one of the Wisconsin DNR's Land Legacy Study priority areas. The water quality of the Upper Yahara River is good relative to other monitored streams in Dane County. The portion of the Yahara within the planning area is classified as a warm water sportfish area, however it does support a small trout population. Portions of the Upper Yahara include cool to cold water trout fisheries. The river corridor through the Village south to Windsor Road includes floodplains and wetlands, some of which are high-quality sedge meadows with rare plant species.



With the southern expansion of the Village, the planning area now includes Token Creek. Token Creek has been the focus of a concerted restoration effort in recent years, spearheaded by the non-profit Token Creek Watershed Association.

5. *Vegetation*

Native vegetation includes prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadows. Many fragments of these species remain within developed portions of the Village. More significant concentrations remain in publicly owned lands near Cherokee Marsh and Token Creek. Small wooded areas are scattered throughout the Village and the surrounding area, particularly within the Yahara River Corridor, especially Conservancy Place development area, in the Village and Town of Windsor east of 51, around Cherokee Marsh, and in the Town of Vienna west of CTH I.

6. *Rare Species Occurrence and Wildlife Habitat*

Species of wildlife that are common to the southern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, deer, rabbits, raccoons, and muskrats. Common bird species include: turkeys, cardinals, robins, wood thrushes, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, red-wing blackbirds, and killdeer. Pheasants are also present in the area, however are not common.

There are several species or ecological communities that are sensitive or of special concern that are found in and around DeForest. These include one bird, four species of invertebrate, five types of plants, five types of ecological communities. The Blanding Turtle which is also considered threatened is present along the Yahara River. For most of these, locations are considered to be sensitive, and, therefore, cannot be disclosed at a detailed level. The Endangered Resources Planning and Protection Specialist at the WisDNR can provide further information.

C. Population Trends and Forecasts

The Village of DeForest experienced significant growth during the 1990s (see Figure 1). Between the years 1990 and 2000, the Village's population increased 50.9% (5.1% annual increase). This rate exceeds the average growth rates of Dane County and the State of Wisconsin.

Figure 1: Population Trends in Dane County

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Population Change*	Percent Change*
Village of DeForest	1,911	3,367	4,882	7,368	2,486	50.9%
Village of McFarland	2,386	3,783	5,232	6,416	1,184	22.6%
Village of Oregon	2,553	3,876	4,519	7,514	2,995	66.3%
Village of Waunakee	2,181	3,866	5,897	8,995	3,098	52.5%
City of Verona	2,334	3,336	5,374	7,052	1,678	31.2%
Dane County	290,272	323,545	367,085	426,526	+59,441	16.2%
Wisconsin	4,417,821	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	+471,906	9.6%

Sources: U.S Census of Pop. and Housing, 1970- 2000;

* 1990 to 2000 population

The Wisconsin Department of Administration's 2005 population estimate for the Village is 8,288, which represents a 12.5% increase in population from 2000. Since future population growth is so dependant upon variables such as market conditions, attitudes towards growth, and presence of absence of development regulations, it is very difficult to predict the future population of the Village. Figure 2 presents three possible growth scenarios: low, medium, and high. The medium growth scenario was used in this Park and Open Space Plan.

Figure 2: DeForest Population Growth Scenarios

Rate of Growth	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Low	8,288	9,066	9,916	10,847	11,865	12,978
Medium	8,288	9,377	10,609	12,003	13,351	15,365
High	8,288	9,844	11,691	13,885	16,491	19,587

Source: WisDOA and Vandewalle & Associates

D. Demographic Trends

1. Age and Gender Distribution

General trends in age distribution are an important factor when considering the future demand for park and recreational facilities. The median age of DeForest residents is 32.6 years, an increase of over two years from the 1990 Census (30.2 years), but still younger than the state or Dane County median ages (36 and 33.2, respectively). Following nationwide trends, the average age of DeForest's population has increased in the past twenty years. With a prolonged life expectancy and a trend toward declining birth rates, the median age will likely continue to rise over the planning period.

Figure 3: Age and Gender Distribution, 1990- 2000

	Median Age	% under 18	% over 65	% Female
2000	32.6	31.1%	8.1%	51.9%
1990	30.2	31.3%	6.2%	51.4%

Source: U.S. Census, 1990 - 2000

The Village has seen an increase in the 35+ year old population over the past decade, however the 34 and under population has generally remained constant or declined. The percent of the Village population under 18 was 31%, higher than the average in Dane County (22.6%).

2. Household Characteristics

Figure 4 presents household characteristics for the Village of DeForest. Consistent with regional and national trends, the average household size in the Village is declining, median home values and rents are increasing, and the total number of housing units and households in the Village has increased over the past several decades – at a rate higher than many other communities in the region.

Figure 4: Housing Characteristics, 2000

	Total Housing Units	Total Households	Average Household Size	Median Value	Median Rent
Village of DeForest	2,725	2,675	2.74	\$136,700	\$664

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

E. Labor Force and Employment

A community’s labor force is the portion of the population that is employed or available for work. The labor force includes people who are in the armed forces, employed, unemployed, or actively seeking employment. According to the 2000 Census, the Village population of persons age 16 and over was 5,284, with approximately 81 percent engaged in the labor force. As of 2000, the Village of DeForest had 4,266 persons in its labor force. Of those persons 16 years and over, 48.6% were female, 51.3% were male. The Village labor force is predominately employed in management, professional, sales and office occupations (see Figure 5). Understanding the Village’s labor force is important to park planning in such that it provides some insight into the schedules and availability for recreational facility use. For instance, the majority of the Village’s workforce commutes out of the Village for their jobs impacts recreational program scheduling.

Figure 5: Occupation and Labor Force (Population 16 and over)

Occupation	Number	Percent (%)
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	1,250	30.0
Service	596	14.3
Sales and Office	1,190	28.5
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	25	0.6
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	470	11.3
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	639	15.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

F. Review of Existing Plans

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

1. Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan (2006)

The Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2006. The Comprehensive Plan allows the Village to guide short-range and long-range growth, development, and preservation, by:

- Identifying areas appropriate for development and preservation over the next 20 years;
- Recommending types of land use for specific areas in the Village;
- Identifying needed transportation and community facilities to serve future land uses;
- Directing private housing and commercial investment in the Village; and
- Providing detailed strategies to implement plan recommendations.



The Comprehensive Plan includes several recommendations that are pertinent to this Park and Open Space Plan, including those related to the Village's growth patterns in general:

- Plan for new residential and non-residential uses for the 25 year planning period consistent with the Future Land Use Map, identifying appropriate locations for development of various types.
- Develop a residential growth phasing plan to ensure that housing does not outpace the ability to provide utilities and services, particularly school district and transportation system capacity.
- Encourage "planned neighborhoods" that incorporate logical connections, natural area and recreational space, commercial and services opportunities, schools, and pedestrian facilities.
- Identify and protect Environmental Corridors.
- Enforce high-quality landscaping standards and protect Heritage Trees.

The Comprehensive Plan also makes recommendations that are specifically related to parks and recreational systems:

- Maintain greenspace systems as a link between different parts of the DeForest community, and as separation areas between DeForest and Madison.
- Create a trail system that corresponds with the Village's greenways, such as paralleling the Yahara River.

- Plan for new parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities in all new development areas, in collaboration with neighboring communities and the DeForest Area School District.

The Comprehensive Plan and this *Park and Open Space Plan* were prepared simultaneously, and the recommendations within the two plans are complementary. This *Plan* provides detail on parks and recreational systems beyond that provided in the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan (2001-2005)

Dane County adopted a parks and open space plan that is scheduled to be updated in 2006. Dane County's plan includes several general policies related to natural resource protection, parks and recreation, cultural and historic resources, urban green space, implementation, and intergovernmental cooperation that generally work in concert with the policies of the Village of DeForest with respect to parks and recreational facilities. In particular, the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program may provide funding assistance for the acquisition of land that meets the goals and objectives of the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, and on cost-sharing where appropriate.

The County plan recommends that lands to the northeast of Token Creek Park be acquired or protected through a cooperative effort with the County and neighboring municipalities. A portion of this area is within the Village of DeForest's planning jurisdiction.

The County plan also designates 450 acres of undeveloped shoreland on either side of the Yahara River and associated wetlands land in the Village of DeForest and neighboring communities as a resource study area. The plan acknowledges that the Village, towns, and Dane County Natural Heritage Land Trust have indicated intent for preservation of this area.

The County plan also recommends that additional lands adjacent to the Cherokee March/Yahara Heights in the City of Madison, Towns of Burke, Windsor and Westport to added to the protected area.

The County plan also includes recommendations for several trail segments within the DeForest planning area. These include the Token Creek Trail, DeForest to Windsor connections.

Dane County's plan also designates some water-based trails. These include the Yahara River Trail, however only the portion from the City of Stoughton to CTH N near Brickson Road, and not the portion of the River that is located within the Village of DeForest's planning area.

3. Yahara River Planning Committee Strategic Plan (2004)

The Village received a River Protection/Planning Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to create a Strategic Plan for the Yahara River Corridor. This report was completed in October 2004 and will continue to be referenced to develop strategies to improve water quality, restore habitat, and initiate streambank restoration and protection projects. Key recommendations from the report include the following:

- Focus on efforts to reduce non-point pollution through continued dialogue and cooperative efforts with contributing Drainage Districts, agricultural landowners, the towns and Dane County Land Conservation Department, other watershed groups (such as Token Creek Watershed Association, Friends of Yahara River Parkway, Friends of Lake Wingra) in primarily agricultural areas.

