

W I S C O N S I N



COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PLAN

2022-2026

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This plan has been prepared to guide the City of Wisconsin Rapids in developing and maintaining public parks and outdoor recreation facilities. It also serves as a tool to encourage participation in grant programs through the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies.

## 1.1 Executive Summary

Parks are gateways to healthy, prosperous and connected communities. The National Recreation and Park Association names “Three Pillars” by which a healthy park system can benefit a community:

- *Conservation* – Parks play an important role in the conservation of natural resources. These protected open spaces not only benefit the environment but also serve as an important indicator to potential outside investment in the community.
- *Health and Wellness* – Parks are essential in combating important health issues such as nutrition, hunger, obesity and physical inactivity.
- *Social Equity* – Universal access to public parks and recreation should be considered a right, not a privilege. A healthy park system will provide equal access throughout the community.

This Park and Open Space Plan sets forth the City’s vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. The plan is intended to guide the community’s outdoor recreation facility development through the year 2026.

The existing park system in Wisconsin Rapids includes 19 parks facilities that cover approximately 160 acres. These facilities range from small, one-acre “mini-parks” to large, multi-use parks such as the recently improved Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex. The parks system serves approximately 18,700 residents.

### 1.1.1 Statement of Need

The purpose of this project is to develop a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the City of Wisconsin Rapids, assess the vitality and needs of the current City park system and provide direction for maintenance, growth and programming for the next five to ten years.

As a working tool, the plan will provide officials with a clear understanding of park land inventory and future recreational facility and open space needs. The plan also creates an orderly and prioritized strategy for making incremental improvements. The plan will qualify the City to request DNR and other public funding for implementing proposed park improvements.

### 1.1.2 Wisconsin Rapids Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

The Wisconsin Rapids Parks and Recreation Department’s mission is to provide a wide variety of year-round recreation programs, facilities, parks and open space and natural areas that respond to the articulated needs and desires of the residents.

## 1.2 Goals and Objectives

The following section identifies goals and objectives to guide the future development or expansion of parks and recreational facilities in Wisconsin Rapids.

### Goal 1.2.1: Establish and maintain high quality parks and recreational services.

#### Objectives:

- a. Ensure the number of parks and recreational facilities is reflective of community population needs.
- b. Upgrade and improve existing parks and facilities.
  - i. Develop bi-annual inspections and inventory of existing park facilities to maintain an active log of facility improvements.
  - ii. Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating equipment in all City parks to ensure the health, safety and welfare of visitors.
- c. Pursue funding for park and recreation development and land acquisition.
- d. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.
- e. Work towards 100% sustainable energy sourced utilities within City parks.

### Goal 1.2.2: Ensure that the community's existing open space, recreational facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents regardless of age, gender or ability.

#### Objectives:

- a. Prepare a site Master Plan prior to improvement and/or development of any public park to assure the best use of existing resources.
- b. Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas.
- c. Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities by 2026.
- d. Encourage participation and accommodation of all interested participants at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- e. Continue to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication with the public. This is in reference to the standard language that government agencies should use on their agendas and other public meeting documents stating accommodation of those with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting.



**Goal 1.2.3: Offer recreational services in an efficient, effective and economical manner.**Objectives:

- a. Cooperatively work with surrounding municipalities, the school district and other partners.
- b. Conduct periodic reviews of programs and services and analyze their benefit to the community.

**Goal 1.2.4: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over small playground and tot-lot facilities.**Objectives:

- a. Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development or land use changes occur.
- b. Communicate the importance of dynamic, multi-purpose parks and recreational facilities as a component of the City's regional draw and economic development potential.
- c. Use Park Service Area Criteria to help determine the location of new/improved facilities and future park sites (see Chapter 2).
- d. Develop design guidelines and standards for future parkland.

**Goal 1.2.5: Establish methods for on-going community input into the Parks & Recreation services.**Objectives:

- a. Develop committees when needed to work with the Park and Recreation Commission to address specific/special needs.
- b. Encourage citizen involvement and input in these committees.
- c. Update the City website to include additional functionality. Include park maps and interactive options such as user input on park issues and needed repairs.

**Goal 1.2.6: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and facility development.**Objectives:

- a. Use the CORP as a guide to establish yearly park budgets and funding for the City park system.
- b. Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas. Provide recreational programs with the intention of increasing park prominence, community visibility and use.



**Goal 1.2.7: Promote bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Wisconsin Rapids and the surrounding area.**

Objectives:

- a. Improve local route connectivity throughout the area to parks, conservancies, schools, local businesses and regional trails.
- b. Improve/establish wayfinding signage to allow new residents or visitors to effectively travel throughout the City on foot or bicycle.
- c. Increase the availability and accessibility of bicycle parking.
- d. Expand the trail system.

**Goal 1.2.8: Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.**

Objectives:

- a. Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the CORP before subdivision plats are approved.
- b. Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via development codes.
- c. Continually evaluate and update local zoning and subdivision ordinances so that they adequately address the recreational needs of residents.
- d. Preserve any proposed trail corridors in any review of new development.

**Goal 1.2.9: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the City park system.**

Objectives:

- a. Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- b. Nurture positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer-help to aid in park system development.
- c. Update the CORP every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- d. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.

**Goal 1.2.10: Promote water recreation throughout the community.**

Objectives:

- a. Utilize riverfront parks for potential water based recreational improvements.
- b. Improve visibility and awareness of existing water based recreational opportunities at riverfront parks.
- c. Promote and maintain canoe/kayak launches and fishing areas.
- d. Continue to support community events that support water activity.
- e. Identify ways to reduce goose impact.

## 1.3 Review of Past Planning Documents

### 1.3.1 City of Wisconsin Rapids Outdoor Recreation Plan (2012-2016)

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prepared the previous version of the City's Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2011. The plan provided background information, outdoor recreation goals and recommendations for improvements.

Goals outlined in the plan include the following:

- Development of a regional aquatic center.
- The upgrade and maintenance of existing park facilities including bike paths, Robinson Park buildings and the river wall.
- Development of an additional baseball diamond to lessen the demand on Witter Field.
- Development of a disc golf course.
- Upgrades to the bicycle network including trails and on-road improvements.

In addition to the general recommendations of the plan, each park was analyzed and given its own set of recommendations for improvement.

Some of those park specific improvements included:

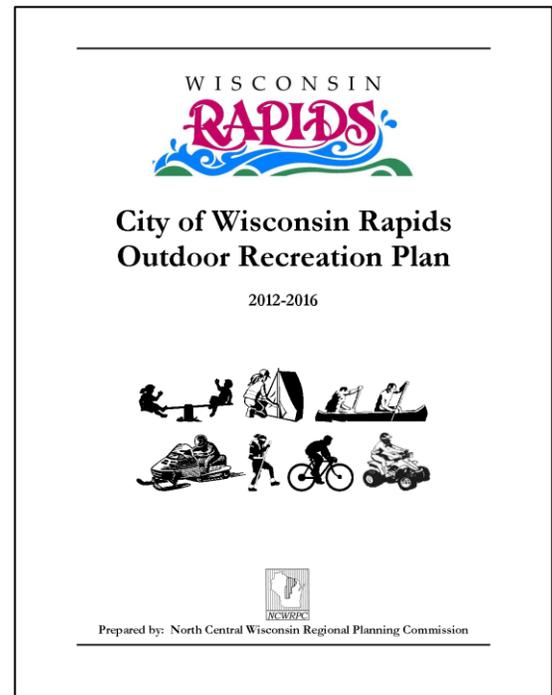
- Development of an accessible pathway at Demitz Park.
- Installation of curb cuts and a sidewalk ramp at Mead Rapids View Park to provide access to accessible parking.
- Development of a small parking lot at the north end of Poplar Springs Park.
- Removal of the basketball court at Robinson Park.
- ADA accessibility improvements at Sand Lot Park.
- Improvements to the Witter Field baseball complex.
- Park entrance improvements including signage.

### 1.3.2 City of Wisconsin Rapids Comprehensive Plan (2010, 2018)

The Wisconsin Rapids Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2010 and amended in 2018 to replace the original plan written in 1981. The plan was created as a guide for future development of the City with focus on economic development, transportation, community facilities, natural resources and housing. Elements of the plan relevant to park and recreation planning are included in the Land Use, Transportation and Community Facilities chapters.

Objectives of the plan related to park and recreation planning include the following:

- Provide quality, accessible parks and recreational facilities, areas, and services for all residents, including persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- Encourage a balanced transportation network that provides a choice in the type of mode (i.e. car, bus, bike, walking, etc.), easy transfer between modes, and transportation opportunities for those without use of an automobile.
- Provide a safe, efficient transportation system that meets the special needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and others.
- Maintain parks, recreational facilities, open space, streetscapes, and waterways for the benefit, enjoyment, health, and well-being of Wisconsin Rapids' residents.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive system of pedestrian and bicycle trail facilities in the area that connects industrial, commercial, and residential sections of the City. The system should advance safe and efficient transportation for cyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized transportation.



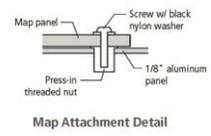
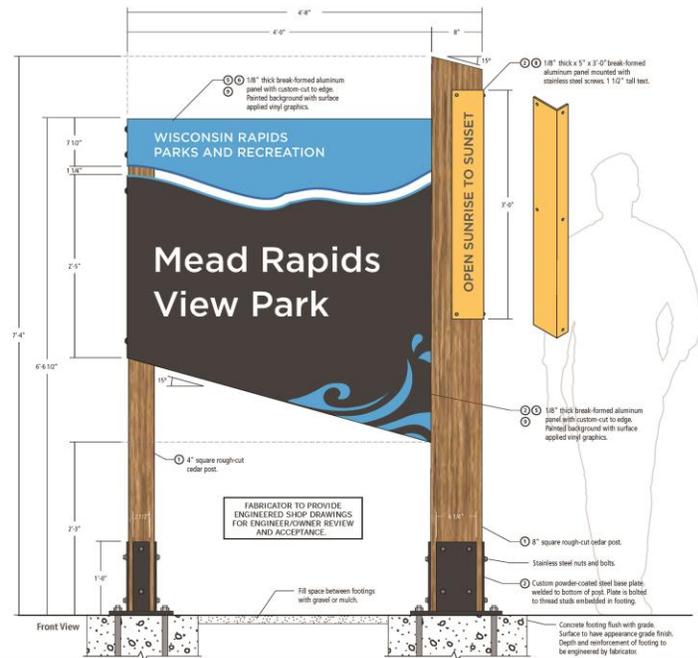
- Utilize river corridors for multi-use trail development.
- Ensure that schools, parks, playgrounds, and similar activity centers are well served by sidewalks and bicycle routes.

Policies recommended in the plan related to parks and recreation include:

- Update the City’s Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Support additional transportation options, including sidewalks and on-street and off-street bicycle facilities, for all segments of the population (e.g. the disabled, seniors, low-income individuals, and people seeking an alternative means of transportation), including those without access to an automobile.
- Incorporate pedestrian and on-street bicycle accommodations into all reconstruction and new construction projects, particularly for classified roadways and highways. Any state and/or federally funded projects along city streets and state connecting highways by law will require these accommodations.
- Design neighborhoods that are well served by sidewalks, bicycle routes, and other non-motorized transportation facilities.
- Require new neighborhoods to provide green space and have access to community facilities such as parks, schools, libraries, churches, and similar amenities.
- Officially map future transportation routes throughout the planning area, including a comprehensive network of sidewalk and bicycle routes.
- Create plans for maintenance and retrofitting of all City-owned property and parks using sustainable methods.
- Officially map public access to the riverfront and waterways.

### 1.3.3 Recreational and Downtown Wayfinding and Signage Plan (2020)

The City is completing this plan after identifying a lack of consistent wayfinding signage for transportation and recreational uses. The plan also calls for an update to citywide park signage and downtown pedestrian wayfinding signage. Design intent drawings were prepared to illustrate potential signage concepts. A park identification sign and a trail wayfinding sign with map are shown in the adjacent images.



## 1.4 Summary of the Planning Process

### 1.4.1 Work Plan and Timeline

This plan was developed between February and July 2021. The process included an initial project scope meeting with City staff and a community survey to gather opinions on park improvements from residents. All parks were audited by Ayres staff with findings identified on inventory sheets in Chapter 3.

### 1.4.2 Meetings and Field Work

Kick-Off Meeting – March, 2021: An overview of the project and a timeframe for project completion was discussed. The meeting provided an opportunity for City staff to give input about the planning process and the future of City parks.

Field Work – April 14, 2021: All sites were audited by Ayres staff and issues were photo documented.

### 1.4.3 Online Survey

During the development of this plan, an online survey was created to record public opinion concerning key issues and opportunities for enhanced use and enjoyment of parks. The survey was used to formulate the recommendations in Chapter 3. A link to the survey was posted on the City's website on April 12, 2021 and responses were collected through May 17, 2021 when it was closed for tabulation of results. A total of 480 individuals responded to the survey, 80% of whom were Wisconsin Rapids residents. General findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

Some of the key potential areas of improvement reflected in the survey results include:

- A desire for the development of a dog park.
- Trail improvements and expansion for both hiking and biking.
- A need for more park facilities intended for adolescents (ages 13 to 18).
- Restroom improvements were a common improvement desired by survey participants.
- The development of gardens (community and natural) were highly ranked in terms of new facility development.
- Maintenance to existing facilities was chosen over other types of park improvement projects.

A more detailed analysis of survey results can be found on the following pages. The complete survey results can be found in **Appendix C**.

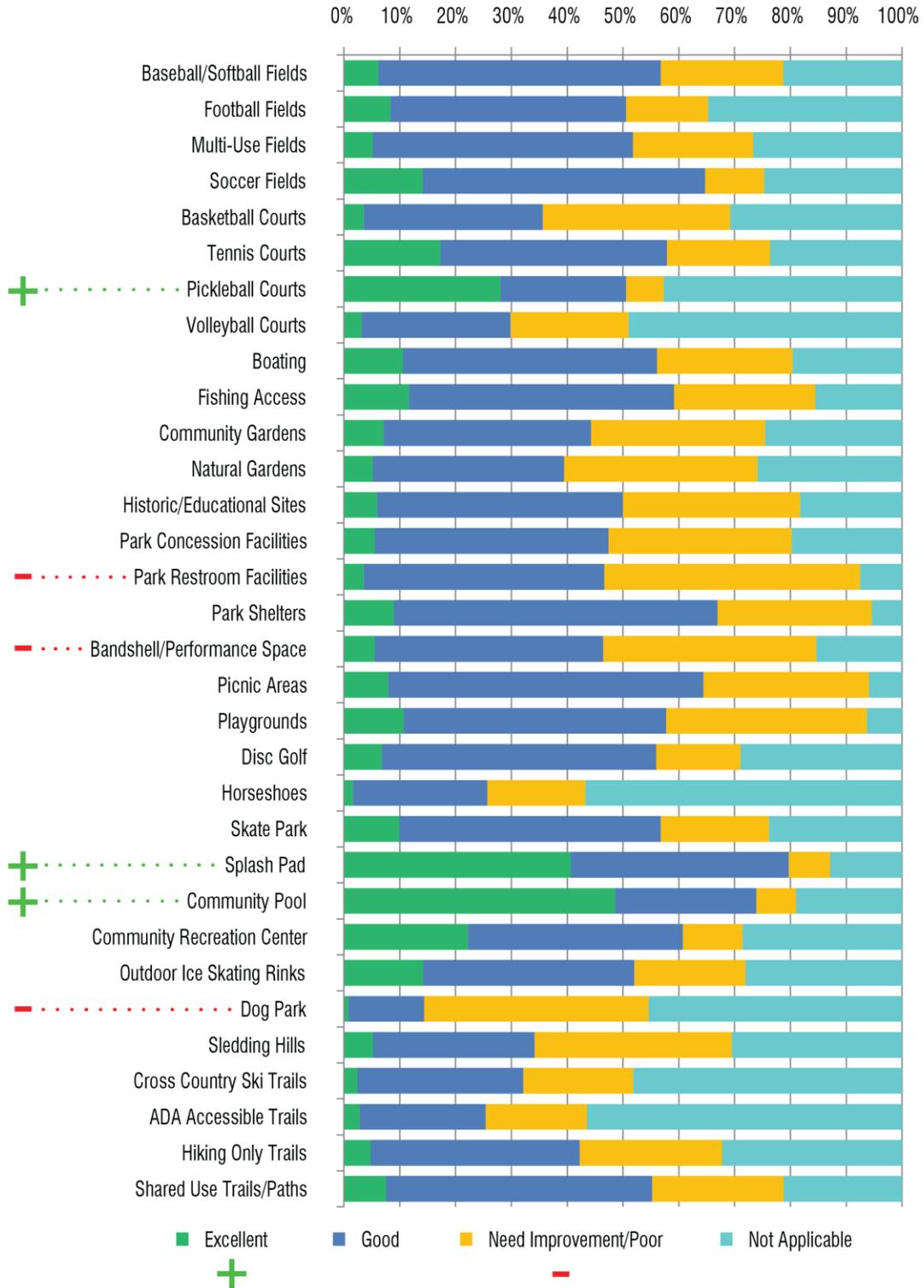


**The Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Department's mission is to provide a wide variety of year-round recreation programs, facilities, parks and open space and natural areas that respond to the articulated needs and desires of the residents.**

*Wisconsin Rapids Parks & Recreation Mission Statement*

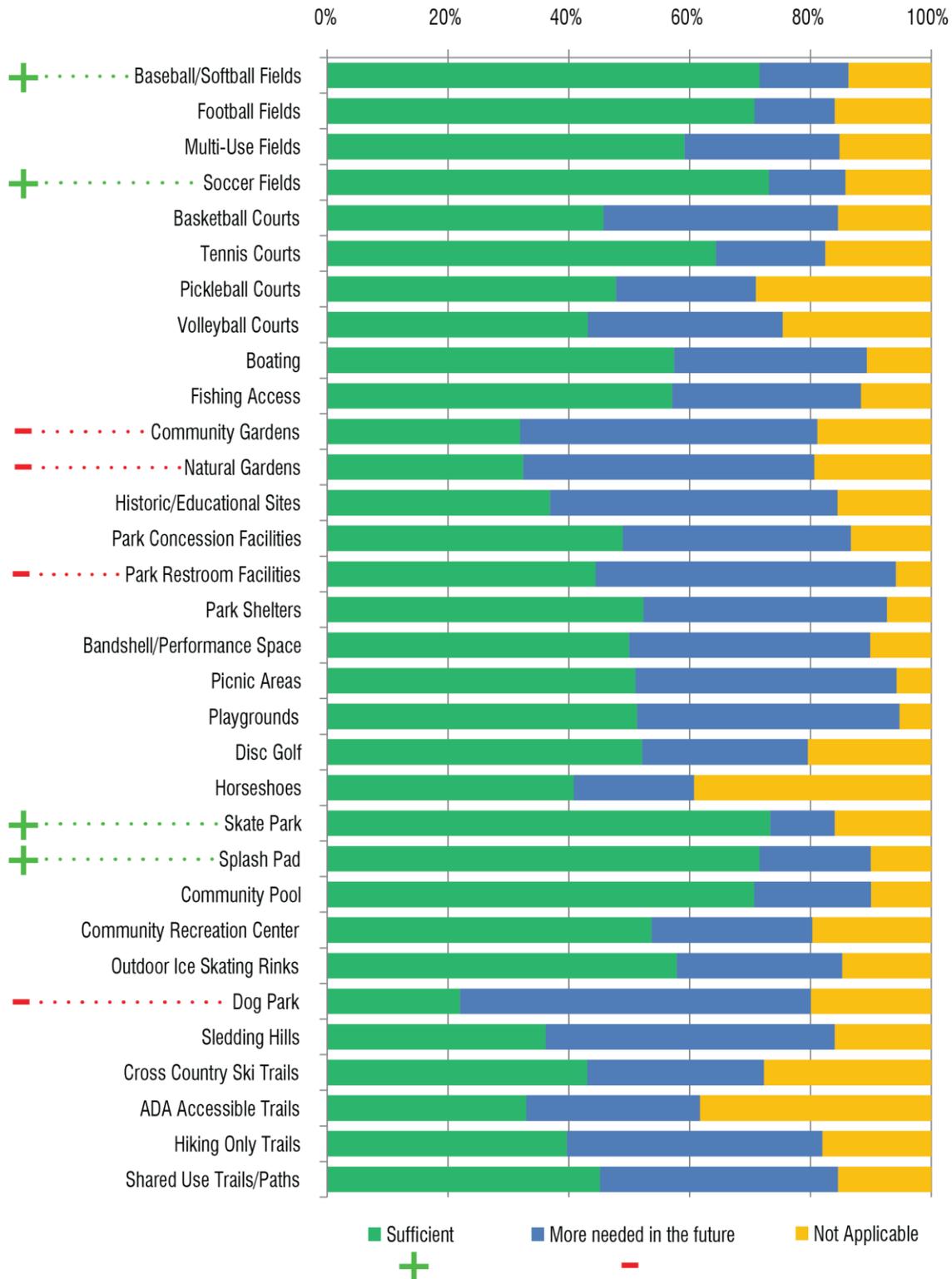
Survey participants were asked to rate the overall condition of recreational facilities in City parks. Community pool, splash pads and pickleball courts were the facilities most commonly rated “excellent” by respondents. Facilities that were most commonly rated “need improvement” included park restroom facilities, dog parks and bandshell/performance space. See **Chart 1** for complete results.

