

PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020-2024

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN



CITY OF GREEN BAY
Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department
July 2020

ABSTRACT

Title

Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROP) 2020-2024

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Abstract

Parks, recreation and open spaces are essential for the overall health of the community as a whole.

The 2020-2024 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROP) serves as a guide for planning and development of the parks, recreation and forestry divisions for the City of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A. OVERVIEW

Trends to increase leisure time and recreational opportunities within communities, parks and open space areas has been acknowledged as a prerequisite to good mental and physical health. Parks and public open space play a large role fulfilling those needs. Park access and development can also contribute to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of environmentally significant areas for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations and the biotic community.

The preparation of this Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROP) is an important step toward achieving a park system that meets the recreational and environmental needs of the Green Bay community. A mission statement, along with goals and objectives, has been developed as guidelines to be used in formulating plans for facility development and acquisition needs.

The inventory section of the plan outlines attributes and amenities of the existing park areas, greenways, and trails. A set of general guidelines is identified in the Needs Assessment Chapter in an effort to provide a means for analyzing Green Bay's park system. The Action Plan Chapter contains recommendations for the next five years. These recommendations pertain to general development strategies, parkland expansion, acquisition and specific facility development recommendations. The Implementation Chapter contains general strategies for fulfilling the recommendations set forth by the plan.

This plan is the result of planning for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Subsequent review and approval of the plan by the Park Committee and City Council, along with approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue the City of Green Bay's eligibility for financial assistance through state and federal funding programs.

B. AMENDING THE PLAN

The plan recommendations and action plan will be reviewed on a regular basis. Amendments to the plan will be reviewed and adopted by the Park Committee and the Green Bay Common Council. The entire plan will be updated, no less than every five years, to assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the community.

This plan has been coordinated with the Green Bay Smart Growth 2022 plan, various Brown County planning documents, the plans of neighboring communities, as well as other major recreation providers in the community such as the Green Bay Area Public School District and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. This plan also takes into account the recommendations of various City of Green Bay master plan documents.

C. OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES

The following plans provide relevant information along with suggested goals and objectives that will be considered in determining the future needs of the City of Green Bay Park system.

2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The 2019-2023 SCORP looks at the current recreation assets within the state along with emerging trends in recreation. Through various methods of analysis, the plan provides a list of common goals so the collective entities involved in the planning and implementation of outdoor recreation within the state can work together to achieve similar defined goals. The goals outlined in the



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SCORP include boosting participation in outdoor recreation, growing partnerships, providing high-quality experiences, improving data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits, and enhancing funding and financial stability.

The plan identifies gaps and needs for more recreational opportunities in the state of Wisconsin which includes the following:

- Providing spaces in population centers where residents can spend a couple of hours on a weekend or after work
- Providing more trails in natural settings for daily commuting and leisure activities
- Providing for more accessibility to water
- Providing more camping opportunities
- Providing dog exercise areas
- Providing target shooting ranges

The state policy needs that are identified in the plan include:

- A better understanding of place-based recreation and associated outcomes
- A better understanding of nature based recreation preferences
- Funding for outdoor recreation
- Collaboration among recreation providers

The City of Green Bay is located in the Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region of the plan. The high needs identified for this region include:

- Bicycling – bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping – developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing – all types

-
- Hiking, walking, trail running or backpacking
 - Horseback riding
 - Motor boating
 - Visiting a beach, beach walking

The City of Green Bay will work towards helping to achieve the goals and implementing the needs that have been identified in the SCORP in the hopes of creating a unified vision for the park system.

Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

The Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update was completed in April of 2011 and is an update of the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan revised the current recommended projects along with recommending new projects with new design ideas. It accomplished this with a primary goal of providing appropriately-spaced continuous bicycle and pedestrian corridors throughout the county, utilizing the 4E Approach (Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Encouraging Use) that was the foundation of the 2008 plan and the WisDOT Wisconsin Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.

The plan provides an overview of existing urban and rural facilities and makes recommendations for improvements by municipality. It also provides an overview of programs, funding sources and design standards.

Brown County Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Brown County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017-2022 serves as a document to plan for the current and future park and recreation needs of Brown County. While the County sites are

largely nature-based and located in less densely populated areas outside of the Green Bay metro area, there are many system-wide goals that impact the recreation experience for the City of Green Bay.

Perhaps most relevant are the recommendations for the many shared use recreation trails in the immediate area. The Brown County plan makes recommendations for connecting the East River Trail in the Town of Ledgeview to the Fox River Trail in De Pere, connecting the Mountain Bay State Trail in Howard to the recently-constructed West Side Trail on the west side of Green Bay, connecting the Devil's River State Trail east of Green Bay to the East River and Fox River Trails in Green Bay and extending the Baird Creek Greenway Trail east to the Towns of Green Bay and Humboldt and eventually to Kewaunee County. There are also recommendations to develop new trail facilities such as trailhead parking and restrooms. If implemented, these recommendations will increase trail recreation opportunities and greatly improve the interconnectivity of communities and park facilities and will take a significant level of intergovernmental cooperation to accomplish.

City of Green Bay Downtown Master Plan

The Downtown Master Plan (AuthentiCity), adopted in the 2014, lays out a 10- to 15-year strategy for guiding land use and growth in coordination with transportation improvements and other public investments. This plan focuses on the Downtown main business district east of the Fox River, as well as the Broadway commercial and retail district on the near west side of the river. Priorities include targeted development areas, shoreline enhancements and a major redevelopment site in the downtown core. Plan recommendations include enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity with on-street facilities and multi-use trails, public and private green space and the use of public art will further develop the sense of place in the downtown area. Additional recommendations include: improved streetscapes, wayfinding signage, parking

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coordination, and transit facilities, along with stronger historic preservation and architectural design review measures.

The plan was developed with a citizen steering committee along with stakeholder interviews, online surveys and a series of open house presentations geared toward the general public.

City of Green Bay Smart Growth Plan 2022

The Green Bay Smart Growth 2022 Plan was adopted in April 2003 and consists of two volumes. Volume I provides an analysis and background of current conditions and past plans, as well as opportunities and constraints that need to be addressed in various planning areas. It ends with a hybrid conceptual plan that forms the basis for policy plan elements in Volume II. Volume II includes objectives, policies maps and implementation actions in 12 subject areas such as land use, natural resources, transportation, parks, greenways and parkways and intergovernmental cooperation. The plan provides a long-term strategy for the City and provides guidance for short-term decisions about a variety of subjects. The plan was developed with significant public involvement including a 30-member advisory committee, community open houses, presentations to civic groups, a public opinion survey, an urban design survey, an internet web page and newsletters mailed to all Green Bay households, among other methods.

While all subject areas of the plan are relevant, the Natural Resources and Parks, Greenways and Parkways sections are of particular significance. Based on an analysis of conditions and issues, several objectives were defined which include: park acquisition, new park development, existing park and greenway improvements, improving and expanding linear parks, interconnecting parkways, enhancing residential neighborhoods and commercial districts with parks, protecting environmentally-sensitive areas, refining park facilities and recreation programs to meet changing needs and providing appropriate access to park facilities. The plan also recommends that the City work cooperatively with other units of government, landowners and recreation providers to enhance availability of outdoor recreation and reduce costs through shared use of facilities. The plan goes on to make specific recommendations for individual parks, trails and facilities, many of which have been completed since

the plan was completed. The plan should be consulted for general guidance utilizing updated information.

The City is in the early stages of replacing the Comprehensive Plan, which is scheduled for adoption in 2022. Parks Department staff will be involved in the comprehensive planning process to ensure concurrence with the PROP. New findings uncovered during the comprehensive planning process may result in necessary amendments to the PROP.

Green Bay Safe Walk & Bike Plan

In the spring of 2019, the Green Bay Area Public School District and the City of Green Bay worked together jointly to devise the Green Bay Safe Walk & Bike Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify ways to empower adults and children of all ability levels throughout the Green Bay area to make walking and biking a part of their daily routines in getting to schools and other community destinations.

Green Bay University Avenue Corridor Brownfields Redevelopment Plan

In 2013, the City of Green Bay received a Brownfields Area Wide Planning (AWP) grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the University Avenue Corridor, which extends approximately 4 miles from the East River to the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay campus. The corridor includes a mix of commercial and industrial properties and low-to moderate-income housing.

The University Avenue Corridor traverses a large and diverse area of the City of Green Bay and lies adjacent to some of the City's

most significant ecological areas. Many parts of the corridor have been identified as needing revitalization or redevelopment. Such development on a large scale is not easy or quick. An Action Plan has been developed as part of the study to give specific direction on actions that can be implemented immediately over the next many years.

Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan

The Baird Creek Greenway is a unique natural area of approximately 500 acres within a growing and highly-urbanized



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area. The Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan, completed in November 2006, was developed through a public process involving the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, City of Green Bay staff, project stakeholders and local citizens. The plan will assist the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation and the City with the preservation and expansion of this unique asset while guiding public use. The plan looks at appropriate levels of recreational use and public access, designating levels of trail development, identifying unique natural features for protection, preservation, restoration and educational opportunities, strategies for stormwater management and interfacing with adjacent development.

Bay Beach Amusement Park Master Plan

The Bay Beach Amusement Park Master Plan was originally written in 2008 and was updated in 2013. The master plan was developed utilizing a series of design workshops with various stakeholders and input from Parks Department staff. The plan was developed to guide the expansion and improvement of the park while preserving the family-oriented classic amusement park atmosphere. The plan made recommendations for parking, pedestrian circulation, ride additions, pavilion renovations, new attractions, utilization of green space and ways to integrate the Bay of Green Bay shoreline into the park. The updated plan makes priority recommendations to guide the development of the amusement park over the next ten years.

D. MISSION STATEMENT

We endeavor to enrich the quality of life of all people by creatively providing and enhancing leisure opportunities and green space.

E. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are goals and objectives which will be used to guide the needs assessment for the City of Green Bay.

Premise

We believe that the free and creative use of leisure time and open space is fundamental to the vitality and joy of human life and is critical to the health and well being of our citizens and our community.

Goal: Provide a diversified park and recreation system that meets the recreational needs of Green Bay residents and attracts visitors from other communities

- Provide year-round high quality organized neighborhood and community-based recreation programs and facilities in sufficient number and variety to meet the needs of the community
- Provide easily-accessible parks and playgrounds within convenient walking distance from all residential neighborhoods
- Provide and maintain inclusive parks with recreational facilities to accommodate for users of all ages and abilities
- Develop an interconnected system of off-road, multi-use paths to connect communities and destinations and provide alternative means of transportation

Goal: Preserve and enhance the natural resources of the community

- Protect and enhance environmentally significant areas and biodiversity throughout the City using sustainable practices.
- Implement and enhance riparian areas, vegetative buffers and

other stormwater management best management practices to aid in enhanced water quality, reduced flooding and erosion control

- Provide a high quality urban forest within all parks, greenways and public right-of-ways

Goal: Sustain and improve cultural resources and placemaking within the community

- Protect and enhance areas of historical importance
- Provide parks and recreation facilities, which are designed to complement the characteristics of the surrounding service neighborhood
- Promote recreational development and preservation of natural areas including the waterfront areas within the City
- Incorporate unique and engaging design elements, including art, in park and open space areas that promote sense of place

Goal: Develop and maintain parkland and recreational opportunities in a fiscally-prudent manner

- Consider ongoing operating costs of land acquisition opportunities and capital improvement projects
- Evaluate current land use and maintenance practices within the park system and explore opportunities for reducing maintenance costs
- Pursue sponsorships, partnerships, and grant opportunities to implement priority recommendations



A. AREA SETTING

The City of Green Bay is located in central Brown County on the shores of the Bay of Green Bay at the mouth of the Fox River. The City is located 581' above sea level and has a land mass of 46.15 square miles (29,534 acres). It is currently the third most populated city in Wisconsin and had a 2010 population of 104,057. Surrounded by smaller urbanizing communities, Green Bay is part of the largest urban area in the northern half of the state, with a metro area population of 306,241. It was traditionally settled by large numbers of Belgian, German, Scandinavian, Dutch and Irish. Map 1 depicts the location of Green Bay in Brown County and its location relative to surrounding communities.

Green Bay's strategic location at the southern end of the bay provides a commercial gateway to the Great Lakes chain. It is the oldest European settlement in Wisconsin, having been settled by the French after Jean Nicolet established a trading post in the area in 1634. Historically rich in natural resources, the Green Bay area transitioned from fur trading to the processing and shipping of resources, including lumber, and eventually became a major producer of paper products. Today, Green Bay is a significant industrial and commercial center. In addition to paper, other major industries include health care and medical services, insurance, food processing, packaging and shipping.

The City sits at the bottom of the Door Peninsula, an area of unique natural, cultural and recreational resources and is also a gateway to the "North Woods" of upper Wisconsin. Green Bay is located 132 miles northeast of Madison, 112 miles north of Milwaukee and 270 miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

B. GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

In addition to the Bay itself, other water resources include the Fox River, a major economical and recreational asset to the City, the East River and several creeks including Baird, Duck, Willow, Mahon and Beaver Dam Creeks. Some of these waterways have linear greenways and/or natural resource areas along them. One of the largest intact resource areas is the Baird Creek Greenway which provides a linear corridor with wooded

areas of varied topography, pockets of wetlands and remnant native plant communities. Lands along the East River contain broad floodplains that were preserved as open space and are utilized for various recreational assets. Most pre-settlement wetlands in the City have been filled including several hundred acres along the bay, but small pockets of remnant wetlands remain throughout.

The Niagara Escarpment that skirts the eastern edge of the City and underlies Door County is a several hundred miles long ridge of dolomitic limestone that was influential in the creation of landforms during the last glacial period, including the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Winnebago. Most of Green Bay is a fairly level, glacial till plain with moderately well-drained to poorly drained soils and clayey subsoils well-suited to agriculture, but not always well-suited to urban development. Many undeveloped areas around the City typically have poorly-drained soils. However, northwestern areas of the City contain deeper, well-drained soils with sandy to loamy sub-soils.

The more varied topography of the areas along the eastern edge and to the southeast of Green Bay is associated with the escarpment. The many quarries in these areas that provide natural building stone and gravel products capitalize on the presence of this hard limestone. In general the landscapes associated with this landform are rich in natural, cultural and historic resources and contain unique natural environments of plants and wildlife.

The City has a significant urban forest cover associated with its many greenways, natural resource areas, parks, railroad corridors and various open spaces. In addition, the City has a well-established forestry program that provides well-maintained street

trees and tree canopy in various public green spaces.

The presence of floodways and wetlands, soil type, drainage potential, topography and habitat quality are all factors influencing development potential and quality of development of lands. These factors should be considered when choosing appropriate lands for park creation or expansion and resource protection.

C. CLIMATE

Green Bay has a humid continental climate with warm, humid summers and long, cold, snowy winters and no dry season. Daily high temperatures don't often exceed 89°F and low temperatures rarely fall below -10°F. The average annual high temperature is 53.5°F and the average annual low temperature is 34.8°F. Green Bay's warmest month is July with an average daytime high temperature of 81°F and average daily low of 58°F. The coldest month is January with an average minimum temperature of 9°F and average maximum temperature of 24°F.

The shortest day (daylight hours) occurs on December 21 with 8:41 hours of daylight; the longest day is June 20 with 15:34 hours of daylight.

Green Bay has an average annual precipitation rate of 29.53" (which corresponds to 51" of snow for the cold months). The driest month is February with an average precipitation rate of 1.1"; the wettest month is June with an average precipitation rate of 3.9". Source: Wisconsin State Climatology Office (NOAA National Climate Data Center 1971-2000 and U.S. Climate Data 1981-2010; Austin-Straubel Airport Weather Station)

D. LAND USE

The land use pattern of the City is a classic example of historical

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development in a watercourse-oriented city. Green Bay originated and flourished because the Bay and the Fox River provided trading opportunities and access to other commercial centers. Most industrial development has occurred along both banks of the Fox River. Commercial development is situated in a dominant central business district southeast of the industrial district on the east side of the river. There is also a small, prominent commercial district just west of the Fox River and several major commercial strip developments located along major arterial streets throughout the City. A significant land use feature within the City of Green Bay is the large amount of agricultural and open land lying within the City limits. It amounts to over 10% of the total City area and is located primarily near the eastern City limits. However, this area is under pressure from expanding residential development. See Table 1 for the approximate acres of various land use types.

TABLE 1 - LAND USE DISTRIBUTION

<u>LAND USE CATAGORY</u>	<u>AREA IN ACRES</u>
Single Family Residential	12,535
Two Family	713
Multi-Family or Mobile Home	825
Commercial	1,170
Industrial	1,805
Right-of-Way	870
Railroad Related	200
Transportation Related	406
Communication/Utilities	887
Institutional/Governmental	867
Parks and Recreation	1,678
Agriculture	202
Open Space	152
Natural Areas	5,266
Water	270
Land Under Development	171
<i>Total</i>	<i>28,017 Acres</i>

Data Source: City of Green Bay GIS database



E. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Airport

Austin Straubel International Airport is the third largest airport in the State of Wisconsin. It is owned and operated by Brown County through a self-funded enterprise fund and provides commercial, air cargo and business operations, along with daily passenger service by four major airlines. The airport serves the region around Green Bay, extending from Manitowoc north into Upper Michigan to Iron Mountain.

Interstates & Highways

The City of Green Bay has an excellent system of state, county and local highways. An overall highway network provides a combination of major arterial highways for travel to other areas of the state and county and a local street system for intra-City travel. Currently, Green Bay is served by two interstates, two United States highways, and four state highways.

- A. I-43 connects Green Bay to Milwaukee
- B. I-41/U.S. 41 links Green Bay with Marinette and Upper Michigan to the north and with Fox River Valley and Milwaukee to the south
- C. U.S. 141 links Green Bay with Upper Michigan to the north and the Lake Michigan cities and Milwaukee to the south
- D. S.T.H. 29 runs from Kewaunee through Green Bay and Wausau and west to the Minneapolis area
- E. S.T.H. 54 runs from Algoma through Green Bay and central Wisconsin and west to Winona, Minnesota
- F. S.T.H. 57 connects Door County with Green Bay, Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin

- G. S.T.H. 32 traverses the entire state from northern Wisconsin through Green Bay and south to the Kenosha area

Pedestrian Trails

The City has made a strong commitment to improve the bicycle facilities in Green Bay. The following is a list of some of the projects that have already been completed.

- The Fox River State trail extends from downtown Green Bay, south to the Brown County limits to Hilbert.
- The multi-use trail along the East River has been developed over the past 15 years with planning and property acquisitions now underway to complete the final section. When completed, the trail will extend from the Fox River (where it will link with the Fox River Trail) east and south to the City limits and beyond to Hilbert.
- A 1.14-mile multi-use trail was constructed on the west side within an abandoned railroad corridor. The next phase of construction for the trail is to connect to the Village of Howard and the State Mountain Bay Trail.
- Paved shoulders on East Shore Drive between Nicolet Drive and East Shore Circle
- The Baird Creek multi-use trail now extends from Joannes Park on the near east side where it connects to the East River trail to a trail head just west of I-43. Future plans call for extending the trail east another mile to Christa McAuliffe Park.
- There is a designated mountain bike trail network in the Baird Creek Greenway. In the next five years there are plans to add better signage to the trails and continued trail improvements, including erosion control.
- Recently, the reconstruction of N. Webster Avenue included adding bikes lanes on either side of the road and a ten-foot wide shared-use path that will eventually tie the East River Trail to Bay Beach

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- Amusement Park and the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The recent reconstruction of University Avenue from Curry Lane to Humboldt Road included the addition of a multi-use trail.

Railroad

Rail service exists for freight only. Although there are currently no passenger trains servicing Green Bay, we are identified as a potential destination within the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. While these plans are a long way from becoming a reality, the City should consider how and where such a service could be provided.

Transit

The City of Green Bay transit system consists of 18 full service bus routes serving the metropolitan area as well as a number of limited service paratransit routes. Limited routes are provided on school days throughout the school year serving area middle schools and are available on Packer game days. Metro system buses have been retrofitted to accommodate bicycles. The vast majority of existing City parks and schools along with some of the suburbs are served by the City bus system.

Waterways

The Fox River carries a large volume of both recreational and commercial vessels, connecting with Lake Michigan and the seaway. Due to its strategic location as the western most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay provides an important link between the Midwest and the rest of the country and is also served by major rail and national truck lines.