- Implement no-mow buffer zones to reduce sedimentation and the flow of nutrients into the river. The Village will lead by establishing buffer ones along Village-owned parkland and property. Education and cooperation of adjacent riparian property owners in residential and urban areas will also be necessary.
- Establish and operate a Village stormwater utility. The stormwater ordinance will be reviewed and modified as necessary to incorporate new technologies and water quality improvement technologies.
- Promote voluntary efforts such as creation of properly designed and maintained rain gardens, reduced use of lawn chemicals, and proper disposal of yard waste.
- Implement an environmentally sensitive development at Conservancy Place that protects and rehabilitates the river corridor; emphasizes natural streambanks and wetland areas; and provides a benchmark for protection and restoration for the Village.

Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities within the Village of DeForest. These facilities are depicted on Map 1. A complete list of the facilities within each park is provided in Appendix A.

A. Community Parks

Western Green Park: This 34-acre park stretches from Main Street to River Road with additional access located at Seminole Way and Trailside Drive. Park facilities include playground equipment, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a sand volleyball court, a soccer field, and a natural prairie area. A 2-mile multi-use trail winds through the park.

Firemen's Park: This 11-acre park is located between Jefferson Street and DeForest Street in downtown DeForest. The park offers 2 lighted softball fields, 1 lighted youth baseball field, horseshoe pits, basketball hoops, playground equipment, 2 picnic shelters, 2 restroom facilities, and an enclosed concession stand/meeting room. This park is home to the DeForest Chamber of Commerce's Annual Fourth of July Celebration.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Dahl Park: This 4-acre park is located on Halsor Street. The park currently functions primarily as an open play area with a small pond.

Liberty Land Park: This 10-acre park extends from Yorktown Road to Vinburn Road, with access on Constitution Lane. The park facilities include playground equipment, restrooms, a picnic shelter, a large open play area, and a 1-mile multi-use trail, which will eventually connect with Token Creek Park.

Sunnybrook Park: This 4-acre park is located off Riverside Drive. The park currently offers a picnic shelter and a 0.6-mile trail, half of which is paved.

Veteran's Memorial Park: This 3.5-acre park is located on North Main Street. The park offers a gazebo and a large open play area. In the past, the park also accommodated ice-skating in the winter months.

Yabara Park: This 8-acre park is located on Trailside Drive, with a second access point located at Seminole Way. Park facilities include 2 youth baseball/softball fields, a batting cage, and a picnic shelter/concession facility.



C. Tot-Lots

Hank's Hollow Park: This 0.3-acre tot-lot is located on Hank's Hollow trail. Park facilities include playground equipment and picnic tables.

D. Special Open Space Areas

Meadow View Park: This 3-acre open space area is located off of Pheasant Lane, containing small ponds.

Yankee Conservancy: This 25-acre conservancy area is located off of Highway 51 across from the Industrial Park. This land serves as an environmental research station for area schools.

Bakke Conservancy: This 12.5-acre conservancy area is located on North Stevenson Street.

Northern Corridor Park: 52.4 acres of conservancy lands are located on North Stevenson Street.

E. Public School Facilities

The DeForest Area School District has several facilities in the Village that provide additional recreational opportunities for the Village.

Yahara Elementary School is located adjacent to Yahara Park. The elementary school offers play equipment and open field space.

Eagle Point Elementary School functions as a neighborhood park, offering playground equipment and open field space.

Both the DeForest Area High School and DeForest Area Middle School offer 4 baseball/softball fields, a football field, several general/practice playfield areas appropriate for soccer, and four tennis courts.

Several recreational programs have historically used school facilities for practice and/or play, including youth soccer, football, and baseball/softball.

F. Trails

Yahara River Trail System: When completed, this trail system will be approximately 18 miles long. The system will eventually connect to the Dane County trail system at Token Creek and with the City of Madison at Cherokee Marsh. Currently, the system contains the following trail segments: DeForest-Windsor Trail (1 mile through Liberty Land Park and through Antique Acres subdivision); Delkamp Trail (.4 mile along North Stevenson Street); Mayapple Trail (.5 mile along the Yahara River and Mayapple Circle); and Western Green Trail (2 miles through Western Green Park).

G. Other Facilities Serving the Village

Token Creek Park: Token Creek Park is owned and operated by the Dane County Parks Department. The 427-acre park is located south of STH 19 beyond the southern edge of the Village. The park features a sedge-meadow trail. This is a popular location for large group gatherings. The park also offers several recreational amenities including walking and equestrian trails, disc-golf, fishing access, a dog exercise area, and a campground.

Cherokee Marsh: The largest wetland in Dane County, Cherokee Marsh consists of over 4,000 acres of protected wetlands, fen and cattail marsh, woodlands, fields, prairie, glacial drumlins, kettle lakes,

oak savannah, and a section of the Yahara River. The central wetland area was created by glacial Lake Mendota. The park is managed by the City of Madison. Cherokee Marsh is located southwest of the Interstate and south of STH 19.

H. Accessibility-Universal Design and ADA Compliance

Park and recreational facilities must be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users whenever possible to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Furthermore, universal design standards serve as guidelines for complying with federal ADA regulations, and are required for most grant-in-aid programs.

Map I: Existing Facilities

Public Participation

As part of the planning process for this *2006 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan*, a visioning workshop was held on March 21, 2006 to provide Village residents an early opportunity to share their perspectives on the existing park system and its future. During the workshop, participants were asked to identify key goals for the park system and to prioritize initiatives for future park and recreational facilities. There were about 25 people in attendance at the workshop.

Attendees were given the opportunity to brainstorm their “hopes and dreams” for the future of parks and recreation in the Village. Appendix B presents the range of hope and dream statements provided. The statements were categorized under the following: active recreation, community park, trails and park connectivity, specialized park facilities, natural resources preservation and nature-based recreation facilities, neighborhood parks, cooperation and joint facilities, existing park improvements, funding, and park maintenance.

A second group exercise asked attendees to vote for the types of facilities and/or equipment that they would like to see incorporated into the park system. It is important to note that although each individual was given ten opportunities to vote. Several categories may be weighted toward attendees casting several of their votes for one facility-type. Those facilities receiving the top number of votes included.

Figure 6: Facilities and Equipment Exercise Results

Facility	Votes
Football fields	33
Fitness center	23
Dog park	22
Baseball fields (lighted)	22
Ice skating rink	21
Walking trails	20
Multi-use paths	13
Water trail	12
Natural Parks	12
Band Shell	11
Nature Study Area	10

In addition to these large group exercises, the workshop featured several small group break-out exercises where attendees were asked to focus on specific elements of the park and recreation system. Two “Community Park” groups discussed potential locations and facilities for a new community park. A “Fireman’s Park” group provided input on how the park would be used in the future. The “Trail and Natural Areas” group discussed the locations of future trails and implementation strategies. A “Special Park Facilities” group discussed potential locations and siting criteria for potential special uses, such as a dog park, skate park, or spray play area. A fifth group, “Enhancing Existing Parks” discussed current condition and needed improvements for existing parks.

The results of this workshop contributed to the development of the goals, objectives, and policies described in Chapter VI. A complete record of comments received at the workshop is provided in Appendix B of this *Plan*.

The Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee desired to reach out to additional recreation and user groups to better understand their needs and desires for future parks and recreational facilities. Several interviews represented additional user groups and provided additional input and direction for this *Plan*.

Park and Recreation Standards

In order to help guide the park planning process, it is important to identify a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities that can serve as a benchmark for evaluating the adequacy of the park system. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents as compared with other communities, and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that for every 1,000 residents, a community should provide 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parks.

It should be noted that while such national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the provision of parks and open spaces, a more thorough and accurate analysis of DeForest's park system must emphasize the *local* demand for recreational resources.

A. Tot-Lots

General Description: These parks offer limited park facilities that generally serve young children and families. Such parks are usually characterized by playground equipment, small open space areas, and picnic areas.

Service Area: Less than ¼ mile in residential areas

Desirable Size: 2,500 square feet to 2 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population: 0.25 – 0.5 acres

Basic Facilities and Activities:

- Coordinated play equipment and structures for pre-school and elementary school age children
- Conversation and sitting areas arranged to permit easy surveillance by parents
- Landscaped areas that provide buffering and shade
- Lighting for security at night (direct cut-off)
- Parking is typically not required

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Suited for intense development
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Located in close proximity to residential development
- Accessible by walking or biking
- Well buffered by open space and/or landscape plantings and separated from roadways by physical barriers, such as fences.

B. Neighborhood Parks

General Description: These parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as baseball and soccer fields, but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study.

Service Area: ¼ to ½-mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers

Desirable Size: 5 acres minimum; 5-10 acres is optimal

Acres per 1,000 Population: 3 -6 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks;
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Lighting for security at night;
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

C. Community Parks

General Description: Community parks are intermediate in size and are able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.

Service Area: ½ to 3 miles

Desirable Size: As needed to accommodate desired uses; 30-50 acres is optimal

Acres per 1,000 Population: 6-10 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts;
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park;
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use;
- Lighting for security at night;
- Adequate off-street parking spaces, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- May include natural areas, such water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

D. 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 village or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.

Service Area: Variable – depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable – depends on function

Acres per 1,000 Population: Variable – depends on function

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks;
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Lighting for security at night;
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

E. Special Open Space Areas

General Description: Areas of open space that cannot be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Special Open Space Areas enhance an overall park and open space system by maintaining and improving the community's natural resource base, accommodating special activities that aren't included in other parks, and providing interconnections between isolated parks and recreation areas.

Examples of Special Open Space Areas are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as golf courses, sledding/skiing hills, marinas, beaches, display gardens, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use. Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainage ways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Service Area: Variable—depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable—depends on function

Acres Per 1,000 Population: Variable—most Special Open Space Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons

Basic Facilities and Activities: Variable, but some may include:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses;
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms;
- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths;
- Lighting for security at night;
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area.

F. Recreation Trails

General Description: 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 lands and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. Recreation trails can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities.

1. On-Street Bicycle Facilities

General Description: There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.

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.