**Chart 1** – Please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility Managed by the City.



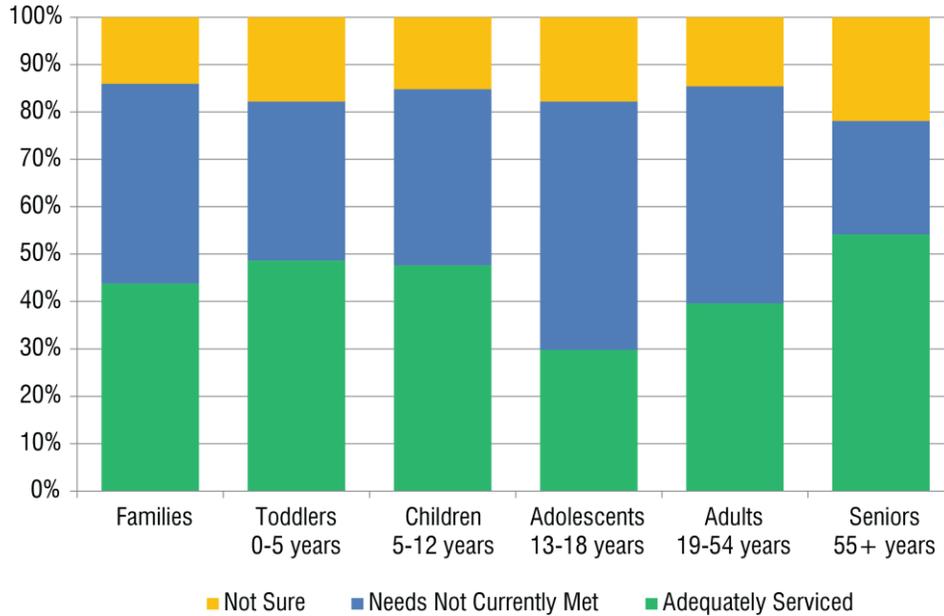
Survey participants were asked if the quantity of any facilities/amenities in Wisconsin Rapids met the demands of the community. The most frequently chosen facilities that did not meet the demands of the community were dog parks, park restroom facilities, community gardens and natural gardens. Soccer fields, skate parks, baseball fields and splash pads were most commonly chosen as being in sufficient quantity to meet demand.

**Chart 2** – Please indicate whether Wisconsin Rapids has sufficient quantities for each type to meet demand.



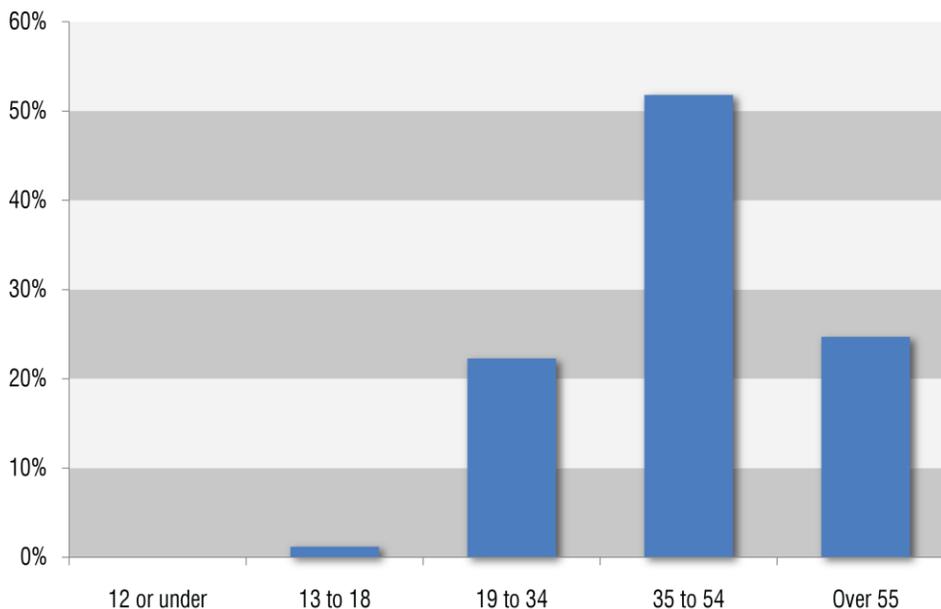
Survey participants were asked if the needs of any age group were not met by the existing facilities in **City** parks. Adolescents (ages 13-18) were the age group the most people (52%) felt were not adequately served by park facilities. See **Chart 3**.

**Chart 3** - Considering the various age groups of people in Wisconsin Rapids, please indicate whether the existing facilities adequately meet their needs.



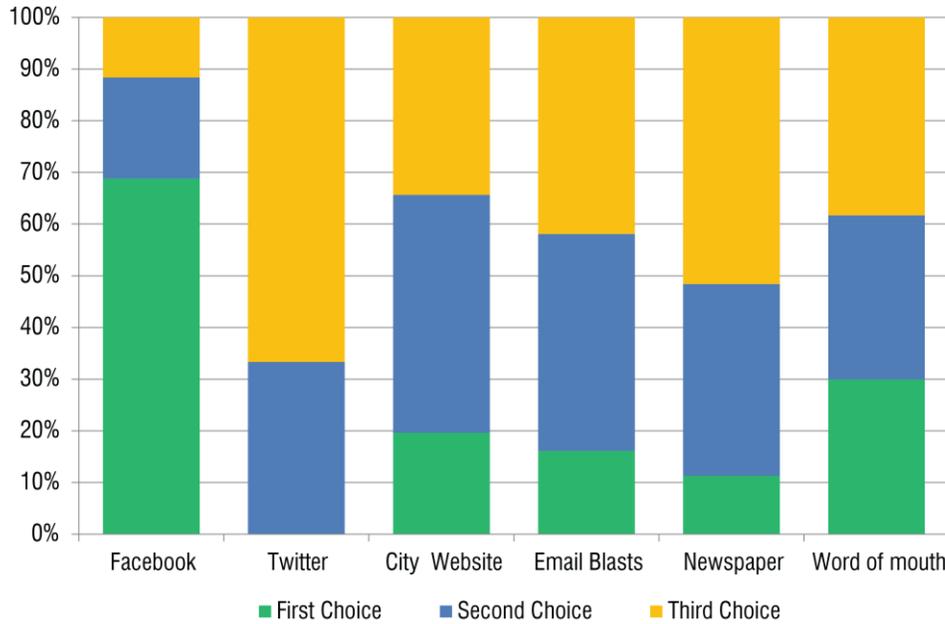
Survey participants were asked to identify the age group to which they belong. The majority of survey participants were in the “35 to 54” age group (52%), followed by “Over 55” (25%) and “19 to 34” (22%). See **Chart 4**.

**Chart 4** – Please select the age group to which you belong.



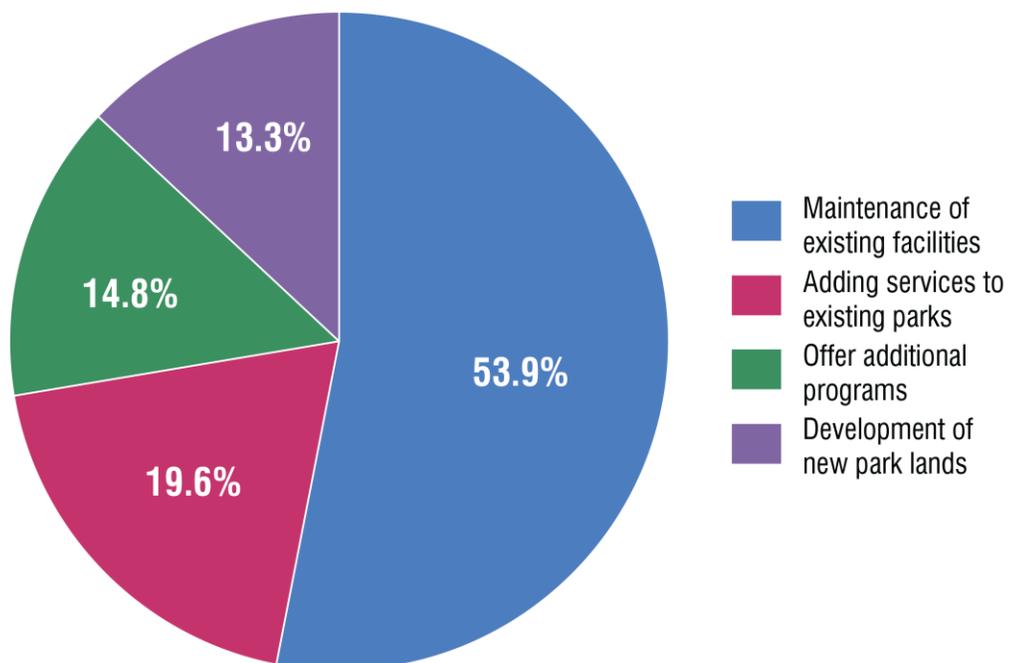
Survey participants were asked how they like to be notified about information related to City park and recreation events, activities and news. Facebook was the most popular means of communication with 69% of survey participants identifying it as their first choice. Twitter was the least popular option with no votes for first choice. See **Chart 5**.

**Chart 5** – What are the top three ways you find out about City park & recreation events, activities and news?



Survey participants were asked to rank four types of general park improvements in order from most to least important. 53.9% of respondents felt “Maintenance of Existing Facilities” was the most important type of improvement. This was followed by “Adding services to existing parks” (19.6%), “Offering Additional Programs” (14.8%), and “Development of new park lands” (13.3%). See **Chart 6**.

**Chart 6** – Highest Priority Improvements



The survey included some open-ended questions that allowed for more specific answers from survey participants. A summary of those responses is listed below:

- Survey participants were asked what specific facilities were desired but not provided in Wisconsin Rapids. The most frequent response was hiking/biking trails. Other common responses were dog parks and improved play equipment.
- Survey participants were asked what they believed was the most popular facility/amenity provided in the City. The most common response was the aquatic center, followed by Witter Field and hiking/biking trails.
- Survey participants were asked which outdoor activity they predicted would gain popularity in the area over the next 5 years. Common responses included aquatic facilities, hiking/biking trails, pickleball, kayaking and fishing.
- Survey participants were asked if there were any facilities provided by the City that they were not interested in using. Common responses included the skate park, pickleball courts and ice rinks.
- Survey participants were asked if there were any specific facilities they would like added and in which park they should be located. Some of the most common responses included versions of the following:
  - A dog park anywhere
  - Mead splash pad improvements
  - Robinson Park general improvements
  - Restrooms at Henry Demitz Park

See **Appendix C** for the complete survey results.

## 1.5 Wisconsin Rapids Demographics

### 1.5.1 Social Characteristics

This section presents social factors that are important to understanding the community and its recreation needs. Particularly important to planning for the adequate provision of parks and open spaces are population trends and projections over the planning period (5-10 years) and the age characteristics of potential park users.

#### Population Trends and Projections

There is a direct relationship between population and the need for parks and recreational space. Predicting how the population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the new populations.

The City of Wisconsin Rapids has had a stable population over the last 50 years. Since 1970, the population has grown by only 134 people for a growth rate of 0.7%. The highest ten-year period of growth in that time frame was between the years of 2010 and 2020 when the population grew by 1.9%

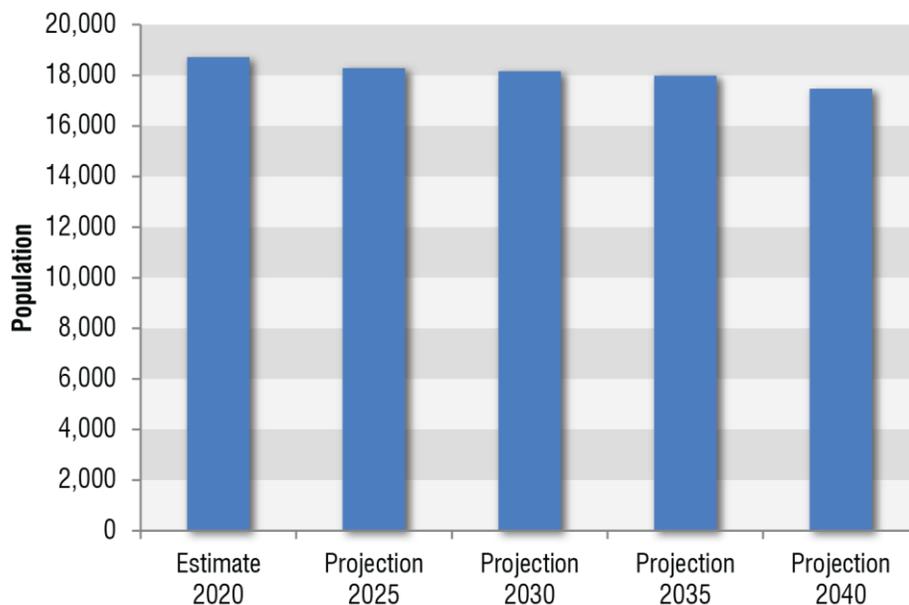
The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) projects that the City will experience a slight dip in population over the next 20 years with a predicted population loss of 5%. Population projection information for Wisconsin Rapids and comparable communities is provided in **Table 1.1**. Current National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards recommend a minimum of 10.5 acres of dedicated parkland per 1000 residents. Chapter 2 will discuss this standard as it applies to the current and future populations.

**Table 1.1: Population Projections for Wisconsin Rapids and Comparables (2040)**

Municipality	Estimate 2020	Projection 2025	Projection 2030	Projection 2035	Projection 2040	Percentage Change 2020-2040
<b>Wisconsin Rapids</b>	<b>18,721</b>	<b>18,280</b>	<b>18,160</b>	<b>17,990</b>	<b>17,740</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Marshfield	18,975	18,930	18,785	18,585	18,030	-5%
Menasha	18,170	18,675	19,045	19,180	19,120	5%
Stevens Point	28,420	29,110	29,640	29,980	30,150	6%
Kaukauna	17,120	18,120	19,050	19,680	20,020	17%
Onalaska	19,860	20,950	21,950	22,770	23,570	19%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimates and Projections

### Wisconsin Rapids Population Projections (2020 – 2040)



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimates and Projections

Note: The Wisconsin DOA estimate of population is shown for 2020. All other years show the predicted population based on Wisconsin DOA population projections.

### Employment/Unemployment

The January 2021 Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (LAUS) estimate of the unemployment rate in the Wisconsin Rapids-Marshfield Statistical Area was 5.4%. The statewide unemployment rate during the same time period was 3.8%.

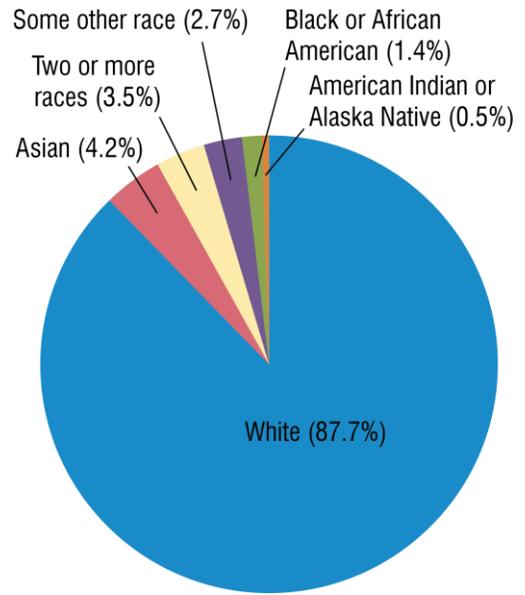
**Ethnic Background**

The 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates indicated the largest percentage of City residents (87.7%) were “White”. The second largest group was “Asian” (4.2%), followed by “Two or more races” (3.5%), “Some other race” (2.7%), “Black or African American” (1.4%) and “American Indian or Alaska Native” (0.5%).

**Age**

Age distribution in Wisconsin Rapids is shown in **Table 1.2**. Age cohorts are an important consideration in park and recreation planning because different age groups utilize different recreational facilities. For example, in 2010 there were an estimated 910 children between the ages of 5 and 9. That number had grown to 1,105 by 2019, a 21% increase in the population of that age group. The number of park facilities in the City designed for this age group should be reassessed as there are more people in this group using park facilities than there were in 2010. Facilities such as swings, climbing structures, slides and other playground equipment are used by this age group and may be needed in higher quantities now than they had in the past.