F. POPULATION STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Total Population

The 2010 United States Census determined the City of Green Bay had a population of 104,057. This is an increase of 1.7% compared to the 2000 U.S. Census of 102,313 residents. This is a decrease in the growth rate compared to the period from 1990 to 2000 when the population grew by approximately 6%. In 1990 the City had a population of 96,644 residents.

Population increases should continue in the foreseeable future. Projections prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration indicate that Green Bay's overall population is expected to grow by 3.8% between 2010 and 2020, reaching approximately 108,050 residents by the year 2020.

Minority Populations

Over time, the City of Green Bay has become more racially and ethnically diverse. Between 1970 and 2010, Green Bay experienced a significant increase in all minority group populations. Certain group populations have increased significantly. The American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut population increased at a percentage of 37% in 1990 to 2000 and 26% in 2000 to 2010. The Black and Hispanic populations increased at much higher percentages of over 210% and 584% respectively from 1990 to 2000. Increases in the Black and Hispanic percentages of the population continued over the 2000 to 2010 period with rates of 162% for Blacks and 9% for Hispanics. The Asian/Pacific Islander population increased approximately 74% during 1990 to 2000 and 9.5% for Asians and 7.5% for Pacific Islanders over the 2000 to 2010 period.

While the overall minority group population comprised only 2.75% of the total population in 1980 and 14% in 2000, by 2010 the minority group populations made up 22% of the City's total population.

Age of Population

The age distribution for the population of Green Bay is fairly evenly distributed, according to the 2010 Census. Gender distribution is nearly equal, with females comprising 50.6% and males 49.4%. The median age of Green Bay's residents is 33.7 years, with 24.7% under the age of 18, 11.7% of the population being 18-24 years of



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age, 27.7% between 25-44 years of age and 35.3% 45 or over.

The median age of residents has been increasing from 25.2 in 1970 to 33.7 in 2010. This appears to be mostly due to a decrease in the percentage of the population age 25-44 years, (from 31.7% in 2000 to 27.7% in 2010), and an increase in the population over 45 years of age (which increased from 31.3% in 2000 to 35.7% in 2010).

The age distribution of Green Bay is very similar to that of Brown County. The County's median age is slightly older at 34.2.

Household Size and Makeup

The steady growth of population in Green Bay has been surpassed by the growth of households. The rate of increase in both population and household numbers is expected to slow through 2020.

The 2010 Census indicated there were 42,244 households in Green Bay with 31.4% of households having individuals less than 18 years of age living in them. 58.5% of all households were family households. Of these, 40.4% were married couples living together, 12.5% had a female householder with no husband present and 5.6% had a male householder with no wife present. This compares to 41,591 households with 29% having individuals under the age of 18 in 2000. In 2000, 59.3% of all households were family households with 44.1% being married couples living together and 10.8% being female householders with no husband present.

In 2010, 41.5% of households were non-family households. Of these, 32.4% were individuals living alone and 9.6% of these were individuals over the age of 65 living alone. The increase in non-family household is also related to the decrease in average household size. The average household size has decreased by approximately 36%, from 3.27 persons per household in 1970 to 2.39 persons per household in 2010. In 2000, the average household size was 2.4.

Several trends are apparent with these numbers:

- A decrease in the percentage of family households and an increase in non-family households
- A decrease in the percentage of married couple families
- An increase in households with individuals under 18 years of age
- A decrease in average household size.

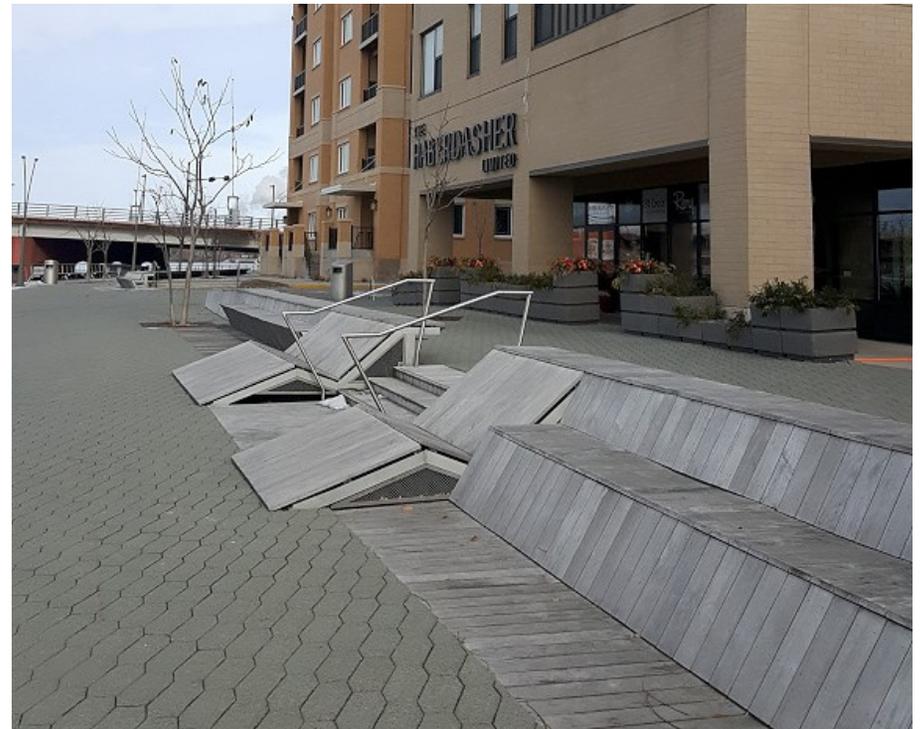
The changes in household make-up and family size over time also have an effect on the type of housing that is chosen or affordable by households. The proportion of owner-occupied units has decreased from 67% in 1970 to 56.3% in 2010, while renter-occupied units have increased from 33% in 1970 to 43.7% in 2010.

Table 2 shows the incomes including benefits for Green Bay residents.

TABLE 2 - INCOME DISTRIBUTION

<u>INCOME LEVEL</u>	<u>% of HOUSEHOLDS</u>
<10,000	6.7
10,000 – 14,999	4.9
15,000 – 24,999	9.8
25,000 – 3,999	9.5
35,000 –49,999	13.0
50,000 – 74,999	17.7
75,000 – 99,999	12.3
100,000 – 149,999	14.1
150,000 – 199,999	5.8
>200,000	6.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.1</i>

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Communities Survey. Figures in 2017 dollars.



CHAPTER 2 Community Description



Individuals in the workforce worked in a variety of sectors of the economy as shown in Table 3. The employment per sector reflects a fairly diverse economy with a large percentage of workers engaged in education, health and social services.

TABLE 3 - EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP % OF WORKFORCE

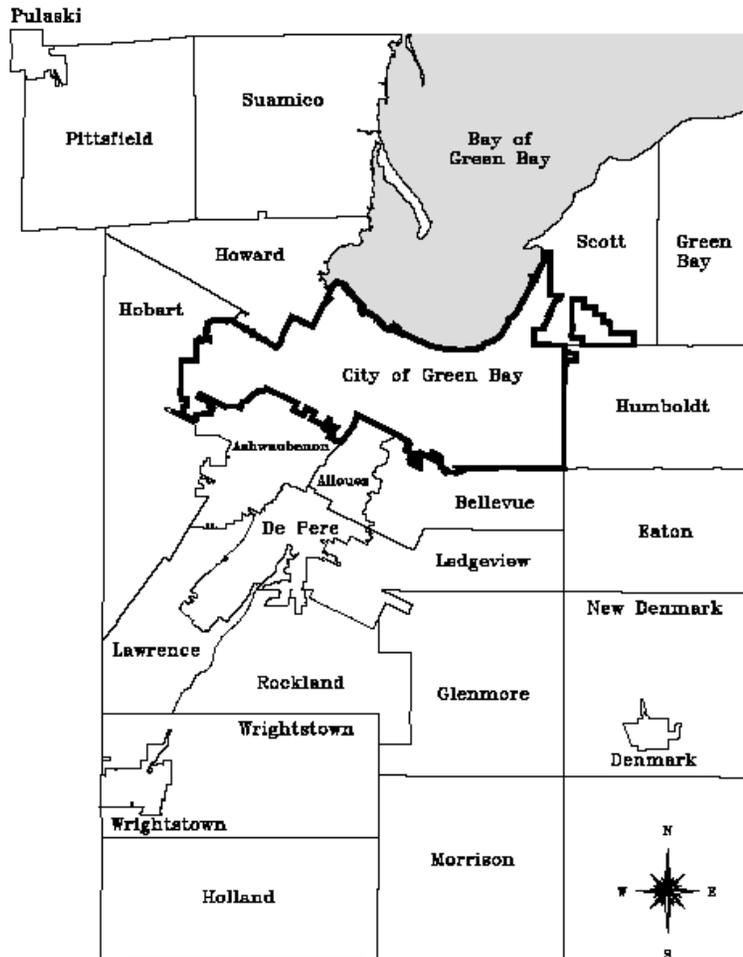
Education, Health and Social Services	23.1
Manufacturing	10.3
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations and Food Service	9.7
Retail Trades	11.4
Professional, Scientific, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	11.3
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	6.6
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	5.1
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	4.9
Construction	6.4
Wholesale Trade	2.7
Public Administration	4.7
Information	2.1
Agriculture	1.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.2</i>

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Communities Survey.

Additional Chapter Resources: U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Green Bay Smart Growth 2022, May 2003, Brown County Year 2020 Land

In summary, the populations of Green Bay are growing, getting older, and more urban. Households are getting smaller, more mobile and less apt to live in the traditional nuclear family or own a standard single-family home. All these factors will eventually have ramifications on the planning of outdoor recreational facilities and open spaces.

MAP 1 - BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN





A. PARK INVENTORY OVERVIEW

The City of Green Bay owns and maintains parkland and open space areas which offer a variety of recreational opportunities, amenities and facilities for the community and it's visitors. Each park and open space area is classified according to property characteristics. Table 4 represents the City's descriptions of parks by their park classification.

B. OPEN SPACE INVENTORY SUMMARY

There are 68 parks that the City manages with a grand total of 2,658.36 acres of recreational open space in the City of Green Bay.

Of these, there are 4 mini-parks, 30 neighborhood parks, 15 park/schools, and 7 community parks that make up 900.72 acres, with the City owning 759.06 acres and the School District owning 141.66 acres. The City also owns 1 large urban park, 2 sports complexes and 9 special use parks which make up 745.73 acres of open space. Additionally, the City owns 1 Natural Resource Area, 13 Greenways and 11 Urban Green Spaces consisting of 1011.91 acres. There are plans to acquire 27 acres of land which will be added to the Baird Creek Greenway. Additionally, the City recently acquired more acreage for the expansion of the East River Trail.

Please note that only City-owned parkland is calculated in the total recreational open space acreage. Property owned by UWGB, NWTC or other School District property not adjacent to parkland was not included in this study. The City also owns Cooke Park, which is a 24.50-acre parcel located in the Village of Ashwaubenon, at the site of the National Railroad Museum. Due to the fact that this property is not located within the City of Green Bay, it is not included in the open space calculation.

See Table 4 for descriptions of classifications and Map 2 for a delineation of all the existing park and open space areas in the City.

TABLE 4 - PARK CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini -Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ -mile distance in residential setting	2,500 sq. ft. to one acre
Neighborhood Park	The neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. The focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ - ½ -mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers	5 to 10 acres
Park/School	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property	Variable
Community Park	The community park serves a broader purpose than neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as ,preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site, usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½- to 2 mile distance	30 to 50 acres is typical, can be variable to accommodate desired uses
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as, preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community	50 to 75 + acres, can be variable to accommodate desired uses
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily-programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically-located community-wide facilities	25 acres minimum, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal
Special use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use	Variable – dependent on specific use	Variable
Natural Resources Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics / buffering	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable
Urban Green Space	Public green space areas including pedestrian trails	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable

C. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INVENTORY SUMMARY

An inventory of activities and amenities located within the City’s park land and open space areas are shown in Figure 1.

D. TRAIL INVENTORY

The following trail inventory indicates the various trail types throughout the park system that are recognized and maintained by the City. In addition to those listed here there are many miles of informal, unimproved dirt trails throughout the park system, especially within the larger greenways and open space areas that are not counted in the trail inventories below.

It is worth noting that part of the Fox River Trail in downtown Green Bay contains a designated art/sculpture walk. Also, parts of the Fox River Trail, Baird Creek Greenway Trail and some east side park sites are also incorporated into the Green Bay Packers Heritage Trail. The heritage trail is set up primarily as a walking tour in the downtown and near east side and highlights significant people, places and events in Green Bay Packers history (from 1919 to 1968) through a series of bronze commemorative plaques. The Heritage Trail was developed and is maintained by a private foundation.

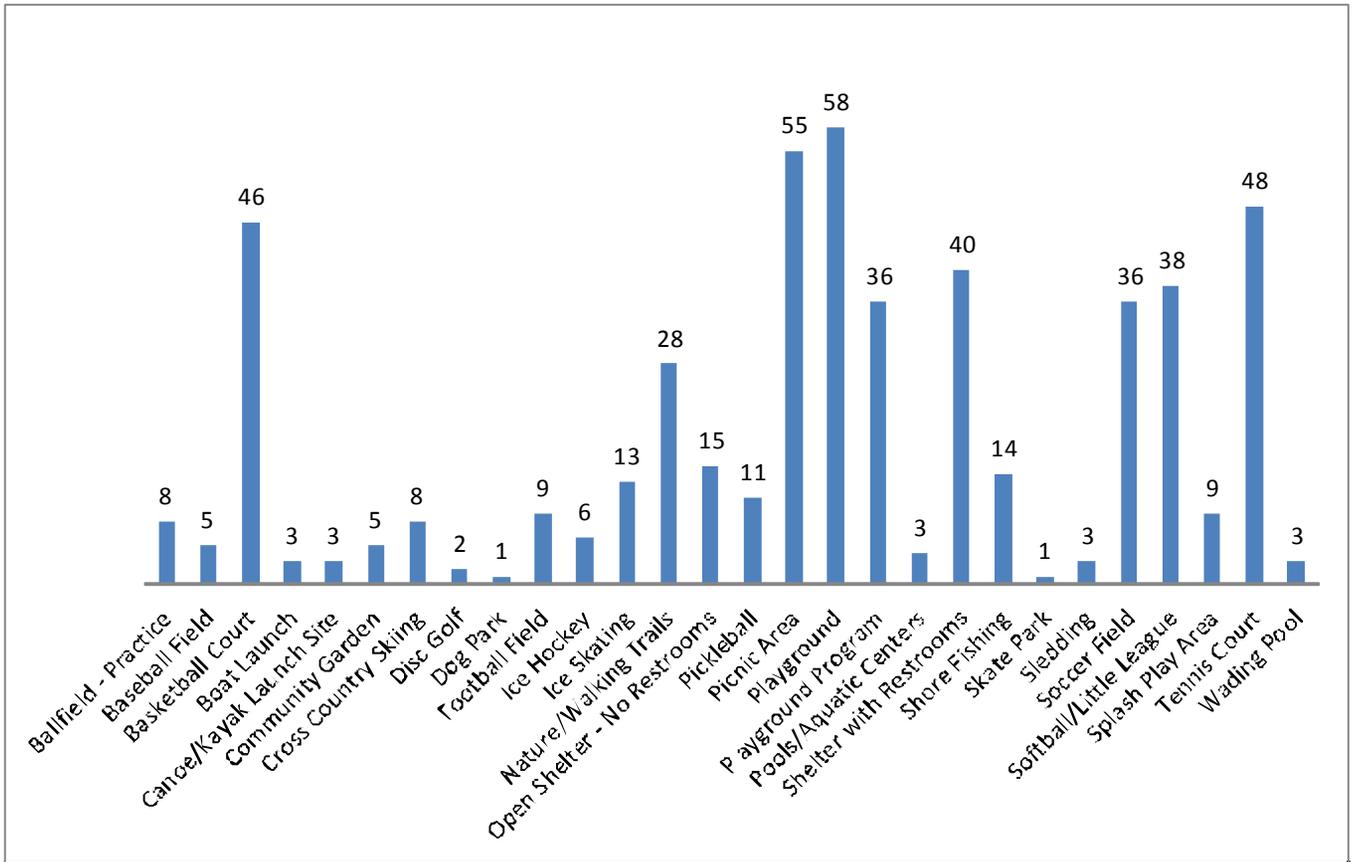


Figure 1: Facility Inventory Summary

TABLE 5 – TRAIL INVENTORY (See Map 3)

<u>EXISTING PAVED SHARED-USE TRAILS</u>	<u>EXISTING MILES</u>
Baird Creek Trail	3.10
Baird Creek Preserve Trail	0.40
East River Trail – Main Trail	1.94
East River Trail – Streus Pharmacy	0.10
East River Trail – West Bank, South of Cass Street	0.84
Fox River West Bank	0.43
Fox River East Bank	2.19
University Avenue Recreation Trail	0.87
Webster Avenue Trail	0.74
West Side Trail	1.14
<i>Total</i>	<i>11.75 Miles</i>
<u>EXISTING INFORMAL TRAILS</u>	<u>EXISTING MILES</u>
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.72
Ken Euers Park	2.00
Red Smith Park	0.68
Wildlife Sanctuary	6.20
<i>Total</i>	<i>11.60 Miles</i>
<u>EXISTING CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS</u>	<u>EXISTING MILES</u>
Baird Creek Greenway	3.32
Christa McAuliffe Park	0.82
Colburn Park	1.93
Ted Fritsch Park	0.65
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.28
Perkins Park	1.66
Preble Park	0.60
Wildlife Sanctuary	4.32
<i>Total</i>	<i>15.58 Miles</i>
<u>DESIGNATED MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS(DIRT)</u>	<u>EXISTING MILES</u>
<i>Baird Creek Greenway</i>	<i>8.00 Miles</i>





A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter looks at how well the City of Green Bay park facilities meet the recreational needs of the community. This is done by comparing Green Bay's system of parks to general standards for park acreage and distribution. These standards represent guidelines by which we can measure progress and identify weaknesses in the acreage and distribution of parks. Standards can also be used to evaluate various facilities within the parks. However, these standards are relative, minimum requirements and should serve as general criteria to aid in the planning and decision making process, not absolute requirements.

The park classifications used are based on information presented in the "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines", 1996, by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). To reiterate, these are general guidelines and considering the differing socioeconomic, climatic, geographic, and cultural diversity of various areas, it would be almost impossible and undesirable to apply all of the standards to every situation in every community.

The NRPA guidelines provide two methods of analysis for looking at potential deficiencies in the provision of parkland to the community. One method analyzes existing classifiable parkland per capita in terms of acres per 1,000 population. The other method looks at park service areas and the ability of the populace to have access to a given classification of park within a certain distance.

B. RECREATION NEEDS ANALYSIS OF PARK LAND AND FACILITIES

Acreeage Analysis of Park Land

Different classifications of park land have differing functions and facilities that are needed to provide access for recreational opportunities. The various classifications of park land are shown in Table 4. Classifiable parkland is identified as mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community

parcs and are described further below. For this analysis the neighborhood park classification also includes park/school sites.

Mini-Parks

Mini-Parks should be easily accessible by children within a ¼ mile radius and should provide limited recreational opportunities such as a playground, court games and open space for gathering or general free play.

Neighborhood Parks

Should be geographically centered to be within easy walking or biking access by children, typically within a ½ mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide general to intense recreation and typically include areas for open play or field games, programmed activities, court games, playground structures, ice skating, wading pools or splash pads and picnic areas. Neighborhood parks often include a shelter building with restrooms and may be part of a park/school site.

Community Parks

Typically have a service area of a 1 to 2 mile radius unless serving as a neighborhood park and provide recreational opportunities for children and adults. They contain those facilities present in neighborhood parks and may also include off-street parking, open shelters, picnic areas, baseball fields, softball fields, tennis courts, hockey rinks, winter sports activities, natural water bodies and landscaped areas and more specialized facilities such as swimming pool facilities or water parks and disc golf courses.

