



# City of Lake Geneva Park and Open Space Plan

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# I Introduction

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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 supplying opportunities 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 City'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 City 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 2025), it focuses on recommendations for development over the next five-year period (2007-2012).

This *Plan* is also intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the City's 1999 *Park and Open Space Plan* and the *City of Lake Geneva Comprehensive Master Plan*, also adopted in 1999.

This *Plan* was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the City 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 component of the City's Comprehensive Plan, under Wisconsin Statutes 62.23 and 61.35. Furthermore, in the future, it is intended that this *Plan* will be incorporated as a detailed component of the City's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.





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## II Background Information

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### A. General Regional Context and City History

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The City of Lake Geneva is located in southeastern Walworth County, near the Wisconsin and Illinois border. The City is south of Interstate Highway 43, and situated between Interstate Highway 90 to the west and Interstate Highway 94 to the east. The City is near several larger metropolitan areas, including Kenosha, Racine, Chicago and Milwaukee. A resort city situated on the shores of Geneva Lake, it is very popular tourist destination from these metropolitan cities. Lake Geneva was originally developed as a recreational lake area that provided a retreat for upper class families. However, because of its proximity to regional highway systems and to larger metropolitan areas, the City has faced substantial development pressures over the last decade.

### B. Natural Resources

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

#### Climate

Southeastern Wisconsin's climate is characterized by four distinct seasons. Warm summers generally span the months of June through August. The winter months of December, January, and February are cold, with average temperatures below freezing. The region is characterized by temperate conditions in spring and autumn. The first autumn freeze typically occurs around the second week of October, and the last spring freeze is usually sometime during the first week of May.

#### Soils

As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, four major soil associations dominate the Lake Geneva area. Most of these soils are classified as prime farmland by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. Soils in the Miami-McHenry Association extend out from the lake shore and are the primary soil type in Lake Geneva. Miami-McHenry series soils are generally well drained with a subsoil of clay loam and silty clay loam and usually found on uplands. These soils have only slight limitations for development.

The Houghton-Palms Association is the next most common soil, and is concentrated around the eastern end of Lake Como and along the southern branch of the White River. This soil type has severe development limitations because it is composed mainly of very poorly drained organic soils and is found primarily in depressions and bottom lands.

Soils of the Pella, Kendall, Elburn Association are found north of the city along Como Creek east of Lake Como. This concentration continues northeast along the path of Como Creek and the White River to the Town of Lyon. It also extends a short distance along the southern branch of the White River. Characterized by drainage problems and silty clay loam subsoils, these soils have severe to very severe development limitations due to low strength, ponding, and frost heave.

The Plano-Griswold Association is found to the south of the City along Nippersink Creek. These soils have moderate development limitations due to shrink-swell potential. Generally these soils are well drained and have a subsoil of clay, silty clay loam and sandy clay loam.

#### Water Bodies and Watersheds

The City of Lake Geneva lies in the White River and Nippersink Creek Watershed. The watershed is drained by approximately 239 miles of perennial rivers and streams, and flows in a southeast direction toward the Illinois border.

Geneva Lake is the most important surface water resource in the City. Other significant surface waters include the White River, Lake Como, and Como Creek.

### Vegetation

At the time of European settlement, much of southeastern Wisconsin was covered with prairie and oak savannah, oak woods, and lowlands. Since that time, most of the land has been converted to agricultural and urban uses. Currently, approximately 16 percent of the City remains wooded. The majority of these areas are located on the western side of the City and along the shores of Lake Geneva. Dominant forest types include oak-hickory and maple basswood.

### Wildlife Habitat

Species of wildlife common to the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include cardinals, robins, woodthrushes, great blue herons, wrens, blue jays, cranes, hawks, and killdeer.

Over the course of a ten year study, SEWRPC identified high quality natural areas and critical species habitats throughout the region. In 1997, the results were published in a report titled “A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin”. The areas are listed below. The specific locations for each are available from Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources, but are not generally released unless specifically requested by the community.

Figure 1: Lake Geneva Area Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat

Area Name	Location	Classification Code	Size	Description and Comments
Wychwood		Natural Area	226 acres	A large tract of dry-mesic hardwoods occupying a terminal moraine on the north side of Lake Geneva. Generally good quality throughout, except for the large estates which occupy much of the woods.
Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict		Natural Area	171 acres	Large wetland complex of good-quality sedge meadow, with shrub-carr and tamarack relict. Disturbances include past ditching attempts. Contains Alder flycatcher and Veer, both common bird species.
Pell Lake Railroad Prairie		Natural Area, Rare Species Habitat	4 acres	Small remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way. Floristically rich, with several regionally uncommon species.
Warbler Trail Wetlands (Duck Lake Nature Trail)		Natural Area	40 acres	Shallow marsh, shrubb-carr complex with small, shallow lakes in depression. Adjacent development and past ditching attempts have disturbed the site.

Area Name	Location	Classification Code	Size	Description and Comments
Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict		Natural Area	160 acres	Large tamarack relict-schrub-carr complex with small, shallow lakes in depression. Adjacent development and past ditching attempts have disturbed the site.
Radio Station Wetland		Critical Species Habitat (Plant)	30 acres	Gentiana procera, a rare plant species, grows on the site.
Section Five Marsh and Pond		Critical Species Habitat (Bird)	18 acres	Site contains a colony of Black terns, a rare bird species.
White River		Critical Species Habitat (Aquatic)	4.5 miles (estimated 20 acres of surface water)	The entire length of the White River within the planning area is classified as an aquatic area of countywide or regional significance, containing a good assemblage of mussel species. The portions of the river from the outlet at Geneva Lake extending 1.7 miles downstream is a critical stream reach containing the Longear sunfish, a threatened species, and the Least darter, a species of special concern.
Geneva Lake		Critical Species Habitat (Aquatic)	5,282 acres	This deep spring lake, the largest in the Region, contains good overall fish diversity including the Least darter and the Lake herring (Cisco), both species of special concern

*Source: "A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin", 1997, SEWRPC.*

## C. Population and Demographics

### Population

Over the past thirty years, the City has experienced steady population growth. Figure 2 shows the City's U.S. Census population from 1980 to 2000. These numbers are compared to population trends for the surrounding towns, Walworth County, and the state. Between 1990 and 2000, the City's population grew approximately 20 percent. This is significantly greater than the state and Town of Linn growth rates, fairly consistent with the Town of Geneva and Walworth County growth rates, and significantly less than the Town of Bloomfield and Town of Lyon growth rates. It is also important to note that as a resort and vacation destination, the City has a significant seasonal population between May and September.