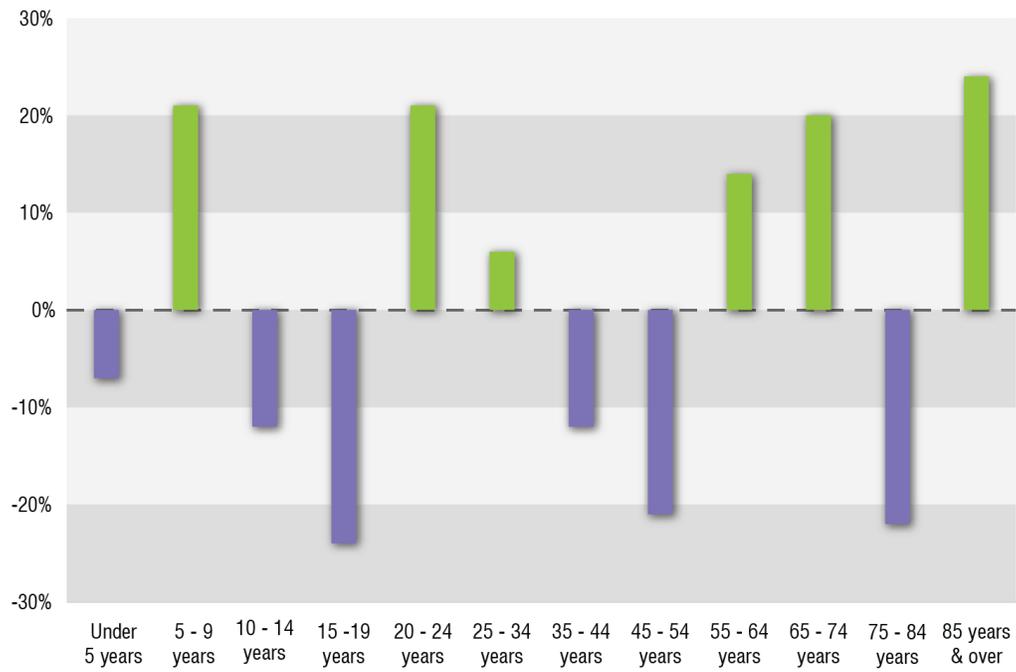
**Ethnic Background (Wisconsin Rapids)**



**Table 1.2: Age Distribution, 2010-2019  
City of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin**

	2010		2019		Percent Change 2010-2019
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 5 years	1,165	6.4	1,086	6.1	-7%
5 to 9 years	910	5.0	1,105	6.2	21%
10 to 14 years	1,343	7.3	1,180	6.6	-12%
15 to 19 years	1,176	6.4	895	5.0	-24%
20 to 24 years	944	5.1	1,141	6.4	21%
25 to 34 years	2,226	12.1	2,361	13.3	6%
35 to 44 years	2,269	12.4	1,994	11.2	-12%
45 to 54 years	2,779	15.2	2,182	12.3	-21%
55 to 64 years	1,911	10.4	2,172	12.2	14%
65 to 74 years	1,431	7.8	1,717	9.4	20%
75 to 84 years	1,644	9.0	1,276	7.2	-22%
85 years and over	535	2.9	664	3.7	24%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>18,333</b>		<b>17,770</b>		<b>-3%</b>

Source: US Census Bureau

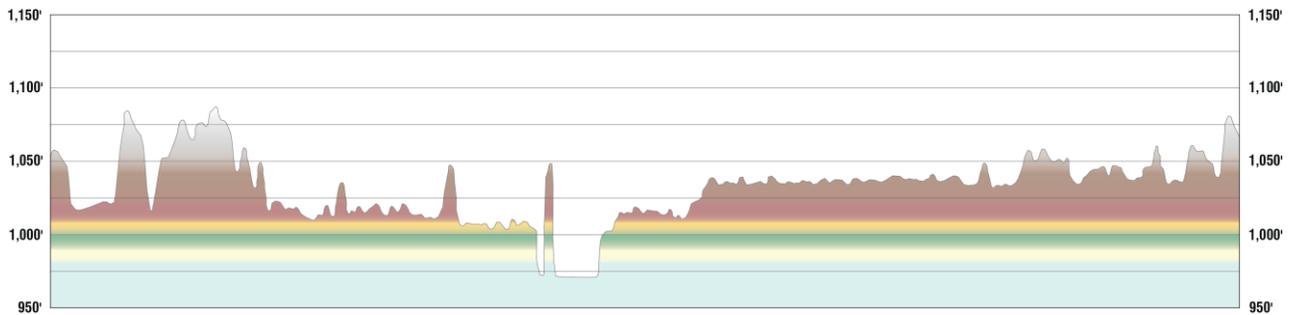
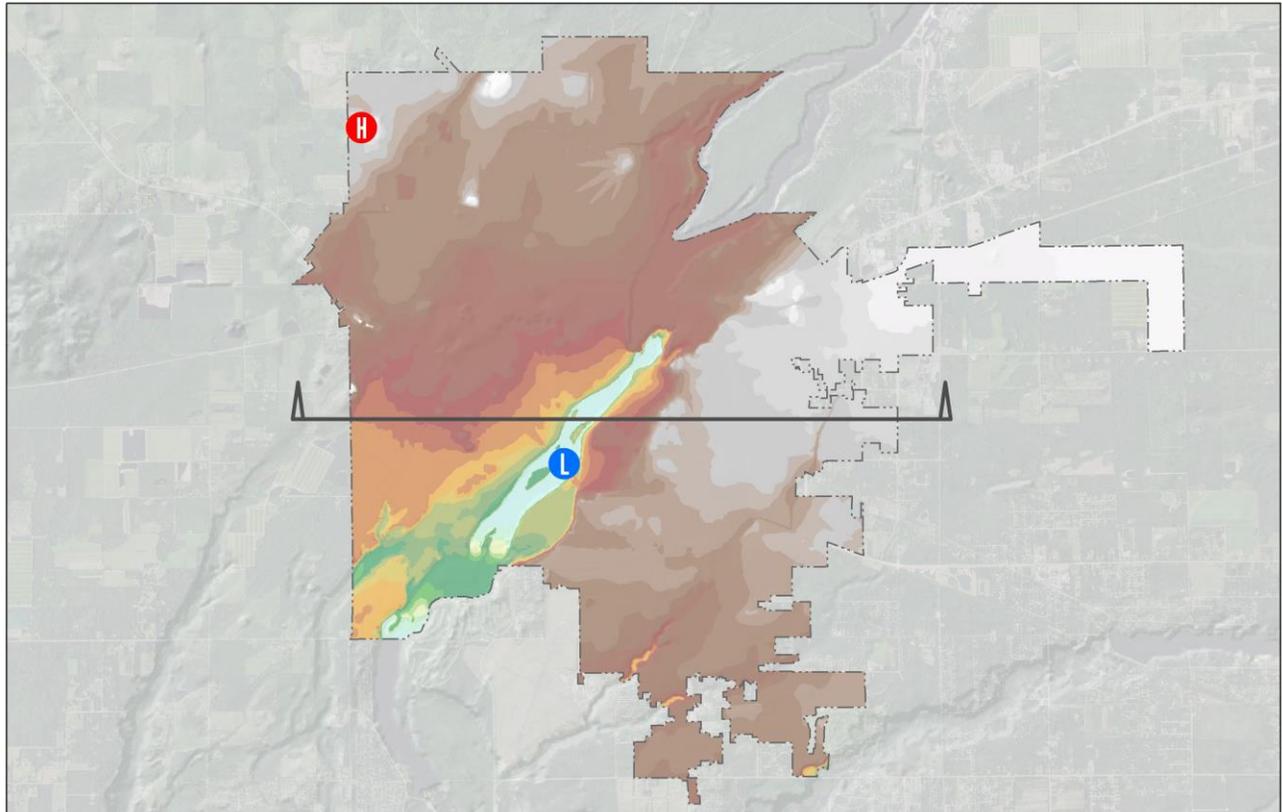
**Population Change (2010-2019)**

## 1.6 Physical Characteristics

The following section gives background information on some of the physical characteristics of Wisconsin Rapids. This section can be useful in giving an overall impression of the area, determining suitability for certain improvements and identifying areas that should be conserved due to their unique natural features.

### Topography

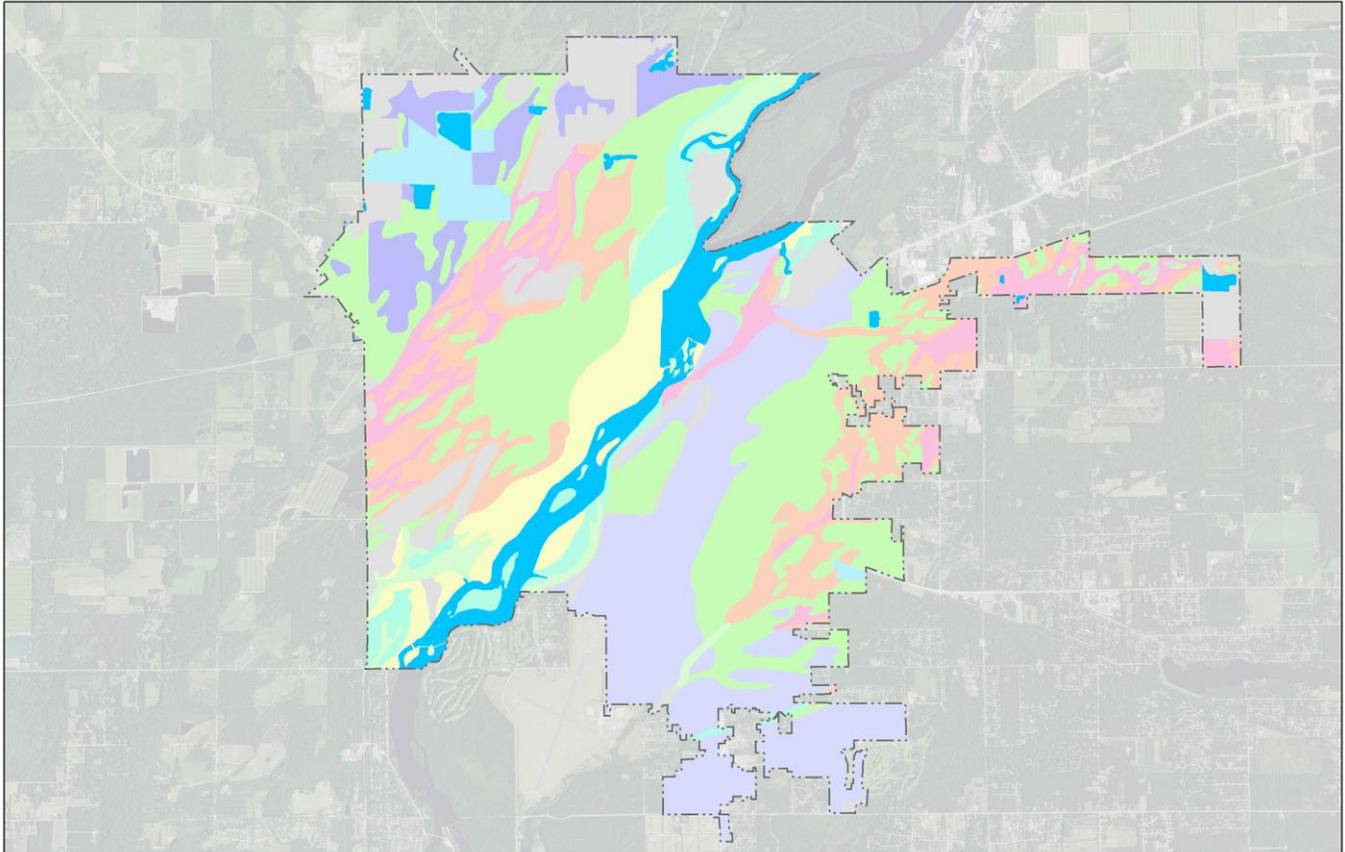
The map below shows a color-coded elevation model of Wisconsin Rapids ranging from lower elevations in blue to the highest elevations in white. See the cross section below the map for corresponding colors and elevations. The lowest elevation in the City is 960 feet above sea level at the Wisconsin River. The high elevation of 1,060 feet above sea level is found on the far west side of the City north of the Cranberry Creek Landfill.



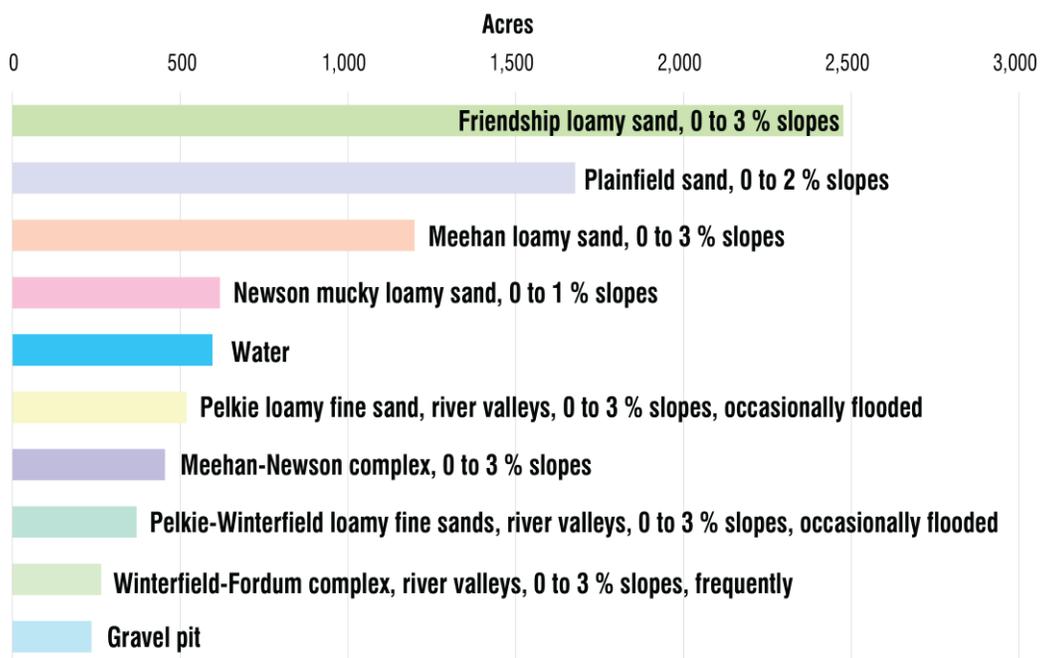
Data Source: USGS National Elevation Database

**Soils**

The most common soil type found in Wisconsin Rapids is Friendship loamy sand (0 to 3% slopes). This soil type is found in over 2,475 acres in the City, followed by Plainfield sand (0 to 2% slopes) on 1,675 acres and Meehan loamy sand (0 to 3% slopes) found on approximately 1,200 acres. Soils that occupy less than 200 acres in the City are not shown on the chart below and are shown as grey areas on the map.

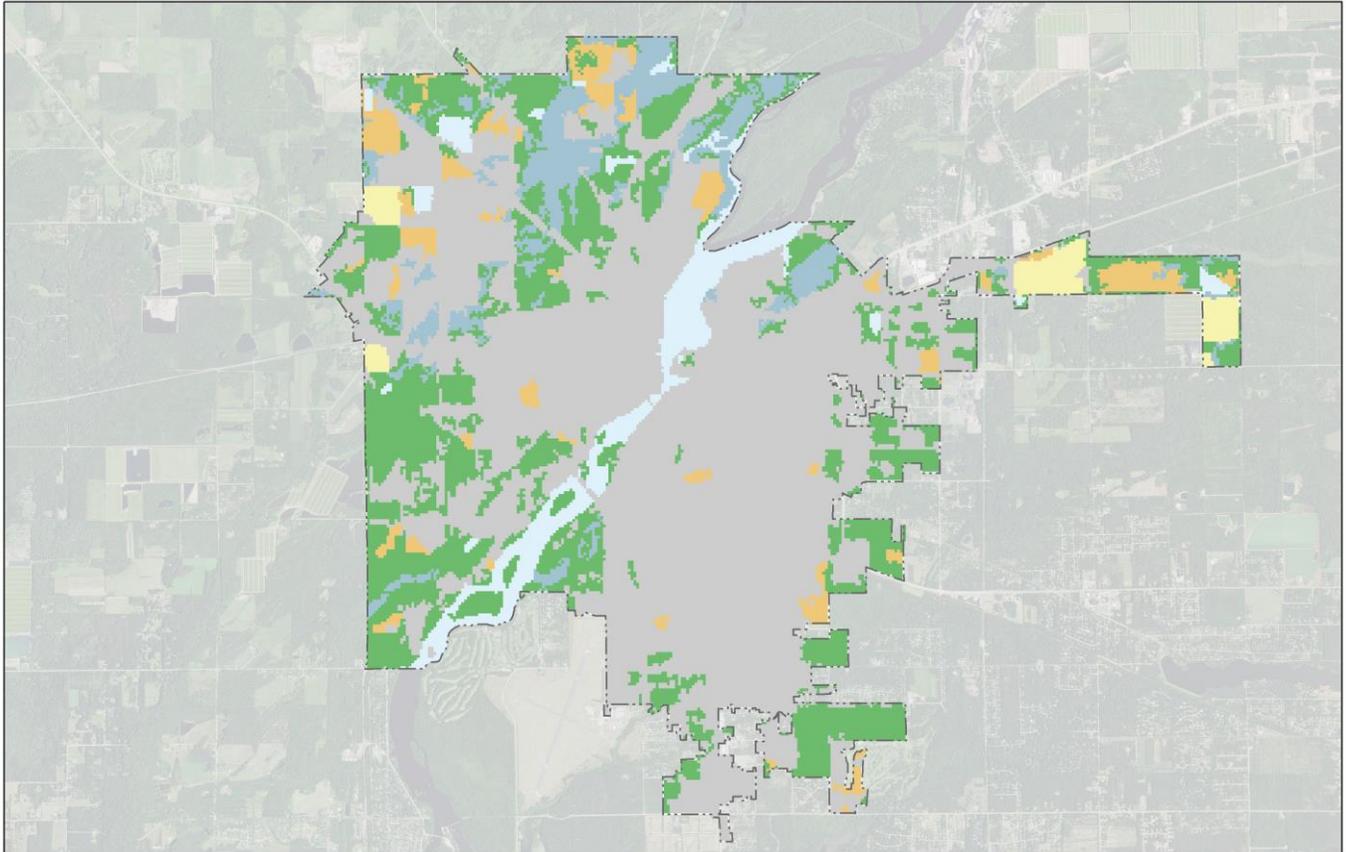


Data Source: USDA Soil Survey Geographic Database

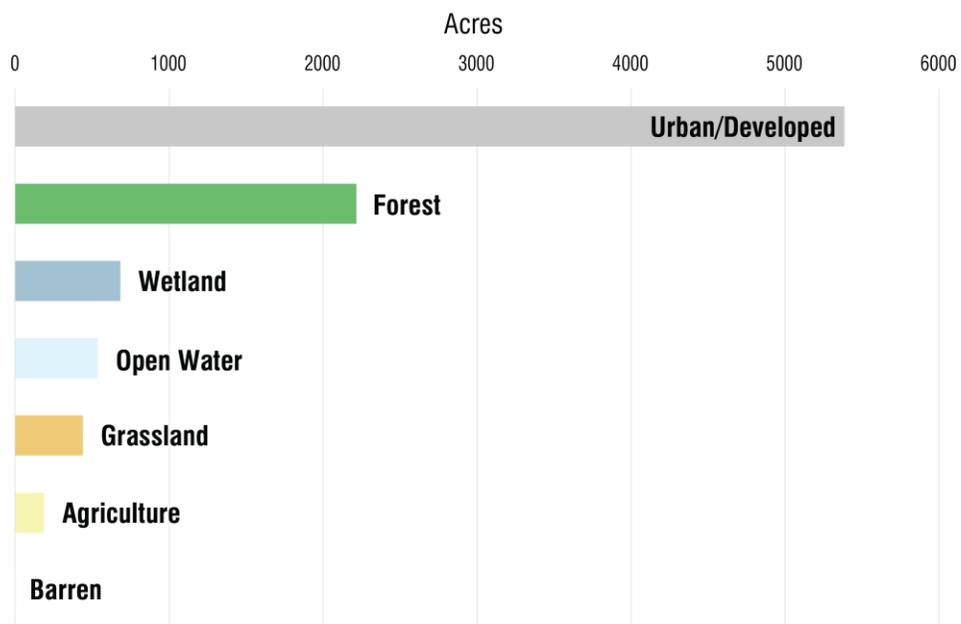


### Land Cover

Approximately 57% of Wisconsin Rapids is classified as an “Urban/Developed”, making it the most common land cover type in the City. “Forest” is the next most common land cover type at 24% coverage, followed by “Wetland” at 7% and “Open Water” at 6%.