For the purposes of analyzing the proper provision of classifiable



CHAPTER 4 Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

park land, NRPA guidelines state mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks should collectively provide between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 population. Table 6 shows how the current classifiable park acreage in the City of Green Bay park system compares to this standard. Overall the City of Green Bay park acreage is within the range required to meet the needs according to the formula. Classifiable park land accounts for approximately 34% of all park land in the City.

TABLE 6 - CLASSIFIABLE PARK ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION

Park Type	NRPA Guidelines		City of Green Bay Parks	
	NRPA Guidelines by Park Type Acres per 1,000 pop.	Equivalent Acres Based on Green Bay's Population	Total Acres by Park Type (as of May 2020)	Actual Acres per 1,000 Persons
Mini -Park	.25 - .5	26-52	2.19	0.02
Neighborhood Park	1.0 - 2.0	105-209	637.98	6.13
Community Park	5.0 - 8.0	523-837	260.55	2.5
Totals	6.25-10.5	654-1,098	900.72	8.65

NOTES: City of Green Bay Population used for calculations is 2010 census data population of 104,057. Total City of Green Bay classifiable park acreages shown are as of May 2020.

TABLE 7 - OTHER PARK ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION

Park Type	NRPA Guidelines		City of Green Bay Parks	
	NRPA Guidelines by Park Type Acres per 1,000 pop.	Equivalent Acres Based on Green Bay's population	Total Acres by Park Type (as of May 2020)	Actual Acres per 1,000 persons
Large Urban Park	Variable	*	76.45	0.74
Sports Complex	Variable	*	64.23	0.62
Special Use Park	Variable	*	605.05	5.82
Natural Resource Area	Variable	*	129.24	1.24
Greenways	Variable	*	850.57	8.17
Urban Green Space	Variable	*	32.1	0.31
Totals	*	*	1,757.64	16.9

NOTES: City of Green Bay Population used for calculations is 2010 census data population of 104,057. Total City of Green Bay classifiable park acreages shown are as of May 2020.

The other types of park land and their acreages are shown for comparative purposes in Table 7. These classes of park land may provide open space for stormwater management, stream buffers, trail systems, specialized types of recreation or other functions that do not meet the general criteria of providing access to the types of recreation and facilities found in classifiable park land. They account for approximately 66% of all park land in the City.

Distribution and Qualitative Analysis of Parkland

DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Another method to look at how well existing parks meet the needs of providing recreation for the community is to look at the distribution of park land relative to the population being served.

Table 4 shows the NRPA recommendations for service radii to the various types of parks. These guidelines would suggest that all residents should have safe, easy access to a neighborhood park, community park or park/school site within one-half mile of their home or a play lot (mini-park) within one-quarter mile. Using this method, the City does a reasonable job of meeting the needs for recreation through the provision of neighborhood and community parks within an acceptable walking distance of most residents. This is especially true in the “older” areas of the City that developed with the traditional grid pattern. Where the provision of classifiable park land falls short is in the outlying eastern and western edges of the City, which is developed on an auto-oriented planning pattern where development is more dispersed.

It is also worth noting that in some older, central areas of the City, parks are often smaller. In addition, some neighborhoods are cut off by busy four-lane roadways or similar barriers that can be

difficult for younger children to safely navigate. Therefore, additional park land should be provided in these areas.

While it is helpful to look at these quantitative and geographical standards in analyzing how any given community meets the recreational needs of its population it is also necessary to look at qualitative criteria, as well as what is unique to the City of Green Bay and how location relative to demand affect how well the needs are met.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

For approximately the past 55 years, the existing park system in Green Bay has been generally based on the neighborhood park concept and therefore many newer areas of the City have park access as described by these standards. The older areas often have more parks within closer proximity but of smaller size. Map 4 helps us identify where we meet the standards, as well as where we have access problems and where future parks should be considered.

Past experience in Green Bay has shown that 15 acres of actual usable space has worked well for neighborhood parks, while 25 acres of usable space works well for community parks. In the case of neighborhood parks, this often results in a total park area of 20 to 40 acres (Community Park, 30-60 acres) when combined with a waterfront parkway or natural area. Combining the environmentally-valuable areas with the neighborhood or community parks provides economy of scale for maintenance, access for the public and preserves a valuable natural heritage for Green Bay’s future generations. See Chapter 5 to review recommendations for serving these areas.

Distribution of Facility Types

The NRPA has also established recommended standards for specific



recreation facilities. These are listed in Table 8 and show suggested numbers of each type of facility per unit of population as well as a service radius. This is useful when considering how well various facility types are distributed throughout the City. However, these are meant to be used as approximate minimum guidelines and not absolute requirements. The number and size of recreation facilities tends to fluctuate greatly from one community to another depending on local demand. These recommendations are referred to in the action plan.

The provision and distribution of facility types coincides with the distribution and size of classifiable park types. While the older core areas of the City are well-served by classifiable parks, these parks are usually smaller in size and often do not have the space available to accommodate some facility types, most notably softball fields, baseball fields and soccer fields. These athletic fields tend to be located in larger neighborhood parks, community parks or sports complexes, and therefore are not evenly distributed or readily accessible to all areas of the City.

In planning for the provision of additional facilities in the future, it will be useful to look at where current facilities are located in relation to demand and plan accordingly.

TABLE 8 - NRPA RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS

Activity	No. of Units Per Population	Service Radius
Archery Range	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	1 per 5,000 Lighted-1 per 30,000	1/4 - 1/2 mile
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	1 per 5,000	1/4 - 1/2 mile
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	15 minutes to 30 minutes travel time
Football	1 per 20,000	15 minutes to 30 minutes travel time
Golf 1. Par 3 - 18 Hole 2. 9 Hole Standard 3. 18 Hole Standard	--- 1 per 25,000 1 per 50,000	1/2 - 1 hour travel time
Ice Hockey	Indoor - 1 per 100,000 Outdoor - varies according to climate	1/2 - 1 hour travel time
Running Track - 1/4 mile	1 per 20,000	15 minutes to 30 minutes travel time
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1-2 Miles
Softball	1 per 5,000 if also used for youth baseball	1/4 - 1/2 mile
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000 or 3-5% of total population	15 minutes to 30 minutes travel time
Tennis	1 court per 2,000	1/4 - 1/2 mile
Volleyball	1 court per 5,000	1/4 to 1/2 mile





C. PUBLIC INPUT METHOD FOR CONDUCTING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2020 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan Survey

In 2020, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department conducted a survey asking the public to comment on current and recommended park facilities, amenities, programming and the importance of the biotic community. There were 687 respondents that participated in the survey. The results from the survey are being considered as this plan is updated. The following information is an analysis of the survey results.

As represented in Figure 2, half of the survey respondents said that they visited a Green Bay Park facility frequently within the last year. This would suggest that those users would be quite familiar with some of the existing Park facilities which are likely well utilized due to the overall satisfaction of what the facilities offered. Another 34% of respondents reported visiting a Park facility once in awhile suggesting that those participants are not using park facilities on a regular basis. This may be due to dissatisfaction with current Park facilities, programming and/or lack of time for leisure activities. Another 16% of respondents said that they visited a Park facility hardly ever or not at all suggesting that they may, for various reasons, have little desire or ability to utilize current Parks facilities.

The ages of the household members of the survey respondents are being considered as the survey results are analyzed. As shown in Figure 3, the number of adults represented in the survey outnumbered the combined total of all the other age brackets. This indicates that the adult age bracket has the most influence in guiding the survey results with the youth, teen and senior categories being relatively similarly represented as a secondary voice.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, it is clear that the survey respondents find natural areas and trees to be important assets within the community. This suggests that the trees and biotic communities within the City's parks and greenways should be considered as essential elements within these areas. Therefore, the evaluation and protection of desirable flora and fauna throughout the City will be considered a high priority for the

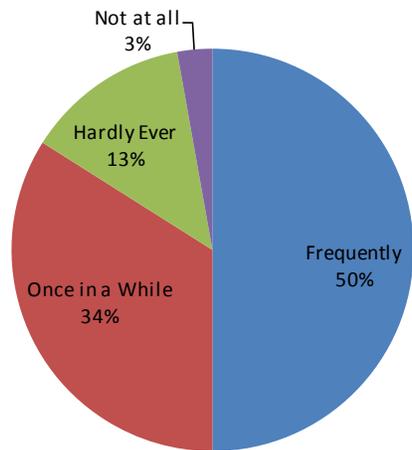


Figure 2: How many times did you or your household visit a Green Bay Park Facility in the last year?

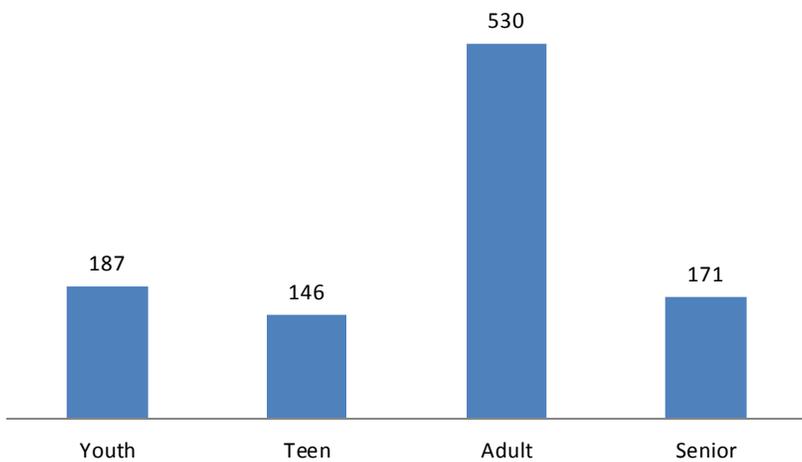


Figure 3: What age bracket do you and your family members fall into?

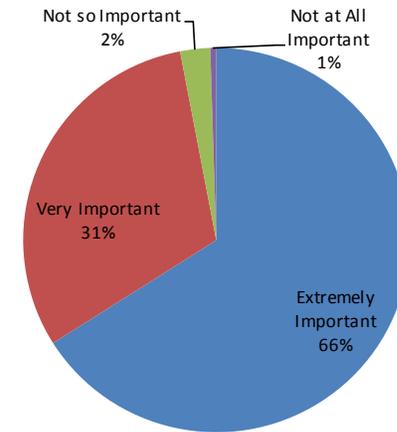


Figure 4: How important is it to you to preserve natural areas?

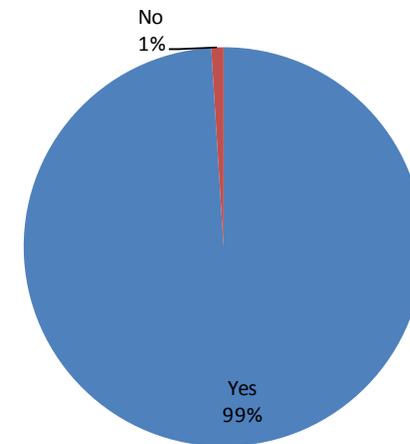


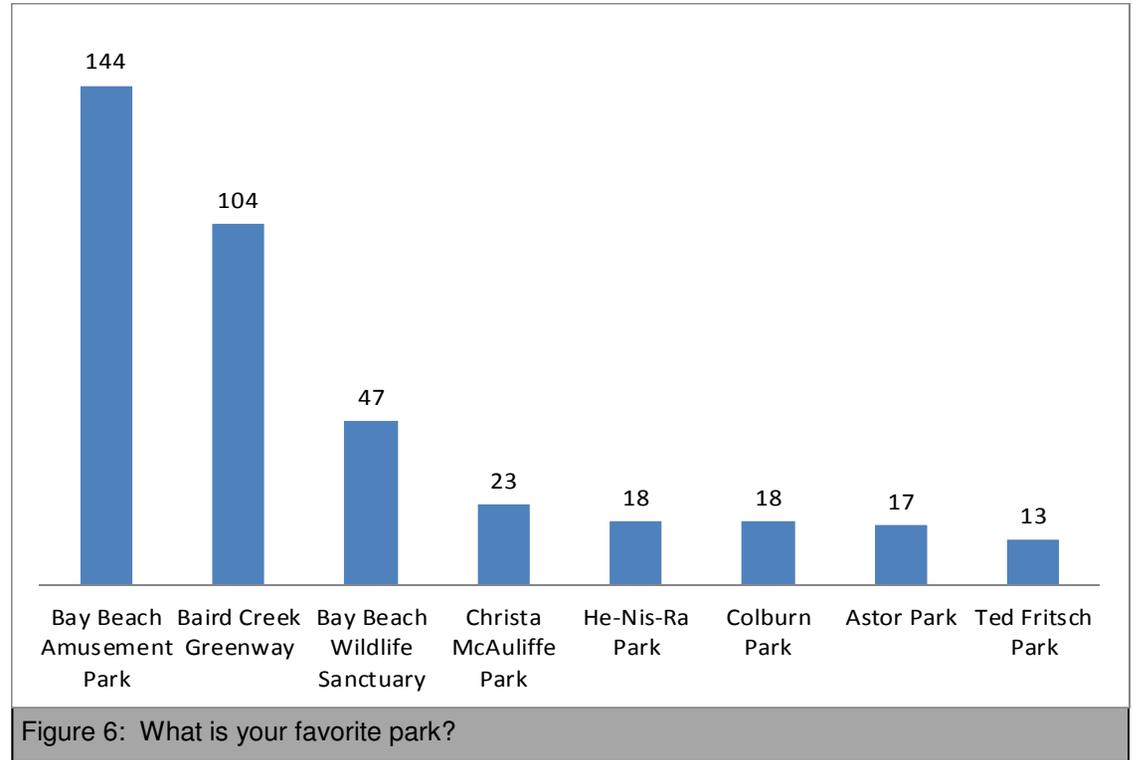
Figure 5: Do you find trees to be an asset to our community?



Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Figure 6 represents what survey respondents consider to be their favorite parks within the City. Bay Beach Amusement Park was rated as the most well liked park while the other park and greenway areas that were selected are primarily considered to feature natural areas. This would indicate that the Bay of Green Bay shoreline, amusement park rides and natural features are a high priority for the community.

The historic Bay Beach Amusement Park is located along the shoreline of the Bay of Green Bay and consists of rides, a pavilion with dance hall, open shelters, picnic areas, playground equipment and concession stands. Due to Wisconsin's climate, it is only open for operation from May through October, which limits accessibility to the facility for half of the year. As the City is currently working to implement shoreline improvements at the park including the renovation of the swimming beach, shoreline walk, as well as considering updates to the pavilion for year round use, these amenities will aid in extended availability and use of the park throughout the year. Events and other



programming will also be considered as extended use of the park is examined.

The Baird Creek Greenway was rated as the second favorite park by survey respondents. The primary activities in the greenway include waking/hiking and biking which directly relates to the favorite activities that were selected by respondents. The greenway consists of over 500 acres. Eighteen varying ecosystems have been identified within the greenway and Baird Creek is located throughout it's the core. This natural setting along with its extensive trail system is quite favorable for park users. Guided hikes, field trips and summer camps are also offered in the greenway which are important to consider in analyzing these results.

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary was rated as the 3rd favorite park and is open to the public year-round. The unique features within this park include animal exhibits and feeding areas, as well as, animal rehabilitation. This facility is comprised of over 500 acres of land and a multi-use trail system. In addition, rental facilities, guided hikes, field trips, programming and summer camps are offered here.

Christa McAuliffe Park, He-Nis-Ra Park and Ted Fritsch Park are neighborhood parks that have natural areas and trails located within

and/or adjacent to them. Astor Park is also a neighborhood park with amenities similar to many other neighborhood parks located throughout the City. Playground equipment and programs at these parks, with the exception of He-Nis-Ra Park, also need to be considered when looking

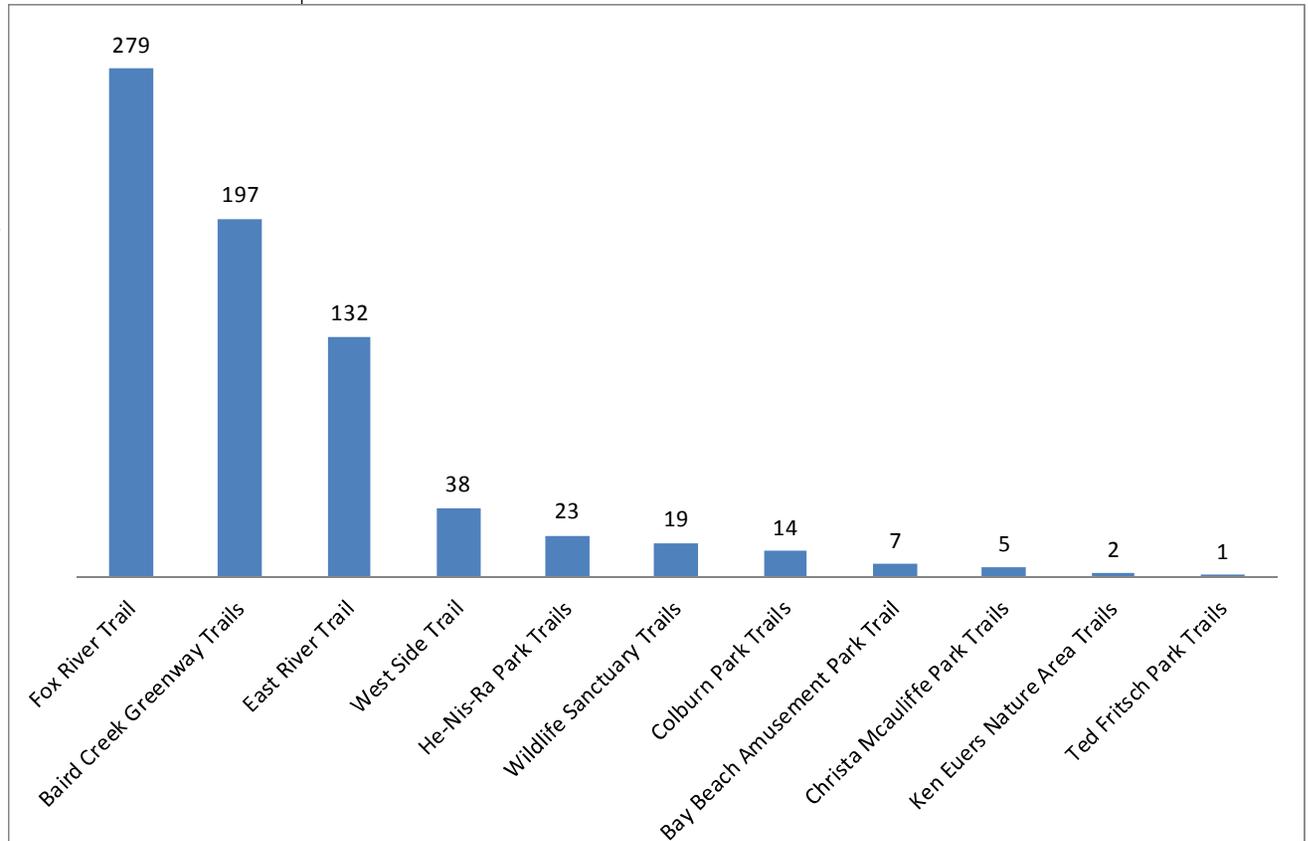


Figure 7: In the past year, what bicycle/pedestrian trails have you or your household members used?



at these results.

Colburn Park is a community park which features athletic fields, shelters, a pool, playground equipment, trails and forested areas. Programming at this park may contribute to it's likability.

Figure 7, demonstrates which bicycle/pedestrian trails were used within the last year by survey respondents and their household members.

Survey respondents indicated that the most highly used trail was the Fox River Trail which is located centrally throughout the City, including the downtown area. It is a paved multi-use trail that is adjacent to the Fox River. With the City currently focusing on many development projects along the river, including housing and commercial opportunities, it is likely that this trail will become more heavily used as development progresses. Therefore, with the combination of development and user preference, maintenance of the Fox River Trail will be a high priority for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

The second most utilized trail system by survey respondents were the Baird Creek Greenway trails. The extensive greenway features both a paved multi-use trail and multiple unpaved trails. There is a desire by the Parks Department and the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation to improve the unpaved trails in the greenway. This includes, but is not limited to, erosion control, implementing boardwalks in wet areas found within designated wetlands, and adding a bridge and signage for easier navigation. It is likely that these improvements would increase the amount of users on the trails within the greenway.