Figure 2: Population Trends

	1980	1990	2000	2007 Estimate	1990 – 2000 Percent Change
<b>Lake Geneva</b>	<b>5,612</b>	<b>5,979</b>	<b>7,148</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>19.6</b>
Town of Bloomfield	3,277	3,723	5,537	6,341	48.7
Town of Geneva	3,933	3,472	4,099	5,107	18.1
Town of Linn	2,064	2,062	2,194	2,366	6.4
Town of Lyons	2,659	2,579	3,440	3,750	33.4%
Walworth County	71,507	75,000	92,013	100,672	22.7%
Wisconsin	4,705,767	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,647,000	9.6%

Source: US Census Bureau and Wisconsin Department of Administration

Figure 3 depicts three population projection methods. The first projection is prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The 15-Year Percentage Projection was calculated by determining the average annual percent change between 1990 and 2005 and projecting that forward to the year 2030. The 15-Year Straight Line Projection was calculated by determining the City's average annual population change between 1990 and 2005 and projecting that forward to the year 2030.

The City expects that historic growth trends will continue. For this reason, this *Plan* rejects the DOA projections for the City of Lake Geneva. For the purposes of this *Plan*, the City will utilize the 15-Year Percentage Projection. Using this growth rate projection, the population of the City is expected to grow to 10,033 by 2030.

Figure 3: City of Lake Geneva Population Projections

	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2005 <sup>2</sup> Estimate	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection
Department of Administration	7,148	7,260	7,403	7,663	7,834	7,846	NA
15-Straightline Projection <sup>3</sup>	7,148	7,260	7,687	8,114	8,541	8,968	9,395
15-Year Percentage Projection <sup>4</sup>	7,148	7,260	7,745	8,263	8,815	9,405	10,033

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

<sup>2</sup> Department of Administration, 2005 population estimate

<sup>3</sup> Extrapolated based on the average annual population change from 1990-2005  $((2005 \text{ pop} - 1990 \text{ pop}) / 15)$

<sup>4</sup> Extrapolated based on the average annual percentage change from 1990-2005 (1.58%)

The selected projections presented in Figure 3 will be useful for long-term park and recreational facility planning. However, it should be noted that the City's actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, changes in the market, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations.

### Age Distribution

Figure 4 presents information about age demographics in the City. Overall, Lake Geneva is characterized by a relatively young population. Currently, 15 percent of the population is over 65, and approximately 23 percent of the City's population is under 18. This is also true of many of the surrounding towns, suggesting this area is characterized by young families. The City's median age is 36.5.

Figure 4: Age Distribution

	Median Age	Percent under 5	Percent under 18	Percent over 65
<b>Lake Geneva</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>
Town of Bloomfield	35.8	6.6	28.6	11.5
Town of Geneva	42.0	5.0	22.9	16.5
Town of Linn	41.9	5.9	22.6	15.6
Town of Lyons	38.8	5.9	26.4	13.2
Walworth County	35.1	5.9	24.2	12.7
Wisconsin	36.0	6.4	25.5	13.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Racial Distribution

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in 2000, Lake Geneva was characterized by a predominately “White” population, as was Walworth County and the State of Wisconsin (Figure 5). Furthermore, the proportion of “Black or African American” residents in Lake Geneva was comparable to Walworth County but considerably lower than the State. The proportion of “Asian” residents was less than both the State and the County. These data depict a relatively homogeneous population from a racial distribution perspective.

Figure 5: Racial Distribution

	City of Lake Geneva	Walworth County	State of Wisconsin
White	90.8%	94.5%	88.9%
Black or African American	0.9%	0.8%	5.7%
Asian	0.1%	0.7%	1.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%
Some Other Race	5.2%	2.6%	1.6%
Two or More Races	1.9%	1.1%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

According to the 2000 Census people who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories. The Census does not include Hispanic and Latino people in the racial distribution. Rather, they are considered to be an ethnicity. Hispanic and Latinos can be any race and/or Hispanic. The City of Lake Geneva had a significantly higher percentage of “Hispanic or Latino” residents than Walworth County and the State according to 2000 Census data.

Figure 6: Hispanic and Latino Distribution

	City of Lake Geneva	Walworth County	State of Wisconsin
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	14.7%	6.5%	3.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	85.3%	93.5%	96.4%
White Alone	82.7%	91.1%	87.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Employment Characteristics

The City's proximity to urban centers such as the Cities of Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, and Chicago provides a wide variety of employment opportunities for Lake Geneva residents. In 2000, 70 percent of Lake Geneva's population age 16 and older was in the labor force. Figure 7 shows the City's occupational distribution.

Figure 7: Occupational Distribution

Occupational Group	Percentage of Employed Labor Force
Management or Professional	31.8
Service Occupations	17.1
Sales and Office	23.9
Farming, Fishing, Forestry	0.5
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	9.6
Production, Transportation	17.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Household Characteristics

In 2000, the average household size in Lake Geneva was 2.33 persons per household. As shown in Figure 8, the average household size in the City was slightly lower than that of the County, the State, and the surrounding towns. Furthermore, the City had a much lower proportion of owner-occupied housing than the County, State, and surrounding towns.

Figure 8: Household Characteristics

	Total Housing Units	Total Households	Average Household Size	Percent Owner-Occupied
<b>Lake Geneva</b>	<b>3,757</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>53.0</b>
Town of Bloomfield	2,476	2,067	2.65	81.5
Town of Geneva	2,826	1,660	2.45	81.0
Town of Linn	1,901	910	2.41	77.5
Town of Lyons	1,307	1,231	2.72	86.3
Walworth County	43,783	34,522	2.57	69.1
Wisconsin	2,321,144	2,084,544	2.50	68.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

### Review of Existing Plans

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

### **Park and Open Space Plan: City of Lake Geneva (1999)**

In 1999, the City adopted a *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. This plan presented the following recommendations:

- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should acquire additional lands and develop new facilities at Big Foot Beach State Park, as set forth in the master plan for that park.
- Three new neighborhood parks are proposed to be acquired and developed by the City in the northern, central, and south eastern portions of Lake Geneva.
- The City should provide several outdoor recreation facilities at the undeveloped City park site.
- The City should provide a variety of additional outdoor recreation facilities at several of the existing City Parks.
- A local system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes throughout the community is recommended to be developed by the City of Lake Geneva in cooperation with Walworth County.
- The City should acquire and preserve approximately 394 acres to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.

#### **City of Lake Geneva Comprehensive Plan (1999)**

In 1999, the City updated the *Master Plan of Lake Geneva* by adopting the *City of Lake Geneva Comprehensive Master Plan*. This plan focused on land use and transportation recommendations and did not include specific recommendations for parks and recreation. It did include, however, general recommendations for pedestrian circulation and facilities.

#### **A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010 (1994)**

The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan* was completed in 1994 by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The intent of the plan was to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation by planning for the provision of facilities that can accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel. In cooperation with a Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee, SEWRPC proposed a total of approximately 153 miles of bicycle ways within Walworth County. This plan identifies a number of potential trails connecting Lake Geneva with neighboring communities including Delevan, Elkhorn, and Burlington.