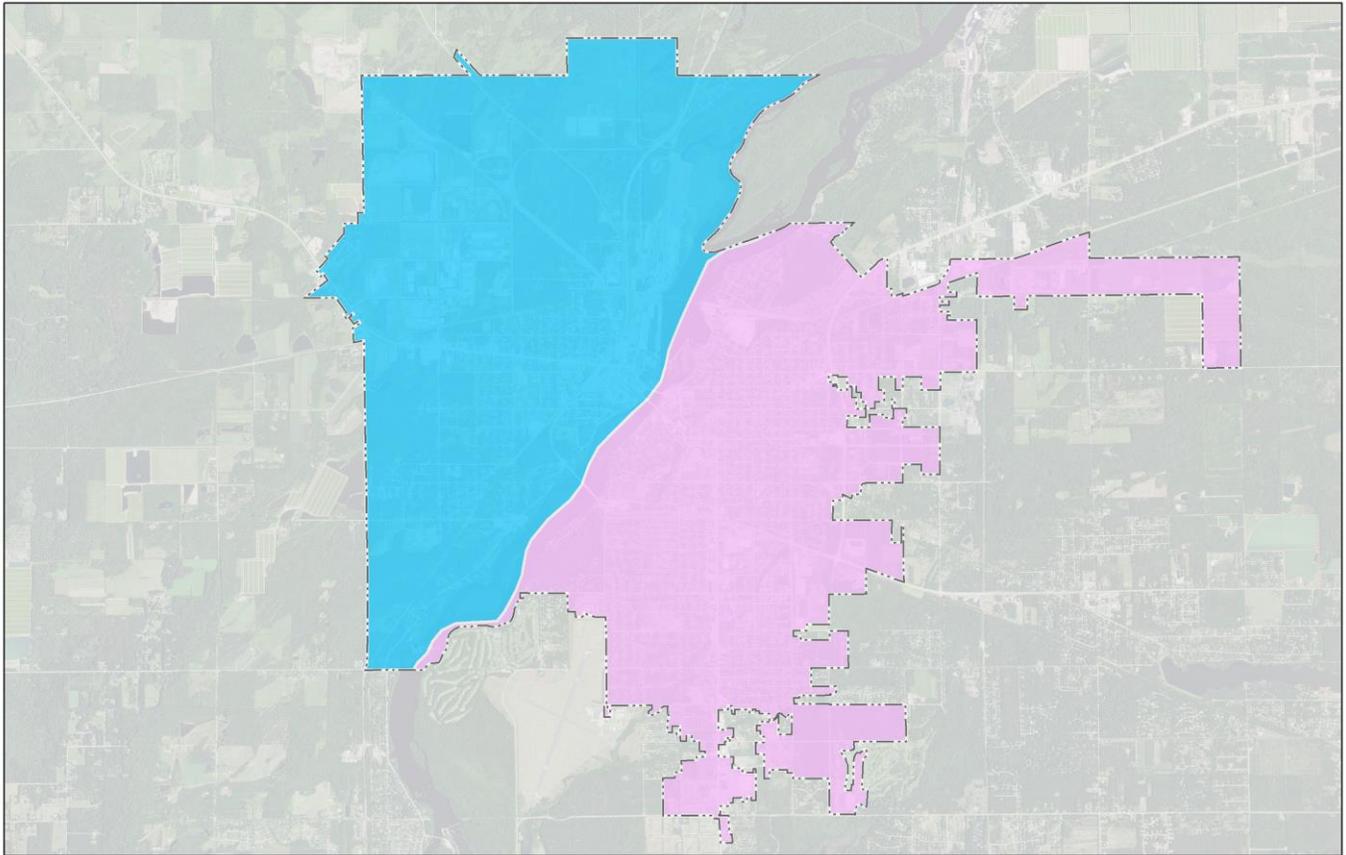


Data Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

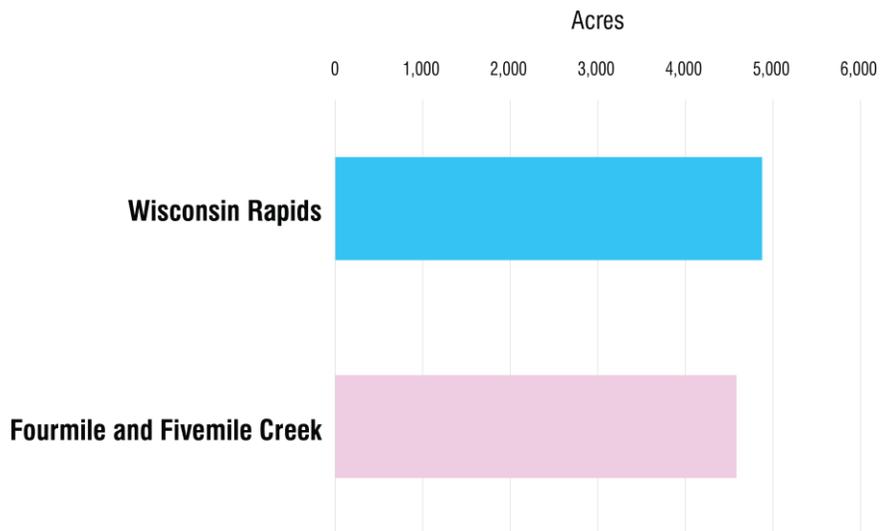


### Watersheds

Two watersheds bisect the City along the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin Rapids Watershed occupies the west half of the City with 52% coverage and the Fourmile and Fivemile Creek Watershed covers the remaining 48%.

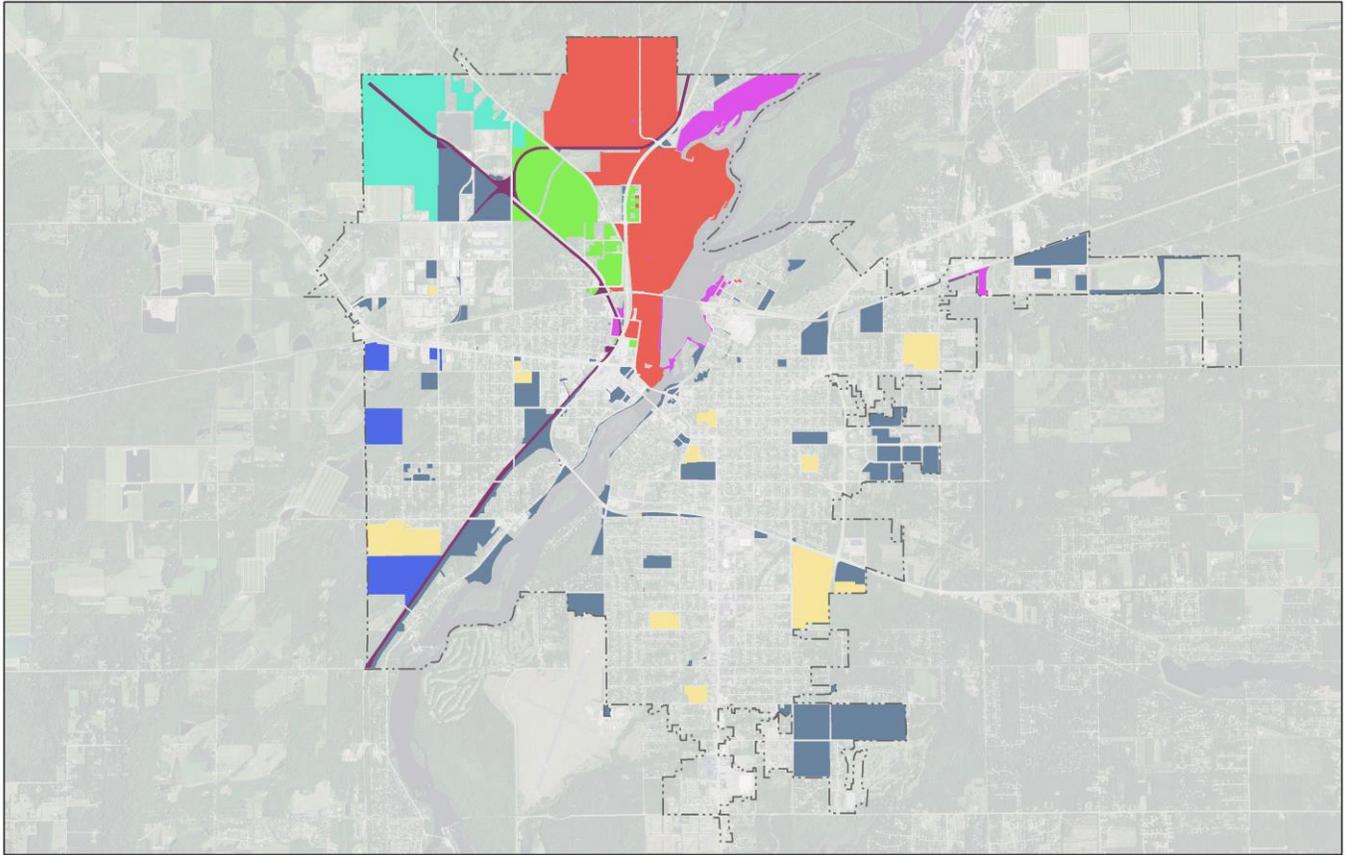


Data Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

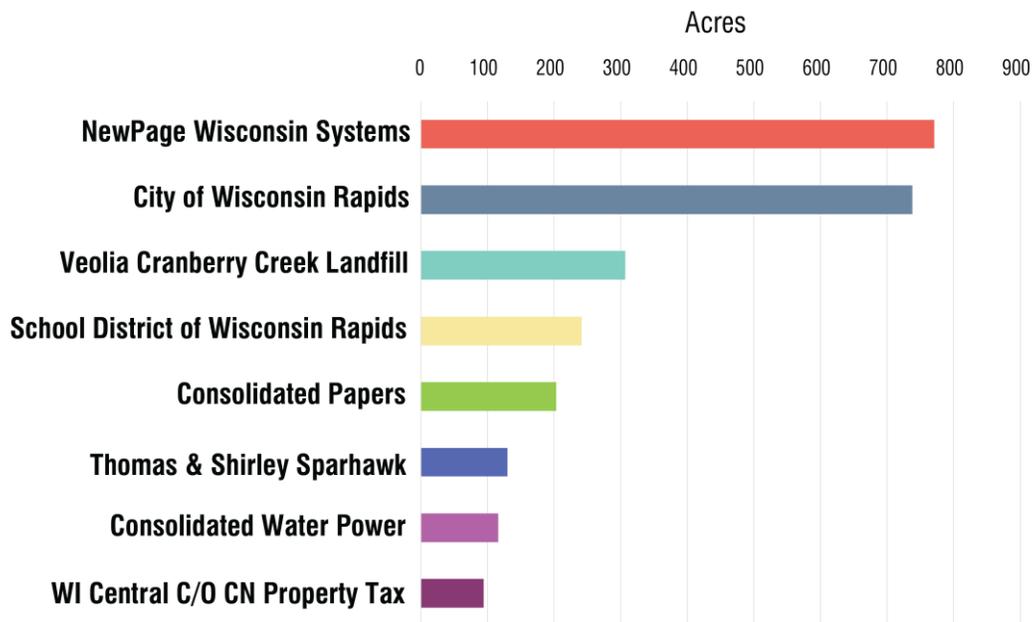


### Major Property Owners

Major property owners are shown in the map below. NewPage Wisconsin Systems owns the most land in the City with 771 acres. That is followed by the City of Wisconsin Rapids (738 acres), Veolia Cranberry Creek Landfill (307 acres) and the School District of Wisconsin Rapids (241 acres).



Data Source: State Cartographers Office



## 2 ANALYSIS OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This chapter analyzes the existing park system in the City of Wisconsin Rapids. Parks are inventoried and classified based on standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association.

### 2.1 City Park and Open Space Facilities

The information for this section was gathered from site visits conducted by Ayres, discussion with City staff and review of past planning documents. A Facility Matrix for the park system is located in **Appendix A**. See **Appendix B** for a map of park locations.

#### 2.1.1 Mini Parks

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Typical size is 1 acre or less but parks may be categorized as mini parks simply based on the type and quantity of facilities they offer. Complete park descriptions, inventories and recommendations for improvements for all parks can be found in Chapter 3.

- *Woods Grove Park*

#### 2.1.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are areas for multiple and sometimes intensive recreational activities. Facilities may include athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, skate parks, trails, picnic areas and splashpads. Typical size is between 3 to 10 acres.

- *Henry Demitz Park*
- *Lyon Park*
- *Poplar Springs Park*
- *Sand Lot Park*
- *Ward Johnson Park*

#### 2.1.3 Community Parks

Community parks are areas of diverse recreational activity and may include amenities such as athletic complexes, trails and large swimming pools. Community parks are typically 10 acres or larger but may vary depending on facilities offered.

- *Ben Hansen Park*
- *Mead Field/Splash Pad*
- *Robinson Park*
- *Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex*





### 2.1.4 Special-Use Parks

Special-use parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, campgrounds, nature centers and skate parks. They may also be used to designate areas that are primarily used as event space, general gathering areas, expanded trail corridors or plaza space.

- *Legion Park*
- *Mead Rapids View Park*
- *Rapids Municipal Zoo*
- *Veteran's Park*

### 2.1.5 Conservancy, Open Space and Natural Areas

Conservancy parks and natural areas are established for protection and management of the natural or cultural environment with recreational facilities as a secondary objective. Open spaces are areas that currently offer no recreational facilities but have been reserved as future active or passive park lands.

- *East River Bank Conservancy*
- *Gaynor Park*
- *Natural Area*
- *Savaughn Park*
- *West River Bank Conservancy*

### 2.1.6 School Parks

Although not maintained by the City, school facilities offer community residents with additional outdoor recreation activities. School parks often contain structured play equipment, open space and athletic fields. This plan will not offer recommendations for improvements in these school parks, but they should be considered when analyzing facilities available to the community. There are 12 schools within the City with recreation facilities open for occasional public use. See **Map 1, Appendix B** for school locations.

### 2.1.7 County Parks

*Nepco Lake County Park* is a Wood County owned and operated park just south of the Wisconsin Rapids city limits. The 125-acre park is adjacent to Nepco Lake and provides access for water recreation such as swimming, fishing and water skiing. Park facilities include an enclosed park shelter, hiking trails, a boat landing and a play area. The shelter is available for rental year-round and has a capacity of 250 people.

*South Wood County Park* is located approximately two miles east of the City in the Town of Grand Rapids. The 332-acre park is adjacent to Lake Wazeecha with access for water recreation. The park has two beach areas, 73 campsites and

several shelter buildings. Additional facilities include a boat ramp, an ADA accessible fishing area, playgrounds and multi-use trails. The park is the site of the State Water Ski Tournament held each July.

### 2.1.8 Parks in Neighboring Communities

Adjacent communities such as Biron, Port Edwards, Nekoosa and Grand Rapids also provide recreational facilities available to the residents of Wisconsin Rapids. *Ripple Creek Park* and *Edwards-Alexander Park* in Port Edwards have a variety of facilities including play equipment, sports facilities, disc golf and sledding. *Cera Park* in Rudolph offers campsites, a swimming pool, play equipment, ballfields and fishing areas. For a full list of parks and amenities within four miles of Wisconsin Rapids see **Map 7, Appendix B**.

As with school parks and County parks, no recommendations will be made for improvements to parks in neighboring communities, but their facilities should be considered when analyzing recreational opportunities available to City residents.

### 2.1.9 Trail Corridors

A linear park or trail corridor is an area designated for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc. See **Map 3 in Appendix B** for existing trail locations. Over 20 miles of multi-use trails in Wisconsin Rapids make up the Ahdawagam trail network. The network is made up of five connected trails from between three to seven miles in length.

#### *Green Trail*

The longest segment of the trail network at approximately seven miles, the Green Trail is a concrete and asphalt surfaced route along the East Riverview Expressway from the east City limits to the Wisconsin River. The trail crosses the river and heads north along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue before diverging to on-road routes on Bonow Avenue and Reddin Road. The Green Trail connects with all of the other trails in the network and is accessible from Henry Demitz and Lyon Parks.

#### *Yellow Trail*

The Yellow Trail consists of on-road bike lanes on the south side of the City, running east/west along Griffith Avenue before turning north on Sampson Street. The route continues along 2 Mile Avenue and First Street before becoming an off-road concrete path after crossing Daly Avenue. The trail continues through the East River Bank Conservancy before connecting with the Red Trail in Veteran's Park. The Yellow Trail is approximately 5 miles in length.

#### *Red Trail*

The Red Trail runs alongside the Wisconsin River from Ben Hansen Park on the City's southwest side to the north City limits and beyond. The trail is primarily asphalt surfaced with some concrete surface and on-road segments. The trail runs through Ben Hansen Park, Lyon Park, the West River Bank Conservancy, Veteran's Park, Mead Rapids View Park and Legion Park. The trail is approximately 4½ miles long and connects to all of the other City trail segments.

#### *Purple Trail*

The Purple Trail is an asphalt and concrete trail along Highway 54 north of East Riverview Expressway. Segments connected to the main branch of the trail include a concrete path on Peach Street and an on-street route on Spring Street connecting to the Red Trail. The total trail length is approximately 3½ miles.