The third most utilized trail by survey respondents was the East River Trail. This paved multi-use trail is located adjacent to the East River. Currently there are plans to extend this trail about 1 mile north and west, connecting it to the Fox River Trail. Plans for implementing amenities along the trail include river access, a canoe/kayak launch, open shelters, a plaza, seating areas, art and stormwater retention features. It is expected that the trail will become more heavily utilized once this connection is completed and other amenities are added.

The West Side Trail is a paved multi-use trail that is located within the heart of the west side of the City. The Parks Department is currently working to extend this trail to the north which would connect it to the Mountain Bay Trail in the Village of Howard. There is also a desire by the City to connect this trail to the Fox River Trail. These proposed connections would likely increase the use of the trail.

selected as the 3rd favorite activity. The playground equipment found throughout the City is mainly designed for ages 2-12. The equipment is often not readily available for easily accessible play during the winter months. Further planning for alternative activities to accommodate play for this age range during the winter months should be considered.

The remaining trails listed in the survey results are primarily unpaved trails located throughout neighborhood and community parks. The exception to this is the Bay Beach Amusement Park trail which is the paved trail along the shoreline that will soon be replaced. These results indicate that survey respondents utilize trails that are located within areas that have natural features.

Figure 8 shows the results of the activities most enjoyed by respondents within the parks. Hiking and walking were the favorite activities with biking/mountain biking being the 2nd favorite activity. Therefore, the Parks Department will continue to focus on efforts to improve and expand the City's formal and informal multi-use trails as a high priority to accommodate these activities.

Using playground equipment was

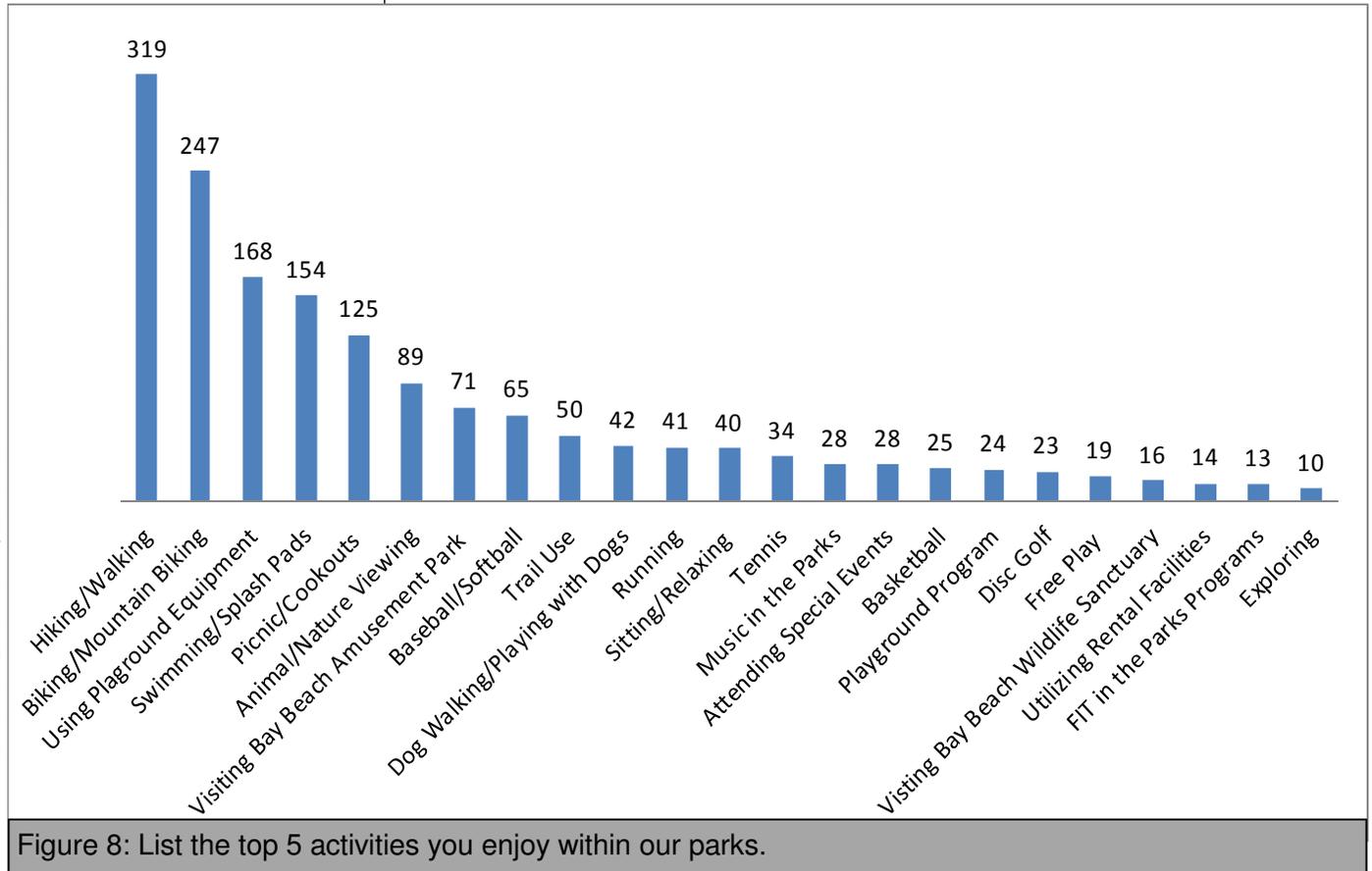


Figure 8: List the top 5 activities you enjoy within our parks.

CHAPTER 4 Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

Swimming and using splash pads were the 4th favorite activity. These activities are seasonal due to local climate. It would be worthwhile to conduct a study to determine whether additional indoor, water related facilities are desired by the community.

The 5th favorite activity was picnicking/cookouts. The Parks Department has many open shelters, picnic tables and trash cans located throughout the park system which help to accommodate this activity. Generally, the public does not picnic or cookout in the parks during the winter months. This may be due to the fact that many of the open shelters and picnic tables are not easily accessible during the winter. This should be evaluated further to determine if there would be desire from the public to have accommodations available to picnic/cookout during winter.

The remaining activities found in Figure 8 will be evaluated and considered as this plan is updated.

The park survey asked participants to list their favorite winter activities. Figure 9 shows that the respondents chose many activities that are dependent on the presence of snow and ice. Due to weather conditions the past several years, it has been a struggle to maintain decent snow conditions on trails and sledding areas. It has also been difficult to maintain decent ice for the hockey and ice skating rinks. This limits the availability of the use of these facilities to the public. Therefore, it would be worth considering if investing in snow and ice making equipment is feasible and desired for the community. Additionally, consideration for alternative winter programming and events that are not dependent on the presence of ice or snow should be evaluated.

Neighborhood Associations

There are currently 32 active Neighborhood Associations located within the City of Green Bay. The Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council works with the Neighborhood Associations to provide a formal link between neighborhood representatives and local government. Additionally, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department works with Neighborhood Associations to aid in implementing projects on park property. Some of the more recent projects that have been completed with the help of Neighborhood Associations include a gaga ball pit, a giant Adirondack chair, and ADA accessible swings.

Ongoing input and requests from the Neighborhood Associations are

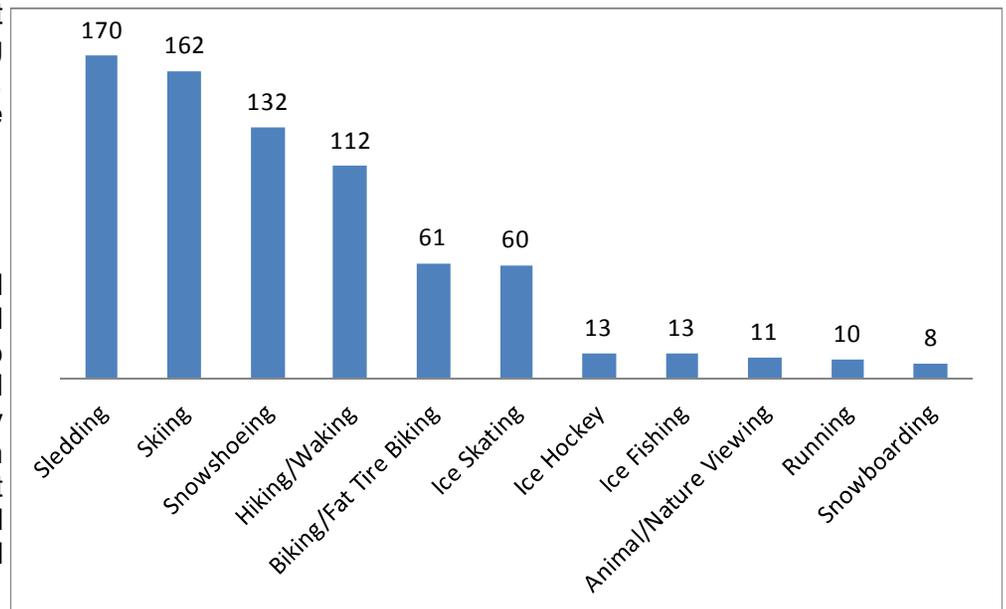


Figure 9: What winter activities do you enjoy the most?

carefully evaluated as the Parks Department plans for development, programming and funding. The Associations are a great resource for the City because they aid in helping the City to understand what it is the community wants.

D. ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

Since 2007, the City has met all ADA accessibility compliance standards with all new construction projects.

The Parks Department has already created a self ADA audit of all park facilities. Many of the smaller items have already been identified and addressed. Over the next several years we will work with the City's Risk Management Department to prioritize remaining the work that needs to be done and put together an action plan.

Park and recreational facilities should be made barrier-free and accessible to disabled park users to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation should be provided where feasible, such that the majority of park facilities and outdoor features are accessible to as many visitors as possible. Furthermore, universal design standards should be followed to comply with federal ADA regulations as a requirement for most grant-in-aid programs. In addition to meeting ADA requirements, designing to meet the goals and objectives of inclusive play should also be considered when designing and implementing new facilities.





A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present recommendations for the development and acquisition of lands for new park sites, the expansion of existing parks, and the protection and preservation of environmentally-significant areas. Recommendations are based on the analysis as outlined in Chapter 4, as well as observed demand and known inadequacies of various types of facilities. The following is a brief summary of the sections of this chapter.

- NEW PARK AND SERVICE AREA RECOMMENDATIONS - Outlines recommendations for land purchase and related new park sites to serve anticipated future population growth
- RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTIVITY - General development strategies which focus on specific activities rather than specific parks
- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PARKS, NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS AND GREENWAYS - Expansion and improvements of existing parks by park area
- NON-MUNICIPAL AREA RECOMMENDATIONS - Recommendations pertaining to lands not managed by the City of Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Maps 2 and 3 diagram some of the park expansion and acquisition recommendations made in the Action Program.

B. NEW PARK AND SERVICE AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

Priorities for Acquisition

Table 9 shows how current classifiable parkland compares with the needs of the projected Green Bay population growth over the next 10 years.

This analysis is based on the 2019 NRPA Agency Performance Review which states that the typical park and recreation agency oversees 10.1 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents in its jurisdiction and that agencies serving jurisdictions with populations between 100,000 and 250,000 have 8.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

Assuming the City's population growth matches the projected growth found in Table 9, the existing acreage of classifiable parkland in the Green Bay system does not meet the typical standard of acre per 1,000 population standard. However, as discussed in Chapter 4, geographic distribution relative to service area, as well as demand related to facility type, will require acquisition of additional park land and development of new facilities to meet future recreation needs. Priorities for land acquisition will be contingent upon the changing characteristics of a neighborhood, the growth rate of developing areas and changes in the demand for specific recreational facilities. For additional acquisition to take place, the Parks Department should continue to request funds for

TABLE 9 - CLASSIFIABLE PARKLAND NEEDS

All Classifiable Parkland (Mini, Neighborhood and Community Parks)				
Year	City Population	Acres Needed Per NRPA Standard Per 1000 Persons (8.5 - 10.1)	Existing Acres	Acres Needed
2010	104,057*	884.48 - 1050.98	900.72	0- 150.26
2015	104,300	886.55 - 1053.43	900.72	0 - 152.71
2020	108,050	918.43 - 1091.31	900.72	17.71 - 190.59
2025	111,200	945.20 - 1123.12	900.72	44.48 - 222.40
2030	113,850	967.73 - 1149.89	900.72	67.01 - 249.17

general appropriate and consistent with Park Committee objectives, staff should aggressively develop a long-range acquisition plan detailing purchasing objectives with dated and suggested funding sources.

Unserviced Areas

The developed residential areas of the City are for the most part well-serviced by the existing neighborhood and/or community parks, but there are a few locations within the City where existing park land is not easily accessible. Refer to Map 4. Each area should be carefully studied and reviewed with the local residents and elected officials to identify the demand and outline alternate ways to meet the needs. Solutions should be sought that combine public and private resources into a joint project to serve these areas cost effectively. It may be difficult or impossible to serve some locations due to the fact no open space may be available and areas may be cost prohibitive to purchase.

West Side Community Park

There are currently no community parks servicing the far west portion of the City. Due to its size, He-Nis-Ra Park has the most potential for becoming a community park in this area. Further development of this park such as, additional parking, play areas, picnic areas, ball fields, toboggan run, rental shelters, etc. should be considered when and if the demand of the residents warrants this action. If found to be impossible, the next recommended alternative for a community park would be to improve existing facilities, add

*City of Green Bay population used for calculations is 2010 census data population. Existing City of Green Bay park acreages shown are as of May 2020. Projected Populations Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Demographic Services Center, Wisconsin Minor Civil Division (MCD) Projections, 2010-2040



new facilities and possibly expand Beaver Dam Park.

Proposed New Park Areas

The far eastern portion of the City is currently rural in nature. The City should explore the possibility of purchasing land for park development in both the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the City. Both areas will see residential growth over the next 20 years. In addition, the Planning Department has identified properties along the East River that are susceptible to flooding that could be acquired for park development. Also, the addition of more pocket parks and parklets should be explored. The Parks Department should work closely with the Planning Department to monitor the future land use to determine the exact locations for the new park land because the property value in these areas will significantly increase when development occurs. (See Map 2 - Proposed new park areas are identified in magenta.)

C. RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTIVITY

There are a number of areas for which the City has general development strategies that encompass many different parks. This type of development is best addressed on a City-wide basis. The following outline these recommendations:

Art Appreciation/Immersion

The Parks Department is working with the Public Arts Commission and Planning Department towards incorporating more art in the parks and along pedestrian corridors. Recent projects include poetry embedded in concrete, rotating art sculptures throughout the City and art for Danz Park that will be purchased in 2020 with Community Development Block Grant Funding . The Parks Department will also be installing 100 trees in Danz Park in 2020 to commemorate the Department's 100 years of service for the community.

Baseball/Softball

There is a shortage of baseball fields in Green Bay, especially in High School, American Legion and Babe Ruth leagues. Some demand is unserved, including a high school freshman program. There are five baseball fields in Green Bay. The Facility Development Standards suggest there should be at least 21 baseball fields in the City. Only two of the six high schools (one public and one parochial) have their own baseball field. The Blue Ribbons, a franchise team, currently play at the premier field in Joannes Park. One additional baseball diamond should be built on each side of the City within the next five years along with improvements to fencing. Some other diamonds should be consolidated so that there are several parks with at least two diamonds so as to allow regulation high school play, aid tournaments and allow for more efficient maintenance.

On the far-east side, there is the possibility to create at least one new ballfield at the proposed east side high school / D6 South / D6 North park complex.

On the west side, opportunities for baseball may include implementation of the Perkins Park master plan which proposes to convert a softball/little league field into a baseball field creating a two-field complex. Recently, two new ballfields with lighting were constructed at Beaver Dam Park for a total of 3 lit fields at the park.

Historically, the most popular park-related recreational activity in Green Bay has been softball. With the growth in popularity of activities such as soccer, a decline in the popularity of softball was expected. For the most part, this has not occurred, and softball remains very popular. Overall, the demand for additional fields is

high.

The City now has 32 softball diamonds, 14 of which are lighted. This number has declined from 63 in 1992 but still exceeds the 21 fields suggested by the Facility Development Standards. Many of these fields are also used for Little League play. These diamonds serve 110 adult teams in 15 leagues, as well as numerous youth teams in 22 youth leagues. Youth Baseball (Little League) had approximately 750 participants in summer leagues of T-Ball through Majors divisions and another 125 in Babe Ruth play; Minors and Majors divisions had 200 playing fall ball with another 125 in Babe Ruth.

Each high school has a girls' varsity and junior varsity softball team but none have a softball field. Girls youth softball programs had approximately 250 participants in summer leagues and another 100 playing in fall games.

There are currently plans and funding to convert 1 baseball field into 2 softball fields at Colburn Park which would create a 4 field softball facility on the west side. Finger Road Ballfield Complex is also a 4 field facility on the east side.

It should be noted that several of the fields have insufficiently deep outfield fences. Also, there is a need for more lighted facilities to relieve the pressure on existing diamonds, which are utilized to their maximum potential. This heavy use leaves diamonds in a poor, hard-to-maintain condition. In addition, for all fields actively used, the City should provide paved dugout areas.

As with baseball fields another issue for softball is the limited opportunity for tournament play in Green Bay. Parks staff will be studying possible methods and locations for consolidating softball fields into a "complex" in an effort to increase maintenance efficiency and provide for tournament

play. Some of the older non-usable fields can then be removed and used for other activities.

Basketball Courts

There are currently 46 basketball courts located in City parks. There are two locations with double courts. The City currently has two lit basketball courts at Fisk Park on the west side and one lit basketball court at Joannes Park on the east side. In the long term the City should expand the single court at Joannes Park to a double court. A full-size court would be desirable at Red Smith Park on the far east side. The only other proposed new courts would be in the proposed new undeveloped park areas.

Basketball courts tend to be highly-utilized facilities and thus demand regular attention. Resurfacing is needed on a regular basis. More consistent funding needs to be provided for regular maintenance and repair so that the courts do not get in the run down condition.

Currently there are 30 adult basketball teams and 100 youth participants in basketball programs. Open gyms are offered at 9 locations weekly from November through March and attract 30 participants per site, which is approximately 6,000 participants per year. These games are now played in rented, indoor locations such as schools. Scheduling around school activities tends to create problems. A public facility for this purpose, as well as, other indoor recreation activities, would alleviate these problems and should be studied for the future.

Boating Facilities

The Metro Boat Launch is located along the Bay of Green Bay and is the only public boat launch owned by the City of Green Bay. There are two private boat launches located in close proximity to the Metro Boat Launch and two other public boat launch facilities located on the Bay in Brown County. Public docks should work in conjunction with private facilities to fulfill the demand and not inhibit private investment.

The City of Green Bay offers transient floating docking along the Fox River at Leicht Memorial Park and CityDeck. There are also several businesses and condo developments in the downtown area that offer transient docking. It appears as though there is adequate transient docking opportunities within the City.

Over the past several years other locations were proposed for additional boat launch sites. These alternative sites are listed below and would require further study.

Fox River West Bank, North of Mason Street: The Downtown Design Plan indicated this 15-acre property as a possible multi-purpose marina with adjacent housing, offices, shops and restaurants. A marina at this location would support broader aims for downtown, Broadway Avenue and central riverfront revitalization. However, limited space for parking and downtown traffic conditions may preclude a major boat launch at this

location.

Recently, the City has been working to implement docking that would accommodate cruise ships along with other related amenities at Leicht Park.

Canoe/Kayak Launch Facilities

The City of Green Bay will soon have 3 designated canoe/kayak launch areas within the City. The CityDeck located along the Fox River Trail in downtown Green Bay has an ADA accessible launch facility. Additionally, an informal launch is located along the Fox River at the base of the Porlier Fishing Pier. This facility is not developed; it is only a mowed walk leading from S Adams Street to the shoreline. The City should consider locating funding to develop this site with a paved walk with site amenities. Also, as part of the East River Trail development, the Parks Department is constructing an ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch along the trail route along with parking and a picnic shelter.

Other possible launch sites include the following:

Riverview Place Park: The Riverview Place site is currently undeveloped and is planned to be a small scale or informal canoe launch site. It is suggested as a launch site because of its location along the Fox River, the City owns the property and there are no other public launches on the west side of Green Bay within the City limits. Additional land would need to be purchased to create an ideal canoe/kayak launch facility.