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)

Treatment in this Plan: This Plan does not provide recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bike facilities. More formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the Village's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.

Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet along an arterial street.
- When used along side a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.
- 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).
- Lanes painted with a bicycle pavement symbol or the words "bike lane" according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.

Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 miles per hour.
- A stripe separating shoulder from roadway is recommended.
- These are generally not marked as an exclusive bike facility.

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: N/A

2. Off-Street Recreation Trails

General Description: There are two primary types of off-street recreation trails: multi-use paths and rural walking/hiking trails.

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.

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.

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* 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 *Plan*.

Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:

- 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.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of 8 feet wide, surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Minimum 20 mph design speed.

Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails: 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.

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: The provision of trails is best related to an analysis of supply versus demand and the size of the community, rather than a single quantitative standard.

3. 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 Plan: This *Plan* 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

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

- An application of quantitative park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the Village;
- A qualitative analysis of the Village's park system;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the Village's park and open space system; and
- A review of *Wisconsin's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

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

G. Quantitative Analysis of DeForest Park and Recreation System

I. Existing Level of Service

The following charts present a comparison of park and recreation standards (NRPA and locally developed) to the Village's existing facilities. To conduct this analysis, park standards per 1,000 persons were applied to the Village's 2005 population estimate of 8,288.

This *Plan* recommends maintaining the Village's 2006 parkland dedication standard of 15 acres per 1,000 residents, applied as 1 acre per every 20 residential units. This can also be translated to 2,178 square feet of parkland per residential unit. The Village's preferred balance of active to passive (Special Use) areas is at least 10-14 acres of active use lands per 1,000 population, with the balance being available for open spaces and other passive recreation uses.

Figure 7: NRPA Park and Recreation Standards

Type of Park	Standard (acres per 1,000 persons)
Neighborhood Park	1-4
Community Park	6-11 acres
Special Use Areas	1-5 acres
Total	15 acres minimum

Active uses include activities typically associated with neighborhood parks, tot lots, and community parks as described above. Special use areas include conservancy, trails, and other areas geared toward more passive use. Service standards in this *Plan* have been informed by NRPA standards, but developed for the Village's unique future park and open space desires.

Figure 8: Village Park and Recreation Standards

Park Name	Classification	Acres (2005)	Acres Active	Acres Passive	Trails
Firemans	CR	11	11	0	0
Western Green	CR/CC	46.8	32.8	14	1.47
Total Community		57.8	43.8	14	1.47
Per 1,000 Population		6.97	5.28	1.69	0.18
Veterans Memorial	NR	2	2	0	0
Yahara	NR	5	5	0	0
Hanks Hollow	NR	0.3	0.3	0	0
Liberty Land	NR	8.6	8.6	0	0
Dahl	NR/NC	4	0.8	3.2	0
Meadow View	NC	3	0	3	0
Sunnybrook	NC	4.2	0	4.2	0
Total Neighborhood and Tot Lot		27.1	16.7	10.4	0
Per 1,000 Population		9.38	5.78	3.60	0.00
Bakke Conservancy	CC	12.5	0	12.5	0
Yanke Conservancy	CC	16	0	16	0
Northern Corridor Park	CC	52.4	0	52.4	0
Total Special Use		80.9	0	80.9	0
Per 1,000 Population		9.76	0.00	9.76	0
Total		165.8	60.5	105.3	1.47
Per 1,000 Population		20.0	7.30	12.7	0.18

CR- Community Recreation CC- Community Conservation NR- Neighborhood Recreation NC- Neighborhood Conservation

At the time this *Plan* was written, the Village was meeting its standards for neighborhood parks and tot-lots. The existing acreage of conservancy or special use areas is in excess of the Village's standards. In terms of community park land, the Village is on the lower end of the range, and below the standard when passive recreational uses are subtracted from the acreage total. The table indicates an overall deficiency in active recreation lands. (Note that the above table does not take into consideration parkland that has been dedicated or is part of approved subdivisions that have not yet been developed.) The implications of these findings, particularly the need for additional community park land, is discussed subsequently in this *Plan*.

2. Projected Additional Park and Open Space Acreage Needs

The overall future recreational land need of the Village is determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the Village in the year 2030.

Using the overall standards in Figure 8, the following are estimated park and open space needs for the year 2030.

Figure 9: Projected Park Acreage Needs in 2030

Park Type	Standards (acres per 1,000 people)	Acreage Required (based on standard per 1,000 persons) *	Total Existing Acreage (2005)	Minimum New Park Acres Needed 2006 - 2030*
Total	15	230	166	64
Community	6 - 10	92 - 153	58	34 - 95
Neighborhood	3 - 6	46- 92	27	19 - 65
Special Use	1 -5	4 - 77	81	0 - 40**

*Calculated based on assumption of 2030 population of 15,365.

**A portion of existing special use areas (Northern Corridor Park) may potentially shift to more active uses in the future.

Figure 9 suggests that the Village should plan for additional neighborhood and community parks and special use/conservancy areas to meet the needs of its growing population. Also, the Village should provide additional facilities within existing parks. Facility needs and calculations are detailed in Appendix C.

H. Distribution of Park and Open Space Facilities

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities provides a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of Village residents. Maps 2a and 2b depict the service area of the DeForest area's parks. This analysis includes parks within the Town of Windsor, which also serve Village residents to some extent. These service areas are based on uniform radii applied to parks within specified size ranges, with larger parks serving a broader radius. Service areas are constrained by major barriers to movement, such as busy streets, or natural features.

Map 2a depicts the service areas of community parks, and both mid and smaller sized neighborhood parks. The map illustrates that the northern portion of the Village is fairly well-served geographically. There are significant service area gaps in the southern part of the Village, and in the central portion of the DeForest-Windsor area.

The service area analysis (Map 2b) also takes into consideration school sites, which help to fill in some of the service area gaps through the facilities provided at individual school sites.

Given this analysis, it will be important that underserved portions of the DeForest area be provided with a sufficient number and acreage of neighborhood, community parks, and special recreation areas to meet future needs, particularly as the central and southern portions of the DeForest-Windsor area develop.

Map 2a: Community and Neighborhood Park Service Areas

Map 2b: Service Area Analysis Map

Goals, Policies, and Recommendations

The goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations are the elements of this *Plan* that will shape the future look, feel and functioning of the DeForest area's park and recreation system. These are guided by public input, technical analysis and the work of staff and the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee through the development of the *Plan*. The overall vision, goals, and policies form the foundations for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

An overall *Vision* for the *Plan* provides the overriding direction that the Village will follow in planning for its parks, recreation and open space. All, goals and policies of the *Plan* should reflect and advance this vision.

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.

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

A. Park and Open Space Planning Vision

- Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of village residents and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups.
- Protect and enhance the DeForest area's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

The following list of goals, policies, and recommendations is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst village staff and the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee.

B. Goals

1. Provide adequate neighborhood and community parks to meet both the active and passive recreational needs of the residents of DeForest.
2. Preserve, protect, and enhance open spaces and conservancy areas along waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Preserve environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands, streams, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater and flood management areas.
4. Maintain a system of trails and pathways so that all residential neighborhoods will have safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle access to parks, schools, neighborhood commercial districts, public open spaces, and conservancy areas.
5. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

6. Site and design tot-lots and neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.
7. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including youth, teenagers and senior citizens.
8. Provide an adequate supply of community playfields and athletic facilities to meet the needs of the league sports teams and the organized recreational needs of the community.
9. Develop neighborhood parks that are sufficiently large to provide informal playfields, playground areas and sufficient buffering so that adjoining residences are not adversely impacted by park users.
10. 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.

C. Policies

1. Provide all residents with an opportunity for engaging in recreational activities. Recreational facilities should be equitably situated to serve the entire Village.
2. Maintain a service standard of at least 15 acres of improved public park land per 1,000 residents.
3. Identify and acquire adequate land for a new 30+ acre community park as the venue for community-wide activities and older youth/adult focused athletics.
4. Generally require that 50% or more of park frontage is publicly accessible and visible, rather than lined by residential lots. For parks where access is otherwise constrained by natural or physical barriers less of the frontage should be occupied by residential lots.
5. Establish well-defined edges where residential lots are created adjacent to dedicated public park. Suggestions to accomplish this are through development of a neighborhood facility (paved bike/pedestrian paths), a landscaped buffer edge installed at the time of development, or fences.
6. Take measures to ensure that existing park facilities comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
7. Require that all new residential developments meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the Village of DeForest Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Platting Ordinance.
8. Regularly update the Village Park Impact Fee ordinance as park needs assessments determine. The Village's parkland dedication and fee-in-lieu of dedication (impact fee) ordinances should continue to reflect the current demand for parkland, as well as recently adopted state law changes.
9. Require developers to create an endowment fund for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of specialized parks and open spaces.
10. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Village residents.

11. Provide neighborhood parks within safe walking distance of all residential neighborhoods. One-quarter mile is a preferred walking distance, with maximum distance of one-half mile between residences and neighborhood parks.

D. Recommendations

1. Acquire and develop a new community park to serve the community as it grows.
2. Develop and utilize youth sports complexes at dispersed locations throughout the Village.
3. Redevelop Fireman's Park as a downtown focal point and community gathering place.
4. Upgrade and improve existing park facilities.
5. Acquire and develop new neighborhood parks and tot lots.
6. Integrate parks into future neighborhood designs, linked by a network of safe and convenient trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.
7. Work with developers to create parkland connectivity and minimize barriers to park and open space access through design.
8. Develop path and trail connections.
9. Evaluate the need for special recreational facilities, such as dog parks, skateboard parks, disc golf, and spray-play facilities.
10. Work with Dane County, neighboring communities, and other organizations to develop a water-based trail to connect with the existing Yahara Headwater and Yahara Lakes Trails segments.
11. Explore opportunities to develop a multi-purpose health and wellness center that complements the Village park system, potentially in collaboration with a health care provider or a private developer.
12. Encourage public awareness of the local parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, and other materials.
13. When possible, acquire park and open space lands in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning, and acquisition through land developer dedications, where feasible.
14. Explore alternative means of reserving lands required or other funding strategies for open space to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).
15. Enter into a working partnership for planning of park and recreation facilities with the DeForest Area School District, and where feasible locate facilities so that there can be joint use.
16. Enter into a working partnership with adjoining communities for planning park and recreation facilities.
17. Coordinate planning of park and recreational facilities with Dane County, seeking opportunities for support and funding assistance where possible. Particular areas of collaboration with the County might include planning for a land trail system paralleling the Yahara River corridor, extending the Yahara Water Trail to include the reaches of the Upper Yahara in the Village, and ongoing management and possible expansion to Token Creek County Park and Goose Pond.