#### **Park and Open Space Plan: Walworth County (2000)**

This plan recommends the City acquire several open space areas. It also suggests the expansion of Big Foot Beach State Park by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the establishment of a new County park north east of Lake Geneva along the White River. This new site would include family camping facilities, picnicking, and stream access. In addition, the plan identifies an extensive network of trails including a segment through Lake Geneva along the White River/Delavan corridor, which would connect with the Fox River recreation corridor in Racine County on the east and with the Turtle Creek corridor on the west.

#### **A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin (1997)**

Beginning in 1991, SEWRPC staff conducted a natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management study to guide the preservation of the most crucial remaining natural areas and critical species habitats in Southeastern Wisconsin. The 1997 plan that resulted from the study presented the location of natural areas and critical species sites in the City of Lake Geneva area. A description of where these sites are located in Lake Geneva is included in the Natural Resources section of this Plan.

#### **Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2005-2010**

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. The City of Lake Geneva is located in the Southern Gateway Planning Region.

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, local park and recreation plans, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions. In the Southern Gateways Planning Region, the SCORP identifies the following nature-based supply shortages: backcountry/walk-in

camping, boat launches – carry-in, natural areas, public water access, trails – hiking, and trails – horseback riding. The SCORP also includes the following developed recreation supply shortages: boat launches trailerable, camps – educational, dog parks, ice skating rinks, nature centers, picnic areas, sailboat clubs/rentals, tennis courts and programs, and trails – bicycle.

Several recreation needs are common throughout the state. Common deficiencies within the nature-based category include a shortage of parks, camping, carry-in boat launches, and certain trail types. These elements are, for the most part, provided at a federal, state, or county level of development. Within the developed setting category, local shortages such as basketball courts, ice skating rinks, trailerable boat launches, and dog parks are the most common.

### **Wisconsin Land Legacy Report**

In the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, the DNR identified those key places around the state that are critical to meeting Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation needs over the next 50 years. The Report identifies several sites in Walworth County, including the White River and Bloomfield Area. Located northeast of Lake Geneva, this area has diverse upland and wetland habitat and contains several lakes. There are fens, sedge meadows, tamarack relicts and bogs. Three existing state wildlife areas could be incorporated into protection efforts, which could extend from the White River southward to the Ivanhoe Marsh and the extensive wetland north of Pell Lake. The White River is scenic in spots and is suitable for canoeing. It contains largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, and panfish.



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## III Public Participation

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### A. Visioning Workshop

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As part of the planning process for this *2007 Park and Open Space Plan*, a visioning workshop was held on June 26, 2007 to provide City residents with an early opportunity to share their perspectives on the existing park system and its future, and to ask questions about the park planning process. During the workshop, participants were asked to identify their key goals or directions for the park system. Participants were also asked to help determine what kinds of recreational facilities should be included in the City's future community park(s) and potential future locations for parks, trails, and preservation areas.

A compilation of the data received at the workshop suggests that residents are concerned about preserving environmental corridors, increasing connectivity between trails and expanding the trail network, maintaining the existing park system, and involving youth in the park planning process. Additionally, regarding future recreational facilities, participants preferred natural parks, multi-use paths, and dog parks.

The results of this workshop contributed to the development of the future park and recreational facilities recommendations described in Chapter Five. A complete summary of the results from the workshop is provided in Appendix B of this *Plan*.



### B. Public Hearing

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A public hearing was held on December 17, 2007 to allow residents to comment on the Draft 2007 Park and Open Space Plan.



Map 1: Existing Park and Recreational Facilities



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## IV Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

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

As of 2007, the City had approximately 198 acres of parks and open space. The City maintains 26 parks and one lake access areas.

### A. Neighborhood Parks

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**Cobb Park:** This 5-acre park is located just west of the City. The mostly wooded site features a nature trail, playground equipment, group picnicking area, and restrooms.

**Flat Iron Park:** This 3-acre site sits adjacent to the convergence of Geneva Lake and the White River. The park is the site of the Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information Center. Facilities include boat slips, a gazebo, and restrooms.

**Maple Park:** This 3-acre park is located in the heart of the City. Although owned by the City, the site is managed by the Lake Geneva School District. Facilities include two basketball courts, a playfield, a playground, on sandlot softball diamond and two tennis courts.

**Oak Hill Tot Lot:** This less than one acre playlot on the City's north side offers a variety of playground equipment.

**Rushwood Park:** The facilities for this 3-acre park on the City's south side include a sandlot softball diamond, playground equipment, picnicking and a sledding hill.

**Seminary Park:** This 3-acre site has a downtown location. The site provides picnicking, playground equipment, restrooms, and parking for vehicles with boat trailers.

**Stoneridge Park:** This undeveloped 2-acre park is located in the northern portion of the City in the Stoneridge subdivision.

**Undeveloped Park (North):** This undeveloped 3-acre site on the City's north side contains wetlands and an environmental corridor and is near the Town-owned Duck Lake Nature Trail.

**Westgate Tot Lot:** This less than one acre playlot on the City's west side offers a variety of playground equipment.

### B. Community Parks

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**Dunn Field:** This 13-acre park adjacent to Eastview Grade School is under ownership of the school district, but under a 1984 agreement, the land is under the control and use of the City for recreational purposes. Facilities include one lighted baseball diamond, two tennis courts, one league softball diamond, two sandlot softball diamonds, a playground, four basketball courts, and soccer facilities.

**Veterans Park:** This 38-acre park is located east of the City. Facilities at the park include a lighted baseball diamond, two lighted softball diamonds, five unlighted softball diamonds, six soccer fields, a basketball court, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, and two shelters.

**Library Park:** This 10-acre park is located on the north shore of Geneva Lake. The historic Riviera Building lies on the east end and the Public Library is located in the park's center. Facilities include a swimming beach, informal picnicking, ice skating, boat slips, and restrooms with a shower.

## C. Regional Parks

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**Big Foot Beach State Park:** This 271-acre park on the shore of Lake Geneva in the City offers wooded campsites, shower and restroom facilities, 5.5 miles of hiking trails, a sand beach and a 100-foot swimming area, volley ball and horseshoe courts, and a 40-acre picnic area.



## D. Natural and Open Space Areas

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**Baker Park:** This small open space park occupies approximately 1-acre on the northeastern shore of Lake Geneva. The site contains steep slopes with shrubs and trees.

**Business Park Pond:** This 6.5-acre site is located in the City's Business Park and includes a pond with path.

**Donian Park:** This wooded 4-acre wooded open space area encompasses a mill race, wetland overlook, and the 100-year recurrence interval floodplain along the White River in downtown Lake Geneva.

**Four Seasons Nature Preserve:** This 64-acre open space site is located southeast of the City. Facilities include a shelter building, observation deck, nature trail, and boardwalk amid a wetland, prairie, and oak opening. The preserve is bordered by 250 acres, which are part of a primary environmental corridor, and is open to the public.

**Hillmoor Heights:** This wooded 20-acre site is located in the Town of Lyons. The property is owned by the City and is currently undeveloped.