#### *Blue Trail*

The Blue Trail is an off-road, asphalt trail constructed on an abandoned rail line. The trail begins in Nekoosa and passes through Port Edwards before it enters Wisconsin Rapids near the Seneca Road and Highway 54 intersection. From there it follows the rail line north passing the Rapids Municipal Zoo and eventually connecting with the Green Trail at the intersection of West Grand Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The trail is approximately three miles in length.

## 2.2 Parkland Classification Analysis

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community are dependent on the demands of the local residents. Identifying the recreational needs and wants of community residents provides the justification for funding the acquisition and development of new facilities as well as for the maintenance of existing recreational facilities.

### 2.2.1 Parkland Classification

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. The definitions in this document are adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs can best be met through a variety of recreational activities. **Table 2.1** explains the seven park classifications most commonly used in the NRPA system, their associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification.

**Table 2.1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System**

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
<b>A. Local/Close-to-Home Space</b>				
Mini Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5
Neighborhood Park	Areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, play equipment area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	3-10 acres	1.0 to 2.0
Community Park	Areas of diverse recreational activity. May include areas suited for facilities such as athletic complexes and large aquatic facilities. May have areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2-mile radius	10+ acres	5.0 to 8.0

**Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000**

**Table 2.1 (Continued) NRPA Parkland Classification System**

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
<b>B. Regional Space</b>				
Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1-hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0

**C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community**

Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas.	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use	Variable
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also, plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

**2.2.2 Level of Service Standards**

Once a community’s existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard for each park type and existing park acreage. While there is no formally established method to determine the level of service provided by the existing facilities, the following parameters should be considered.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Social Environmental Economic</b>
<b>Acreage/Miles</b>	<b>Population standards (Acres/1000 population) Benchmarking</b>
<b>Facilities, Activities, Capacity</b>	<b>Population standards Demographic Analysis Neighborhood area activities Supply/Demand</b>
<b>Access</b>	<b>Walking/Bicycling/Driving, Transit Parks/Facilities</b>
<b>Quality</b>	<b>Evaluation Mapping/Distribution</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Relevancy, quality, and variety Scheduling</b>

The widely accepted NRPA standard for park acreage per 1,000 population is 10.5 acres. It is recommended that this acreage be distributed among park types as follows:

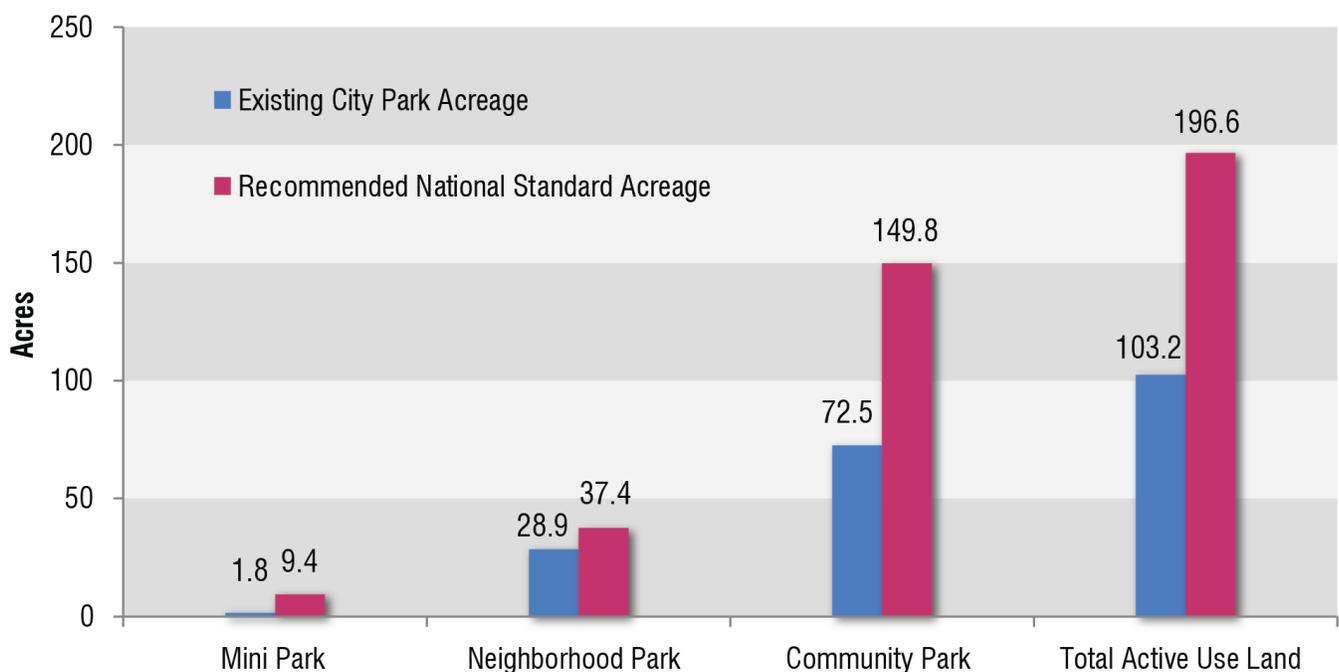
Table 2.2 NRPA Recommended Park Standards	
Mini Parks	0.5 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	8 acres/1,000 population
<hr/>	
Total	10.5 acres/1,000 population

Existing park acreage totals in Wisconsin Rapids compared to NRPA standards are shown in **Chart 2.1**. Applying the ratios from **Table 2.2** to the City’s estimated 2020 population of 18,721, the park acreage standards (shown as the red bars in **Chart 2.1**) are established. The City is below the national standards in terms of mini park, neighborhood park, community park and total park areas. In order to meet the standard for total park acreage, the City would have to add 93.4 acres of total active-use park land distributed among the three park types. It should be noted that only City owned, active use parks are used in this calculation. Conservancy parks, special-use parks, County parks and school parks are not counted toward the NRPA standard.

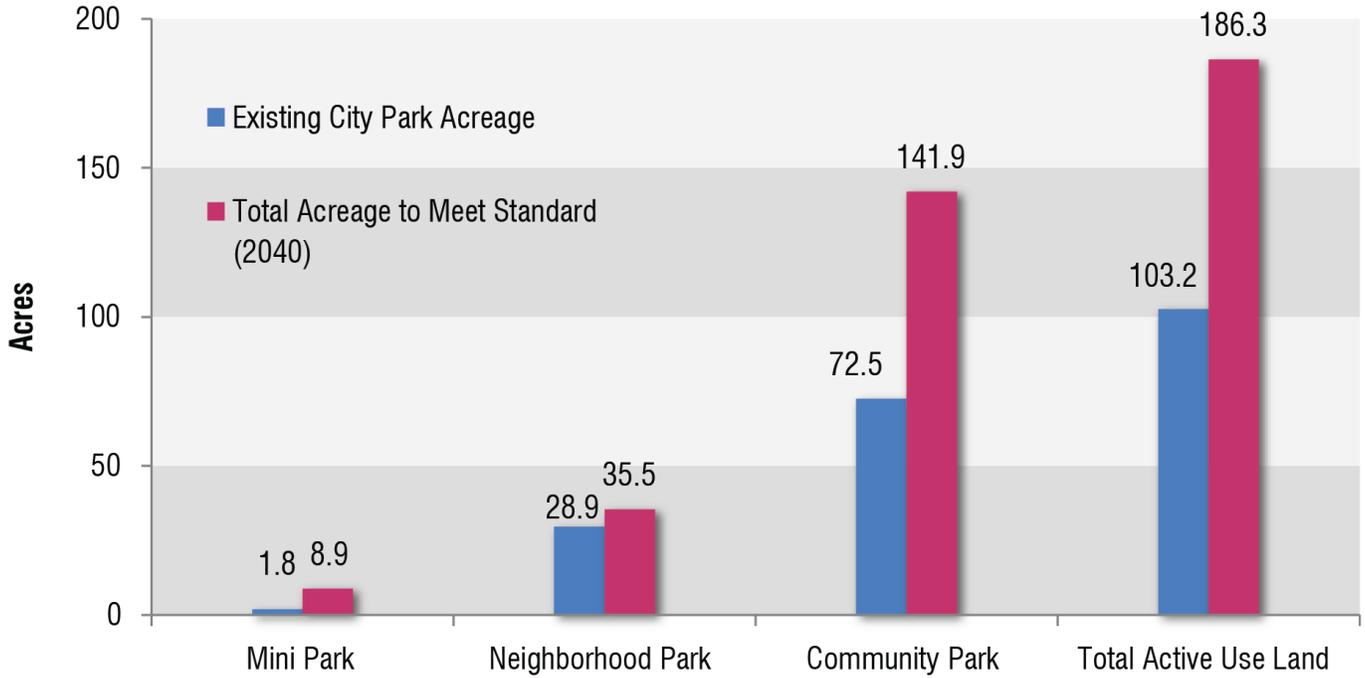
**Chart 2.2** uses the 2040 population projection (Wisconsin Department of Administration) of 17,740 residents and compares current acreage figures to future standards. Using this population measure, the City would require slightly less park acreage due to the predicted lower population levels. The City would require an additional 83.1 acres of total active-use park land to serve the 2040 population (see **Chart 2.3**).

The NRPA acreage standards should be seen as only one tool by which to measure a community’s overall park level of service. Several other factors contribute to the value of parks in addition to overall acreage. The number of amenities in parks, the type of amenities in parks and the age makeup of the community are just a few other factors that must be considered when estimating the service level of a park system.

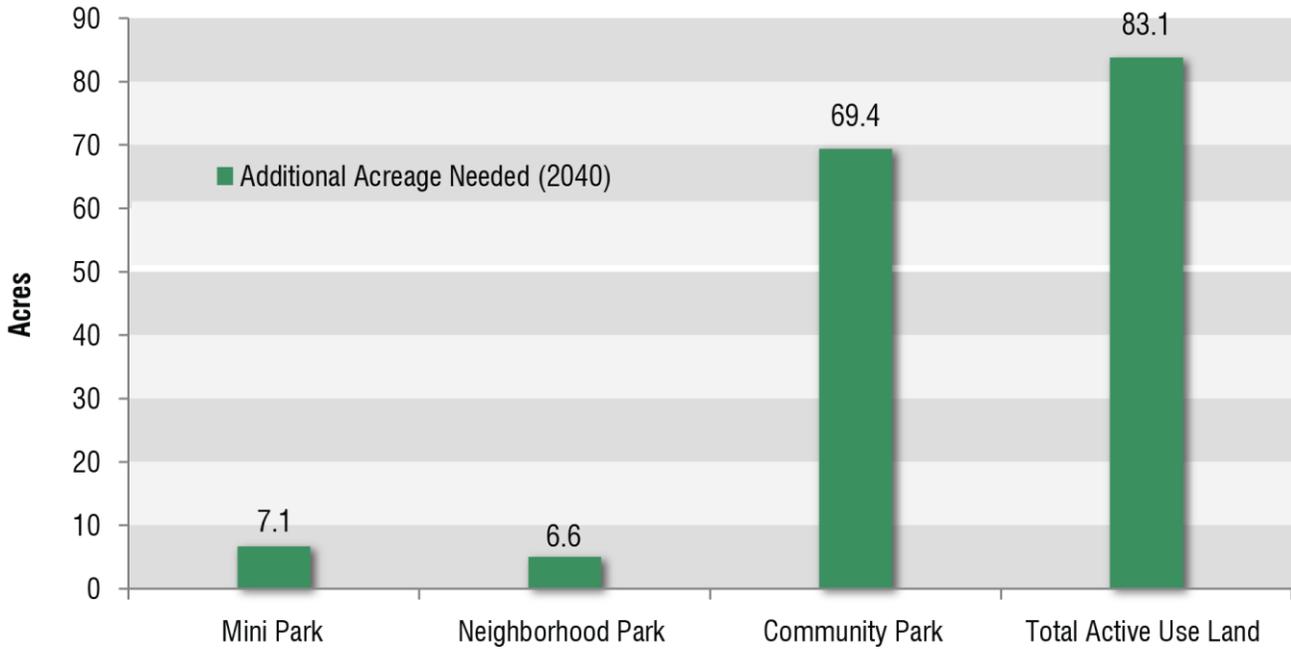
**Chart 2.1 – Wisconsin Rapids park acreage compared to the recommended national standard**



**Chart 2.2** – Wisconsin Rapids park acreage compared to the 2040 population projection

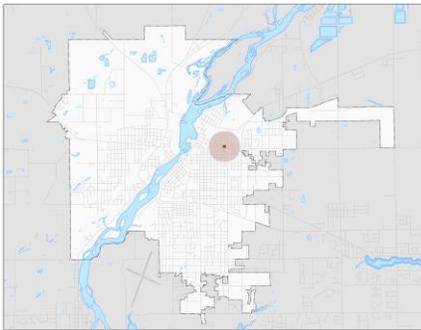


**Chart 2.3** – Additional park acreage needed to serve forecasted 2040 City population

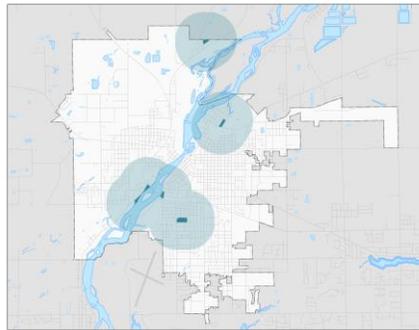


### 2.3 Park Service Area Requirements

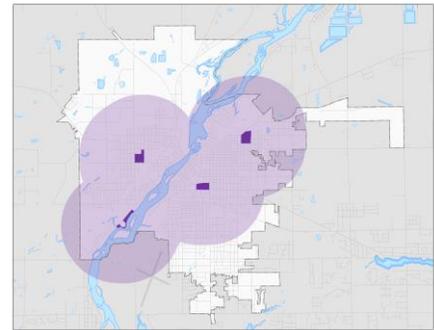
This method of evaluating a community’s parkland needs and adequacy of service includes plotting park service areas on a base map to identify areas that are underserved. Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for City owned mini, neighborhood and community parks. The three maps below show park service radii isolated by park type.