Bay Beach Amusement Park: With the development of shoreline improvements at the park, a canoe/kayak launch would be a valuable asset for that area.

Community Center

The Green Bay Parks Department does not have a community center. Instead the City works with the School District to provide recreational programs within the existing schools. This is not typical for communities of similar size. A community center can provide for activities such as basketball, volleyball, dance, pom -pom, yoga, handicapped activities and senior activities. The 2020 Parks Survey showed that 70% of respondents feel they would utilize a community center and its programming.

Community Gardens

Community gardens have expanded over the last ten years. There are currently five community gardens situated on park property. Two of the gardens at Eighth Street Park and Chappell Park/School are managed through the Parks Department. The other three community gardens at Seymour, Fisk and University Avenue are managed by the Neighborhood Associations and West High School. The Seymour Community Garden is unique in that the neighborhood association teaches gardening classes to the neighborhood children, and the majority of the produce is donated to local shelters. The County Extension Office also manages several additional community gardens within the City limits. The Parks Department coordinates with the County to provide free compost and helps with the tilling in the spring and fall.

Other neighborhood associations have requested additional community gardens in other park locations. The City's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, Planning Department and Brown County Extension are working to identify alternative non-park sites for community gardens and have developed a community garden policy to ensure that all future community gardens are maintained and managed .

CHAPTER 5 Action Plan Recommendations



Cross-Country Skiing Trails

Cross-country skiing has continued to be a popular activity. Wherever the City has the space and the time to groom, people tend to ski.

The Green Bay Park, Recreation & Forestry Department currently grooms trails in eight park areas. The City will continue to provide and groom trails as time and manpower permits and as appropriate areas are purchased, such as Baird Creek Greenway and He-Nis-Ra Park. The City will urge the County and the State to assist in meeting this recreation demand, as large areas with hills and trees are normally desired.

Disc Golf

The City currently has two disc golf courses, one on the east side and one on the west side. Both are heavily used. The City should continue to work with the user groups to maintain and improve the facilities. The City should address the excessive erosion at the tee boxes and baskets at Triangle Hill, which is the east side location.

Dog Park

The City has one dog park located at Whitney Park. There is desire from the community to have more dog parks located throughout the City. Currently Danz Park and the Shipyard are being considered for additional sites for dog parks. The City should evaluate the feasibility of installing a large dog park facility to accommodate users.

Ecology and the Environment

The Parks Department will plan and design parks and greenways to sustain environmentally-sensitive features, reduce negative environmental effects and serve as models of land stewardship. The Parks Department will work judiciously to reduce the amount of park area devoted to mowed turf and introduce in its place (preferably native) plant species that require less maintenance, provide habitat for birds, insects, and other

wildlife, and provide filtration of water runoff. Invasive, non-native plant species should be controlled whenever feasible. Best management practices will be utilized to improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Finally, recycled and local products will be used wherever possible.

The Parks Department will work with the City's Sustainability Commission to work towards the common goals of both the Department and the Commission.

Fishing Areas

The City of Green Bay is located on the southern edge of the Bay of Green Bay. The Fox River, East River and Baird Creek all converge in close proximity to Green Bay's downtown. Even though there are ample fishing opportunities, the City maintains very few designated fishing locations.

The old Porlier railroad bridge that crosses the Fox River was recently converted to a fishing pier on the east bank. This pier is the only designated public fishing pier in Green Bay. Additional locations should be researched over the next 5 years.

The only areas in the park system currently promoted with shoreline fishing spots, and to some degree managed as such, is the lagoon system at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and the fishing platforms at East River Van Beaver Park. The Wildlife Sanctuary has recently completed major renovations to its lagoon system. The lagoons were dredged, a freshwater well was installed and a major waterfall was installed to promote water circulation. The lagoons are stocked annually with fish. An informal ADA fishing pier was installed, and the Sanctuary regularly hosts fishing events to teach children how to fish. Due to





the success of this program, the City should secure funding to develop the site with walks, more ADA accessible fishing piers and an open shelter. The East River platforms are marginal for fishing quality.

The planned addition of a pier at Bay Beach Amusement Park would increase fishing opportunities at the City's most popular park.

Informal fishing does occur at other park facilities such as Leicht Memorial Park, Joliet Park, Ken Euers Nature Area, Metro Boat Launch, Veterans Memorial Park, and the east bank of the Fox River. The City should continue to promote informal fishing. Over the next five years the City should research development opportunities to create additional fishing opportunities at the Metro Boat Launch due to the many fishing tournaments held at this location.

Football Fields

The organized football program consists of 24 male teams using 3 fields. The parochial league also rents our facilities and has 700 children participating. Football fields are normally built in conjunction with lighted ball diamonds for more cost efficient maintenance and lighting. As the demand increases, all new fields should be designed and constructed similarly as multi-use fields. The demand is stable at this time, and no new fields are planned in the near future. With 9 football fields in operation, the number of football fields in Green Bay currently exceeds the six suggested in the Facilities Development Standards, although some of the fields are somewhat smaller than regulation size.

Greenways

Drainage ways are important assets in terms of their environmental significance, i.e. providing wildlife habitat, efficient, cost-effective management of stormwater control and reduction of flooding, natural amenities and recreational opportunities. Map 2 diagrams recommendations for the continued purchase and expansion of the greenways/drainage ways. For the most part these areas should be maintained as natural open space.

The delineation of these areas is primarily established by the Public Works Department based on drainage-related criteria. The County also identifies most of these drainage ways as environmentally-sensitive areas (ESA). Areas adjacent to parks or of exceptional natural value such as Lacount Creek, Willow Creek, Beaver Dam Creek and Mahon Creek should be considered for possible nature trail development. This of course would be contingent on the local citizen preferences and in some cases may require the purchase of additional land.

Facilities along the waterfront should range from areas of active and passive recreation to natural areas, as well as various types of adjacent commercial and retail development. The City should continue to discourage the practice by adjacent landowners of mowing turf to the water's edge due to its impact on non-point source erosion. All shorelines should be protected from erosion. This waterfront system should connect to existing parks, as well as other waterfront urban areas wherever feasible.

A key component of the overall waterfront development quality is an adequate trail system. In order to maintain a continuous trail as much as possible, it may be necessary to construct specialized pedestrian bridge structures to circumvent major street areas or other structures. The next priority should be completing trail connections throughout the Baird Creek and East River Greenways; (see Map 3). Where full-scale greenway developments are not feasible, it may be advantageous to provide some public access to the waterfront through the development of street end parks in existing rights-of-way.

Hockey and Ice Skating

There are 5 hockey rinks in the City. At this time there are no

plans to develop additional hockey rinks. Evidence suggests that there is a high demand for hockey rinks in Green Bay, but there is no specific data to support that claim. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department staff should quantify the need and examine options to outdoor rinks, such as a large indoor facility. An indoor rink should be a joint public-private venture if it is verified that the demand exists to support it.

At this time 13 ice skating areas are managed. This is a reduced number from 28 skating areas in 1986. City staff should review the practicality of having many small neighborhood ice rinks due to limiting weather conditions in Green Bay. Fewer larger facilities would be more practical, reduce maintenance and provide a better quality experience, but the neighborhoods prefer to keep their small local rinks. Demand for skating rinks should be analyzed yearly, and staff should continue to study and promote the concept of fewer, larger quality facilities.

New Specialized Facilities

The field of recreation in general is undergoing many changes. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is under some pressure to develop new facilities supporting various activities. Desired activities include outdoor fitness areas, BMX bike courses, outdoor handball courts, a soap box derby course, mountain bike trails, fat tire bike trails, tot lots, rugby, lacrosse, in-line skating facilities (as well as roller hockey) and a cricket field. Many of these activities are being or have been studied by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and, while some have been accommodated, presently demand does not warrant development of all of them.

Several of the above noted activities come up for discussion more frequently including BMX ramps and fat tire bike trails. The City should continue to investigate the need and possibilities for developing these facilities. Within the next five years demand may increase and there

may be a need to develop some of the other noted recreation facilities.

Pickleball

Pickleball has been growing in popularity throughout the country and City of Green Bay. Many of the current pickleball players are ages 55 and older. In general, the City is working to accommodate more facilities and programming for this age group. The Parks Department is currently working to implement more pickleball courts within the City. Plans include converting 2 existing tennis courts at Edison Park into 6 permanent pickleball courts. There are currently 4 additional pickleball courts at Edison Park with portable nets located within the remaining 2 tennis court areas at Edison Park which will result in a lit, 10 court tournament facility. Additionally, there has been discussion about the addition of an 8 court pickleball facility at Murphy Park that may be implemented over the next 5 years.

Playgrounds

Playground equipment has undergone extensive changes in the last 35 years. Many of these changes have resulted in better-utilized, more aesthetically pleasing play equipment with greater overall play value. The greatest number of changes, though, have related to safety and accessibility. The Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act have literally changed the face of American playgrounds in an effort to make our play areas safer and more accessible for all of our citizens.

The Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has stayed abreast of these changes, and the oldest playground the City maintains is from 1992.

City staff (including two Certified Playground Safety Inspectors) have been trained in designing and inspecting playgrounds and monitors the latest guidelines to make recommendations based on a balanced approach. The objective is to provide a quality play experience that is safe and as accessible to as many people as possible. Overall the equipment must be durable, maintainable and justifiable as a long-term investment of City resources. In addition, paved walks should be provided to all playgrounds per ADA guidelines.

The City currently maintains 58 playgrounds. In order to maintain a 20-year replacement schedule, three playgrounds need to be replaced on a yearly basis. Additional playgrounds should be included in the D6 North and D6 South Parks as development of those parks occurs. Other playgrounds may be required in some of the small, unserviced areas of the City. The master plan for Bay Beach Amusement Park identifies a regional, themed playground unique to Bay Beach. The City is currently working with the Friends of Bay Beach to implement an inclusive playground.

Due to tight budgets playground replacement is beginning to fall behind this schedule. If at all possible the City should maintain a regular phased

program of replacements. (See specific park proposals for details of playground replacement needs.) Safety, play value and maintainability are the main criteria for replacement.

Playground Program

The summer playground program is offered at 36 sites and attracts 66,000 participants on an annual basis. The Green Bay Area Public School District provides free lunches in the summer to 35 locations through a USDA Grant. The children served range in age from 6-18. Programming offered includes the City wide games day, sports tournament, Kids' Day, Wildlife Sanctuary Day, talent shows, theme days, reading program, gardening program, Kiddie Karnival and Kiddie Parade. This Green Bay playground program has been around for years and the Parks Department will continue to offer this service and seek other programming opportunities to keep the program vibrant and exciting.

Skate Park

The City maintains one concrete skate park at Joannes Park and it has been very popular. Annual fundraising efforts have generated enough funds to explore expansion of the skate park. The City should also study the possibility of providing another facility on the west side. Professionally-designed skate parks (for skateboards and in-line skates) can offer challenges not available elsewhere, and may also reduce the traffic and abuse on paths, sidewalks, railings and walls that were never meant for such activity.

Sledding/Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding

The City operates Triangle Sports Area which has a sledding hill with tow rope and areas to downhill ski and snowboard. Due to

recent weather conditions, it has been difficult to maintain decent snow conditions for the facility, limiting the availability of the use of this facility for these activities. Exploring the possibility of acquiring snow making equipment for Triangle Sports Area should be considered. Additionally, Colburn Park, Fireman's Park and (John) Muir Park are neighborhood parks that have sledding hills.

There has been an interest from the community to bring back more sledding hills to neighborhood and community parks where there once were sledding areas available to the public but have been closed due to safety concerns. The Parks Department should evaluate the feasibility of offering more areas for the public to sled.

Soccer

The popularity of soccer in Green Bay has leveled off from its meteoric rise but continues to be strong among the youth. Soccer has attracted many children who might otherwise not have played an organized summer sport, and has drawn some players from tee-ball, baseball and softball.

Green Bay provides fields for most of the high schools, the Green Bay Kickers Soccer Club (serving the west side of Green Bay), the Green Bay Strikers Soccer Club (serving the east side) and the regional select team (higher-skilled players from the older age groups). Each high school has a boys and girls varsity and junior varsity team but only East High has a soccer field. The soccer clubs use fields in Green Bay and several nearby communities for a summer program that runs from April through July and September through early October. There are currently 200 adult participants and 500 children participating in soccer in Green Bay.

Green Bay and its neighboring communities do not have a sufficient



number of soccer fields for existing demand even though there are now 36 fields in Green Bay (plus 16 owned by the schools) compared to 23 in 1995 which exceeds the number suggested by the Facilities Development Standards. However, the fields vary in size with most being smaller than the suggested standard size. The west side of the City is especially under served. Due to the insufficient number of fields, some games are held at dusk, making it difficult to play. No fields are currently lighted. Lighting could expand the use of some fields but it is costly. There are currently limited opportunities in Green Bay for soccer tournaments because of a lack of facilities with multiple fields.

The condition of most of the fields in Green Bay is poor because of their heavy use. Problems include flooding, bare spots, ruts, mud and non-uniform dimensions. The turf problems are caused by the fact that none of the fields can be rested. Lighting of fields could cause even more problems with overuse. The City should explore the potential for at least one artificial turf soccer field, which may alleviate the overuse of some fields.

The greatest problem with siting new soccer fields is finding flat open areas of adequate size. Staff should continue to monitor demands and quantify the number of fields needed in the service areas, and then update this plan with those findings.

The Arnie Wolff Sports Complex on the far east side was developed to accommodate a 6- field soccer complex with parking lot. There are plans to expand the parking lot at the complex in the near future. Additional east side multi-field soccer opportunities include D6 North or the proposed east side high school. Additionally, the Perkins Park master plan includes the addition of 2 soccer fields on the west side.

Since the soccer clubs operate across municipal boundaries and, thus, the youth demand is regional, Green Bay will work with its neighbors to create more fields in all communities and improve the quality of those it already has. It will probably be easier to find space for new fields in the outlying municipalities, and it is believed that Green Bay is ahead of its neighbors in terms of the number of fields per 1,000 population.

Splash Pads/Wading Pools

Splash pads are quickly becoming a very popular attraction to neighborhoods. They are fairly inexpensive to construct when compared to a wading pool or aquatic center. More importantly, very little maintenance is required once in place and no supervision is required.

There are currently 9 splash pads located within the City. Three splash pads are located on the near east side of town, four are located on the near west side of town, one is located at Red Smith Park on the far-east side and one is located downtown on CityDeck. Many additional neighborhoods are requesting splash pads. The City should continue to investigate constructing additional splash pads on the east side and west side as demand increases.

The City currently has 3 wading pools and does not charge a fee. All 3 wading pools were constructed a minimum of 30 years ago and are starting to show their age. Although these facilities are extremely popular, wading pools are costly to maintain and complicated to manage because of their complex systems and extensive state requirements. Because the facilities are popular with families with young children, the City will study alternatives such as splash play areas when it comes time for replacement. Splash pads have fewer legal requirements and are simpler systems.

Swimming

The Department owns and operates a total of 3 outdoor swimming pools, which include: one traditional box pool which has been recently renovated, and two family aquatic centers. The City also

utilizes two indoor pools located within the public schools. The indoor pools do not serve the existing demand for indoor year-round water activities. There is a demand for more water aerobics classes and swimming lessons. Also, the Green Bay Swim Club desires to rent more pool time and is searching for a year-round facility.

The 5-year average attendance numbers for the outdoor pools are:

Resch Aquatic Center - 405/day (28,000/summer) Joannes Aquatic Center - 288/day (20,000/summer) and Colburn Pool - 106/day (7,400/summer). The City also averages approximately 2,500 swimmers during our swim team rentals and another 4,000 swimmers during our swim lessons program.

The National Recreation and Park Association standards recommend 1 pool for 20,000 people each with an approximate capacity of 1,000. This indicates that with the existing population of 104,000+ the City could support 5 family aquatic centers. However, that is overly optimistic.

Tennis

The City has consistently maintained tennis on a neighborhood basis with 48 courts on municipal property and another 15 on school lands for a total of 63 tennis courts. This comfortably exceeds the 52 courts suggested by the Facility Development Standards for a city of Green Bay's size.

Besides the casual tennis players, there are 180 children participating in tennis lessons, as well as, many high school activities.

City staff should carefully monitor the use of its tennis courts and consider phasing some out. As tennis courts need future major repair, the City should consider combining and centralizing its courts into fewer



but larger complexes, as was done at all of the high schools within the City. This provides players a better likelihood of getting an open court without having to travel to several areas. The City will continue to renovate tennis courts on an as-needed basis.

Trails

Pedestrian/bicycle trails should be developed in an effort to connect park, open space areas and major activity nodes in the City. Priority should be given to areas adjacent to waterways. Over the last several years the City has been very active in the construction of multi-use trails along the Fox River, East River, Baird Creek and the West Side Trail. The City will continue to create more trails as opportunities arise and eventually link all three trails into one comprehensive trail system that will also connect to the adjacent communities. The City has also recently constructed .74 mile trail along Webster Avenue and the 1.16 mile University Avenue Recreation Trail. See Map 3, The City Trail Map, for detailed recommendations.

The City is working to expand the West Side Trail from Bond Street to the Mountain Bay Trail in Howard and the Fox River Trail on the east side of the Fox River. These connections will be difficult to make and it will take many years of planning and significant funding to realize this goal.

Over the next 5 years the City will continue efforts to connect the East River Trail to the Fox River Trail and Baird Creek Trail. Once this one-mile missing link trail connection is built there will be over 40 miles of continuous trails all linking together in Green Bay.

A trail should be developed connecting the Metro Boat Launch, Wildlife Sanctuary, UWGB and Bay Beach along with linkages south to other major trails in the City. Sections of this trail are already in place. The City is also considering a proposed multi-use trail along University Avenue from Bader Street to UWGB. Park staff will work closely with the Public Works Department and the Planning Department to incorporate these trail connections into road reconstruction projects whenever possible.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PARKS, NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS AND GREENWAYS

Mini-Park Recommendations

ADMIRAL FLATLEY PARK

General Information:

- This park (0.75 acres) was recently relocated to the current location along the Fox River. Amenities within the new park include a bronze sculpture of Admiral Flatley, a gazebo, a memorial obelisk, and several tables with seating.

Proposed Activities:

- Maintain continuity between park and adjacent developments
- Preserve as much open space as possible
- Continue to work with donor group to add amenities as needed

(HENRY S.) ATKINSON PARK

General Information:

- Mini-park (0.99 acres) consisting of playground, ice rink, open space and stone perimeter wall. This park is adjacent to a school.

Proposed Activities:

- Much of the historic stone wall has been replaced. Complete the project as funding becomes available.

BRISK PARK

General Information:

- Small mini-park (0.40 acres) consisting of a playground and a memorial honoring former Green Bay Police Captain, Harold Brisk.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground



DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK

General Information:

- Small mini-park (0.05 acres) consisting of a seating area

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk and plantings

Neighborhood Park Recommendations

ASTOR PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (8.30 acres) located within historic district. Amenities include, three tennis courts, one basketball court, one ice rink, playground, shelter, wading pool and a semi-formal perennial garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace wading pool with splash pad
- Coordinate with Neighborhood Association on long-term maintenance of flower beds
- Add ornamental lighting
- Replace some asphalt walks

BADGER PARK

General Information:

- Small Neighborhood Park (5.67 acres). Amenities include one softball/little league field, one basketball court, playground and natural areas with trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Recently a large portion of the natural area had to be clear cut due to emerald ash borer. This area should be studied to determine what the best use of the area is. There is a desire by the neighborhood to convert this area to a soccer field.
- Add ADA accessible walk to playground
- Renovate ball field, improve drainage and replace infield mix

BAIRD PLACE

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.75 acres). The primary park use is to serve as a travel corridor from the neighborhoods to the adjacent hospital. The park is occasionally used for special events. Amenities include mature trees, flower beds and lit walkways through the park.