18. Collaborate with other groups and organizations, such as the Youth Council, Linkages, and DeForest Area Friends of the Arts on programs and facility planning of mutual interest, including planning for parks and open space facilities, planning, and educational activities.
19. Work to keep participant recreational activities fees minimal to allow broad participation and enjoyment of park facilities.

E. Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements

This section provides detailed recommendations for new, expanded or improved park and recreational facilities. These recommendations are based on existing deficiencies and new parks and open space needs determined by future population growth, as well as changing conditions and new opportunities. These recommendations expand on the goals and policies outlined earlier in this *Plan*.

Based on the Village's projected population in 2030 (15,365 residents) and its desired park standard of 15 acres per 1,000 residents, the Village will need to provide about 230 acres of parkland, a minimum of 153 acres of active parkland, to serve this 2030 population. In addition to active recreation areas, Village residents have identified continued passive and "nature based" recreational opportunities as priorities. This *Plan* suggests that a substantial acreage of passive, nature oriented parks be developed in addition to the recommended active park facility acreage. These recommendations assume the Village will grow at a moderate rate. The actual timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the demand for recreational facilities in the Village.

1. Acquire and Develop a New Community Park

Description: The goal for a new community park is to provide for diverse recreational opportunities and natural areas to serve the community as a whole as a gathering place, gearing athletic fields and facilities to adults and older youths.

The park should provide the following facilities: lighted adult ball-fields (3-4) with bleachers, a soccer/multi-use field, volleyball, courts (tennis, basketball), play areas, trails, shelters, picnic areas,

concessions, and restrooms. Depending on the space available, this park could also provide other specialized facilities, such as a swimming pool, disc golf, and others.

Rationale: Fireman's Park currently serves the function as the Village's primary community park and location for recreational leagues, the 4th of July Celebration, and other events. Recent growth and popularity of recreational programs have resulted in more extensive use, and concerns regarding adequacy of the space and sufficient parking to continue to serve the DeForest area as it grows. With many new areas on the Village's periphery, particularly the southern part of the Village, the park is no longer geographically centralized in the



community. As the Village continues to emphasize downtown revitalization, there is also interest in shifting the focus of Fireman's Park to complement the downtown.

A collaborative effort between the Village and neighboring communities could result in a community park that not only serves the Village, but the greater DeForest-Windsor-Vienna community.

Location: This *Plan* recommends three potential locations for a new community park. These potential park locations are shown on Map 3 and labeled CP1a, CP1b, and CP1c. Although precise locations have not been identified, the potential sites include the following areas:

- Southwest corner of North Street and Highway 51 (CP1a)
- Area to the south of the Heritage Gardens subdivision and east of the Holland Fields (Windsor) subdivision, incorporating small park areas that have been dedicated as part of these subdivisions.; or further to the south (north of the Windsor Elementary School) (CP1b)
- East of Interstate 90/94/39 along the River Road Corridor (CP1c)
- Area to the north of North Street, east of Morrisonville Road and ponds, and south of environmental corridor area (CP1d)

The following factors should be considered when determining a location for a community park:

- Good access for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Located near major transportation thoroughfares.
- Adequate land available—30+ acres minimum.
- Relatively level topography.
- Minimal land use conflicts.
- Centralized location within community.

In the event that acquisition or development of a park at any of the potential locations listed above is not feasible, alternative sites should be considered based on the above criteria.

Implementation:

1. Prepare a concept plan and cost estimate for a community park. An example community park concept plan is shown on the following page.
2. Conduct a feasibility analysis of the suggested potential sites.
3. Work with neighboring towns (Windsor and Vienna) and the DeForest Area School District to determine opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing. The following are recommended steps:
 - Solidify desired community park location and determine land availability
 - Agree on range of desired community park facilities
 - Negotiate a First Right of Refusal or option to purchase the selected property(ies) for the park
 - Negotiate cost-sharing arrangement for park acquisition and facility developments
 - Explore potential outside funding sources to supplement local government cost-sharing arrangement
 - Purchase land
 - Develop a master plan for the park, involving the public, user groups, and other stakeholders

- Develop the park, in phases if necessary
4. Pursue dedication of acreage as part of development proposals in the recommended area.
 5. Request additional land dedication adjacent to acquired area, if needed, at time of development proposal.



2. *Develop and Utilize Youth Sports Complexes*

Description: The Village’s youth sports programs are currently largely served by facilities dispersed throughout the community. This *Plan* recommends facilities that will help to achieve some consolidation of youth facilities, but still result in a relatively dispersed pattern. The primary youth sports programs that occupy park and field space in the Village include soccer, baseball, softball, and football.

Rationale: Dispersing youth sports facilities in the DeForest area achieves the following:

1. Creates a positive separation between adult league facilities and youth sports facilities. This helps ensure that fields and facilities are sized appropriate to the age group that they are serving. This also helps establish the necessary tone for youth recreation, buffering youth areas in a positive way and resulting in a more controlled environment. Finally, it minimizes youth sports as feeling dominated by adult sports.
2. Designating particular areas (in some cases new facilities) for organized youth sports frees up some neighborhood park space for non-organized recreational play (e.g. pick-up games).
3. Allows each site to serve unique needs of the sport.
4. Easier to acquire smaller land areas.
5. Some use of existing Village park land may be possible.
6. Allows for individual identify for different organization; pride in ownership creates care and maintenance.
7. Follows current precedent – e.g. soccer complex.

Locations for Youth Sports:

- Linde Park (Soccer): Recently developed in the Town of Windsor on the east side of USH 51, the five soccer fields at Linde Field serve youth from the ages of 6 to 18. The configuration of the fields is adaptable to serve a variety of ages. Programs are offered through the Norski Soccer Club. These facilities should meet the needs of the area for the planning period.
- Northern Corridor Park (Football & Soccer): This 52-acre park is largely covered by wetland and floodplain. The DeForest Youth Football Association set forth a proposal to develop several practice and competitive facilities at this location. This *Plan* supports utilizing the portion of the park east of the Yahara River for youth football. The amount of relatively level ground available for fields in this location would be challenging to identify in other locations, or else too expensive to acquire. Also much of this land is in floodplain and would not be appropriate for more intensively developed uses. This *Plan* recommends that the portion of the park to the west of the River be developed as a dog park. Strategies for co-location of these two uses are discussed late in this section.

There are some potential challenges to locating youth football in this location. Below are the challenging conditions, and recommended mitigation strategies to overcome them:

1. The site is relatively remote and access to the site is relatively challenging. The site is tucked behind the Firestone Building in the Village's Business Park. The only way to access the site via automobile is via the Firestone access road. Possible solutions include:
 - Incorporate directional signage
 - Establish a trail connection. A permit for a footpath bridge to provide access to the western portion of the site would also be necessary.
 - Develop a permanent parking area utilizing the existing Village compost area.
2. Safety concerns related to this site are a result of two factors. The site is relatively remote and not visible (largely undeveloped or industrial land surrounding), so it will be important to provide a controlled environment with coach and adult supervision. Due to the remote location, it is also more remote for emergency and/or public safety vehicles. Possible solutions include:

- Prior to any site development, the Village Public Safety Committee, and fire and police chiefs, should have the opportunity to review and make suggested amendments to the proposal.
 - Strategies for crossing North Street to the site should be explored, including a designated crosswalk, crossing guards, and/or increased signage.
3. Impacts to the Yahara River. The proposed facilities are directly adjacent to the Yahara River, a regionally important natural resource. Any site development may have impacts on the River, particularly related to erosion control, or application of fertilizer or other chemicals. Possible solutions include:
- Develop erosion control policies for site erosion control and for long-term stormwater management.
 - Require vegetated buffers along the Yahara River.
 - Incorporate educational signage to encourage users to respect the River during use of the site.

This site could also be encouraged to be used for soccer during the spring season.

- *Lands in Between the Middle School and High School (Football and Soccer):* An area of approximately 11 acres located between the middle school and high school (west of the tennis courts, south of St. Olaf Church and northeast of the cemetery) that should be explored as an alternative location for youth football. This site has the strong advantage of access and location – being located adjacent to both the high school and middle school in the central portion of the Village results in safer and more convenient access and a critical mass of activity in one concentrated area.

There are a few issues that would need to be worked out in relation to this site. First, development of this site to accommodate the youth football program would require use agreements and arrangements between the school and youth football programs, as well as the School District's need for additional soccer fields. The School District prepared a Master Plan Study in 2005 that designated this area for three soccer fields. Use of this site to accommodate both District and Village/youth football programs would require a working partnership and ownership/use arrangement between the two parties. Some of the land area is owned neither by the District or the Village. Acquisition or a use agreement with the present owner for the use of this area would also be necessary.

The site would also require some improvement and preparation. Cost sharing between the Village and the District to facilitate better utilization of the site would also be necessary.