Mini Park Service Areas

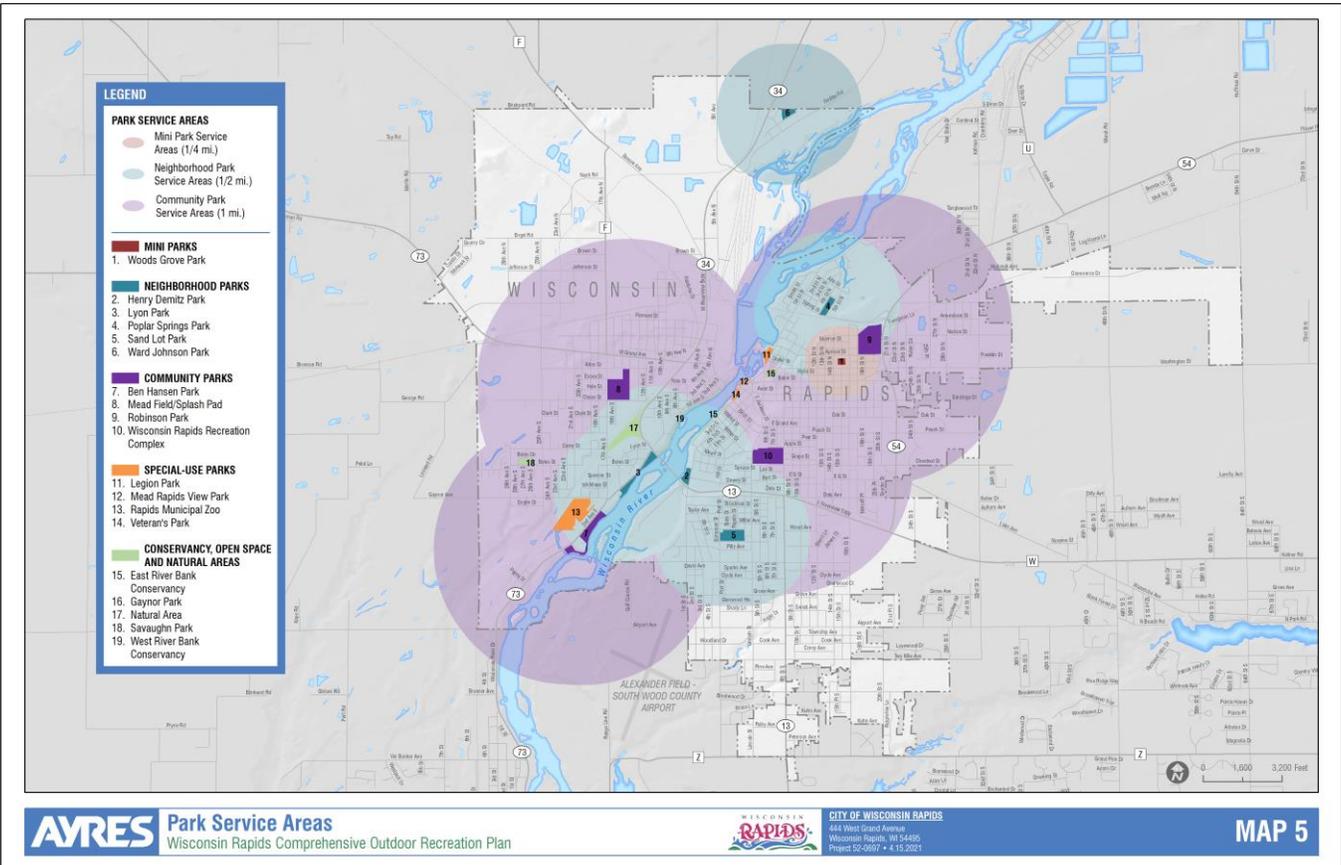


Neighborhood Park Service Areas



Community Park Service Areas

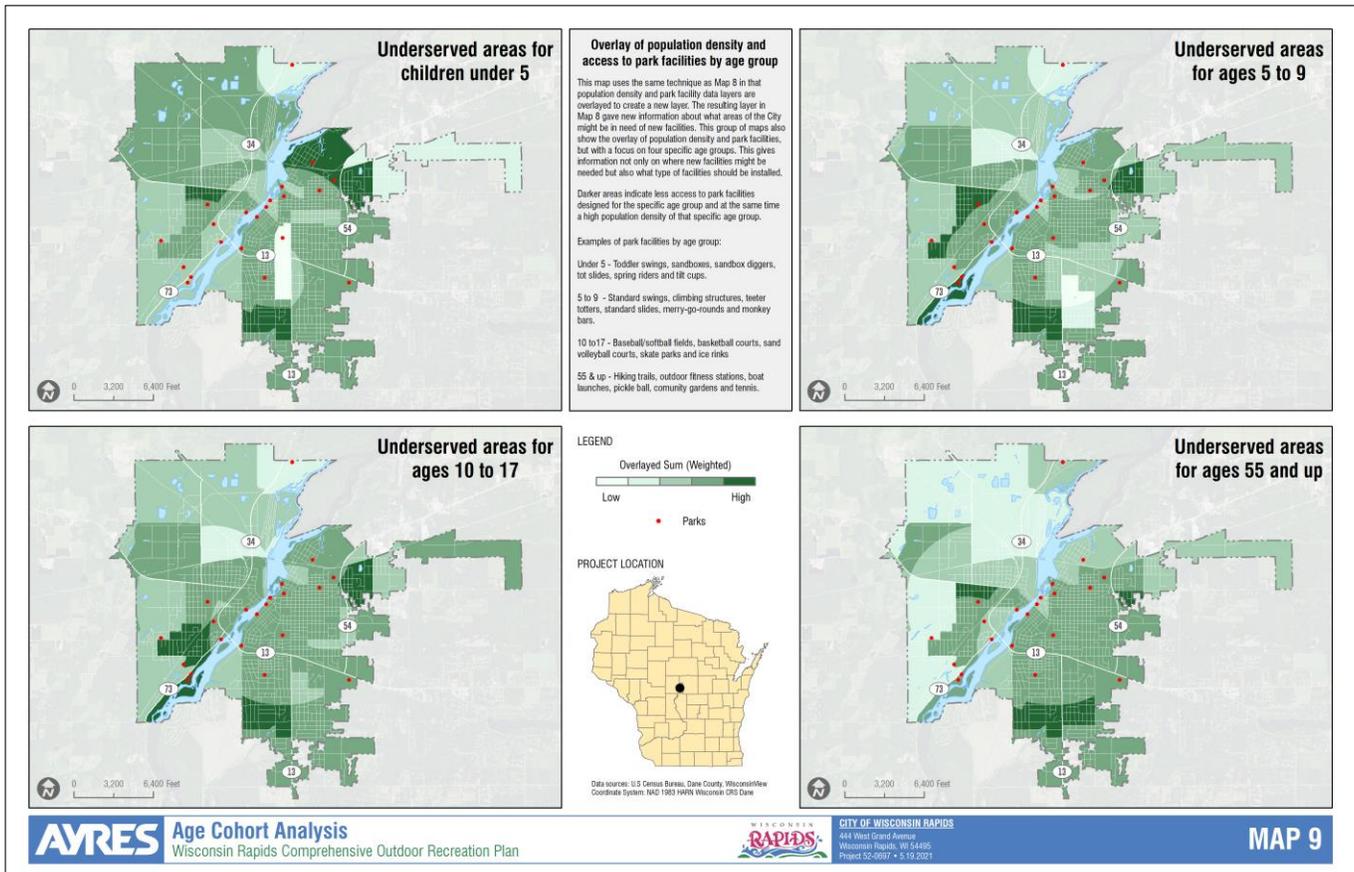
The park service area buffers were combined into a single map that can be found in **Appendix B, Map 5**. Park service area analysis reveals good coverage in the most populated areas of the City. Coverage gaps exist however, in the northwest and southeast portions of the City. These service area gaps should be considered as potential locations for future parks. It should be noted that school parks were not included in this analysis and could potentially provide recreational opportunities to residents in these service area gaps. Techniques such as GIS overlay analysis in the following section can help with the visualization process to better understand these potentially underserved areas.



SEE FULL SIZE MAP 5 IN APPENDIX B

## 2.4 GIS Age Cohort Analysis

Age cohort analysis was developed to help prioritize improvements based on the distribution of residents by age and the availability of recreation facilities by geographic location. The methodology includes the layering of data on a map (See **Map 9 in Appendix B**). The result is a graduated scale of relative need or “priority” based on the absence of a particular set of amenities we would expect an age group to utilize. The map is used to identify areas of spatial mismatch where parks containing certain amenities are not located in neighborhoods containing user groups best suited for those amenities. For example, if an area contains a high percentage of toddlers (age 2-5) but does not contain toddler-aged play equipment, the priority rating would be “high” because the area lacks the amenities to serve that population.



SEE FULL SIZE MAP 9 IN APPENDIX B

The analysis was used for four populations\*:

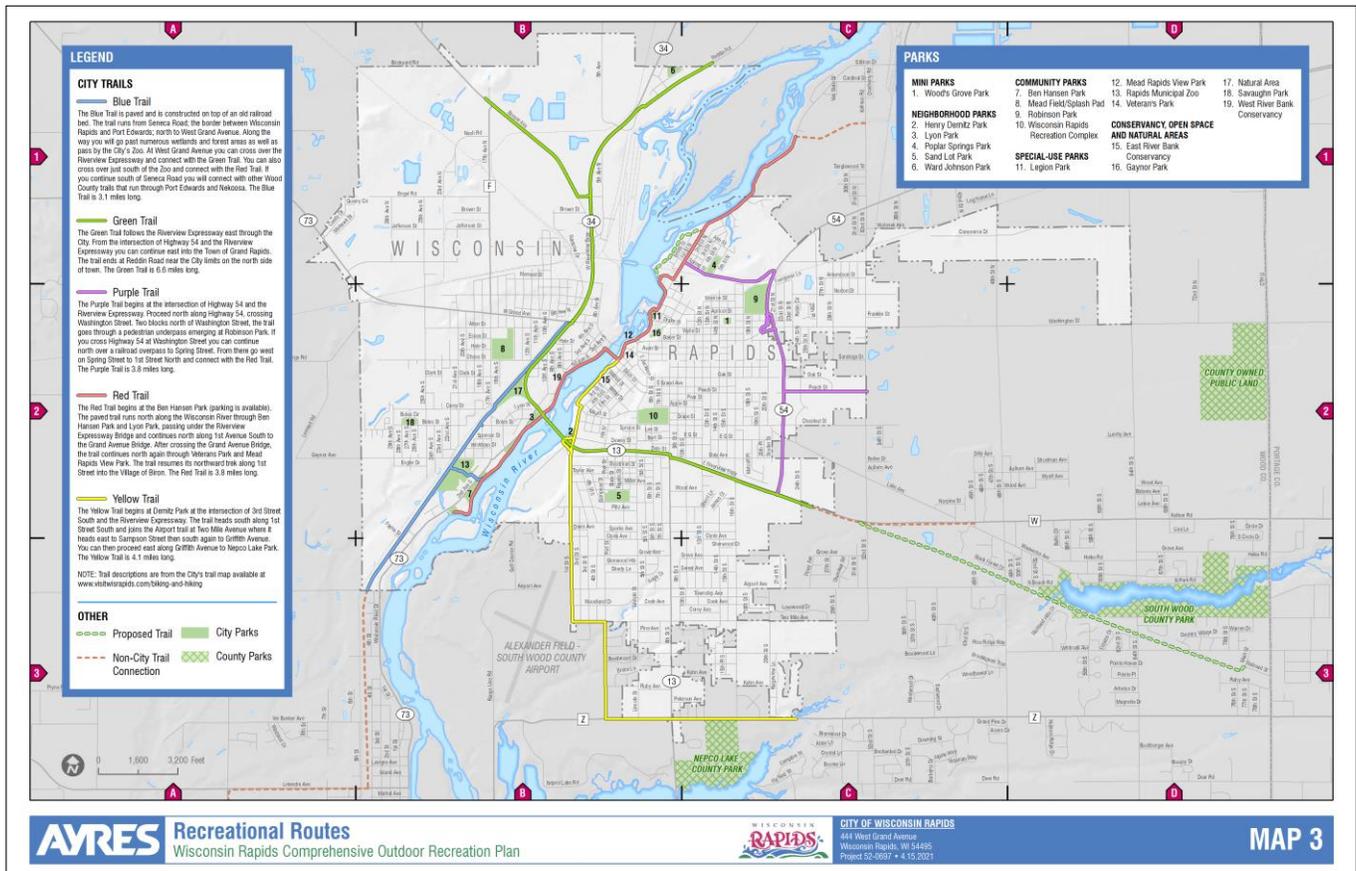
1. **Under 5 years of age:** toddlers are best served by play equipment such as sandboxes, toddler swings, tot slides, spring riders, and tilt cups.
2. **Ages 5 to 9:** this group can be expected to use play equipment such as swings, climbing structures, teeter totters, merry-go-rounds and monkey bars.
3. **Ages 10 to 17 years of age:** this group can be served by a variety of park facilities. Amenities evaluated for this population include facilities related to baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, skateboarding and ice skating.
4. **Age 55+:** service to this this group included facilities such as hiking trails, outdoor fitness stations, boat launches, pickle ball and tennis.

\* The four age groups shown represent groups with specific recreational needs separate from the overall population. They were chosen to see if there is a lack in recreational amenities for those specific groups outside of the need for amenities for the overall population. Areas of overall population needs can be found on **Map 8**.

## 2.5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections

Park inventories revealed a lack of ADA access to some park facilities and playgrounds. This is an important consideration for residents who have mobility limitations and require additional accommodation. Barrier-free access to many of the facilities can be accommodated by solutions such as constructing paths linking parking lots to facilities or installing curb cuts to allow easy access for pedestrians from the street to the park. This is discussed further in Chapter 3.

The City’s trail network provides excellent coverage of Wisconsin Rapids and linkages to neighboring communities. One possible improvement that the City has already begun addressing, is an update to the trail wayfinding signage. As discussed in Chapter 1.3.3, the City’s Recreational and Downtown Wayfinding and Signage recommends the placement of new wayfinding signage to help trail users better navigate the trail system. See Chapter 3 for recommendations related to trail wayfinding. Park inventories also showed a need for additional or improved bike racks in some parks.



SEE FULL SIZE MAP 3 IN APPENDIX B

## 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter includes a variety of recommendations specifically developed to meet the needs of the community over the next five years. The recommendations incorporate local citizen input and have been developed as a result of extensive analysis and participation by City staff as presented in the preceding chapters.

General recommendations are provided for direction on policy and design considerations while considering operational and maintenance procedures. This chapter also includes a detailed park inventory sheet for each City park including general issues, possible improvement options and costs. This chapter is divided into the following sections:

**3.1 General Recommendations:** System-wide policies and procedures

**3.2 Future Parks and Open Spaces:** Identification of general locations for new park land that would best serve the community

**3.3 Individual Park Recommendations:** an inventory sheet has been provided for each City Park (includes inventory and park improvement options)



### 3.1 General Recommendations

#### 3.1.1 Park Facility Recommendations

Several common issues were noted during the planning process resulting from observations made during site visits, meetings with City staff and community input. Those issues and recommendations for improvements related to those issues are listed below:

##### 1. ADA Accessibility

Site visits revealed that some parks did not provide ADA accessibility to park facilities such as playground equipment, picnic shelters and sports courts. It was also observed that some of the support components at City parks (picnic tables, drinking fountains, etc.) were not ADA approved models.

Recommendations:

- Conduct an ADA audit system-wide and develop a prioritized action plan to address documented issues.

- Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible (when possible). This includes assuring barrier-free access to all play areas, shelters, river access points, seating areas and restrooms.
- Where possible with existing infrastructure, assure that all parks are improved with ADA approved drinking fountains, picnic tables and other park components.



Examples of an ADA approved picnic table and drinking fountain.

## 2. Parking Lot Surfacing

Some of the parking lots in the system are showing signs of wear such as cracked asphalt, faded parking striping and potholes.

- Recommendations:
  - Resurface and restripe parking lots at Ben Hansen Park, Lyon Park, Mead Field, Robinson Park and Witter Field.



Parking Lot at Lyon Park

## 3. Aging Play Equipment

Park inventories revealed that some of the City's playground equipment is showing signs of age and will need to be replaced in the near future. Playground surfacing should be replaced in conjunction with replacement of play features.

- Recommendations:
  - This plan recommends the replacement of play equipment in four City parks during the five-year period after its adoption. After that period, another set of parks will likely need to have playground equipment replaced. We recommend this staggered approach to replacing playground equipment to avoid the situation in which all playgrounds begin to have equipment fail at the same time.

- Play equipment condition for each park was noted during site visits. The following table was prepared to inventory play equipment condition from “Needs Replacement” to “Excellent”. All play equipment in the “Needs Replacement” category is recommended to be replaced in this plan. The play equipment found to be in “Fair” condition will likely be due to be replaced when this plan expires in five years.

Park Type	Park	Condition of Play Structures (Excellent, Good, Fair or Needs Replacement)
Neighborhood	Lyon Park	Needs Replacement
	Poplar Springs Park	Good
	Sand Lot Park	Fair
	Ward Johnson Park	Needs Replacement
Community	Ben Hansen Park	Good
	Mead Field/Splash Pad	Needs Replacement
	Robinson Park	Fair
	WRRC	Excellent
Special-Use	Rapids Municipal Zoo	Needs Replacement

#### 4. Park and Wayfinding Signage

The City recently completed a Recreational and Downtown Wayfinding and Signage plan that calls for an update to all park identification signs (See Chapter 1.3.3) in City parks. The plan also recommends updating the City’s trail wayfinding signage to more effectively help trail users navigate the trail network.

- Recommendations:
  - Replace park identification signage in all City parks with a style of sign consistent with those in the design intent drawings completed for the signage plan.
  - Install trail wayfinding signage with a style of sign consistent with those in the design intent drawings completed for the signage plan. This plan recommends updating existing wayfinding signage and maps in City parks including Ben Hansen Park, Veteran’s Park, East River Bank Conservancy, West River Bank Conservancy and the natural area along the Blue Trail. Wayfinding signage should also be installed at critical areas along the trail network including trail intersections, destinations and public facilities.



Park and wayfinding signage design intent examples from the signage plan.

## 5. Commonly Requested Facilities from the Community Survey

The community survey developed for this plan was completed by 480 individuals and some common desires for improvements to City parks were discovered (See Chapter 1.4.3). 58% of survey participants identified a dog park as a facility which was needed in the City. This was the top facility identified by citizens as something the City needed more of in the future. Other items high in public demand included restroom improvements, trail improvements, community gardens and facilities for adolescents.

- Recommendations:
  - **Dog Park:** Develop a dog park at a proposed or existing City park. This plan recommends the development of a new park on a 17-acre, City-owned property on Norton Street, east of Robinson Park. A concept plan for this site was prepared and can be found in **Appendix C**. In addition to a bike skills course, a fenced dog exercise area would occupy approximately three acres of the site. Alternative sites for a dog park at existing parks include Robinson Park, Ben Hanson Park or Poplar Springs Park.
  - **Restroom improvements:** New restroom facilities are recommended at Ben Hanson Park, Henry Demitz Park, Lyon Park and Robinson Park.
  - **Trail Improvements:** As discussed earlier, trail wayfinding improvements are proposed to enhance the experience of users of the City's trail network. Internal park trails/paths are also being recommended in many of the City's parks to provide improved access to park facilities and to meet ADA accessibility standards. Bike trails, including a bike skills course, are being recommended at the proposed park conceptually illustrated in **Appendix C**.
  - **Community Garden:** A community garden is recommended at Ben Hansen Park.
  - **Facilities for Adolescents:** A basketball court is proposed at Mead Field adjacent to the tennis courts.

## 6. Refine Parkland Dedication Ordinance

The City's parkland dedication ordinance is discussed in Chapter 4.2.1 and can be found in Chapter 12, Section 6 of the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Code. The language could be refined to hold developers to some measurable requirements for the development of park land in new residential or commercial developments. Some communities require a fixed acreage of park land developed for a corresponding acreage of residential or commercial parcels. Developer impact fees may also be collected in lieu of parkland creation for developers that don't meet the park acreage requirements.

## 7. Update and Standardize Trash and Recycling Receptacles

Many City parks are using 55-gallon metal drums as trash receptacles. These drums have began rusting and are difficult for City staff to empty as well as being aesthetically unpleasing. In addition, many parks don't have recycling receptacles available. Some parks that have had recent improvements (Henry Demitz, East River Bank Conservancy) have had a new style of receptacle installed. It is recommended that a similar style of trash and recycling receptacle be install at the approximately 15 parks that are still using the steel drums

### 3.1.2 Promotion/Education

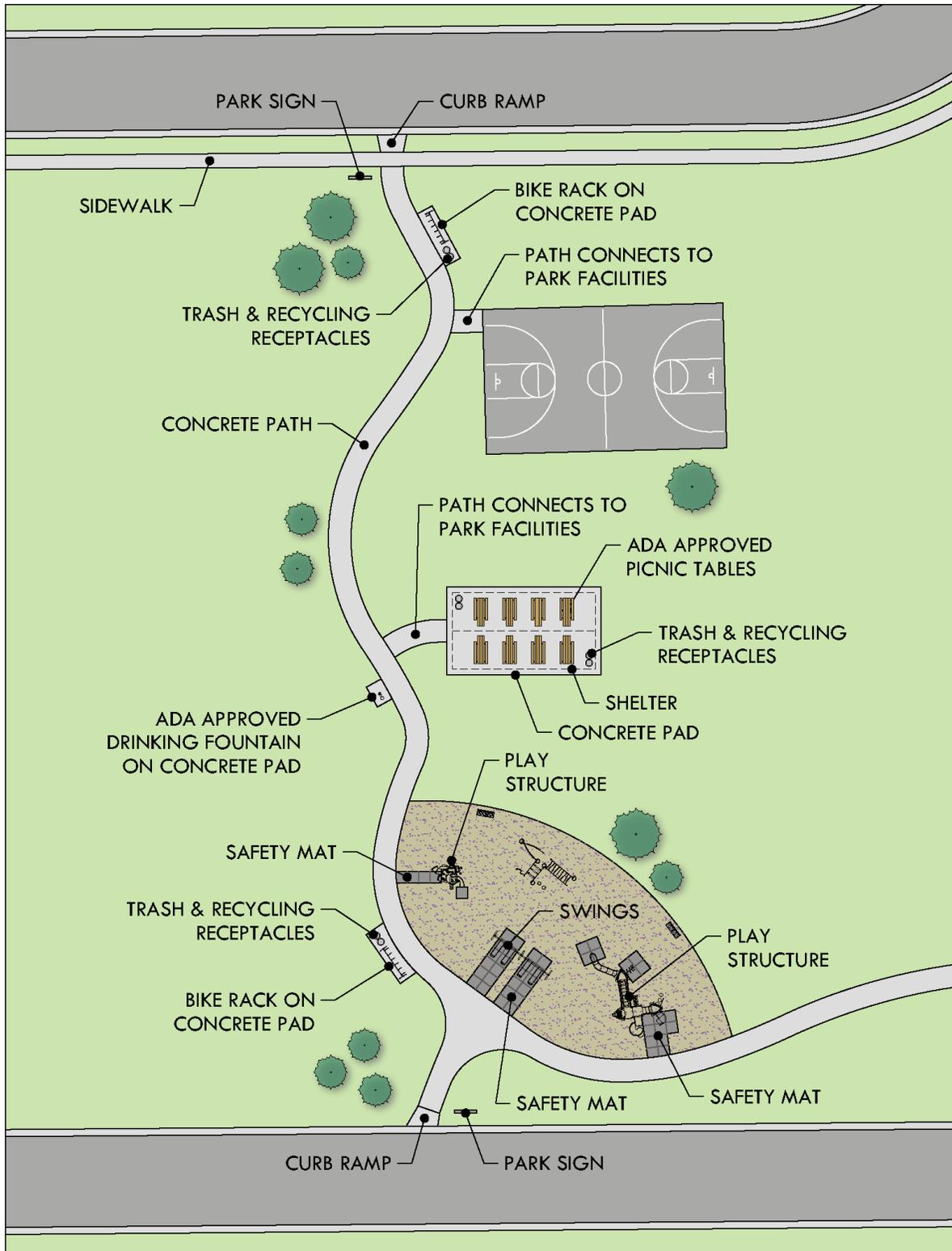
- a. In conjunction with the update to the community-wide wayfinding system, regularly update all bicycle and park system maps as new facilities are developed. Make maps available on the City's website with hard copies available at public facilities and bike shops.
- b. Continue to communicate with user groups over facility updates and promote donations and formalized use agreements for maintenance.
- c. Utilize electronic marquee signs and other displays to announce and promote special events, prices or programs. For example, facilities such as the Aquatic Center could benefit from variable message signs to promote future events and available programming. This plan recommends coordinating with user groups and/or advertisers to offset costs and install marquees when budgets, grants, or fundraising allow for purchase and installation.
- d. Improve the parks location map on the City website to include interactive content and link to site maps for each park illustrating site layout and amenities.
- e. Invite private partner groups to participate in periodic park update meetings to keep participation and awareness high for ongoing project endeavors.