Proposed Activities:

- Maintain park as necessary
- Plant replacement trees as aging trees are removed

BAY VIEW PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.21 acres). Amenities include one softball/little league field, basketball court, park shelter, playground and a splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace bleachers
- Replace basketball court paving
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete
- Replace the playground

D6 SOUTH PARK

General Information:

- This 22.47-acre park will at some point be developed as a neighborhood park. Currently the majority of this site is rented out as farmland. There are 3.6 acres of woodland on the far west end of the park that will remain natural. This property is adjacent to property owned by the School District proposed as a future high school.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop master plan
- Coordinate athletic field court development with school needs

- The first developments typically include parking, playgrounds, ball diamonds and soccer fields

EAST RIVER EMILIE PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (23.58 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two small soccer fields, shore fishing, a multi-use trail following the river's edge along with expansive mowed turf areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Mowed turf areas are underutilized; staff to research alternative uses
Repare sections of East River Trail
- Expanding existing cul-de-sac with shoulder parking into a traditional parking lot
- Improve drainage within the turf areas
- As funding becomes available, purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to park land (See Map 5)

EAST RIVER (GEORGE J.) MEYER PARK

General Information:

- Medium sized neighborhood park (10.25 acres). Amenities include a playground, mature trees, a memorial, shore fishing, and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Seek opportunities for park enhancement
- Improve the trail crossing on Mason Street
- As funding becomes available, purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to park land

EAST RIVER OPTIMIST PARK

General Information:

- Medium size neighborhood park (9.51 acres) consisting of two

softball/Little League fields, a parking lot, shore fishing, and a multi-use trail along the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Secure funding and install an open shelter and a playground
- Work with donor group to coordinate future projects with Optimist Club
- As funding becomes available, purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to park land
- Clean up the East River shoreline. This area was used as a dump site by the previous owners. There is broken glass and china visible along the shoreline. Portions of the park have already been cleaned up as part of the build out of the master plan.

EAST RIVER VAN BEAVER PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (44.23 acres) situated along the east bank of the East River. Amenities include one lit football field, one basketball court, practice soccer area, playground, shelter, Forestry Division tree nursery, shore fishing, and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Improve the areas where the ballfields used to be. This area can be converted to soccer fields or some other suitable use. Because this area is within the floodway, limited grading and improvements can be done.
- Develop a master plan for the park
- Install a parking lot
- Research the possibility of adding a pedestrian foot bridge across the East River in the vicinity of Debra Lane to Grignon Street
- As funding becomes available, purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to park land (See Map 5)

EASTMAN PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.75 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, double basketball court, park shelter, playground and splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop east end of park
- Improve park drainage
- Renovate the ball field
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete

EIGHTH STREET PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (1.97 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, playground, shelter and a community garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate or replace the shelter
- Add security lighting within the park
- Explore the possibility of expanding or improving the community garden; This may include ADA access, a parking area, raised beds, etc.

FARLIN PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (11.39 acres). Amenities include a medium-sized soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter and splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Re-stain the splash pad concrete
- Renovate or replace the shelter
- Research potential alternate use in the hillock area
- Repair or replace the tennis courts
- Replace the playground

FIREMAN'S PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (13.72 acres). Amenities include a popular sledding hill, one softball/Little League field, one basketball court, one playground and nature trails leading to the adjacent Beaver Dam Creek Greenway. The park also shares restrooms and a park shelter room with the adjacent fire station.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court
- Research feasibility of adding tow ropes on sledding hill
- Add more winter facilities to the park

(TED) FRITSCH PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (20.98 acres). Amenities include one lit softball/Little League field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, and nature trails leading to the adjacent Lacount Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Connect to sanitary sewer
- Repave asphalt around the shelter
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Improve the trail system
- Preserve natural areas
- Create linkage to neighborhoods to the west by installing a pedestrian bridge, crossing the ravine in greenway
- Explore the feasibility of installing a splash pad

HE-NIS-RA PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (54.92 acres) consisting of expansive natural areas with developed trails throughout. He-Nis-Ra Park is located adjacent to King Elementary School and Lombardi Middle

School and shares facilities with the schools. Amenities within the park include a heavily-wooded forest, open prairie area, playground, open shelter, nature trails and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Protect native woodlands and wetlands
- Improve the existing trail system. Extend the trail system into the south wetland areas.
- Add parking lot in the prairie area to accommodate open shelter and nature trails

(JOHN F.) KENNEDY PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (7.00 acres). Amenities include one soccer field, one basketball court, playground, and shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate shelter
- Replace the park shelter roof shingles

LAKESIDE PLACE

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.61 acres) consisting of shelter, playground, one basketball court and open space. The park is segmented into three separate blocks so it feels smaller than it really is.

Proposed Activities:

- Research possible ways to combine the three individual park sections into one contiguous park site
- Renovate or replace the shelter

MARQUETTE PARK

General Information:

- Medium sized neighborhood park (7.90 acres). Amenities include two soccer fields, two football fields, one practice ball

field, three tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter and a wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace wading pool with splash pad
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Renovate the shelter

MATHER HEIGHTS PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (5.93 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one basketball court, one small soccer field, playground, shelter and a wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace aging wading pool with splash pad
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground

(CHRISTA) MCAULIFFE PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (39.02 acres). Amenities include one lit softball/Little League field, one football field, two soccer fields, one basketball court, shelter, playground, ice rink and parking lot. The park contains large natural area with a storm water pond and a nature trail system connecting to the adjacent Baird Creek Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Connect this park with a multi-use trail to the existing Baird Creek Trail
- Construct two tennis courts
- Explore the feasibility of installing a splash pad

(JOHN) MUIR PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (21.93 acres). Amenities include two

softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, ice rink, sledding, and parking lot. The park also contains a large natural wooded area with informal trails.

Proposed Activities:

- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Replace the paving around the shelter and parking lot
- Improve the plaza areas between the parking lot and shelter
- Work with SWAG to continue to improve the ball diamonds

MURPHY PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (13.82 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, wooded area with mature trees and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Create a master plan to address the long-term use of the northeast corner
- Replace parking lot
- Convert the two tennis courts to dedicated pickleball courts

NAVARINO PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.32 acres). Amenities include a playground and interior park walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Complete the installation of the asphalt loop walk
- Install a new park shelter
- Secure funding to install the remaining amenities shown in the

master plan. These elements include a shelter, splash pad and pedestrian scale park lighting.

OLDE PREBLE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (5.28 acres) consisting of one softball/Little League field, a parking lot and a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate ballfield
- Replace playground and install ADA accessible walk to playground
- Install an open shelter and restrooms
- Install a habitat garden

ST. JAMES PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.27 acres). Amenities include a band shell, ½ basketball court, shelter with restrooms, open shelter, and a playground. The City Band plays weekly concerts here.

Proposed Activities:

- Remove concrete pad in southeast corner
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Research permanent seating for bandshell

ST. JOHN'S PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (1.37 acres) consisting of park shelter, basketball court, playground, and a practice ball field/open space area.

Proposed Activities:

- Install walk through the center of the park connecting the park shelter to Martin Street
- Replace playground

ST. PHILLIP PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (4.99 acres) consisting of one basketball court, playground, shelter and a parking lot. The City currently leases the park property from the adjacent landowner.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with church to secure long-term lease of property
- Work with user groups to continue to improve the park
- Renovate or replace the park shelter

SEYMOUR PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (10.39 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, two playgrounds, ice skating, shelter, open shelter, splash pad, community garden and edible landscape garden. There is an active park gardening program for neighborhood children.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the purchase of the south railroad yard for park expansion
- Replace playground. Consider downsizing to one playground.
- The area east of Ashland Avenue is currently underutilized. Staff should evaluate the best use of this area.
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete

VT PRIDE PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.19 acres) consisting of a playground, shelter and a multi-use trail to the Kroc Center.

Proposed Activities:

- Update master plan to incorporate the recently-acquired parcels

- Install walkway to playground per ADA requirements
- Renovate or replace shelter

WHITNEY PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.64 acres) consisting of parking, playground, small bandshell, small dog run, shelter and ½ basketball court.

Proposed Activities:

- Shelter renovations

Park/School Recommendations

(HENRY S.) BAIRD PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Medium park/school site (20.05 acres). Amenities include one lit softball/Little League field, one soccer field, four tennis courts, pickleball courts, two basketball courts, playground, and access to the greenway. Within the school building there is a shelter room available for park use in the summer months.

Proposed Activities:

- Improve trail access to Baird Creek Greenway
- Install tot playground by tennis courts and add ADA-accessible walk to playground

BEAUMONT PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (8.82 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, half basketball court, one soccer field, shelter, playground, ice skating, and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate shelter; consider adding an open shelter wing
- Replace the park shelter roof shingles



- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Add ADA-accessible walk from school and shelter to playground.
- Improve the two ball fields. Work may include but is not limited to new fencing, infield mix, drainage improvements, concrete dugout and bleacher areas, etc.
- Resolve the property line conflicts with the Green Bay Area Public School District
- Install sidewalk from Sue Lane to Beaumont Elementary School per Safe Walk & Bike Plan

BEAVER DAM PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (22.83 acres) adjacent to MacArthur School. Amenities include three lit softball/Little League fields, two football fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, open shelter, ice hockey, ice rink and parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to improve the softball/Little League complex
- Installing a central concession stand with restrooms
- Relocate and add parking stalls
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground

CHAPPELL PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (11.40 acres). Amenities include two-half basketball courts, playground, cricket field and a community garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of park expansion

DANZ PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Medium park/school site (22.79 acres). Amenities include one baseball field, one softball/Little League field, roller hockey court, basketball court, park shelter and a playground. East of Danz Avenue there is also a tot playground, one soccer field, wetland stormwater pond and access to the Baird Creek Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Possibly renovate roller hockey to permanent regulation size court
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Pave entrance walk leading to the Baird Creek Trail
- Build a dog park
- Secure funding to implement park master plan for the area east of Danz Avenue

EDISON PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (28.15 acres). Amenities include one lit baseball field, one football field, one lit softball/Little League field, one track, one soccer field, two tennis courts, ten pickleball courts, one basketball court, ice hockey, ice skating, park shelter and a playground. Within the school building the indoor pool and a shelter room is available for park use.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court
- Update sports lighting for softball and hockey
- Renovate the south shelter

EISENHOWER PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (10.34 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one



basketball court, park shelter and a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Seek opportunities for park enhancement

FORT HOWARD PARK/JEFFERSON SCHOOL

General Information:

- Medium park/school site (19.09 acres). Amenities include one lit softball/Little League field, one football field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, one splash pad, park shelter and a playground. This park/school site is adjacent to the Park Maintenance Facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Pave Park Maintenance Facility back parking lot
- Renovate ball field. Improvements may include grading, seeding, drainage and new bleachers.
- Designate a use for the large open area in the southeast corner of the park
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete

FORT HOWARD PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (3.65 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one basketball court, one playground and a replica log cabin located on school property.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of park expansion
- Work with the School District on a property trade to simplify the boundaries of the park and school properties

LOMBARDI & MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (27.38 acres). Amenities include two practice softball fields, two soccer fields, one basketball court,

two playgrounds and several parking lots. The Park/School site has direct access to He-Nis-Ra Park's trails and natural areas. The original Porlier School is located along West Point Road. The structure has been abandoned for years.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Add basketball court
- Evaluate the use of the old Porlier School: either renovate the building or demolish it and construct a new park shelter.
- Expand parking along West Point Road

NICOLET PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (5.05 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, two half basketball courts, one soccer field, and one playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with the School District on a property trade to simplify the boundaries of the park and school properties
- One half of the playground equipment was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.

RED SMITH PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (37.48 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one soccer field, two half basketball courts, one shelter with restrooms, two playgrounds, one splash pad, ice hockey, ice skating and nature trails in wooded area. In addition, one shelter room is available within the school building for park use.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue central walk from park property to the school
- Install site lighting
- Explore the possibility of converting the existing practice ball field

into a regulation softball/Little League field

(ANNE) SULLIVAN PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (9.68 acres). Amenities include one soccer field, two half basketball courts, one playground and direct access to the Baird Creek Trail and East River Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Widen walkway from school to playground
- Work with School District to replace the playground with a new ADA compliant playground
- Work with the School District on a property trade to simplify the boundaries of the park and school properties

TANK PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (11.54 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two tennis courts, two half basketball courts, one enclosed shelter, one historic open shelter, one splash pad, and one playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate enclosed shelter
- One-half of the playground was recently replaced; replace the remaining playground equipment
- Work with the School District to either improve or find alternate use for under-utilized softball/Little League field located on School District property

(LAURA INGALLS) WILDER PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (31.76 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, four soccer fields, ice skating, one park shelter and two playgrounds. The park has direct access

to the Willow Creek Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of adding an open shelter to the existing park shelter
- Develop nature trail. This effort should continue and possibly extend northward to Van Beek Road. If this trail is developed special consideration should be given to providing access to the pedestrian bridge at Robinson Avenue.
- Look into adding a cross-country ski trail to the park

Community Park Recommendations

(ENOS) COLBURN PARK

General Information:

- Large community park (60.48 acres). Amenities include three (1 lit) Little League/softball fields, one baseball field, two soccer fields, two tennis courts, two bocce ball courts, one basketball court, two park shelters, two playgrounds, one hockey rink, ice skating, and natural wooded areas. There is also one box pool with a bathhouse constructed in 1967.

Proposed Activities:

- Repave Ninth Street parking lot
- Complete the renovations of the ballfield complex off of Fisk Street. Work is to include the installation of a stormwater management feature, increase the number of parking stalls, remove the baseball field, construct two new softball/little league fields, relocate the hockey rink, renovate the shelter, relocate the concession stand, install an open shelter and replace/relocate the playground.
- Add paved walk from Ninth Street parking lot to open shelter
- Install a new park sign

D6 NORTH PARK

General Information:

- Future large community park (66.90 acres). The site is currently undeveloped due to the lack of residential development in the surrounding areas. Upon completion, the park will be adjacent to a proposed middle school.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop master plan
- Parks Department to coordinate athletic field court development with the school needs
- The first development to take place should include parking, playgrounds, simple ball diamonds and soccer fields
- The next facilities to consider are usually shelter construction, lighted softball, baseball facilities and tennis courts

(HIRAM C.) FISK PARK

General Information:

- Small community park (21.53 acres) adjacent to West High School. Amenities include one practice football field, one track, one school football field, seven tennis courts, two basketball courts, one enclosed shelter, one open shelter, one playground, greenhouse and garden area, one splash pad and one aquatic center. The majority of the park has been recently redeveloped.

Proposed Activities:

- Consider purchasing residential properties on west end for park expansion
- Remove or replace the 13-plus year old playground
- Resurface the tennis courts
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete

JOANNES PARK

General Information:

- Medium community park (30.33 acres) adjacent to East High School. Amenities include one aquatic center, the Joannes Baseball Stadium, seven tennis courts, one basketball court, skatepark, police community center, shore fishing, one playground and one park shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Install walk from southeast parking lot to high school
- Add additional amenities to the Aquatic Center. Projects may include a lazy river or adding an additional water feature in "0" depth area.
- Complete various pool renovations which include repairing the water slides, replacing the roof shingles and pool surfacing
- Add a few new skating features to the skate park
- Improve the Joannes Baseball Stadium

PERKINS PARK

General Information:

- Large community park (59.14 acres). Amenities include three (1 lit) softball/Little League fields, one lit baseball field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, one hockey rink, ice skating, one park shelter, one park shelter with restrooms, playground, disc golf course, and a large wooded area along the east end of the park.

Proposed Activities:

- Repave the parking lot on Fisk Street
- Replace the shelter roof asphalt shingles
- Remove the three softball/Little League fields and replace with a baseball field and soccer fields
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Research installation of splash pad and an open shelter
- Recently many trees in the natural area were removed due to Emerald Ash Borer. This area should be replanted with trees.

- Install shared use path from N. Fisk Street to Moraine Way per Safe Walk & Bike Plan

PREBLE PARK

General Information:

- Small community park (14.12 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two soccer fields, one basketball court, one park shelter, playground, large mature trees and an east side park shop.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground
- Add walk from playground to park shelter
- Repave Skyline Boulevard parking lot and drives
- Stabilize the northern steep slope along Hillside Lane

SHIPYARD

General Information:

- This future park (8.05 acres) is located just north of Mason Street along the west bank of the Fox River. Ownership, maintenance, and program management of the various Shipyard facilities is yet to be determined and may involve a public/private partnership. In any case, all facilities will be for public use.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with other City Departments to secure funding to construct a shoreline walk, multi-use trail, an open greenspace, stage, fountain/splashpad, playground, retail shipping container area, dog park, a kayak launch, transient boat dock, fishing area, urban beach, wetland habitat/ecological area and riverfront seating.

Large Urban Park Recommendations

BAY BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

- Bay Beach Amusement Park (76.45 acres) is one of the few remaining municipal owned amusement parks in the country. The park was established in 1892 and is the ninth oldest amusement park in the United States. Bay Beach has found its niche in providing traditional, historic amusement rides affordable to the general public. Bay Beach has activities such as amusement rides, play equipment, picnic facilities, rentable shelters, gift shop, food services, and a pavilion with ballroom.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park to construct the proposed developments of the master plan
- Implement a site wide storm water management plan
- Desired shoreline improvements include replacing the shoreline walk, the installation of a 1,000 LF sand swimming beach, a bathhouse with restrooms/concession stand and a 450' long wildlife viewing platform. Work will also include wetland habitat restoration and improved fishing habitat near the wildlife viewing platform.
- Pave additional parking stalls in the main parking lot
- Replace the Falling Star with a new ride
- Renovate the main pavilion into a year round destination facility
- Pavilion renovations may include dance hall renovations, converting the west side storage area into an alternate use, restaurant improvements, roof replacement, adding an outdoor dining terrace and replacement of all electrical
- Future desired improvements include adding additional rentable open shelters, an ice cream/fudge shop, a destination playground, a kiddie coaster, a new operations/office building, additional rides and a west end rental shelter
- Beyond these listed improvements staff will continue to seek funding to complete some of the Phase 2 projects as opportunities arise

- Coordinate with Brown County as needed to allow them to develop Renard Isle to the approved master plan
- Install sidewalk along Irwin Avenue per Safe Walk & Bike Plan

Sports Complex Park Recommendations

ARNIE WOLFF SPORTS COMPLEX

General Information:

- This facility (38.42 acre) sits atop a former fill site with six soccer fields, a parking lot and a concession stand with restrooms.

Proposed Activities:

- Install additional parking stalls
- Install an ADA-accessible gravel walk around the perimeter of the soccer fields
- Install playground equipment and an open shelter adjacent to the proposed concession stand
- Future field improvements to the primary soccer field may include irrigation, if permitting allows, and permanent seating areas
- Consider expanding the park as opportunities arise

FINGER ROAD BALLFIELD COMPLEX

General Information:

- This 25.81-acre facility consists of a tournament softball/Little League complex containing four fields constructed on top of the clay cap of an abandoned fill site.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with the user group to install a concession stand with restrooms and a storage shed
- Improve the infield drainage
- Continue to coordinate with Public Works Department to

monitor and maintain the landfill systems to the satisfaction of the DNR

Special Use Park Recommendations

BAY BEACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

General Information:

- The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is Green Bay's largest city park. With over 500 acres of land, 55 acres of lagoons, scenic waterfall, outdoor amphitheater, outdoor raptor theater and 6.2 miles of hiking and skiing trails.
- The Nature Education Center offers hands-on educational exhibits (walk through diorama with otter slide, walk in live bee tree, and a crawl through burrow for families), resource library, classrooms, meeting rooms, full kitchen, auditorium and a gift shop.
- The Dick Resch and Family Learning and Conservation Center offers a rental banquet facility with a 250 person capacity and the OAK Learning Center (Outdoor Adventures for Kids), a 4-year old nature-based kindergarten. The students are taught by a licensed teacher and a naturalist. They spend the majority of their school day outdoors while they are prepared academically, physically and emotionally for kindergarten.
- The Observation Building sells corn for waterfowl feeding, animal nursery viewing window, along with an animal care and rehabilitation center. The Resch Conservation Wing exhibits include live snakes, bats; a forest, field, and beach songbird aviary.
- The Raptor Trail has outdoor exhibit viewing of waterfowl, cranes, native hawks, falcons, owls, eagles and vultures. All exhibits are handicap accessible.
- The Habi-Trek Trail is an accessible hard surfaced path that meanders from the Nature Center to the Woodland Building with indoor nocturnal exhibits of turtles, flying squirrels, mice, snakes and mink. Outdoor habitats include otter viewing tank/grotto, fisher,

bobcat and cougar canyon, a pack of timber wolves, a raven aviary and a crow/porcupine exhibit.