- *Community Park at Conservancy Place (CP2):* A 28-acre site has been reserved in the Rivers Turn neighborhood of Conservancy Place for a potential shared school and park facility adjacent to the Yahara River Corridor. The area dedicated specifically to park land would range from 13 to 21 acres, depending on the configuration of the site and the decision of the School District with respect to what type/size of school will be provided on this site.

To round out the provision of youth sport facilities, this site should provide at least two little league fields, as well as some additional youth soccer fields, tennis courts, playground, and a fitness/athletic course. Its location proximate to the Yahara River also provides a great opportunity for nature study and passive recreation areas.

Combination of a school and park site also provides the opportunity for educational programs built around the park. For instance, the Village could plan for a portion of the dedicated park land to be preserved as “natural areas.” The school could use the natural areas for ecology studies, for instance as part of the Yahara River watershed protection program. Natural area enhancements will be required as the area evolves from its current agricultural use.

Implementation:

1. Work with the DeForest Area Youth Football Program on a master plan, including site layout, design, river protection strategies, site access strategies, and possible incorporation of a dog park. Engage participation from Dane County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Public Safety Committee, and Fire and Police Departments.
 2. Encourage the DeForest Area Youth Football Program to lead the fundraising effort to implement this facility, and ongoing maintenance.
 3. Develop the site, including improved access through the existing Village compost area and other mitigation strategies outlined above.
 4. Work in collaboration with the Youth Football Program on ongoing management, programming, and maintenance of the park.
3. *Redevelop Fireman's Park as a Downtown Gathering Place*

Description: With development of new community park space elsewhere, Fireman’s Park will be recast as a centerpiece for the downtown and a key community gathering place for civic type uses. Fireman’s Park will be a place for gathering, continuing to provide a venue for the library Concerts in the Park, Fire Department Movies in the Park, summer-school/after-school programs, and activities linked to arts and theatre.

Rationale: The recommended redevelopment of Fireman’s Park is based on the following factors:

- Need for a larger, more centralized community park elsewhere, geared toward active recreation given the growth of the Village
- Opportunity to build on the downtown redevelopment through recreating Fireman’s Park as a civic attraction and downtown redevelopment centerpiece.



Facilities: An outdoor stage and gathering place ringed with clusters of picnic areas provides a central focal point for the park. Expansion of the existing trail network through the park provides a location for fairs and markets. A well-designed public sculpture garden would also provide a unique amenity, suggested near the entrance of the park closest to the downtown area. The concept plan on the following page illustrates some of these ideas.

This downtown location is an appropriate location for specialized park facilities, given its visibility and proximity to public safety. Skate park and splash park facilities are recommended. The park will continue to provide some opportunity for active recreation, including a multipurpose ball field, sport courts, and horseshoe pits.

Implementation:

1. Complete the first several implementation steps of development of a new community park, as laid out earlier in this section.
2. Prepare a detailed park facility master plan with public participation that includes cost/facilities phasing with involvement from the community.
3. Relocate the existing ball fields to a new location.
4. Explore acquisition of two pieces of property on Stevenson Street to add to the park area or as a potential youth or community center.
5. Study community and traffic impacts of closing Stevenson Street to enhance park continuity, and possibly provide an alternative location for parking.
6. Encourage an organized effort to promote and maintain a skate park. A “Friends of the Skate Park” type group might be a logical group to promote such a park.

Fireman's Park Concept Plan

4. Upgrade and Improve Existing Park Facilities

The Village's existing parks and open space facilities are in good condition, but have some need for new facilities and equipment updates over time. The Village should continue to assess needed updates and renovations in existing park areas over the course of this planning period on an annual or bi-annual basis. This includes the suggestions provided in Figure 10: Improvements and Additions to Existing Park Facilities.



An idea that applies to many of the existing parks is exploring

opportunities to integrate small natural areas within existing parks. Management of designated sites within existing parks to “transform” to natural vegetation would require some intensive active management at the outset to establish the appropriate mix of vegetation. Once established, these small pockets of natural areas (meadow, savannah, etc.) would protect natural habitat areas, minimize mowing requirements, and provide an attractive variation to the park landscape.

The following table presents facility and equipment recommendations for each of the Village's existing parks. The cost estimates are based on similar types of equipment or infrastructure in other Wisconsin communities. These represent average expenditures, and may vary depending upon a variety of factors including the type and amount of equipment, how the equipment is obtained and installed, and the amount of labor required for each facility development.

Figure 10: Improvements and Additions to Existing Park Facilities

Park/ Facility or Improvement Type	Estimated Costs	
A. Fireman's Park		
Multi-use pathway	50,000	2008
Skate Park	60,000	2008
Basketball Courts	30,000	2009
Skating Rink	20,000	2008
Splash Park	150,000	2010
Outdoor Stage	80,000	2008
Picnic Shelters and Tables	50,000	2008
Play Equipment	50,000	2009
Landscaping	40,000	2009
Sculpture/public garden	25,000	2010
Restroom (upgrade) and concession	100,000	2008
<i>Total Fireman's Park</i>	<i>\$655,000</i>	
B. Veteran's Memorial Park		
Restrooms	40,000	2008
Canoe Launch	5,000	2007
Benches, Trash, Interpretive Signage, Grill	5,500	2007
<i>Total Veteran's Memorial Park</i>	<i>\$50,000</i>	
C. Western Green		
Signage	2,000	2006
Trail upgrades	20,000	2006-07
Canoe Launch	2,000	2008
<i>Total Western Green</i>	<i>\$24,000</i>	
D. Yahara Park		
Playground Equipment	20,000	2006
Landscaping	5,000	2006
Scoreboards	1,000	2007
<i>Total Yahara Park</i>	<i>\$26,500</i>	
E. Hank's Hollow		
No Improvements Planned		
<i>Total Hank's Hollow</i>	<i>\$0</i>	
F. Liberty Land		
Signage	2,000	2006
Landscaping	2,400	2006
Benches	1,600	2007
Sand Volleyball	12,000	2007
<i>Total Liberty Land</i>	<i>\$18,500</i>	
G. Northern Corridor Park*		
Landscaping, Grading, Seeding	\$19,500	2008
Parking Lots	\$39,200	2008
Structure/Restrooms	\$50,000	2009
Dog Park Fencing	\$12,600	2008
Park Clearing and Mulch	\$8,000	2008
Interpretive Sign	\$3,600	2009
<i>Total Northern Corridor Park</i>	<i>\$132,900</i>	

Park/ Facility or Improvement Type	Estimated Costs	Estimated Time Period
H. Dahl Park		
Gazebo or Shelter	25,000	2007
Playground Equipment	20,000	2007
Benches, Trash, Signage	2,500	2010
Path or Trail	20,000	2009
Landscaping	5,000	2009
Grill	200	2009
<i>Total Dahl Park</i>	<i>\$72,700</i>	
I. Meadowview		
Signage	3,000	2006
Benches	1,600	2007
Landscaping	2,400	2008
Trail	20,000	2009
<i>Total Meadowview</i>	<i>\$27,000</i>	
J. Sunnybrook		
Wetland plantings (shrubs and trees)	3,000	2007
Trail development	3,000	2007
<i>Total Sunnybrook</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>	

* Improvements recommended for the Northern Corridor Park in the above chart are designed to accommodate youth football and a dog exercise area uses. If either or both of these uses are deemed unfeasible, or if alternative locations are identified, the Northern Corridor Park would be planned for wetland and native vegetation restoration and passive recreational trails.

Implementation

1. Consider necessary or desired improvements to existing parks and recreational facilities on an annual basis, for potential inclusion in the Village's Capital Budget. This effort could be led by staff and presented to and considered by the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee.
 2. Incorporate and regularly update the Village's capital improvement program to include improvements to existing park facilities.
5. *Acquire and Develop New Neighborhood and Neighborhood Mini Parks*
 Future development in all Village parks will certainly result in the need for both neighborhood parks and mini parks/tot-lots. In response to this identified need, Map 3 shows approximate locations for future neighborhood parks in the DeForest planning area. Specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are actually platted or acquired over the next 20 years. The following is a description of these general park recommendations.

Neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding residential areas with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately 3 to 5 acres in size and serve an area within a ¼ to ½ mile radius. These parks could include the type and range of facilities found in Yahara Park, such as a playground, play field, and play structure.

Mini parks/tot-lots are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population such as pre-school and elementary school age children or senior citizens. These parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood. They should be approximately 1/2- to 1-acre in size and serve an area within a 1/4 mile radius.

The following are recommended new Neighborhood Parks/Tot-Lots. For each of these facilities, park plans should be prepared and recommended for approval by the Village's Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee:

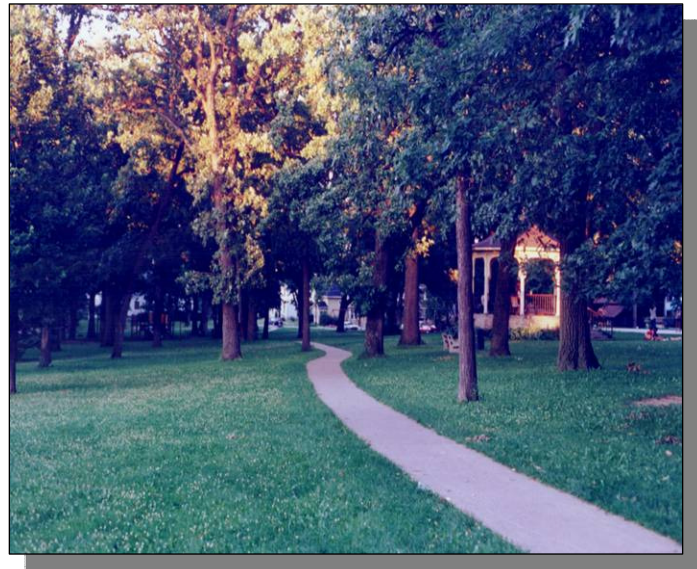


Neighborhood parks and tot-lots should offer a variety of facilities to serve residents of all ages.