### 3.1.3 Environmentally Sustainable Practices

- a. Trash and recycling receptacles should be evenly distributed throughout City parks. The method of collection should also be used to determine receptacle locations. Placement of trash receptacles near sitting benches, for example is not preferred since it may discourage use of the benches or the trash receptacle.
- b. Manage potential Emerald Ash Borer infestations in ash trees in City parks with replacement of removed trees, treatment of trees in key locations and pre-emptive removals. If a tree is removed on private land and the land owner does not want a replacement tree, the tree will be planted in a City park.
- c. Consider integrating rain gardens and bio-retention facilities, rain barrels and other stormwater best management practices into existing facilities and proposed improvements.
- d. Consider adopting a "grow not mow" policy in City parks to limit how often (and what portions of) parks are mowed. Adding a day or more to the mowing cycle and preserving natural grasslands in parks can reduce the amount of fossil fuels consumed in City operations. These new grasslands can also function as natural buffers around shoreland and wooded areas, help reduce soil erosion and act as a geese deterrent.
- e. There are a variety of operational and maintenance activities that often can be accomplished for less cost. Fuel is a big expense, prompting some communities to have strict idling policies that restrict how long a municipal vehicle can remain running before it is turned off. Similarly, warming up vehicles should be limited – an example would be restricting warm up to no more than five minutes.
- f. When replacing and/or installing new lighting in City parks, consider fixtures that utilize solar regeneration and LED illumination to reduce long-term maintenance costs and minimize non-renewable energy use.

### 3.1.4 Best Practices for Park Facility Development

The following graphic illustrates some of the “best practices” for the type of park improvements recommended in this plan. Typical ADA requirements call for barrier free access to all park facilities. Hardscape paths, playground safety mats and ADA approved support components are examples of good design for accessibility. Other examples of necessary elements for general park design include bicycle parking, trash/recycling receptacles and park signage.



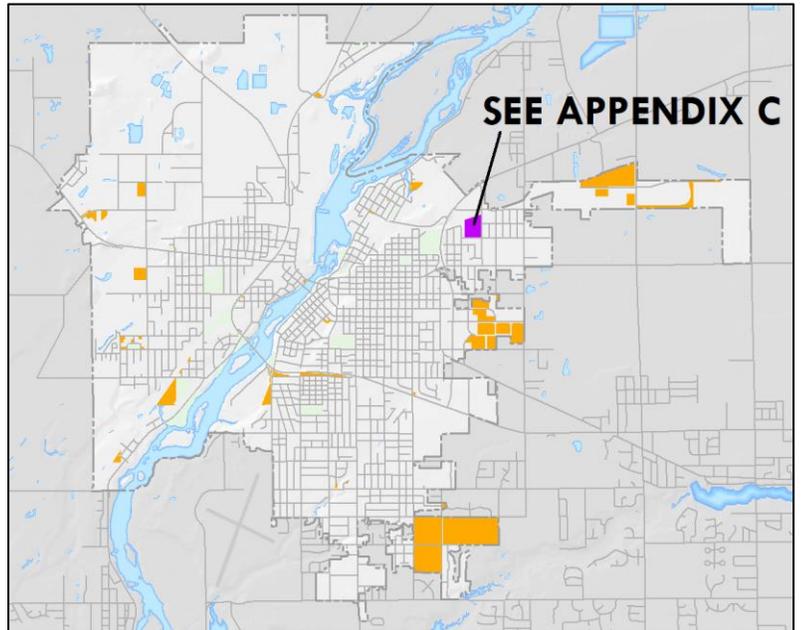
## 3.2 Future Parks and Open Spaces

### 3.2.1 Future Park Locations

As calculated in Chapter 2, Wisconsin Rapids will need an additional 83 acres of total active use park land to satisfy 2040 population demands. The majority of that additional land (69 acres) needed is of the community park classification.

The map to the right shows City-owned, undeveloped parcels shaded in orange. The City currently owns 375 acres on 207 parcels of undeveloped land within the City limits. Nine of those 207 parcels are over 10 acres in size, making them potential candidates for the development of a community park. 17 parcels are between 3 and 10 acres (neighborhood park size) and the remaining are under 3 acres making them potential sites for mini park development.

The area shown in purple is a 17-acre property which is a recommended site for the development of a new City park including bike trails and a dog park. A conceptual plan for the development of this park can be found in **Appendix C**. The facilities chosen for this park represent the desires of the community reflected in the results of the online survey prepared for this plan.



*Undeveloped, City-owned parcels.*

### 3.2.2 Park Layout Concept /Park Master Plans

Prior to construction of a proposed park, a master plan should be prepared to guide development. This same process should be repeated for any park if significant improvements are planned. The goal of the master plan is to determine what type of improvements are possible in the given space and to provide a layout for the development of those improvements.



*Park Master Plan Graphic Example*

The process for development of a park master plan includes research and data collection to identify drainage patterns, topography and other site features. After this initial reconnaissance, a public meeting is held to gather input on preferred park programming and amenities. Following this community engagement, concept development plans are created and cost estimates are prepared. These concept plans are further refined through public feedback and staff discussions into a final graphic and summary report.

### 3.3 Individual Park Recommendations

The following section discusses more detailed recommendations for each park. These recommended improvements are based on issues identified in site visits and comments from residents and local officials. Improvement options identified for each park are included in the 5-Year Capital Improvements Table in Chapter 4.

Each park’s inventory sheets contain the location of the park, existing facilities, observed issues and recommendations for improvements. Not all improvements can be made in the next five years and many require substantial investment in the form of time, money or human capital to implement. Improvement recommendations should be viewed as options that could occur to mitigate, improve or promote aspects of the park site.

A sample inventory sheet (shown below) illustrates how information is presented on each park sheet. Park sheets are presented by parkland classifications devised by the National Recreation and Park Association as identified in Chapter 2.

**PARK NAME**

## Poplar Springs Park

Poplar Springs Park is a 4.4-acre neighborhood park on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Poplar Street and Springs Street. The park includes a sledding hill, a playground and a soccer field.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Sledding hill
- Sandlot backstop
- Soccer field
- Play structure (5 to 12-year old)
- Swings (1 belt, 1 tot)
- Open space
- Dog waste station

**Programs, Events & Revenue Generators**

- Youth Soccer

**Maintenance Program**

- Mowing
- Trash collection

**Improvement Options & Estimate**

Construct small parking lot	\$12,000
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000
Install drinking fountain	\$10,000
Construct concrete or asphalt path from proposed parking lot to playground	\$3,500
Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment	\$3,000
Install recycling receptacle	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,500</b>

**IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS**

**PARK SITE IMAGE**

**PARK DESCRIPTION & LOCATION**

**PARK CLASSIFICATION**

**PARK AERIAL**



# MINI PARKS





# Woods Grove Park

Woods Grove Park is a 1.7-acre mini park south of Apricot Street between 14<sup>th</sup> Street N and 16<sup>th</sup> Street N. The park consists of a sandlot baseball backstop and open space. The site was being used as a staging area for utility construction on 15<sup>th</sup> Street at the time this plan was being prepared.

### Existing Facilities:

- Sandlot backstop
- Open space
- Regulatory signage

### Issues:

- Lack of facilities (active-use facilities & support components)
- No park sign
- No clear entry point or park boundary. Hard to distinguish between private property or park.



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

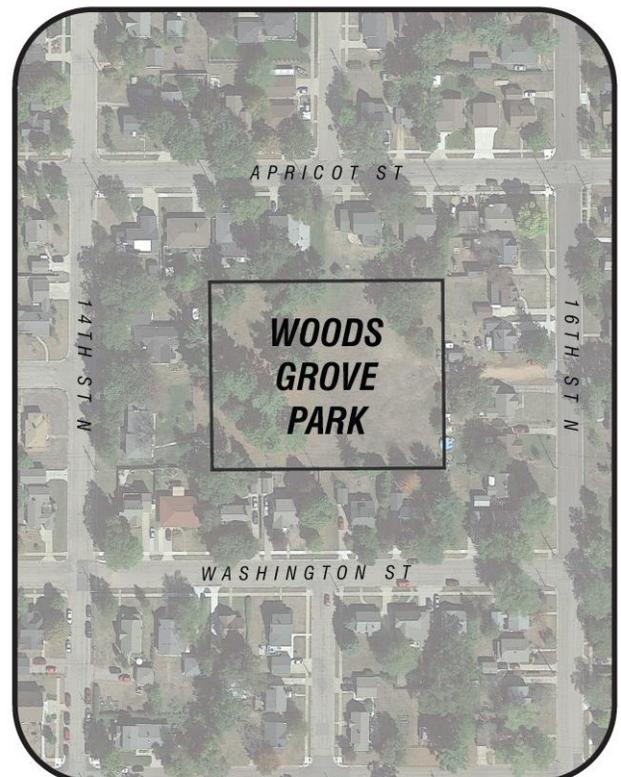
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Install 2 to 12-year old play structure .....\$65,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt path from park entrance to proposed play structure .....\$12,500
- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install benches (2) .....\$3,000
- Install trash and recycling receptacles .....\$2,000

**TOTAL \$92,500**



# Woods Grove Park

## Site Photos:







# NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS





# Henry Demitz Park

Henry Demitz Park is a 3.5-acre neighborhood park at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and East Riverview Expressway. Recent park improvements include the addition of exercise stations, a fishing platform and a canoe launch.

### Existing Facilities:

- Exercise stations
  - Monkey Bar Ball Grip
  - Abdominal Bench
  - Push Up/Row
  - Captain's Chair
  - Plyometric Platforms
  - Pull Up/Dip
  - Balance Beam
- Fishing/observation platform
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Pergola
- Concrete paths
- Bike rack
- Bike station with pump and tools
- Benches
- Picnic tables (permanent/ADA)
- Grills
- Parking lot
- Trash/recycling receptacles

### Issues:

- No park sign
- No drinking fountain

### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

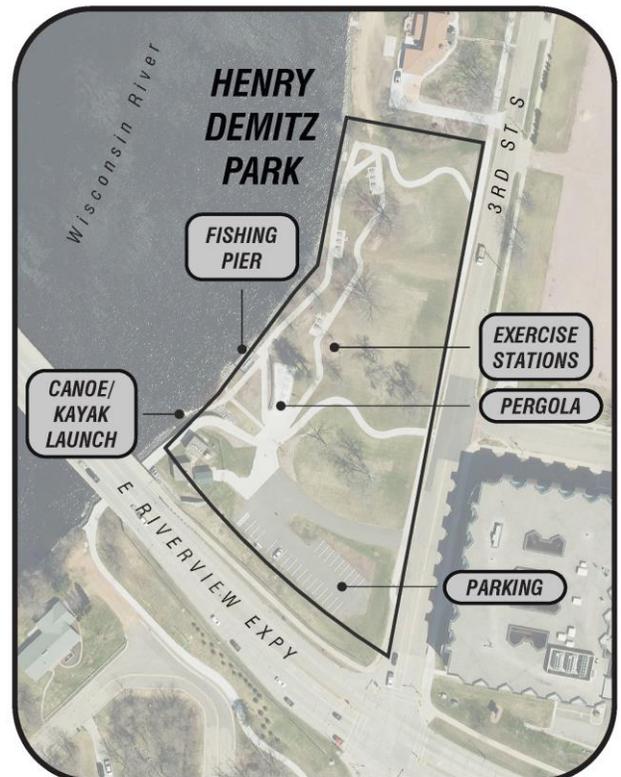
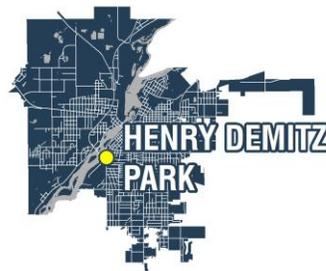
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month
- Landscape area maintenance two weeks per year

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Construct small restroom building .....\$80,000
- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000

**TOTAL \$100,000**



# Henry Demitz Park

## Site Photos:



Exercise stations



Bike rack



Canoe/kayak launch



Pergola



Pump and bike tools



Pull-up/dip station



# Lyon Park

Lyon Park is a 7.5-acre neighborhood park on the Wisconsin River south of East Riverview Expressway. Park facilities include a playground, a park shelter and open space. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the park and intersects with the Green Trail in the northeast corner of the park.

### Existing Facilities:

- Shelter
- Asphalt paths (Red and Green Trail)
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Swings (2 belt, 2 tot)
- Open space/natural area
- Restroom building
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Grill
- Parking lot
- Trash/recycling receptacles

- Park sign with planter
- Regulatory signage

### Issues:

- No ADA accessibility to park facilities
- Parking lot needs resurfacing/restriping
- No drinking fountain
- No ADA approved picnic tables
- Play equipment is aging
- Bench at playground is aging
- No bicycle parking

### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

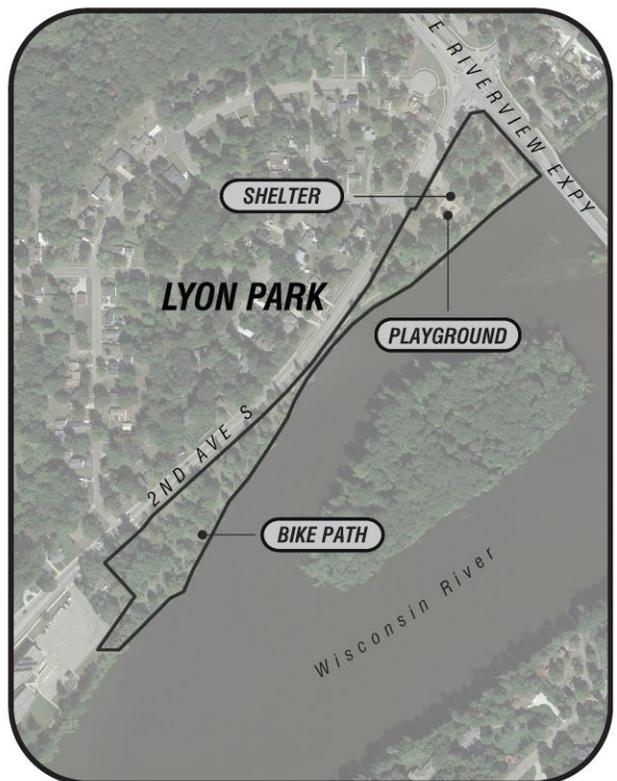
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Remove existing shelter and restroom building. Replace with combination shelter/restroom building .....\$150,000
- Install new play structure (2 to 12-year old) .....\$65,000
- Resurface/restripe parking lot .....\$25,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Construct asphalt or concrete path from parking lot connecting to park facilities including the playground, shelter and restroom building. ....\$6,000
- Replace 2 picnic tables at shelter with ADA approved models.....\$3,000
- Remove and replace bench at playground .....\$1,500
- Install bike rack on concrete pad .....\$1,500

**TOTAL \$272,000**



# Lyon Park

## Site Photos:



Shelter



Play structure



Play structure



Parking lot



Open space/natural area



Red Trail



# Poplar Springs Park

Poplar Springs Park is a 4.4-acre neighborhood park on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Poplar Street and Springs Street. The park includes a sledding hill, a playground and a soccer field.