**Home Depot Park:** This 7-acre site is located northwest of the intersection of US Highway 12 and State Highway 50. It includes a detention pond and is the terminus of the City's "Red" bike route. Lands immediately to the north are held by the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

**Mill Park:** This less than a half acre site is located on the City's near east side. It is currently undeveloped.

**Moss Park:** This less than a half acre site is located on the City's north side. It is currently undeveloped.

**Olive Longland Park:** This 1-acre open space site is located on the north side of Lake Geneva. It is currently undeveloped.

**Price-Fremont Park:** This wooded 5-acre site is located in the northwest area of the City.

**Water Tower Open Space:** This 3-acre site is located on the western side of the City east of the water tower and includes a detention pond.

## E. Lake Access Points

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**City Boat Access:** This boat launch is a less than one acre site located on the northeastern shore of Lake Geneva. Parking for vehicles with trailers is provided at nearby Seminary Park.

## F. Trails and Bike Routes

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**Bike Routes:** Lake Geneva has five bike routes, depicted on Map 1, which are mainly located on the eastern side of the City.

**Duck Lake Nature Trail:** A former railroad right-of-way, this two mile walkway offers excellent opportunities for bird watching. This Town of Geneva facility covers 22 acres along the southern edge of State-owned lands adjacent to Lake Como.

**Geneva Lake Walkway:** This historical 26-mile walkway path extends completely around Geneva Lake's wooded lakeshore. Approximately 3-miles of the trail are located within the City.

**White River Walk:** This unofficial walk currently exists along the White River from Geneva Lake to Main Street.

## G. Public School Parks

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The following is a list of existing school parklands:

**Badger High and Lake Geneva Middle School:** This 55-acre recreation area includes a number of athletic fields including a regulation baseball diamond, two basketball courts, two league softball fields, eight tennis courts, a football playing field, track, and sand volleyball.

**Denison Elementary School:** The recreation area at Denison School encompasses 1-acre.

**Eastview Elementary School:** This 2-acre site includes four basketball courts and playground equipment.

## H. Private Recreational Facilities

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In addition to public recreation facilities, the residents of Lake Geneva have access to a variety of other private recreational resources:

**Covenant Harbor Bible Camp:** Located at 1724 Main Street in Lake Geneva, this lakeside site contains 56-acres of woodland that includes picnic areas, two tennis courts, a ropes course, and archery facilities.

**First Evangelical Lutheran School:** Located at 1101 Logan Street in Lake Geneva, the facilities at this 4-acre church and school site include two basketball courts and playground equipment.

**Grand Geneva Resort and Spa:** Located at northeast of Lake Geneva, this resort offers golf, a health spa, tennis, hiking, horseback riding, skiing, and other activities.

**Hillmoor Golf Club:** Located at 333 East Main Street in Lake Geneva, this club offers 18 holes of golf on a 111 acre site. The future of the Golf Course is uncertain.

**Lake Geneva Youth Camp:** This 22-acre summer camp site is located at W 2655 South Street in the Town of Linn. Facilities include two basketball courts, soccer facilities, various playfields, playground equipment, four sandlot softball diamonds, and two tennis courts.

**Par T Miniature Golf:** An 18-hole miniature golf park located near downtown Lake Geneva.

**Paradise Golf Park:** An 18-hole miniature golf park located near downtown Lake Geneva.



St. Francis School de Sales Catholic Church and School: Located at 148 West Main Street in Lake Geneva, this 4-acre site includes a basketball court and playground equipment.

YMCA: Located at 203 Wells Street, the YMCA includes a full Wellness Center, two gymnasiums, a 25-meter swimming pool, a large therapy pool, saunas, steam rooms, racquetball courts, and spin cycling equipment. The City contracts with the YMCA to provide recreational programming.



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## V Goals, Objectives, and Policies

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

**Goals** are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

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

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

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst City Staff and Parks Commission members.

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### A. Goals

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1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and young children.
2. Preserve the City's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

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### B. Objectives

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1. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each planned neighborhood area in the City.
2. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Lake Geneva residents, generally within 1/4-1/2 mile.
3. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.
4. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
5. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths, trails, and bike lanes throughout the City which connect with other facilities in the area.
6. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

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### C. Policies

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1. All citizens should be provided with an opportunity for engaging in recreational experiences, and recreational facilities should be equitably located in the City.
2. The City should continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.

3. Mini Parks and Neighborhood Parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. All new residential development should be within 1/4 mile of a park.
4. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood and development designs and linked by a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.
5. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
6. The City should continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
7. The City should explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.
8. The preservation of primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, lakes, ponds, streams, lakeshores, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as natural stormwater infiltration areas, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater detention management areas, where appropriate.
9. All new residential development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the City of Lake Geneva zoning and subdivision ordinances.
10. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts, and should follow State and AASHTO design standards.
11. The City should encourage public awareness of the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, and other materials.
12. The City should explore opportunities to work in collaboration with local school districts to provide parkland and recreation facilities.
13. The City should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
14. The City should continue its Neighborhood Planning process to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and the locations of parks, open space corridors, and trails.
15. The City should provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including teenagers and senior citizens.

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## VI Park and Recreation Standards

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In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents 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.

Although such national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the provision of parks and open spaces, a more thorough and accurate analysis of Lake Geneva's park system must emphasize the *local* demand for recreational resources. Therefore, a calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal standards. Furthermore, a locally-derived standard will do a better job of taking into account the *quality* of the park system as well as the quantity of park lands provided.

### A. Mini-Parks

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**General Description:** These parks offer specialized facilities that serve a centralized or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.

**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 (full cut-off fixtures should be used)
- 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

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**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:** 1-2 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

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**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:** 5-8 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. Regional Parks

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**General Description:** Regional parks are large outdoor recreation sites that are able to accommodate visitors from multiple counties. Such sites tend to be natural resource-oriented. That is, they provide amenities for nature-based recreational activities and opportunities for area residents to enjoy the natural environment. Examples include hiking, fishing, and camping.

**Service Area:** 10 miles

**Desirable Size:** 250 acres or more

**Acres per 1,000 Population:** 5.3 acres (For Regional Parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total population of the region.)

**Basic Facilities & Activities:**

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, and indoor recreational facilities
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, nature study areas, and camp sites
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate off-street parking spaces, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow

**E. School Parks**

**General Description:** School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the City or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.

**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

**F. Special Open Space Areas**

**General Description:** Areas of open space that can not 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, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors, wildlife habitats, 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

## G. Trails and Bike Routes

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**General Description:** Recreation trails and bike routes 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.

**Treatment in this Plan:** There are generally two types of trails and bike paths: on-street bike facilities and off-street recreation paths. Both are described below. Although this *Plan* presents general recommendations regarding locations for future trails and bike routes, more formal and detailed recommendations regarding type and location would require more in-depth analyses of the City's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths. Design standards for both types of trails and bike paths are included in Chapter Eight: Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements.