- **NP1:** (5.9 acres) The “Village Green” area located in the Conservancy Place development is a central green area accessed by Innovation Drive. Facilities that are proposed include a splash park feature, playground equipment, landscaping and prairie planting, and an ice rink. (Improvements within this park were completed in 2009.)
- **NP2:** (4 acres) Centrally located in the southern portion of the Conservancy Place development, near the planned Town Center Market Place and office components of the development. This park is planned for open space that features benches, picnic tables, shelters, landscaping, and possible a path. A trail should be developed from the park through the stormwater management area to access the Yahara River Environmental Corridor.
- **NP3:** (4 acres) Located off Innovation Drive in the Rivers Turn neighborhood, this park features steep slopes that are planned for open area, use with a sledding hill and predominantly passive recreation opportunities. The park may also include a canoe launch or small tot-lot. The park is adjacent to the Yahara River Environmental Corridor and should contain signage and connections to the trail.
- **NP4:** (4.6 acres) Located in the northern portion of the Conservancy Place development (the Knolls) and connected to the Yahara River Environmental Corridor. Facilities should include signage, trail/path, trailhead for Village walking paths, play equipment, and a shelter.
- **NP5:** Reigstad Park (14 acres) Located in the Savannah Brooks development in the southern expanse of the Village, this park is directly adjacent to Token Creek County Park. The park includes wooded areas, natural springs, and a portion of Token Creek. Due to this high concentration of natural amenities, this park is intended for primarily passive recreation use and low impact trails and facilities development should be emphasized. Active recreation use will also be accommodated. The park is located west of an adjacent conservancy area that will be maintained as part of the Savannah Brooks development, or potentially transferred to a public or non-profit entity for long term preservation.

Map 3: Future Park and Recreational Facilities

- NP6: A neighborhood park is recommended in the Bear Tree South area, east of 51 and north of 19. The park should be connected to the planned trail system, and contain uses and activities geared to surrounding planned office/research areas with the Village.
- NP7: A small neighborhood park/tot lot is recommended in the future neighborhood west of Highway 51, in the vicinity of Gray Road. This park should be designed to connect with the trail network, and planned in collaboration with Windsor.
- NP8: A neighborhood park/tot lot is recommended in the future neighborhood west of Highway 51, south of Windsor Road. This park should connect with the planned trail system and the environmental corridor system, and likely planned by Windsor.
- NP9: A neighborhood park is recommended in the Country View Estates neighborhood north of North Street. This neighborhood area is rich in natural features, and a system of protected environmental corridors is planned. This neighborhood park should be designed to complement this natural system, providing active recreation opportunities including a ball field/open play area, play equipment, and trail connections. This neighborhood park may instead evolve into a community park, described earlier in this section.
- NP10: A neighborhood park and/or tot-lot are recommended in the future Country View Estates neighborhood between the environmental corridor and Hahn-Smith Road. This park(s) should be located in a place to connect with a trail system, and potentially adjacent to protected environmental corridor space. Play equipment, multi-use courts, and picnic areas are recommended.
- NP11: A neighborhood park is recommended in the future neighborhood to the north of Chapel Green, and west of River Road. It is recommended that this neighborhood park connect to the trail system, offer open play areas, play equipment. Other alternatives for this site include consideration for a future community park here if the recommended location (CP 1) is not feasible. This park may also be developed in tandem with a community health care center. The good access and visibility from the Interstate would make this a desirable site.
- NP12: A neighborhood park/tot lot is recommended in the future neighborhood area northwest of Morrisonville Road and south of Hahn Road.
- NP13: A neighborhood park/tot lot is recommended in the future neighborhood area west of River Road. This park should connect to trail networks and potentially environmental corridors.



New parks should be designed to connect with regional trail networks.

- **NP14:** A neighborhood park is recommended in the southern portion of the Heritage Gardens development. This park is adjacent to dedicated land in Windsor’s Holland Fields subdivision. Collaborative planning between DeForest and Windsor for these park sites is recommended. This area should be considered for inclusion in a larger community park if this area is selected for community park development.

Implementation

1. As development proposals are considered, consult the recommendations of this *Plan* to guide planning for parks, recreation and open space facilities. Proposed plats and CSMs should be consistent with the recommendations of this *Plan* with respect to new parks, trails, and other recreational facilities.
2. Continue to utilize park impact fees and land dedication to acquire and develop new parks and recreation areas as defined in Village’s subdivision ordinances, if allowed by state law or voluntarily provided.
3. Require developers to establish endowment funds for the ongoing maintenance of specialized park and recreation facilities.

6. *Develop Path and Trail Connections*

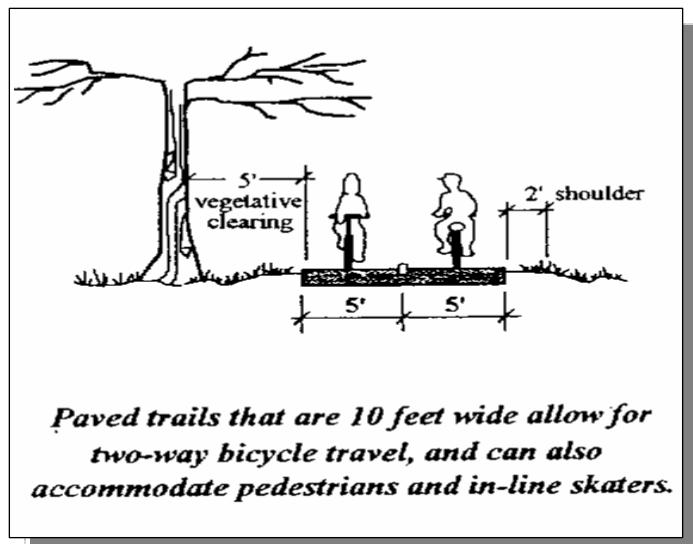
While the Village presently has 42 miles of streets, there are only a total of 25 miles of existing sidewalk and 5 miles of existing multi-use trails. This represents a serious barrier to pedestrian and bicycle movement through the Village.

This *Plan* recommends several off-street paths and trail segments to link existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks and environmental corridors, including the Yahara River Environmental Corridor.

Map 3 shows both existing and Planned Trails and On-Street Connections throughout the Village.

The following recommendations apply to installation of “Planned Trails and On-Street Connections”:

- Major roadway crossings should generally be located at controlled intersections.
- For “Trail Crossing Challenges” as illustrated on Map 3, install bike/pedestrian crossing signs, well defined crosswalks, or flashing light signals at a minimum and explore the feasibility of under and overpasses.



- Trail standards include a minimum 10 feet of paved surface areas within a 20 foot wide easement or dedication; ¼ mile markers to indicate location on trail for longer trails; regular extended right-of-way bulb outs for emergency access vehicle turn-arounds.

Some of the areas may be appropriate for trails with natural or gravel surfaces and a slightly narrower right of way – 6 or 8 feet. These are most appropriate for natural resource areas and other stream side environmental corridors.

Trailhead areas illustrated on Map 3 will provide access to the trail system. These areas should be well-signed, and include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, bicycle parking, and in some cases automobile parking.

Implementation:

1. Continue to work with neighboring communities, Dane County and the State in planning for and funding new trails, connections, and improvements.
2. Include recommendations for trails on a Village Official Map.
3. Require trail systems and easements on development plans (plats, CSMs, site plans) to be consistent with this *Plan*.

7. *Explore Opportunities for a Dog Park*

The Village will consider development of a dog park within the Village. These types of facilities are becoming very popular in several communities. Recommended sizes for dog parks range from a minimum of 5 up to 40 acres. For the Village, a park of 5 to 10 acres would be sufficient. Fencing of the park’s perimeter, as well as the dog running area from the parking area, are both required.

The preferred alternative in this *Plan* is to co-locate a dog park with the proposed youth football facilities in the Northern Corridor Park. The two uses should be physically separate. This *Plan* recommends that the eastern portion of the park be dedicated to football facilities and the portion west of the Yahara River be designated as a dog park. The park would need a designated permanent access, likely through the existing Village compost area. This would require relocating the compost and development of parking facilities. The dog exercise portion of the park should also be securely fenced to avoid conflicts with the football facilities, particularly an issue during the peak use periods of football (August – November).

Alternative suggestions for locations include Dahl Park (existing portion or expansion), a portion of Western Green Park (where environmental impacts and land use conflicts would be minimized), or in locations NP 11 or NP 13 on Map 3.

Encouraging a “Friends of the Dog Park” group to sponsor the facility, as well as take an active role in maintenance—especially organizing clean-ups at least four times a year - would help ensure the long-term success of this facility, and minimize its impact.

Implementation:

1. Encourage formation of a Friends of the Dog Park group to assist with planning, procurement of funds, and ongoing maintenance of a facility.
2. Develop a park master plan for the Northern Corridor Park in cooperation with a Friends group, the Youth Football Association, and with input from the County and State on natural resource concerns.
3. Develop a plan for cooperative management and maintenance of the park.

8. Explore Opportunities for a Disc Golf Course

A typical disc golf course occupied 6-10 acres in area. Disc golf facilities can be relatively easily incorporated into existing developed parks, utilizing the existing topography, vegetation and layout to mark the course, however use conflicts should be avoided. Disc golf courses should avoid high use areas such as playground and picnic areas, active athletic fields, and locations proximate to homes or other private property.

While it is recommended to locate the course in one park area where holes are designed to be (generally one tee should be no more than 50 feet from the preceding hole), this *Plan* proposes that the Village start by developing a disc golf course that makes use of existing and planned park facilities. The first holes in the circuit could be developed at Liberty Land Park. All of the proposed holes should be connected by off-street bicycle and pedestrian paths or designated on-street routes to ensure safe passage between all segments. Given the opportunity to evaluate the level of use and popularity of the trail system, future park areas could be considered to be developed as a dedicated course.