- A Grassland Community featuring white-tailed deer, coyotes, turkeys, sandhill cranes, a three-tier observation tower and eco-learning stations.
- Manger Lagoon is a public fishing area for youth 15 years and younger and handicapped individuals of all ages. There is an informational kiosk, fishing docks and chimney swift nesting tower.
- Resch Falls & Kress Trail are the centerpiece of the lagoon renovation project.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a 5-year strategic plan. Develop a new master plan for the entire facility to guide improvements, additions and renovations including refuge habitat and wildlife management areas.

Facility goals for the next 5 years include:

- Add security cameras throughout the facility
- Install fiber optic cable to the Observation Building, Woodland Building and the Residence
- Replace the floating boardwalk
- Replace the Observation Building asphalt shingles
- Replace the walk through aviary and raptor theater
- Increase the number of parking stalls at the Nature Center
- Replace the entrance drive asphalt to the Nature Center
- Replace aging asphalt pedestrian walks
- Install light poles and fixtures in the Nature Center parking lot
- Replace the alarm systems and locks throughout the facility
- Replace aging equipment and materials in buildings (e.g. heat pumps and carpeting in the 21- year old Nature Center)
- Replace the Chipmunk trail boardwalk
- Add a front desk counter in the Nature Center
- Repave the residence parking lot

- Replace the flooring in the Nature Center
- Complete both large scale and small scale habitat restoration projects throughout the entire grounds
- Replace a great deal of fencing throughout the facility
- Install a new deer shed
- Improve signage throughout the trail system
- Fine tuning of the physical site including plant material replacement around the core buildings
- Investigate the design, fabrication and installation of new educational exhibits utilizing touch screen technology
- Explore the feasibility of an addition to the Animal Care Center to accommodate the increase in rehabilitation admissions
- Explore the addition of a new larger cougar habitat exhibit
- Convert existing cougar exhibit into a lynx exhibit
- Upgrade/retrofit our facilities to meet accessibility standards
- Develop and continue to implement long-term management strategy for invasive plant species, including biological control release research site and grant writing to effect management practices
- Improve vegetation and natural wildlife habitat whenever possible. There are many areas throughout the site that would benefit from large scale habitat restoration projects.

CITYDECK

General Information:

- This 1.79-acre special use park is located in the heart of Green Bay's downtown along the east bank of the Fox River. Amenities include several overlook decks, boat launch, docking, rentable plaza spaces, outdoor seating, a river walk and a splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Construct the proposed overlook platform adjacent to Walnut Street Bridge
- Continue to promote this facility for downtown events



GREEN BAY METRO BOAT LAUNCH

General Information:

- This 12.95-acre facility is the only City-owned public boat launch facility. Amenities include a large parking lot, a comfort station with restrooms and 10 boat launch slips.

Proposed Activities:

- Due to the current high water conditions work will have to be done on the docks to accommodate the high water
- Replace aging parking lot paving and landscaping as necessary
- Secure funding for additional amenities, which may include a fishing pier, picnic area and an overlook structure
- Explore the possibility of linking this property to Bay Beach Amusement Park with a paved, multi-use trail
- The land is owned by the Green Bay Metro Sewage District and leased to the City. If at all possible, this land should be purchased or develop a long-term lease (in lieu of existing short-term) in order to protect the public investment.
- Work with the Green Bay Metro Sewage District to improve and promote the existing shelter as a meeting location for various organizations.

JACKSON SQUARE

General Information:

- Small 1.37-acre special use park consisting of walkways, stone wall and flower beds.

Proposed Activities:

- Move overhead wires underground
- Improve landscape beds
- Explore other possible park amenities to increase the usage of the space

JOLIET PARK

General Information:

- This 3.67-acre special use park consists of bay frontage, shore fishing, a gravel drive and natural areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Pave the entrance drive and parking lot
- Encourage fishing. Representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have indicated that this site is one of the top fishing spots in the region.
- Maintain and enhance natural areas

LEIGHT MEMORIAL PARK

General Information:

- This 11.25-acre special use park is primarily used for downtown festivals and activities. Amenities include dock wall for large vessels, floating transient docks, shore fishing, boat launch, stage, Flags of Diversity display, statue and parking.

Proposed Activities:

- Research the purchase of the north leased area
- Add a rentable open shelter with restrooms, fountain area, central courtyard area, interpretive historic display, a second stage area and additional landscaping
- Construct a permanent stage structure on the existing park owned land
- Promote temporary docking location for cruise ships. Improve the site as needed to accommodate the boats and visitors

RIVERVIEW PLACE

General Information:

- Small 0.60-acre park designated as an informal boat launch for canoes and kayaks.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the feasibility of park expansion. This may include



property purchase, installation of a parking lot and formal boat launch facility.

TRIANGLE HILL

General Information:

- This 31.29-acre special use facility consists of a ski hill, tubing hill, disk golf course and a rentable shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Repair erosion issues around the disc golf course tees and baskets
- Purchase snow making equipment
- Install a mountain bike skills course
- Continue to coordinate with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation on prairie restoration and trail improvement efforts in the area

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

General Information:

- Small special use park (0.88 acres) consisting of a memorial plaza dedicated to veterans. The park is directly adjacent to the west bank of the Fox River, the Neville Museum, Leicht Memorial Park and a river walk.

Proposed Activities:

- Repair or replace brick paver walk
- Create a master plan to determine the long-term vision of the shoreline and park. The master plan should also address the linkage to the Neville Museum and to the shopping district on Broadway Avenue.
- Add underpass to Leicht Memorial Park
- Review and rejuvenate landscaping

Natural Resource Area Recommendations

KEN EUERS NATURE AREA

General Information:

- This large natural resource area consists of 129.24 acres. This area is comprised of a natural area converted from a former landfill as well as a linear greenway along the bay, a managed waterfowl habitat wetland, parking and nature trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Coordinate other wildlife and habitat restoration projects with other agencies and Public Works
- Install a second managed waterfowl habitat wetland west of the existing parking lot. Work would include, but is not limited to tree removal, berm restoration, vegetation management and adding water control structures.
- Coordinate with Ducks Unlimited to install a northern spawning channel in the Bay
- Coordinate with Ducks Unlimited to install a wood fish habitat reef structure in the Bay just north of the existing managed wetland
- Relocate the parking lot, improve the trails and install an overlook tower
- Complete trail extensions to Bay Port Drive, as well the construction of overlooks along the water edge
- Provide additional environmental and trail signage
- Continue to work with various agencies to help control the removal of invasive plant species along the Bay. Currently the high water levels are doing a good job controlling invasive vegetation, but they will likely return with the water levels go back to normal.
- Explore the feasibility of creating a second managed waterfowl habitat wetland west of the existing parking lot

Greenway Recommendations

BAIRD CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- Baird Creek Greenway is presently 513.36 acres. There is a combination of facilities including cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails, a multi-use trail, parking areas, nature trails, and a shelter/warming facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue property acquisition prior to development occurring.
- Install a pedestrian bridge that crosses the creek, just north of the Baird Creek Road parking lot.
- Coordinate with the Baird Creek Preservation to install a mountain bike skills course.
- Continue the multi-use trail from Baird Creek Road to Christa McAuliffe Park. Hire a consultant to complete an engineering analysis of the proposed route.
- Continue informal trail development and install boardwalks where necessary
- Work with mountain bike group to continue maintenance of the existing mountain bike trails and expand the trails as opportunities arise
- Address excessive erosion along the creek and within the Greenway
- Efforts should continue to expand the restoration efforts and find other opportunities for prairie development
- The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Baird Creek Greenway, completed the Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan. The City will work closely with the Foundation to ensure that all future development corresponds with the master plan objectives.

- Continue to work with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation to secure funding for acquisition, development and maintenance projects. The City will also work with the group to manage volunteers on various initiatives.

BARINA CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- Small (15.68-acre) drainage corridor and storm water retention area with gravel walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway

BEAVER DAM GREENWAY

General Information:

- Small narrow drainage way (51.88 acres) on the west side of Green Bay. Many informal trails have been created throughout the greenway. There is one paved trail connecting Stoneybrook Lane to Beaver Dam Drive.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate
- Address erosion issues

ELLIS CREEK GREENWAY SOUTH BRANCH

General Information:

- Small drainage corridor and storm water retention area with gravel walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

FOX RIVER GREENWAY EAST BANK

General Information:

- This 15.28-acre greenway is located in the heart of Green Bay's downtown. The majority of the Fox River east bank has been redeveloped over the last 15 years. Recent developments include CityDeck, The Metreau Apartments, Hagemeister Park, Riverfront Lofts, St. Brendan's Inn, Johnson Bank and Nicolet Bank. The City has worked closely with these developers to ensure that the City maintained sufficient greenway corridors with necessary linkages to businesses and the rest of the downtown. The Fox River State Trail is located within this greenway and is one of the most heavily-used trails in the state. A sculpture walk was recently added along the trail in the downtown area.

Proposed Activities:

- Support adjacent redevelopment of downtown properties that encourage active participation to the greenway
- If ever available the City should consider the purchase of the shoreline property between Porlier Street and Mason Street
- Expand the sculpture walk as funding becomes available
- Encourage and seek out alternate recreational opportunities
- Develop and promote a more structured canoe/kayak launch near Porlier Street
- Research options to cross the Fox River with a multi-use trail to connect the Fox River Trail to the West Side Trail
- Widen and replace the Fox River Trail near Monroe Avenue and connect the Fox River Trail to the East River Trail

FOX RIVER GREENWAY WEST BANK

General Information:

- The 2.20-acre Fox River West Bank Greenway is located in the heart of downtown Green Bay. The City currently owns property along the bank from Walnut Street to Dousman

Street. This greenway is adjacent to Veteran's Memorial Park, the Neville Museum and Leicht Memorial Park. This narrow strip of shoreline property consists of a riprap edge, a brick river walk, and a firefighter's memorial.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a master plan that addresses the potential re-design of Veteran's Memorial Park, a new riverfront walkway, shoreline treatments, along with connections to the Broadway Shopping District, the Neville Museum and Leicht Memorial Park
- Actively pursue the relocation of the coal piles
- Develop the Shipyard property as a public park

HE-NIS-RA GREENWAY

General Information:

- Large 64.18-acre drainage corridor and natural area south of He-Nis-Ra Park.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

HUTCHINSON BOG

General Information:

- This is a 9.63-acre wetland area recently donated to the City adjacent to a new subdivision development. There is very little potential for recreational activities other than a passive trail system.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

LACOUNT CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This 10.72-acre small drainage way is located just west of Ted Fritsch Park. Due to the steep topography and mature vegetation

this property has minimal recreational potential other than trail use.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate
- Connect the adjacent neighborhood to Ted Fritsch Park with an access bridge crossing Lacount Creek

MAHON CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- With a direct access to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Arboretum Trail, this 24.61-acre parcel is connected to one of the most natural largely undisturbed areas to be found along the Bay Shore.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of adding a trail link under Highway 54-57 to the University campus
- When feasible, purchase additional property to the south to extend the greenway through the entire drainage way and work with property owners to develop conservation easements when purchase is not possible

NEWBERRY CONSERVANCY

General Information:

- 16.66-acre natural area immediately east of Preble High School.
- Small unnamed tributary stream.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

NICHOLSON CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This small 6.43-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential to the public other than those that live adjacent to the creek.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

ONEIDA CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This small 5.23-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential to the public other than those that live adjacent to the creek.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate

WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY NORTH BRANCH

General Information:

- This 60.23-acre greenway provides existing linkages to Wilder Park and NEW Lutheran High School, thus providing excellent public access opportunities.

Proposed Activities:

- A trail should be constructed and extend northward from Wilder Park to Van Beek Road. Consideration should be given to providing access to the Robinson Avenue pedestrian bridge.
- Protect the natural vegetation and waterway

WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY SOUTH BRANCH

General Information:

- Situated within the I-43 Business Park, this 40.06-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential other than informal trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Create a trail system through the greenway to provide recreational

- benefits for the public and workers in the area
- Work with Aurora Hospital to link their multi-use trail running to the informal trail system within the greenway
- Protect the natural vegetation and waterway

Urban Green Space Recommendations

EAST RIVER GREENWAY - NORTH TRAIL

General Information:

- The majority of the East River Greenway within the City limits is broken up into smaller sections and classified as various neighborhood parks. The North Trail section is the only section not defined as a neighborhood park. This 6.22-acre greenway consists of several smaller parcels recently acquired for the expansion of the East River Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Secure funding to install the trail/urban plaza from Baird Street to Irwin Avenue
- Install a canoe/kayak launch on St. George Street
- Continue to work with the property owners from Irwin Avenue to Main Street to secure the necessary property and development of the property
- Install the trail section from Main Street to Webster Avenue

WEST SIDE TRAIL CORRIDOR

General Information:

- Located within the 16.01 acres of the West Side Trail Corridor, a paved pedestrian trail has been built within an abandoned railroad line.

Proposed Activities:

- Secure funding to extend the trail to the northwest to connect to the Mountain Bay Trail section of trail located in the Village of Howard

E. NON-MUNICIPAL AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

Green Bay Area Public Schools

The school system and park system of Green Bay have a long history of cooperation over the years. This of course should continue in the future on jointly-used park/school facilities. Whenever feasible, new schools should continue to be built in conjunction with neighborhood park facilities. This avoids unnecessary expenditures and duplication of facilities and provides larger expanses of open space. More cooperation is needed, however, in developing recreational facilities in school sites not adjacent to parks.

Oneida Nation Reservation Lands

The Oneida's Water Resources Report has proposed several water restoration projects throughout their open space conservancy system. This may involve acquiring property for conservancy or park use and developing that property for passive recreational trails and fishery management.

The City should work cooperatively with the Oneida Nation to develop parkland and coordinate projects on the west side of Green Bay that will benefit both the City of Green Bay and Oneida Nation residents.

Niagara Escarpment Scenic Pathway

Designate an open space corridor along Bay Settlement Road to serve as a link in a regional path system and to help preserve the scenic Niagara Escarpment. Coordinate City plans with University of Wisconsin -Green Bay, Brown County Planning Commission, Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission and Town of Scott plans in an effort to implement this.

Northeast Business Park Greenway

Park staff will work with the Green Bay Planning Department to acquire greenway corridors as opportunities arise. The adopted TIF district for this area is seen as a major funding source for the construction and possible long-term maintenance of the trails.

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

The Cofrin Arboretum currently contains 180 acres of various plant communities and wildlife habitats. There is a well-used multi-use trail around the perimeter of the UWGB campus which also provides public access to the bay. This City should explore the possibility of connecting City trails to the popular UWGB trail. The Niagara Escarpment, a limestone outcrop, is a unique geologic and scenic resource. Part of the escarpment is found on University property (the eastern boundary of the University). The University has developed an observation tower as well as trails in the area. This green space is a valuable environmental site and should continue to be preserved in a natural state.

Mahon Park is currently an undeveloped mini-park. This three-acre site is now owned by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay but may be used by the Park, Recreation and Forestry Department under an agreement with the University. The park is located adjacent to the University campus and Cofrin Arboretum. Active park development should be considered if the majority of the neighborhood residents request it, otherwise it will remain a passive use open space.

Cooke Park

The site is owned by the City of Green Bay and leased/maintained

by the National Railroad Museum. Although the City has ownership of the land the City does not manage the Park. The City should continue to support future efforts by the National Railroad Museum to expand and improve the museum.

F. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Green Bay is very similar to many other communities in Wisconsin in the fact that it is often times easier to secure funding to build new facilities than it is to maintain existing facilities. Historically it seems as though shelters, paving, athletic fields and landscaping have suffered the most through budget constraints. It is not only difficult to find adequate funding for materials and supplies, but it can be just as difficult to find the available staff to complete the work. Over the last 10 years the Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has been very proactive in securing annual funding to begin renovating aging park facilities. This process should continue over the next 5 years. Whenever a new facility is proposed within the park system the City should analyze the current staffing levels and propose amendments if necessary.

Shelters

The Green Bay Parks Department currently maintains 15 open shelters without restrooms and 40 shelters with restrooms. Over the last 10 years, a considerable amount of shelter improvements have been completed in regards to ADA accessibility, restroom modifications and the installation of vandal resistant materials. Currently, some shelters most in need of repair or replacement include the following: Farlin Park, VT Pride Park, Eighth Street Park and Edison Park. New shelter buildings will be needed at Navarino, D6-North Park and D6-South Park. Open shelters are often being considered for some of our older parks as well as in our new park areas. This is primarily due to the increasing



picnic demand for public facilities in our urban parks. The City should continue to secure funding on an annual basis to keep the shelters current and in good condition.

Paving

This category includes parking lots, roadways, walkways, trails and bridges. The Green Bay Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department maintains 48 parking lots. Many of these lots are in rough condition and are in need of total replacement. New lots are developed in new and expanding park areas and as demand dictates in older parks where there are inadequate parking facilities. Walkways in and adjacent to parks are also repaired on a regular basis. Several walkways are currently in need of total replacement. Over the next 5 years the City will also continue to develop and expand its trail system.

Athletic Field Renovations and Maintenance

Approximately, 10 years ago the Green Bay Parks Department began annual budgeting to correct the many years of deferred athletic field maintenance. Many fields need new fencing, player benches, bleachers, sports lighting, grading, drainage improvements, etc. The City has recently dedicated a large amount of funding to improve the ball fields and create athletic field complexes. This process should continue over the next 5 years to encourage first class athletic fields in Green Bay.

Planting and Plant Maintenance

Landscaping is ongoing in the park system in order to replace diseased, overgrown or inappropriate plant materials. Plant renovation does not mean extensive planting but rather, carefully thought out landscaping to accentuate spaces as well as provide shade and buffers. Most parks in the City could use some form of plantings to enhance existing spaces or create new passive areas. Another planting priority should be to establish

and protect more natural areas. These areas are extremely valuable for passive recreation, environmental education, wildlife habitat, climate moderation, ground water regeneration and control of stormwater runoff. With the increased awareness of non-point source pollution the Parks Department should promote more unmowed areas within the parks. In addition, the City should continue to promote the planting of native vegetation and prairie development. Due to shortage of funds, park staff is often times working with private groups within the community in an effort to plant and maintain the plant beds and native plantings throughout the City. The City has also been reducing the number of annual beds and relying more on perennial flowers and grasses in order to reduce labor and maintenance costs. All of these measures should continue.

Urban Forest

The Forestry Division of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is responsible for maintaining the urban forest within the City's public lands including all of the trees within the parks and along city street rights-of-way. The Forestry Division conducts a regular schedule of mulching and pruning and monitors trees for signs of disease and decline to ensure trees do not pose a safety hazard. The Forestry Division regularly removes and replaces trees as needed. They also operate a tree nursery where all of the City trees are cared for until they are ready to plant. The Forestry Division should continue to be funded and staffed to ensure a well maintained urban forest for the many benefits it provides. Additionally, a policy is being developed for the City to increase tree canopy cover.





Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first identified in Green Bay in July 2009. Since that time, the Green Bay Forestry Division has been working to manage this invasive pest on many different fronts.

Green Bay Forestry has taken a proactive approach of treating a percentage, approximately 40% of ash trees (2,500 per year) in the parks and along the streets. One goal of these treatments is to protect desirable ash trees for long term survival to provide environmental and economic benefits to the residents of Green Bay. A second goal of treating ash trees is to slow the spread of EAB and allow more time for forestry crews to remove ash trees that are not deemed desirable for long term retention.

Forestry crews have been active reducing the ash tree population with pre-emptive removals and removals of infested ash trees to keep the population of EAB as low as possible to continue the “slow the spread” campaign. Forestry crews have removed between 300 and 400 ash per year, this has lowered our ash tree population to below 20% of the street tree population and getting closer to our population goal of 10%.

Green Bay Forestry has implemented an EAB trapping program to help detect new outbreaks of EAB and monitor populations in known infested areas of the City to help direct treatment and removal efforts to neighborhoods where EAB is most active.

The City of Green Bay has also partnered with the WIDNR and APHIS to create a parasitic wasp release program to further slow the spread of EAB in areas where insecticide treatments are not practical. These small stingless parasitic wasps specifically target EAB adults and larvae to naturally decrease the populations of EAB in environmentally sensitive areas. These tiny insects are no bigger than mosquitos and their sole mission is to seek out and attack EAB populations.