### 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)

**Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population:** N/A

### 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.

**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. However, a commonly accepted minimum standard for recreation corridors is 0.16 linear miles per 1,000 population.

### 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





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## VII Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

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

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

### A. Quantitative Analysis

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The following chart presents a comparison of NRPA's park and recreation standards (acres per 1,000 persons) to the City's existing park system. As indicated in Figure 9, the City currently has approximately 11 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. In this analysis, public elementary schools function as neighborhood parks. The public middle and high school facilities were not included in this calculation as they serve special recreation purposes and are mostly used for school district activities. In general, NRPA standards recommend a minimum of approximately 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. However, it is not uncommon for communities to maintain higher levels of service for parklands based on local demand for certain types of parks or facilities. It should also be noted that the City is currently meeting minimum national standards for neighborhood and community park acreage. The City does not classify any of its parks as "mini-parks".

In Figure 9, the *Recommended Acreage* for Regional Parks was derived by applying the standard per 1,000 persons to an estimated regional population. The *Acres per 1,000 persons* figure indicates that Big Foot Beach State Park by itself is nearly meeting NRPA standards for the region.

Figure 9: Park Acreage Analysis, 2007

Park Type	NRPA Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Recommended Range of Acres per 1,000 persons*	Existing City Park Acreage	
			2007 Total Acres	2007 Acres per 1,000 persons
Neighborhood Parks**	1 - 2 acres	7.5 - 15.0	24.7	3.3
Community Parks	5 - 8 acres	37.8 - 60.5	61.0	8.1
Natural Areas	NA	NA	115.8	15.3
<b>Total Developed City Parks (Neighborhood and Community Parks)</b>	<b>Approximately 10.5 acres</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>
All Public School Facilities	NA	NA	58.0	7.7
Regional Park	5.3 acres	304.2***	272.0	4.74

\* Based on 2007 population estimate (7,559)

\*\*For the purposes of this analysis, public elementary schools are considered neighborhood parks

\*\*\*Based on 2005 regional population estimate

Figure 10 presents an inventory of the total number of existing public and private recreational facilities/equipment in the City. Because the demand for such amenities varies substantially between communities, national standards will not be utilized in this *Plan* to analyze the adequacy of existing facilities. However, this component of the park system will be discussed in more detail in the qualitative analysis section of this chapter. A comprehensive inventory of the facilities in each of the City's parks is located in Appendix A.

Figure 10: Existing Recreational Facilities

Facility	# of Existing Facilities in the City
Baseball	4
Basketball	17
Soccer Fields	14
Sandlot Softball	5
League Softball	8
Tennis Courts	12
Playfields	7
Playgrounds	12
Picnic Area	6

## B. Qualitative Analysis

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

Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will do the following things:

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

Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this chapter considers public elementary schools as neighborhood parks. There are no set standards or guidelines for classifying school open space areas; however, in the City of Lake Geneva, school facilities serve many of the recreational needs of the residential neighborhoods that immediately surround them. In some cases, the City maintains recreational facilities that are owned by the school district. It should be recognized that school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school sponsored activities are given first priority when it comes to the scheduling and use of these facilities. For this reason, it is important for the City to provide and maintain an adequate number of its own facilities and parklands to accommodate programming needs and to meet local demand.
- The City has a wealth of natural areas and open space. While these areas don't serve the active recreation needs of the community, they do provide for natural resource conservation by reducing air, water, and noise pollution as well as enhance the overall aesthetics of Lake Geneva.
- The City is fortunate to have a variety of recreational facility providers. While private facilities like the YMCA serve residents with such activities as organized leagues and fitness programs, the City should consider establishing separate municipal recreational activities and facilities.
- According to the results of the public participation process, the City's existing park system falls short in the following general areas:
  - Bike and pedestrian recreational trails
  - Special recreational facilities (e.g. dog park, natural parks, band shell)
  - Connectivity of parks and trails
  - Maintenance of existing parks

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### C. Geographic Analysis

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The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provide a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of the City's residents. To illustrate this distribution, Maps 2a and 2b depict the service areas of the City's parks. These service areas are based on the NRPA standards identified in the Park and Recreation Standards chapter of this *Plan*.

An analysis of Map 2a suggests that while the majority of residential areas in the City are served by a neighborhood park, the north east portion of the City east of Highway 120 is not currently served. Map 2b suggests that community parks are well distributed and serving all City residents. However, as the City continues to grow to the east, west, and south, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to parklands and open space.

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### D. Review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

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The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2005-2010 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). As described in Chapter One, recreation supply shortages for the Southern Gateway Planning Region were taken into consideration when developing the recommendations for this *Plan*.

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### E. Future Park System Needs

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Based upon the analyses provided in this chapter, the City's future local standard for park acreage is 11 acres per 1,000 persons, 3 acres per 1,000 persons for neighborhood parks and 8 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks. For reasons described in Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements, the City

plans to develop neighborhood parks rather than mini-parks to meet these needs. The standard for neighborhood parks has been increased to reflect this approach.

Based on these standards, Figures 11 and 12 show the minimal additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City's projected population in 2017 and in 2030. The 2017 projection will be used in the Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreation Facilities chapter of this *Plan* to determine recommended parkland dedication and impact fee requirements. The 2017 population projection was selected to more accurately correspond to the January 2008 amendment to Chapter 66.0617 and 236.45 of the Wisconsin Statutes. A recent change in the statutes related to impact fees specifies municipalities have a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure. Land acquisition and improvement recommendations are based on what the City can reasonably expect to accomplish in a ten-year timeframe.

Figure 11: Park Acreage Needs, 2017

Park Type	City Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2007 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2017
Neighborhood Parks	3	25.4	21.7	3.7
Community Parks	8	67.8	61.0	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>

\* Based on 2017 projected population (8,480)

Figure 12: Park Acreage Needs, 2030

Park Type	City Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2007 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2030
Neighborhood Parks	3	40.1	21.7	18.4
Community Parks	8	80.3	61.0	19.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>37.7</b>

\* Based on 2030 projected population (10,033)

Map 2a: Neighborhood Park Service Areas



Map 2b: Community Park Service Areas





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## VIII Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements

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The following recommendations are based on projected growth rates and distributional deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this *Plan*. Over the next 20 years, it is recommended that the City acquire and develop land for one new community park, six new neighborhood parks, and one natural area. In addition, it is recommended that over the next five years, improvements are made to several existing parks.

Based upon 2030 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy NRPA's park and recreation standards, as well as the City's local park standards. The timing of park land acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City's developed and newly developing areas. Proactive identification of lands suitable for active parks, or natural areas worthy of conservation, is recommended early in the development process.

### A. Recommended Additional Parklands

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Map 3 shows the approximate locations for future community and neighborhood parks in the City. More precise park boundaries will be determined during the preparation of detailed neighborhood plans and when lands are acquired or platted. Following are general descriptions of the park recommendations.