Implementation:

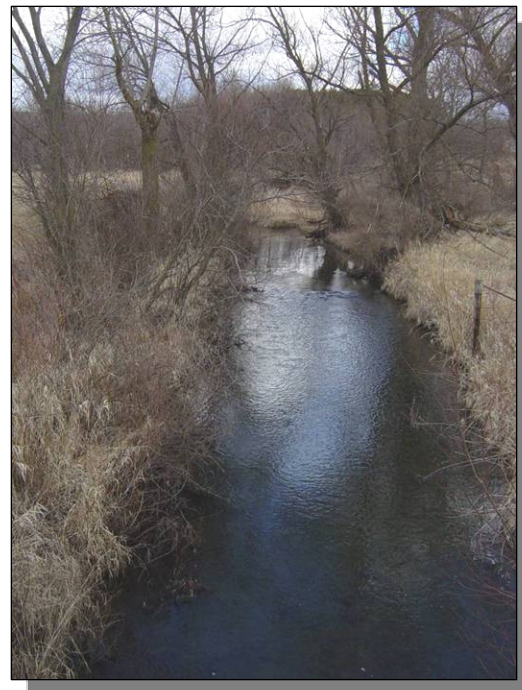
1. Encourage formation of a Disc Golf organization to spearhead planning of the disc golf circuit.
2. Evaluate use of the disc golf facilities when considering master plans for larger new community and neighborhood parks to consider incorporating a larger area dedicated to disc golf in these facilities (e.g. new community park, Rivers Turn Park).

9. Develop a Yahara Water Trail in the DeForest Area

The Village will work to designate the Yahara Water Trail to connect with existing portions in Dane County, including the Yahara Headwater Trail and Yahara Lakes Trails segments. Land based trail development and long-term preservation are prioritized for the Yahara in the DeForest planning area. A water trail would be a natural complement to these efforts and provide an outstanding amenity to the Village. A water trail is also a unique way to develop increased awareness and enjoyment of this resource, and establish connections with the greater region as defined by the Yahara River watershed.

In collaboration with other units of government, the Village intends to develop a water-based trail with access, signage and educational opportunities. Recommended access points are illustrated with “W” on Map 3. These locations (from north to south) include:

- In the Bakke Conservancy
- The end of Holum Street or from Veteran’s Memorial Park
- Planned 4 acre park facility in the Knolls



The Yahara River is a regionally important watershed. A water trail would help increase access, awareness and enjoyment of this resource.

- portion of the Conservancy Place development
- Near the southern River Road crossing
- Southern end of Conservancy Place development
- Within area planned for future Regional Commercial north of Cherokee Marsh, west of Interstate 90/94/39

Implementation:

1. Work with the County and neighboring units of government, as well as organizations such as Capital Water Trails.
2. Explore grant or conservation funding for this project. individually or with other potential collaborators listed above.
3. Rally local business to support this idea with programs like “Adopt a Water Trail.”

10. *Explore Opportunities for a Health and Wellness Facility*

An indoor health, wellness and recreation center would provide a Village-wide amenity and round out the range of facilities offered in the Village of DeForest. These facilities can range significantly in size, facilities provided and expense. At a minimum, the facilities recommended for a facility in DeForest include multi-purpose courts, recreational pool/lap pool, weight room, and meeting/multi-purpose rooms. Providing office space and a rooftop garden and facilities also provide amenities.

Due to the expense of these facilities, the Village does not intend to provide such a facility independently. Developing a public-private partnership is advised. This can be an effective way to get state of the art facilities, with reasonable access to Village residents. Co-locating a regional health care provider can also provide an effective strategy.

Some locations to explore include the “Yahara River Sports Core” within Hawthorne Point in Conservancy Place. An alternate location with good visibility and access is the area west of River Road and south of CTH V/North Street.

Implementation:

1. Explore potential public-private partnerships for the provision of such facility.
2. Build based on public demand and private participation.

Implementation

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

For many of the key recommendations provided in the previous chapter, detailed implementation strategies are suggested. This chapter provides a general implementation framework, as well as a recommended time-sequence.

A. Pursue External Funding Sources

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation. These funding sources are included as Appendix D. Dane County's Park and Open Space Grants and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program are good opportunities to apply for matching grant funds. 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 Village. Funds from programs such as the State Stewardship Program and Intergovernmental Surface Transportation Act for the 21st Century (IEA-21) are subject to change due to uncertainties with current federal and state budgets. Funding sources are detailed in Appendix D.

B. Intergovernmental Coordination

The Village should also coordinate efforts and actively partner with other units of government (e.g., Towns of Windsor Vienna, Dane County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g., DeForest Area School District, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and private and non-profit agencies) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

C. Activate the Community

Although not a prerequisite for many of the recommendations of this *Plan*, activating the community will assist and expedite the implementation. Engaging new or existing community advocacy groups or recreational organizations (e.g. Friends of the Dog/Skate Park, Youth Football Association) is instrumental in the planning, fundraising and long-term success of parks and facilities. Engaging these groups from the start instills a sense of ownership that is necessary to maintain parks and facilities as valuable parts of the community.

D. Village Directives

Ongoing decision making and activities of the Village will be one of the most important determinants of how this Plan is implemented. Several important and ongoing implementation steps include:

- Incorporate the recommended park and open space facility improvements recommended in the Village's regular capital improvement plans and programs. Improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities from Figure 10, as well as new park and recreation facilities.

- Prepare an Official Map. The official map allows the Village to identify existing and future parks and trails and ensure that as lands in the community are developed, these facilities are incorporated into the design of subdivisions and site plans.
- Follow the recommendations of this *Plan* when reviewing development proposals, including plats, planned unit developments, CSMs, and site plans.
- Develop and approve park master plans for new community and neighborhood parks. The Village has the opportunity to shape the development of new parks and facilities through the review and approval of master plans. Various groups should be consulted in the preparation of park master plans, including the key users of the park as well as other community interest groups. Larger community visioning or design charettes may be of value, particularly for the design of the new Community Park and the redevelopment of Firemans Park.

Appendix A: Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

DeForest Parks Location	Acres	Softball	Baseball-Youth	Basketball	Horseshoes	Ice Skating	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms (pair)	Shelter	Soccer	Concessions	Parking	Trail	Volleyball
<i>Community Parks</i>															
Fireman's Park <i>Jefferson Street</i>	11	2	1	2	✓	1	✓	1	2	2		1	49 (general) 1 (disabled)	✓	
Western Green Park <i>Acker Parkway</i>	34						✓	✓	✓	✓	1			✓	1
<i>Neighborhood Parks and Tot Lots</i>															
Hank's Hollow Park <i>Hank's Hollow Trail</i>	0.3						✓	✓							
Liberty Land Park <i>Yorktown Road</i>	10						✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Meadowview Park <i>Meadowview Lane</i>	3.5														
Sunnybrook Park <i>Riverside Drive</i>	4									✓				✓	
Veteran's Park <i>N. Main Street</i>	3.5						✓			1			33 (general) 2 (disabled)		
Yahara Park <i>Trailside Drive</i>	8		✓				✓		✓	✓					
Dahl Park <i>Halsor Street</i>	4														

Appendix B: Workshop Results

A. Park Features Brainstorming Summary

1. Active Recreation

- Children parks with equipment
- Volleyball courts
- Small water-type park
- Recreation facility with pool
- Basketball courts
- Youth football complex!
- Indoor sports facility (volleyball, basketball, etc)
- Expand/move softball facilities to location with parking and shelter/restroom facilities
- Tied to educational facilities
- Skateboard park area
- Hockey/ice rink
- Multipurpose athletic facility
- Greenspace for designated team sports (child and adult)
- Neighborhood skateboard/park area
- Increased number of baseball diamonds for youth, legion, and home talent
- Sand volleyball courts
- Aquatic center
- Winter activities area (sledding hill, skate rink)
- Community swimming pool
- Splash park
- Downtown (or elsewhere) skateboard park and basketball courts
- Softball/baseball active sports complex
- Recreation center: ice rink, pool, courts (indoor/outdoor), meeting spaces)

2. Community Park

- Large, multipurpose park for festivals
- Skateboard and bike park
- Large park for whole village celebrations – grand scale
- New/large community park with adequate parking for large events
- Parks that address all ages of DeForest's needs
- Amphitheater
- Ice skating rink

3. Cooperation & Joint Facilities

- Combined school/neighborhood park/recreation spaces
- Ties to young and old activities
- Connecting bike trails

4. Existing Park Improvements

- Enhance our current parks prior to adding additional parks
- Softball field upgrades

5. Funding

- Identify an appropriate amount of annual funding through tax levy to support park facilities
- Method of sustaining the parks so as not to overburden the community

6. Natural Resource Preservation

- Educational nature trail system through the Yahara River Corridor
- Wildlife protection areas
- Natural parks
- Open green space
- Protection for animals/wildlife
- Using/saving land for animals (animal park) near housing
- More natural areas (i.e., preservation of wetlands, river, or creeks)

7. Nature-Based Recreation Facilities

- Natural areas
- Increased greenspace along watersheds, marshes, and streams (river walks)
- Catch and Release fishing opportunities for youth
- Linked to natural areas
- Places that allow you to contemplate as well as be active

8. Neighborhood Parks

- Neighborhood parks (1 – 2 acres) accessible to every residential area – within walking distance with young children
- Neighborhood parks with easy access for parking and complete with tot lots – walking distance to homes
- Playgrounds
- Quiet spaces
- Close to residents – small parks
- Connected park corridor
- Small and large parks
- 1 to 4 areas – handles large family gatherings easily (less than 150 people)

9. Park Maintenance

- Adequate park maintenance budget
- Good, safe equipment
- Sprinkler system
- Score boards – all facilities