In the next 5 years Green Bay Forestry will continue this multi-pronged approach in its continued effort to manage this devastating pest. By the

end of the next 5 year cycle all pre-emptive removals will be complete and the remaining desirable trees will be on treatment protocol that will treat over half the ash tree population annually to provide the most effective protection from EAB. The ultimate goal is to have ash trees represent no more than 10% of the street tree population.

The latest implementation to our ash tree program is wood utilization. Past practice of woody material produced during tree removal was for all ash wood to be tub ground into wood chips. Tub grinding all ash wood prevented the spread of EAB through firewood and the seasoned wood chips were utilized in the city parks. Given the amount of wood chips produced and the fact that the ash wood was still a very usable material, Green Bay Forestry has implemented a wood utilization program that finds the best use for woody material produced during tree removal. Ash wood is now being used in several markets including; paper pulp, pallet material, railroad switch ties, furniture, dimensional lumber, flooring and artisanal work. Proceeds from the sale of ash wood are put back into the forestry program to offset the costs of tree planting and tree maintenance for the trees replacing the ash trees that have been removed.





A. OVERVIEW

The recommended improvements described in this plan will be phased in over time. The projects specified in Chapter 5 are a compiled list of all potential projects that could occur within the next five years. However, this list is much larger than the Parks Department could accomplish in this time frame. On a yearly basis City staff will work with the Mayor and City Council to select the highest priority projects within the City's means to accomplish and fund these projects accordingly.

At the first possible opportunity any property identified for purchase should be placed on the Official City Map to reserve the right for future purchase of the property. When any properties are purchased the City should always seek financial assistance to minimize the cost to the community. The Parks Department has identified priority property acquisitions and capital projects for the coming year or two as well as some long range initiatives that are being implemented. Some funding for these projects has been identified using various funding mechanisms.

B. FUNDING MECHANISMS

Direct City Funding

The City will continue to budget for projects through department budgets or secure bonding for the development of park and recreational facilities on a yearly basis as identified in priority plans. Additional dollars and/or dedicated lands for park development can be acquired through the land division and development process in expanding urban areas of the City.

When City land is subdivided in Urban Expansion Areas before final plat approval, the developer shall pay a parkland development fee. Developers may also negotiate dedication of land for park purposes in lieu of paying a fee as specified in Chapter 14-748 of the Subdivision and Platting Codes. There is no specific formula for the dedication of new parkland and this is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Grants

Grants often fund a major part of land acquisition and construction costs for large capital projects. The City will continue to pursue federal and state matching grants such as Stewardship Funding, Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, Acquisition of Development Rights Grants, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Urban Green Space Program Grants, Urban Rivers Program Grants, Recreational Trails Act Grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Grants, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grants, and Transportation Enhancement Program Grants through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The City's many planned trail projects are good candidates for these grants. Specialty grants from organizations such as KaBoom also present funding opportunities for more specialized projects such as playgrounds.

The Parks Department works with the City's Planning Department and Redevelopment Authority on an annual basis to obtain federally-funded Community Development Block Grants to help fund park projects in targeted low income areas.

User Fees and Concessions

Across the country, user fees are gradually becoming a prevalent part of the public recreation funding scheme. At this time in Green Bay, fees are assessed for such things as shelter and facility rentals, user fees, recreation classes, souvenirs, concessions, facility admissions and amusement par rides. Other fundraising opportunities also include things such as, donor brick sales, memorial benches and plaques Naming rights provide another source of income. Alternate funding methods such as these should continue to be looked into whenever feasible.

Foundations and Volunteer Efforts

The City utilizes many partnerships to help fund and implement projects of various sizes within the parks. Foundations such as the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation (BCPF) have been instrumental in raising capital funds through donations and grants. The BCPF has helped fund the purchase of property to expand the Baird Creek Greenway.

The City has also been successful in partnering with local corporations such as the Green Bay Packers to fund the purchase of materials and equipment for playgrounds and to provide employee volunteers to assist with installation. Local construction and supply companies have also provided donations of materials and construction services. Many new playgrounds have been built through these partnerships. In addition, the Green Bay Area Public School District has partnered with the City on both development projects and recreational programming at all of the school locations.

Various community and special interest groups such as neighborhood associations, Optimist Clubs, church groups, biking organizations and Eagle Scouts have donated time and materials to help construct facilities within the parks and perform general maintenance. Concession stands, batting cages, mountain bike trails and disc golf courses are some of the park facilities that have been constructed with the help of these organizations.

The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary

The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary will continue to receive funding and support through the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Funds generated through events, fundraisers and various sales at the Wildlife Sanctuary are used to implement various projects and improvements at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

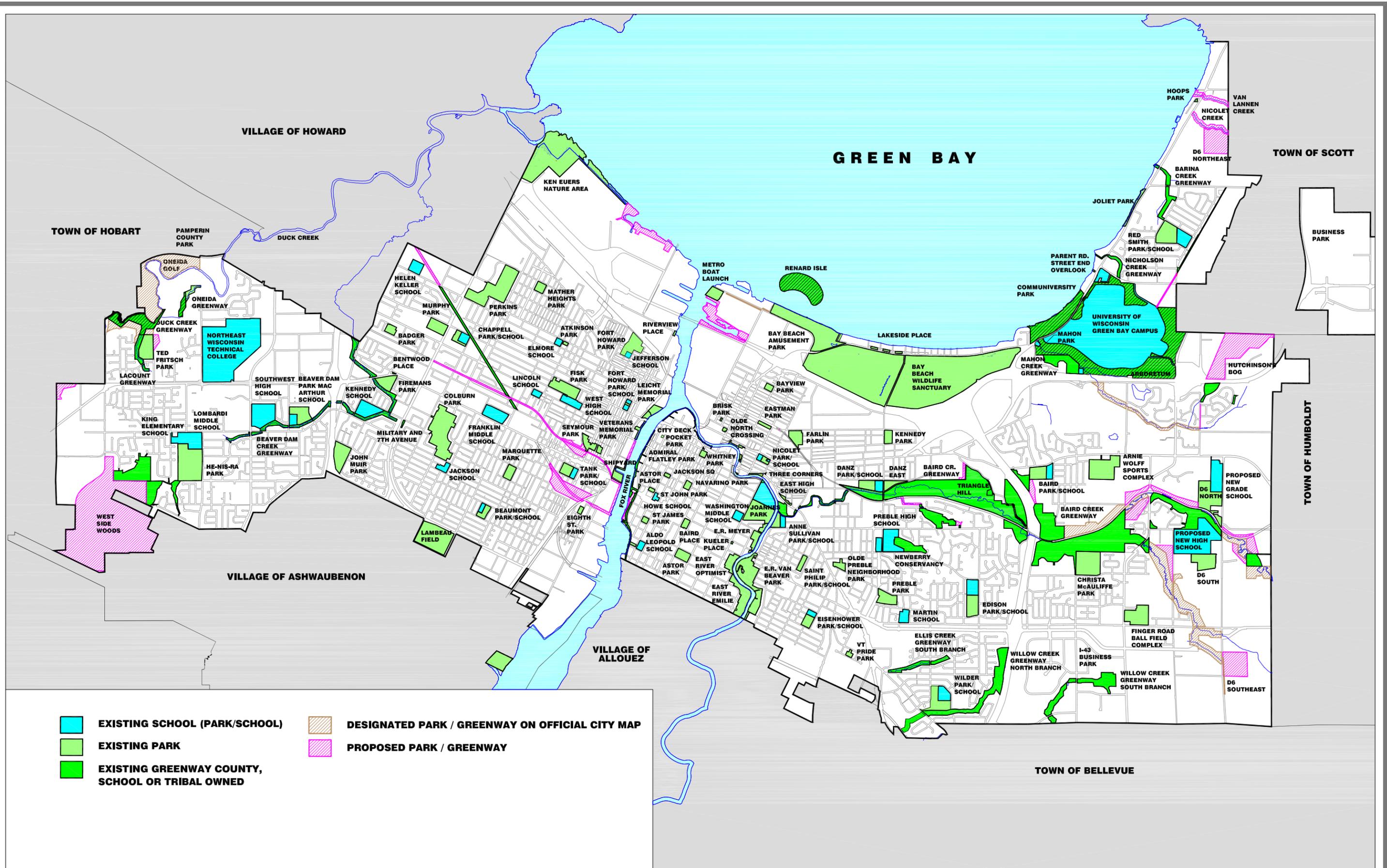


The Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park

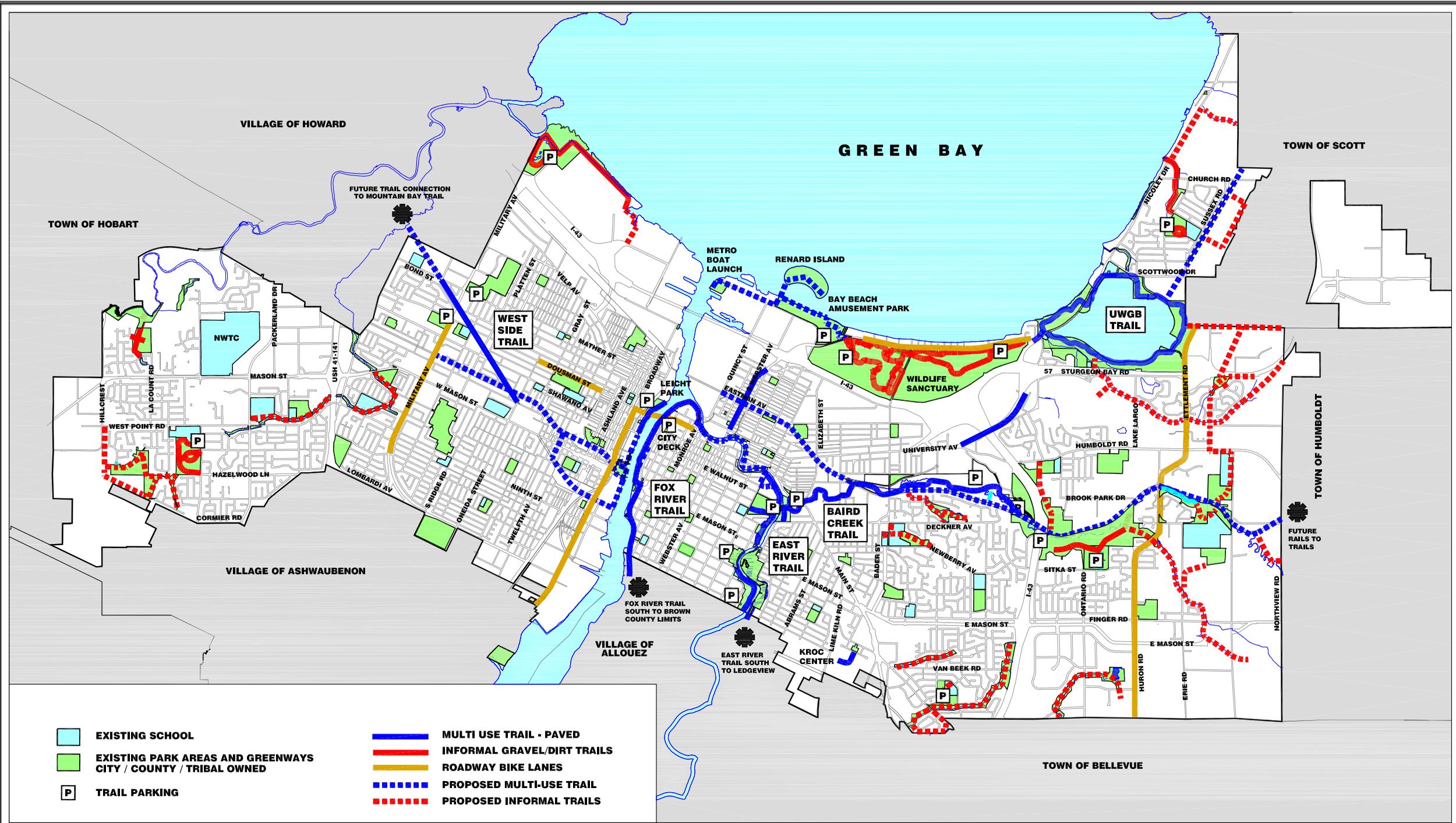
In 2012 in conjunction with an updated master plan, the City created a special revenue fund for Bay Beach Amusement Park. Bay Beach is now responsible to pay all of its operating expenses, but in return it is able to retain all of the revenue generated from the park instead of going back into the City's general fund. Therefore, monies generated at the park will stay in the park to pay for continued improvements. In addition, a Friends of Bay Beach group was formed with a mission of generating fundraising dollars specifically to fund various capital projects and help implement elements of the master plan over the next ten years. These changes have put the park in a good position to fund its master plan elements and continue expansion in the coming years.

Sponsorship

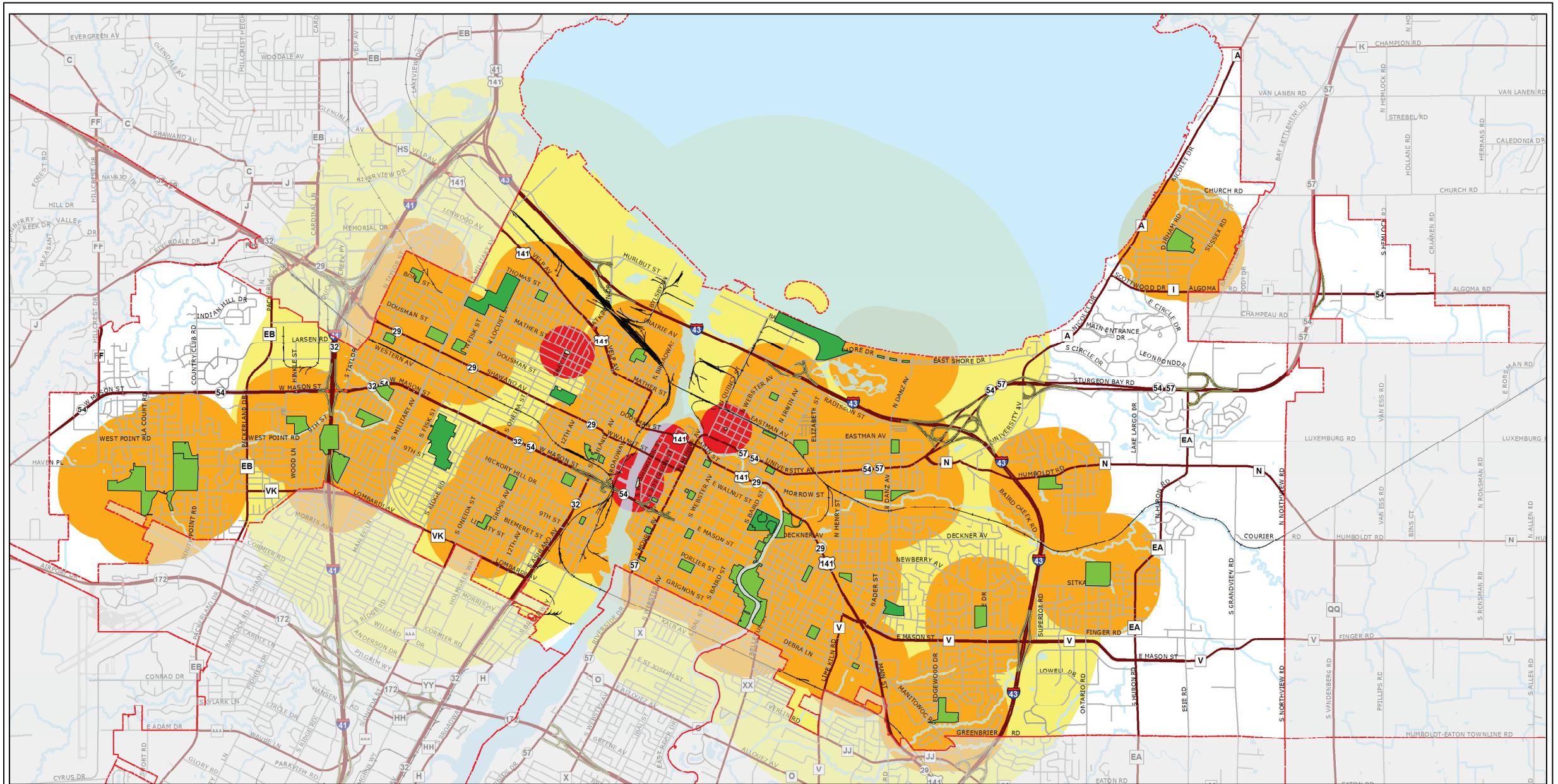
The City currently receives funding through sponsorships and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is working on a policy for sponsorship of park amenities and programming.



- EXISTING SCHOOL (PARK/SCHOOL)
- EXISTING PARK
- EXISTING GREENWAY COUNTY, SCHOOL OR TRIBAL OWNED
- DESIGNATED PARK / GREENWAY ON OFFICIAL CITY MAP
- PROPOSED PARK / GREENWAY



- EXISTING SCHOOL
- EXISTING PARK AREAS AND GREENWAYS
CITY / COUNTY / TRIBAL OWNED
- P TRAIL PARKING
- MULTI USE TRAIL - PAVED
- INFORMAL GRAVEL/DIRT TRAILS
- ROADWAY BIKE LANES
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED INFORMAL TRAILS



0 5,000 10,000 Feet
 1" = 5,000'
 1:60,000

Legend

- | Parks included in the Proximity Study | | Park Service Areas | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Community Park | | 1/4-Mile Service Area around Mini-Park |
| | Neighborhood Park | | 1/2-Mile Service Area around Neighborhood Park |
| | Mini-Park | | 2-Mile Service Area around Community Park |

**Park Proximity Analysis
 City of Green Bay**

This is a compilation of records and data located in various City of Green Bay offices and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City of Green Bay is not responsible for any inaccuracies or unauthorized use of the information contained within. No warranties are implied.

Map prepared by City of Green Bay, B. Rhode
 Date Printed: 05 May 2020
 X:\PubWorks\GIS_Projects\Parks\ParksProximityAnalysis.mxd

17-967	1487 ELIZA ST
17-968	1485 ELIZA ST
17-970	1475 ELIZA ST
17-971	1473 ELIZA ST
17-972	933 GOODDELL ST
17-969	1481 ELIZA ST
8-671	1554 CASS ST
8-673	1546 CASS ST
8-674	1542 CASS ST
8-670	1558 CASS ST
8-675	1536 CASS ST
8-672	CASS ST
8-676	1536 CASS ST
8-761-1	404 HARTUNG ST
8-565	412 HARTUNG ST
8-559	420 HARTUNG ST
8-560	418 HARTUNG ST
8-564-A	416 HARTUNG ST
8-558-A	440 HARTUNG ST
8-558	434 HARTUNG ST
8-564	426 HARTUNG ST
8-561	446 HARTUNG ST
8-563	442 HARTUNG ST
8-500	510 HARTUNG ST
8-501	514 HARTUNG ST
8-502	524 HARTUNG ST
8-503	526 HARTUNG ST
8-504	1515 E MASON ST
8-499	502 HARTUNG ST
8-503-A	528 HARTUNG ST
8-450	636 HARTUNG ST
8-449	632 HARTUNG ST
8-448	628 HARTUNG ST
8-447	626 HARTUNG ST
8-761	338 HARTUNG ST
8-562	400 HARTUNG ST
8-446	618 HARTUNG ST



East River - Impacted Parcels in Floodplain

MAP 5

Impacted Properties

Floodway Outline

Flood Hazard Areas

FLD_ZONE, FLOODWAY

0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD,

AO.

Zone A (100 year floodplain, No Base Flood elevation determined)

Zone AE (100 year floodplain with Base Flood Elevation determined)

Floodway Areas in Zone AE

500 year floodplain (0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE)

NTS



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**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
GREEN BAY PARK, RECREATION,
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2020-2024**

July 21, 2020

BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN BAY:

WHEREAS, the City of Green Bay is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, a five-year Outdoor Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan is required to qualify for grant funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2020 - 2024, on file with the Clerk and Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, is hereby adopted.

Adopted July 21, 2020

Approved July 22, 2020

Chris A. Teabeck



Mayor

Clerk

ljm