#### Recommended Mini-Parks

Mini-parks tend to be maintenance intensive and receive minimal use. The acquisition of mini-parks is not recommended, with the following exceptions:

- High need is defined within a neighborhood which is not served by a neighborhood park and open space is not sufficient for a neighborhood park.
- As development occurs, the City should incorporate mini-parks into the design of office, commercial, and mixed-use districts. Mini-parks located in these areas should be oriented more towards adults than children, providing open areas to eat lunch, read the newspaper, and take a break from working or shopping. These parks may include paved areas, but should also accommodate some green space. Trees, landscaping, and water features should be incorporated into these park spaces wherever possible.

#### Recommended Neighborhood Parks

Additional acquisition of approximately 11 acres of neighborhood parkland is recommended by 2017 as the City's population increases. It is recommended that the City develop Undeveloped Park (North), Price-Freemont Park, and Stoneridge Park to neighborhood park standards to serve existing or planned residential development.

Recommended general locations for future neighborhood parks are identified on Map 3. However, the precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs and/or land is acquired or platted.

#### Recommended Community Parks

It is recommended that the City develop a community park facility in the future to serve new and existing residents. Based on future growth areas and Map 2b: Community Park Service Areas, this Plan recommends siting a new community park at one of four alternative locations: east of CTH BB north of Willow Road (1), east of CTH BB south of Willow Road (2), east of STH 120 (3), or west of STH 120 (4). This park may include recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, a splash park, a community center, and tennis courts. It may also contain natural areas for outdoor recreation such as walking, bicycling, sitting, nature viewing, and picnicking. It is important that this park be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have

adequate off-street parking, and also be accessible by foot and bicycle. This park should be approximately 15-40 acres and serve an area within a 2 mile radius.

### Special Open Space Areas

Through the vision workshop, Lake Geneva residents have expressed a desire for more natural recreation areas. It is recommended that the City establish a natural area park in the sensitive environmental area along the White River north of the Hillmoor Golf Course as well as in the Hillmoor Heights property west of Veterans Park. Possible activities for both sites include a walking path and nature viewing.

## B. Recommended Trails and Bike Routes

Map 3 depicts recommended future trails and bike routes. These proposed trails and routes would compliment the existing bike route system and connect the recommended recreational facilities described above. Additionally, the proposed trails would connect recreational facilities at the periphery with the City, including the Duck Lake Nature Area, the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, and the Four Seasons Nature Preserve. The proposed segment extending north toward the Duck Lake Nature Area and east toward the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa could connect with the Fox River recreation corridor in Racine County on the east and with the Turtle Creek corridor on the west, as recommended in the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan.

While no specific existing or future park has been identified on Map 3 as a location for a future trailhead, it is recommended that a trailhead be included in a future community park in the southern portion of the City.

### Design Guidelines

Although this *Plan* presents general recommendations regarding locations for future trails and bike routes, more formal and detailed recommendations regarding type and location would require more in-depth analyses of the City's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths. Design standards for both types of trails and bike routes are described below.

#### **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.
- Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.

#### **Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:**

- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of ten 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 eight 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.

## C. Development of Unique Recreational Facilities

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### Dog Park

In recent years, dog parks have become a popular and common component of community park systems. These fenced-off areas provide no-leash zones where community residents can take their dogs to run and socialize with other dogs in a safe and appropriate environment. It is recommended that the City explore opportunities to provide dog park facilities. Ideally, parks should be centrally located and should be at least one-acre in size. It is recommended that the City engage local dog owners in the planning and development of these facilities. Encouraging a community group to sponsor dog parks and to take a major role in the on-going maintenance of these facilities will help ensure the long-term success of the park. Charging a nominal annual fee is a common way for municipalities to fund the on-going maintenance of dog parks. Potential sites include the Four Season Nature Preserve and a site on the north side of the City.

### Splash Park

Splash parks are becoming popular alternatives to community swimming pools because they are far less expensive to build and maintain, and because they are safer and do not require constant lifeguard supervision (there is no standing water at a splash park). Splash parks also function as interesting features of community civic spaces. It is recommended that the City consider developing a splash park in Veterans Park and the future community park.

## D. Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks

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In addition to the recommendations presented in the previous sections of this chapter, which mainly focus on the acquisition and development of new parklands in the City, recommendations for improvements to existing parks and open spaces are as follows:

1. Continue to develop and maintain playgrounds and equipment. Participants at the Vision Workshop identified the following parks as needing special attention: Cobb Park, Westgate Tot Lot, Oak Hill Tot Lot, Rushwood Park, Dunn Field, and Veterans Park.
2. The City should develop master plans for each of its current properties. These master plans should indicate current use and conditions of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds. Once established, these master plans form the basis for developing a capital improvements program.
3. The Park Board and City staff should work closely with the Plan Commission to locate neighborhood parks when detailed neighborhood plans are prepared for undeveloped areas.
4. Continue to participate in regional and county planning efforts, particularly through implementation of the Lake Geneva portion of Walworth County's park and open space plan and working with the County and regional organizations on bicycle and pedestrian trail links.
5. The City should update its Subdivision Ordinance to clarify that lands dedicated for public park purposes shall be provided to the City with appropriate grading and seeding, utility stubs, and improved with required curb, gutter, and sidewalks.



### Map 3: Future Park and Recreational Facilities



## IX Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this *Plan*. The information is intended to assist the City with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy 66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding parkland dedication, fees-in-lieu of dedication, and playground improvements impact fee collection. However, the adoption of this *Park and Open Space Plan* does not commit the City of Lake Geneva to collecting these fees through an ordinance.

### A. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

Based on a projected growth of 1,029 persons by the year 2017 and the City's standard of 11 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons, the City should plan to spend an estimated \$273,460 in 2007 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 442 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$619 per new dwelling unit would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,115 square feet (0.0256 acres) per dwelling unit would satisfy this requirement, if land dedication were preferred. However, land dedication per this provision must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

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

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2017 (individuals)	1,029
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2017 (dwelling units)	442
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*11)	11.3
D. Calculated Land Dedication Requirement per Dwelling Unit in Acres (Row C/Row B)	0.0256
E. Land Cost per Acre Estimate (Based on an average cost per acre of five recent subdivisions in the City.)	\$22,000
F. Projected Cost of Land Acquisition (Row C*Row E)	\$248,600
G. Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*10%)	\$24,860
H. Total Land Acquisition Cost (Row F + Row G)	\$273,460
I. Calculated Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit (Row H/Row B)	\$619
J. Alternative Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit in Square Feet	1,115

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

Each park type should have a minimum amount of playground equipment/opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of children. However, State law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 14 outlines the collectable playground costs associated with each future park type in Lake Geneva. A cost of \$588 per dwelling unit would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements.