10. Specialized Park Facilities

- Animal park close to housing
- Athletic complex
- Hockey rink
- Dog parks for community
- Incorporate natural, historic, and cultural features
- Band shelter (music, movies, arts)
- Animal park using open space – not developable – close to housing
- Baseball

- 1 – 2 areas that could handle large community events – one with outdoor stage/auditorium
- Basketball courts
- Transition Fireman’s Park to a “special events” park including band-shell
- Park area for walking dogs – exercise area, open green space close to residences
- Recreation areas sufficient for city’s size (i.e., basketball courts for pickup games and/or events)
- Particular attention paid to the “teenage” group population, which today is not well served
- Lighted baseball fields
- Roller hockey site
- Youth football area
- Skateboard park
- Youth football complex

II. Trails & Park Connectivity

- Pedestrian/bike link to all parks
- Establish a water trail (4-5 miles) from the Bakke Conservancy thru Conservancy Place (North Street to Windsor Road)
- Develop tract system within Conservancy Place for entire Village to utilize
- Connected trails between parks leading to schools, downtown, and to Windsor trails
- Connected terrestrial trail (jogging/walking path) system thru the Village from North Street to Windsor Road
- Bike/walking paths expansion
- Comprehensive trail system connecting all areas of Village and parks
- Running path/trails
- Lots of connected greenspace/trailways
- More trails – cross country in winter
- Bike trail system
- Connecting bike trails
- A way of tying all parks together in some manner to show they all belong to DeForest

B. Special Facilities Voting Summary

Below is a list of unique park facilities. Please indicate if you would like to see these types of facilities incorporated into the park system:

Facility	Votes
Amphitheater	4
Bandshell	11
Baseball Fields (lighted)	22
Baseball/Softball Fields (unlighted)	6
Basketball Courts	9
Community Center	6
Community Gardens	0
Dog Park	22
Fitness Center	23
Football Field	33
Ice Skating Rink	21
Large Community Park	6
Multi-Use Paths	13
Natural Parks	12
Nature Study Area	10
Neighborhood Park	7
Open Play Area	6
Picnic Areas	3
Playgrounds	2
Rural Walking Trails	20
Skate Park	11
Sledding Hill	5
Soccer Fields	3
Splash Park	7
Swimming Pool	1
Tennis Courts	1
Trailheads	1
Volleyball Courts	7
Water Trail	12

Appendix C: Park and Open Space Needs

Appendix C																
Facilities Needed to meet DeForest Standards: 2005 - 2025																
Recreation Facility	Standard		Per 1K Pop.	Current Number	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2005 Deficiency	2025 Deficiency	New Need	Cost per Need \$	2025 Need Less Existing	Total New Need 2005-25 \$\$\$	
	No.	/Pop.														
Baseball	1	5,000	0.200	1	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	0.7	1.4	0.7	\$140,000	\$192,220	\$87,944	
Softball/youth baseball	1	1,500	0.667	5	5.6	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.9	0.6	2.9	2.3	\$60,000	\$174,600	\$139,920	
Skating rink	1	5,000	0.200	1	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	0.7	1.4	0.7	\$20,000	\$27,460	\$13,992	
Soccer	1	3,500	0.286	1	1.7	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.4	0.7	2.4	1.7	\$25,000	\$84,750	\$42,915	
Tennis	1	7,500	0.133	0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.6	0.5	\$25,000	\$39,550	\$11,660	
Basketball	1	3,500	0.286	2	2.4	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.4	0.4	1.4	1.0	\$15,000	\$20,850	\$14,991	
Volleyball	1	5,000	0.200	1	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.4	0.7	1.4	0.7	\$12,000	\$28,476	\$8,395	
Football (HS)	1	15,000	0.067	0	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.2	\$25,000	\$19,775	\$5,830	
Swimming	1	30,000	0.033	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1	\$3,000,000	\$1,186,500	\$349,800	
Hockey facility ¹	1	30,000	0.033	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1	\$50,000	\$19,775	\$0	
Water facility	1	10,000	0.100	0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.3	\$150,000	\$177,975	\$52,470	
Park Shelter	1	1,100	0.909	7	7.6	8.4	9.2	10.0	10.8	0.6	3.8	3.2	\$25,000	\$269,659	\$79,500	
Trails (lin. ft.)	6.25	1	6250	18,700					74156	33578		21,882	\$	480,964		
Playgrounds ²	1	2,000	0.500	4	4.2	4.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	0.2	1.9	1.7	\$50,000	\$296,625	\$87,450	
Concession Stand	1	2,000	0.500	2	4.2	4.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	2.2	3.9	1.7	\$75,000	\$444,938	\$131,175	
Restrooms (2)	1	2,000	0.500	4	4.2	4.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	0.2	1.9	1.7	\$40,000	\$237,300	\$69,960	
Benches	1	500	2.000	18	16.7	18.5	20.2	21.9	23.7	-1.3	5.7	7.0	\$	\$18,984	\$4,584	
Picnic Tables	1	125	8.000	71	66.9	74.0	80.7	87.6	94.9	-4.1	23.9	28.0	\$	\$56,952	\$14,352	
Trash Cans	1	125	8.000	73	66.9	74.0	80.7	87.6	94.9	-6.1	21.9	28.0	\$	\$30,849	\$9,095	
Parking/acre ³	2				201.8				232.8			232.8	\$	\$256,080	\$256,080	
Landscaping												5	\$	\$0	\$195,000	
Population	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025										\$2,069,529
	7,368	8,367	9253	10,065	10,348	11,865										

1. Listed as existing deficiency in 1995 needs assessment. Although current service standard would justify impact fees, amounts are excluded.
 2. A playground consists of 1 play module (a playground structure that includes one climbing area, 2-3 swings, 1-2 slides) and 2-3 pieces of individual play equipment.
 3. Athletic field costs include parking necessary for that facility. Two stalls per acre is in addition to those needed for athletic facilities.

Appendix D: Funding Sources

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
<i>Wisconsin Stewardship Programs</i>						
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"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ \$4 m available each year. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. ▪ Priority for land acquisition. ▪ Projects must comply with ADA. 	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer 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"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ \$1.6 m available each year. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. ▪ Projects must comply with ADA.. 	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer 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"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ \$1.6 m available each year. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds are available to acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development are in place. ▪ May include enhancements of nature-based outdoor recreation. 	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer 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"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ \$800,000 available each year. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate. ▪ Projects must comply with ADA. 	Wisconsin DNR	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
<i>Federal Programs</i>						
Land and Water Conversation Fund (LAWCON)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ Land acquisition. ▪ Development of recreational facilities. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required to participate. 	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
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"> ▪ 50% local match per project. ▪ Maintenance and restoration of existing trails. ▪ Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages. ▪ Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands). ▪ Acquisition of easement or property for trails purchase. 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Funds may be used on trails which are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. 	Wisconsin DNR with TEA-21 funds.	Stefanie Brouwer South Central Region (608) 275-3218
<i>Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)</i>						
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"> ▪ Funded through TEA-21. ▪ 80%/20%. ▪ 20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed). 	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-construction projects over \$25,000. ▪ Construction projects over \$100,000. 	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
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"> Funded through TEA-21. 80%/20%. 20% required match (funds are not awarded upfront, but are reimbursed). 	February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips. Facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. System-wide bicycle planning. Non-construction projects over \$25,000. Construction projects over \$100,000. 	WisDOT	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<i>Federal Transit Administration Grants</i>						
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"> 20% local match per project. 	Early spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis. Congress/Administration can pick the projects although the authorization bill contains a list of specific earmarks. 	WisDOT Bureau of Transit.	John Duffe (608) 264-8723
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program	Funds projects which will reduce vehicle trips and miles; reduce emissions due to traffic congestion; or reduce the per mile rate of vehicle emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% local match per project. 	Early April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties. 	United States Department of Transportation.	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<i>Section 402-Highway Safety Funds</i>						
Community Programs Empowerment Program Enforcement Program	For bicycle and pedestrian safety education and training projects, including helmet promotion and purchases, sponsorship of rodeos, classes, and development of brochures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% local match per project. Bicycle and pedestrian education and enforcement projects. Non-construction projects (e.g.; helmet purchase, brochure development). 	October to December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities with higher than average pedestrian and/or bicycle may be contact WisDOT regarding the use of funds. Engineering and maintenance work not eligible for funding. 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Highway Safety Program (Section 403)	Available for bicycle/pedestrian education. May also be used to develop safety classes for bicycle/pedestrian offenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20%-50% local match per project. 	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities that can document bicycle crashes related to motor vehicle violations. Funds new enforcement programs up to \$1,000. 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
Research Projects	Funds the research needed to substantiate unique local needs for additional safety funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% local match per project. 	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study of transit needs on public lands to assess the feasibility of alternative transportation modes. (Section 3039). 	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800
<i>Other Programs</i>						
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements.		No specific date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General downtown program. May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping. 	National Main Street Center (202) 673-4219	Wisconsin Dept of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Dvlpmnt (608) 266-7531

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Admin. Agency	Contact
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"> 20% local match per project. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$500,000 is made available for the development of a national bicycle safety education curriculum. \$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 educational programs, and disseminate techniques and strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. \$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. 	FHWA	U.S. Dept of Transportation (202) 366-4000
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$450,000 to \$500,000 available annually. \$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match. Match may include in-kind services and donations 	November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 to 60 grants made per year. 	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	Dick Rideoyt (608) 267-0843
Hazard Elimination Program	Program designed to survey hazardous locations, or projects regarding any public owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail and safety-related traffic calming measures, as well as improvements to railway-highway crossings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% local match per project. 	June 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities are encouraged to start working with the District Office (District 2) in March, 2003. The project must exemplify that the benefits will outweigh the costs of accidents. 	WisDOT-Bureau of State Highway Programs funded by TEA-21.	District 1 Office (608) 246-3800