Figure 14: Projected Playground Improvements by Park Type

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A. Cost of Play Equipment	\$100,000	\$100,000
B. Cost of Benches	\$6,000	\$12,000
C. Total Estimated Cost (Row A + Row B)	\$106,000	\$112,000
D. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards)	5	25
E. Grading/Seeding Cost per Acre	\$14,000	\$14,000
F. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (Row C/Row D+Row E)	\$35,200	\$18,480
G. Acres per 1,000 Residents (based on City standard on page 34)	3	8
H. Percent of Total Acres per 1,000 residents in Row G (Row G/11)	27%	73%
<b>I. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (weighted average of Row F based on Row H = <math>(\\$35,200*0.27)+(\\$18,480*0.73)</math>)</b>	<b>\$22,994</b>	

Figure 15: Projected Playground Fees

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2017 (individuals)	1,029
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2017 (dwelling units)	442
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed $((\text{Row A}/1000)*11)$	11.3
D. Average Park Playground Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Row I of Figure 14)	\$22,994
E. Projected Cost of Playground Improvements (Row C*Row D)	\$259,832
F. Calculated Playground Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)	\$588

### C. Total Impact Fee

In Lake Geneva, impact fees should be imposed on each new dwelling unit unilaterally. By using the fees outlined in Figures 13, 14, and 15 for park lands and playground improvements, **the total park fee per dwelling unit will be \$1,207**. In instances where development has dedicated lands, the collected fee will be \$588 per dwelling unit.



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## X Impact on Low-Income Housing

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

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's adjusted gross income;
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the City of Lake Geneva's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2000 was \$40,924 according to U.S. Census 2000 data); and
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the City population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$102,310), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in the City of Lake Geneva costs approximately \$107,695. (According to U.S. Census 2000 data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the City of Lake Geneva is \$121,200). Assuming a typical single-family detached housing price of \$107,695, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 7.5-percent, and a mortgage amount of \$102,310, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$715.37.

The City's imposed fees for parkland, park improvements, and recreation trails would be an integral part of the housing unit mortgage amount. Based on the recommendations in this Plan, the park fee added to the home mortgage amount is \$1,207. After adding this fee, the mortgage amount for the typical single family detached home would increase to \$103,517 and assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 7.5-percent, the monthly mortgage payment would be \$723.81. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the park fee is \$8.44 per month. Therefore, using the assumptions for a home in the City of Lake Geneva, this study finds that the park impact fee requirements will have a minimal effect on the provision of affordable housing in the City.



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## XI Implementation

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The recommendations presented in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the City to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs (listed in Appendix C). It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets. The park and open space improvements recommended in this *Plan* should also be incorporated into the City's capital improvement plans and programs.

The City's subdivision ordinance requires \$230 per residential unit for parkland improvements and one of the following for parkland dedication:

- Land dedication of five percent of the gross land area contained within the subdivision;
- Fee of \$400 per single family residential lot, \$200 per multi-family residential unit, and \$200 per net developable acre not used for residential purposes.

The City's fee in lieu of land and improvement fee are lower than communities of similar size in the region. The City should reevaluate parkland dedication requirements, parkland acquisition impact fees, and park improvement fees based on recommendations in this *Plan*. A commitment to pay these fees should be agreed to as part of Annexation Agreements and should be calculated and applied during the zoning or land division process.

The City should coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g. Walworth County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g. school districts, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and private and non-profit agencies to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

Generally, the City of Lake Geneva should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this *Plan*. The City should amend its subdivision ordinance to reflect the recommendations for parkland dedication presented in earlier in this *Plan*, and should continue to use the development review process to secure parklands as development occurs. This *Plan* will not preclude border agreement between city and other government entities which subsequently may be in contrast to the *Plan* as presented and accepted.



## Appendix A: Public and Private Recreation Facilities, 2007

	Park Size (acres)	Baseball Fields	Basketball	Soccer Fields	Sandlot Softball	League Softball	Football Field	Tennis Courts	Swimming Area	Volleyball	Hiking	Boat Launch/Slips	Pond	Ice Skating	Sledding Hill	Horseshoes	Playfields	Playgrounds	Picnic Area	Gazebo/Shelter	Camping
<b>Public Parks</b>																					
Neighborhood Parks:																					
Cobb Park	5										✓							✓	✓	✓	
Flat Iron Park	2											✓		✓							✓
Maple Park	3		2		1			2									✓	✓			
Oak Hill Tot Lot	0.1																	✓	✓		
Rushwood Park	3				1										1		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Seminary Park	3																	✓	✓	✓	
Stoneridge Park	2																				
Undeveloped Park (North)	3																				
Westgate Tot Lot	0.6																		✓		
Community Parks:																					
Dunn Field	13	1		1	2	1		2									✓				
Library Park	10								✓		✓	✓		✓					✓		
Veterans Park	38	1	1	6		5					✓				1		✓	✓		✓	
Regional Parks:																					
Big Foot Beach State Park	272								✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
Natural and Open Space Areas:																					
Baker Park	0.45																				
Business Park Pond	6.5																				
Donian Park	4											2									
Edwards Boulevard	2																				
Four Seasons Nature Preserve	64										✓										✓
Hillmoor Heights	20										✓										
Home Depot Park	7																				

	Park Size (acres)	Baseball Fields	Basketball	Soccer Fields	Sandlot Softball	League Softball	Football Field	Tennis Courts	Swimming Area	Volleyball	Hiking	Boat Launch/Slips	Pond	Ice Skating	Sledding Hill	Horseshoes	Playfields	Playgrounds	Picnic Area	Gazebo/Shelter	Camping
Mill Park	1.2											✓									
Moss Park	0.1																				
Olive Longland Park	0.3																				
Park Row Boulevard	1.2																				
Price-Freemont Park	5																				
Water Tower Pond Park	3																				
Lake Access Points:																					
City Boat Access	1																				
<b>Public Schools</b>																					
Badger High and Lake Geneva Middle Schools	55	3	6	7	1	2	✓	8				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Denison Elementary School	1		4														✓	✓			
Eastview Elementary School	2		4														✓	✓			
<b>Trails</b>																					
Bike Routes																					
Duck Lake Nature Trail												✓									
Geneva Lake Walkway												✓									
White River Walk												✓									
<b>Other Recreational Facilities</b>																					
Covenant Harbor Bible Camp	56																				
First Evangelical Lutheran School	4																				
Hillmoor Golf Club	111																				
Lake Geneva Youth Club	22																				
Par T Miniature Golf	1																				
Paradise Golf Park	2																				
St. Francis School	4		2																✓		
YMCA																					

## Appendix B: Visioning Workshop Compiled Results

### Key Goals/Directions

This exercise was intended to gain perspective on the future key goals and directions related to the City’s park and recreation system.

- Dog Park(s)
- Preserve environmental corridors
- More trash receptacles
- Plow trails in winter
- Link trail system to lake shore path
- Nature preserve (Hillmoor) wetland north Edwards
- Benches along trail
- Connectivity between trails
- Washroom facilities
- Volunteers – adopt park/trail
- Park within 10 minute walk
- Expand parkland
  - Acquire park land in neighborhoods without parks within 1 mile
  - Expand Veterans Park into contiguous areas
- Upgrade bike trails with lighting
- Develop youth programs through the city w/manager
- Acquire more parks in north and northeast sections
- Use parks/meadows to set borders
- Analyze 4 Seasons for upgrades – seems to be good as a nature preserve
- Cooperate with other municipalities to connect bike trails
- Hire a full-time Parks Manager
- Plan for the future in terms of incoming developments
- Increase skateboard park
- Purchase of Gator for winter plowing
- Maintain parks system
- Enough parkland – size of future parks (neighborhood vs. regional)
- Resources to maintain
- Enforcement of rules and regulations
- Recycling containers
- Emphasize winter use
- 718 acres adjacent to state park
- Commercial viability
- Wildlife viewing
- Future Farmers of America
- Sustainability farming
- Look 50 to 100 years out
- Watershed inflow and outflow
- Button’s Bay Creek Watershed (11% of G.L. watershed)
- Connect Duck Lake Trail to State Park
- Include kids in high school in decision making process

### Facility Voting Exercise

This exercise was intended to show which unique recreational facilities residents would like to see incorporated into the park system.

Image	Number of Votes
Natural Parks	22
Rural Walking Trails	17
Nature Study Area	14
Multi-Use Paths	13
Dog Park	13
Band Shell	12
Horse Trail	9
Trailheads	9
Neighborhood Park	8
Ice-Skating Rink	8

Image	Number of Votes
Skate Park	8
Volleyball Courts	6
Little League Baseball	6
Soccer Fields	6
Sledding Hill	5
Community Gardens	5
Small Boats	5
Picnic Areas	4
Community Center	4
Open Play Area	3
Playgrounds	3
Boating Facilities	3
Amphitheater	2
Fitness Center	2
Large Community Park	1
Baseball Fields (Lighted)	0
Baseball/Softball Fields (Unlighted)	0
Football	0
Splash Park	0
Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	0
Tennis Courts	0

### Opportunities Mapping Exercise

The purpose of this exercise was to gain insight into the following topics: improvements to existing parks, locations for new parks, key natural areas to be preserved or restored, and recreational trail/bike route opportunities.

Participants identified the following existing parks are needing improvements: Cobb Park, Westgate Tot Lot, Oak Hill Tot Lot, Dunn Field, Rushwood Park, Veteran's Park, Stoneridge Park, and Donian Park. Locations for new parks were mainly identified at the periphery of the City in future development areas, near the Four Seasons Nature Preserve, and south of Veteran's Park. Key natural areas to be preserved or restored included floodplain areas north and south of the City and areas south of Geneva Lake and west of Highway 120. Numerous recreational trail/bike routes were identified including along the White River, extending an existing bike route out to the Four Seasons Nature Preserve, and from Mill Park to the Duck Lake Nature Trail near Lake Como.



## Appendix C: State and Federal Grant Program

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Wisconsin Stewardship Programs						
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$4 million avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required</li> <li>▪ Priority for land acquisition</li> <li>▪ Projects must comply with ADA</li> </ul>	WDNR	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features	\$1.6 millions avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required</li> <li>▪ Projects must comply with ADA</li> </ul>	WDNR	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610
Acquisition of Development Rights	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$1.6 millions avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place.</li> <li>▪ May include enhancements of outdoor recreation.</li> </ul>	WDNR	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610
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	\$800,000 avail. per yr. 50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required</li> <li>▪ Projects must comply with ADA</li> </ul>	WDNR	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
<b>Federal Programs</b>						
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required	WDNR with TEA-21 Funds	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610
Recreational Trails Act	To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails	50% local match per project	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan.</li> <li>▪ Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan</li> </ul>	WDNR with TEA-21 Funds	Tom Blotz, Southeast Region 414-263-8610
<b>Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)</b>						
Transportation Enhancements Program	Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This program provides funding for rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, as well as streetscaping “Main Streets” and landscaping near transportation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funded through TEA-21</li> <li>▪ 20% required match</li> </ul>	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not a grant program. 80% of funds are reimbursed if all federal guidelines are met</li> <li>▪ Project must relate to surface transportation</li> <li>▪ Construction projects must be over \$100,000</li> <li>▪ Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000</li> </ul>	WisDOT	Mary Frigge, Southeast Region 262-548-8763

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative 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"> <li>▪ Funded through TEA-21</li> <li>▪ 20% required match</li> </ul>	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips</li> <li>▪ Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists</li> <li>▪ System-wide bicycle planning</li> <li>▪ Construction projects must be over \$100,000</li> <li>▪ Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000</li> </ul>	WisDOT	Mary Frigge, Southeast Region 262-548-8763
<b>Federal Transit Administration Grants</b>						
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; includes intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations; most funds are to be directed toward transit itself.	20% local match per project	Early Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis</li> <li>▪ Congress/Administration can pick the projects; however, the authorization bill contains a list of specific criteria</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transit	Ron Morse 608-266-1650
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program	Funds projects that 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"> <li>▪ Funded through TEA-21</li> <li>▪ 20% local match</li> </ul>	In April of odd numbered years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only available to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties</li> </ul>	USDOT	Mary Frigge, Southeast Region 262-548-8763

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
<b>Section 402-Highway Safety Funds</b>						
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	20% local match per project	October – December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engineering and maintenance work not eligible for funding</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Thomas Loeffler Southeast Region 414-266-1097
Highway Safety Program (Section 403)	Available for bicycle/pedestrian education. May also be used to develop safety classes for bicycle/pedestrian offenders	20%-50% local match per project	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For communities that can document bicycle crashes related to motor vehicle violations</li> <li>▪ Funds new enforcement programs up to \$1000</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Thomas Loeffler Southeast Region 414-266-1097
Research Projects	Funds the research needed to substantiate unique local needs for additional safety funding	20% local match per project	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A study of transit needs on public lands to assess the feasibility of alternative transportation modes (Section 3039)</li> </ul>	WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety	Thomas Loeffler Southeast Region 414-266-1097
<b>Other Programs</b>						
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements		No Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General downtown program</li> <li>▪ May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping</li> </ul>	National Main Street Center	Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Development 608-266-7531

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Deadline	Notes	Administrative Agency	Contact
Surface Transportation-Environment Cooperative Research Program	Evaluate transportation control measures. Improve understanding of transportation demand factors. Develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives	20% local match per project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$ available for the development of national bicycle safety education curriculum</li> <li>▪ \$ available for grants to a national not-for-profit organization engages in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety</li> <li>▪ \$ available for a study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes</li> </ul>	FHWA	U.S. Dept. of Transportation 202-366-4000
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness	\$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match	October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan, needing worker training, and needing to conduct a street tree inventory</li> </ul>	WDNR Urban Forestry	Tracey Teodecki 608-267-3775
Home Depot Community Improvement (Environmental) Grants	Assistance for forestry and ecology projects, clean-up beautification projects, recycling programs				Home Depot Community Affairs	Local Home Depot Store Manager