### Existing Facilities:

- Sledding hill
- Sandlot backstop
- Soccer field
- Play structure (5 to 12-year old)
- Swings (1 belt, 1 tot)
- Open space
- Dog waste station

### Issues:

- No parking lot
- No park sign
- No ADA accessibility
- No drinking fountain
- No recycling receptacles
- No safety mats under play equipment. No mats or surfacing under swings.
- Minor damage to backstop



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

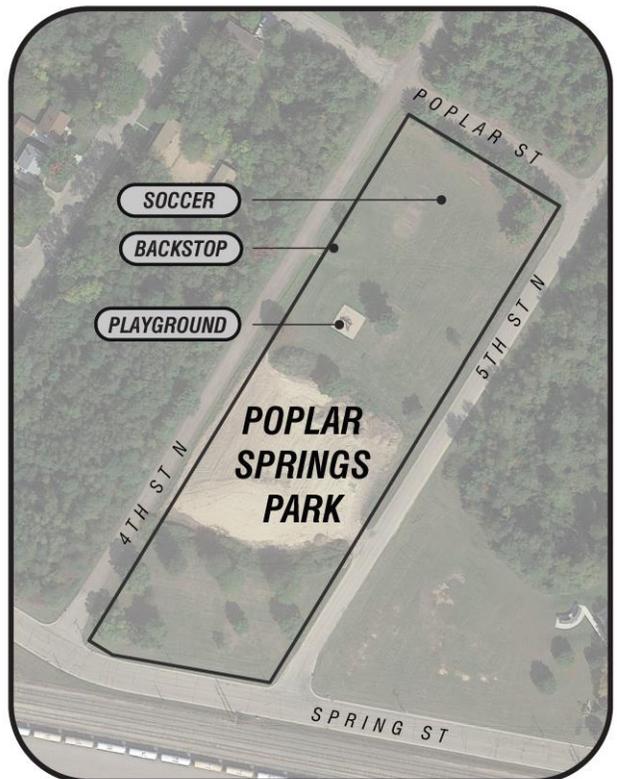
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Construct small parking lot .....\$12,000
- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt path from proposed parking lot to playground .....\$3,500
- Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment .....\$3,000
- Install recycling receptacle .....\$1,000

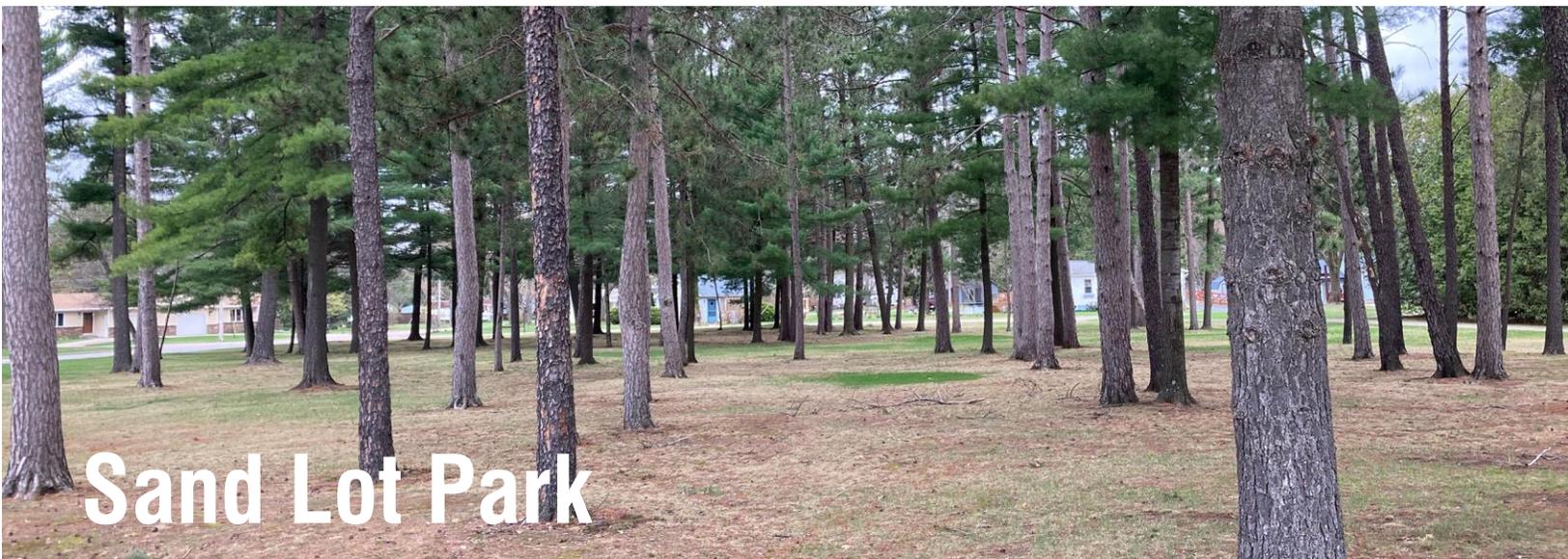
**TOTAL \$39,500**



# Poplar Springs Park

## Site Photos:





# Sand Lot Park

Sand Lot Park is a 9.9-acre neighborhood park on Wood Avenue between Sampson Street and Lincoln Street. Park facilities include youth ballfields, a basketball court and a rentable shelter.

## Existing Facilities:

- Youth baseball/softball fields (2)
- Parking lot
- Shelter/concessions/restroom building
- Basketball court
- Sand volleyball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Swings (2 belt, 2 tot)
- Asphalt paths
- Open space/natural area
- Drinking fountain
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Picnic tables
- Park sign
- Regulatory signage
- Bleachers
- Benches
- Bike racks

## Issues:

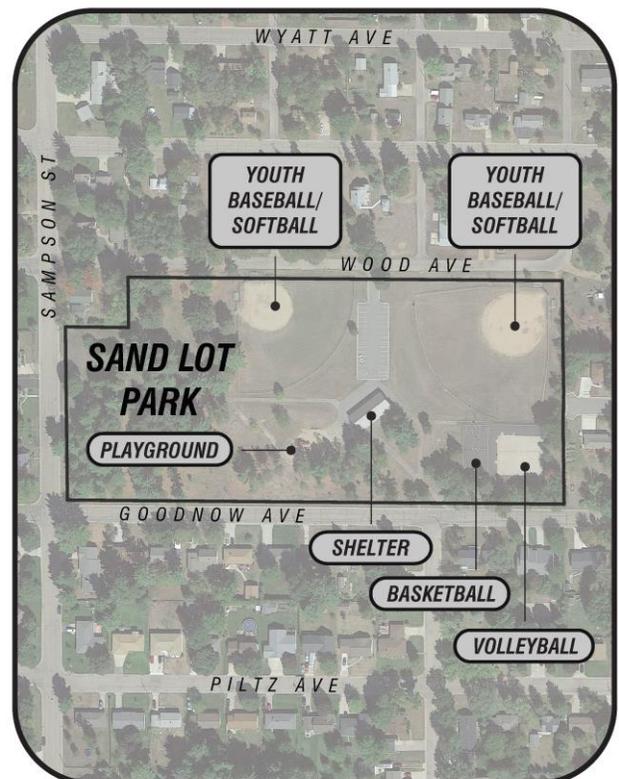
- No ADA approved picnic tables
- No horseshoe backboards
- Cracks in basketball court surface
- Bleachers are aging
- No team benches at east ballfield
- Bat racks damaged at west ballfield
- Aging team benches at west ballfield
- No ADA accessibility to bleacher areas at ballfields
- No safety mats at play structure
- Benches at play area are aging
- No safety surfacing under swings

## Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- Baseball/softball practice
- Shelter rentals (~\$2,000/year)

## Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month



# Sand Lot Park

## Improvement Options & Estimate

- Construct asphalt or concrete path to bleachers at ballfields to provide ADA access. ....\$40,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Replace bleachers .....\$6,000
- Replace benches at playground .....\$4,500
- Replace 3 picnic tables with ADA approved models .....\$4,500
- Replace/install team benches at ballfields .....\$4,000
- Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment .....\$3,000
- Install horseshoe backboards .....\$500
- Patch cracks in basketball court .....\$500
- Replace bat racks .....\$500

**TOTAL \$73,500**

## Sand Lot Park

### Site Photos:



# Sand Lot Park

Site Photos:





# Ward Johnson Park

Ward Johnson Park is a 3.7-acre neighborhood park on North Avenue east of Edgewood Place. Park facilities include a playground, a tennis court and a small sledding hill.

### Existing Facilities:

- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Swings (1 belt, 1 tot)
- Tennis court
- Sandlot backstop
- Basketball hoop
- Sledding hill
- Asphalt path
- Open space/natural area
- Park sign
- Regulatory signage
- Picnic table (ADA but not accessible)
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Dog waste station
- Memorial bench

### Issues:

- Safety mats under swings in poor condition
- Play equipment is aging
- Tennis court surface in poor condition
- Broken horizontal fence post at tennis court
- Gap at bottom of backstop
- Vegetation encroaching on backstop
- No ADA accessibility to some park facilities
- ADA picnic table should be on a hardscape surface
- No bicycle parking
- No drinking fountain

### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

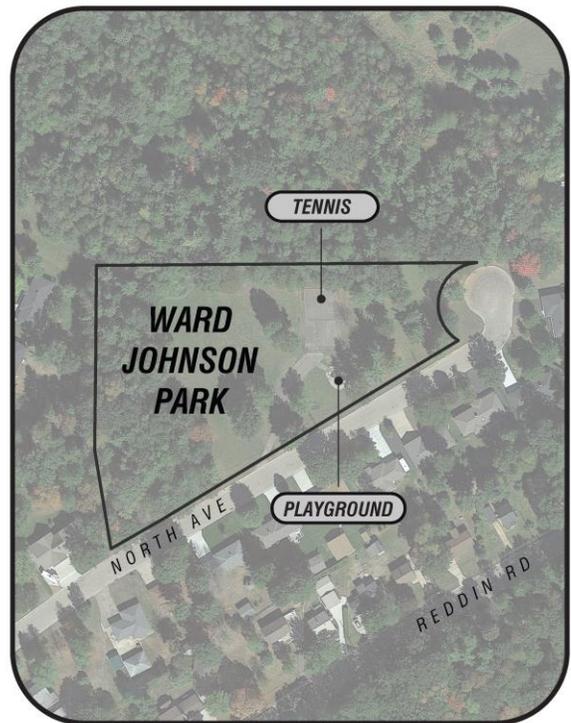
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly and string trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Replace play structure and safety surfacing .....\$65,000
- Repair and resurface tennis courts and stripe for tennis and pickleball.....\$12,000
- Repair or replace tennis court fencing. Install gate for ADA access .....\$12,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install bike rack on concrete pad .....\$1,500
- Replace safety mats under swings .....\$1,000
- Install baseboard at bottom of backstop fencing to close gap and prevent fence curling .....\$1,000
- Trim vegetation at sandlot backstop .....\$500
- Move picnic table to hardscape surface .....\$0

**TOTAL \$113,000**



# Ward Johnson Park

## Site Photos:







# COMMUNITY PARKS





# Ben Hansen Park

Ben Hansen Park is a 12.2-acre community park on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South adjacent to the Wisconsin River. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the park near the waterfront. Other park facilities include a boat launch, a playground and sand volleyball courts.

### Existing Facilities:

- Boat launch
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Asphalt path (Red Trail)
- Open space/natural areas
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Sand volleyball courts
- Shelter
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Park sign with planter
- Interpretive signage
- Regulatory signage
- City welcome sign
- Dog waste stations
- Trash receptacles
- Tree nursery

### Issues:

- No ADA facilities or accessibility
- No recycling receptacles
- Trail map is aging
- No safety mats under play equipment
- Parking lot striping is faded
- Parking lot resurfacing soon needed
- No drinking fountain
- No restrooms
- No bicycle parking

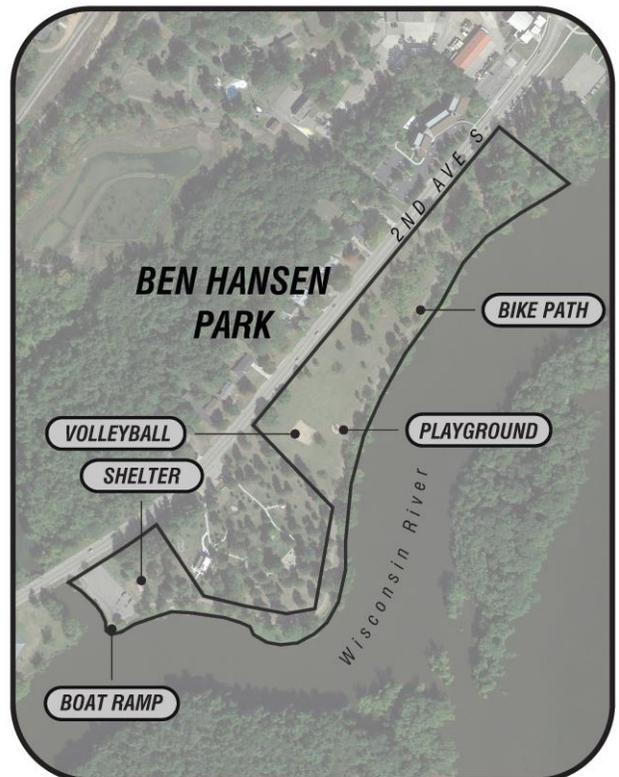


### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month



# Ben Hansen Park

## Improvement Options & Estimate

- Remove existing shelter and replace with combination shelter/restroom building .....\$150,000
- Resurface and restripe parking lot .....\$40,000
- Establish a community garden .....\$25,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Replace trail map with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000
- Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment .....\$3,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt path from Red Trail to play equipment to provide ADA access .....\$2,500
- Construct concrete or asphalt path from parking lot to shelter to provide ADA access .....\$2,500
- Install recycling receptacles (2) .....\$2,000
- Install bike rack on concrete pad .....\$1,500

**TOTAL \$256,500**

## Ben Hansen Park

### Site Photos:



Boat launch



Shelter



Park sign



Canoe/kayak launch



Play structure



Red Trail

# Ben Hansen Park

## Site Photos:



**Regulatory signage**



**Open space**



**No safety mats**



**Trees with donor plaques**



**Red Trail**



**Picnic tables**



# Mead Field/Splash Pad

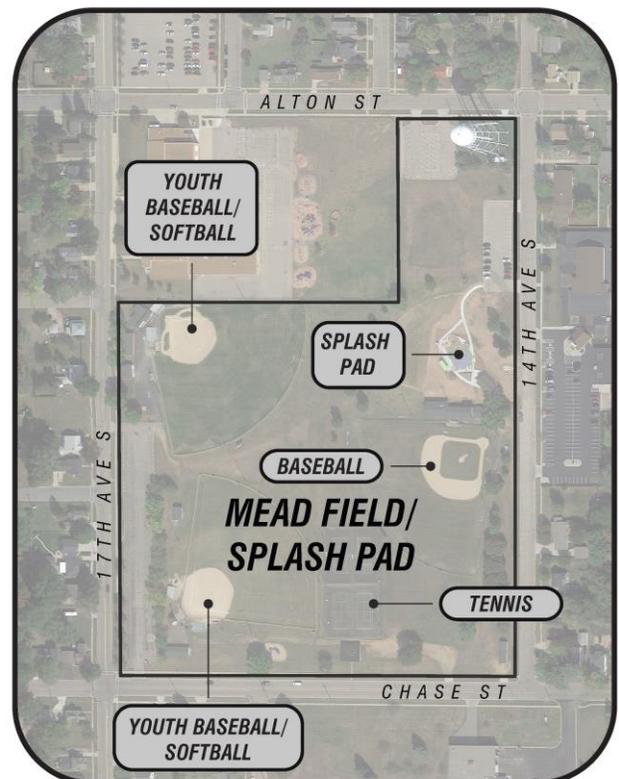
The Mead Field/Splash Pad recreation area is a 19.4-acre community park located at the intersection of Chase Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A splashpad was recently constructed to replace the pool facility formerly on the site. Other facilities include tennis courts, ball fields and a small playground.

## Existing Facilities:

- Baseball field
- Softball/youth baseball fields (2)
- Splash pad
- Tennis courts
- Splash pad restroom building/shelter
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Ice skating rink
- Baseball press box building (with shelter, concessions & restrooms)
- Women's softball concession/shelter building
- Softball press box
- Softball restroom building
- Press box building (north field)
- Storage buildings (north field)
- Scoreboards
- Field lighting
- Parking lots (4)
- Concrete path
- Permanent picnic tables (4)
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Drinking fountains
- Regulatory signage
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Bleachers
- Open space
- Storage buildings (2)
- Bike rack (north field)
- Park sign/gateway feature

## Issues:

- Parking striping is faded
- Parking lot resurfacing needed soon
- No ADA accessibility to some park facilities
- Bleachers are aging
- Bleachers should be on a concrete pad
- Team benches are aging
- Curled chain link at bottom of backstop on baseball field
- No ADA picnic tables at baseball shelter
- Center field fence at baseball field is bent (too close to tennis court fence)
- Heaving fence post footings at tennis court
- Tennis court surfacing in poor condition
- Play structure is aging
- Park shelters/press boxes/concession stands in need of touch ups. Repairs to siding, painting, etc.



# Mead Field/Splash Pad

### Issues (continued):

- Door to south ballfield press box is damaged
- Bleachers at south ballfield missing end cap(s)

### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Resurface and restripe parking lots .....\$100,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt path connecting parking lots to park facilities including ballfield bleacher areas, shelters, tennis courts and playground. ....\$70,000
- Replace play structure and safety surfacing .....\$65,000
- Replace bleachers at ballfields. Install bleachers at east and southwest fields on concrete pads .....\$25,000
- Resurface tennis courts. Restripe for tennis and pickleball. ....\$25,000
- Construct basketball court east of tennis courts .....\$12,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Repair shelters/press boxes/concession stands in need of touch ups. Repairs to siding, painting, damaged doors, etc. ....\$10,000
- Install ADA picnic tables at shelters (6) .....\$9,000
- Replace team benches at ballfields .....\$6,000
- Repair leaning center field fence at baseball field. Construct fencing to prevent “walk through” between tennis court and baseball field fencing .....\$2,500
- Install baseboard at bottom of backstop fencing at east ballfield to close gap and prevent fence curling .....\$1,000

**TOTAL \$335,500**

## Mead Field/Splash Pad

Site Photos:



Splash pad water cannons



Splash pad restrooms



Leaning outfield fence



Mead Field Sign



Splash pad spray features



Water Labyrinth

# Mead Field/Splash Pad

Site Photos:





# Robinson Park

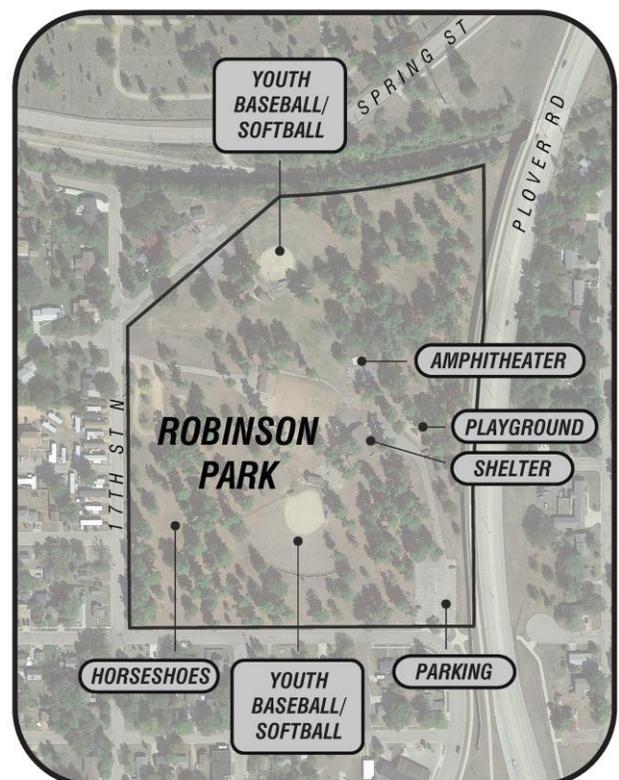
At 23.3 acres, Robinson Park is the largest City operated park. It is located on the northeast side of Wisconsin Rapids at the intersection of Apricot Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Some of the many park facilities include an amphitheater, ballfields and a large open-air shelter.

## Existing Facilities:

- Softball/youth baseball fields (2)
- Press box buildings (2)
- Batting cages (2)
- Amphitheater (with stage and seating)
- Disc golf course (9 holes)
- Large open-air shelter
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Skating rink
- Warming house
- Volleyball court
- Horseshoe pits
- Open space/natural areas
- Small shelter at ballfield
- Ping Pong table
- Parking lots (3)
- Restrooms
- Park sign with planters
- Regulatory signage
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Dumpster enclosure
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Bleachers
- Field lighting
- Bike rack

## Issues:

- Exposed concrete footings on play structure
- No safety mats at play structure
- Aging disc golf tee signage/map
- Some facilities are not ADA accessible
- No ADA picnic tables
- Some damaged concrete at amphitheater stage
- Damage to amphitheater seating
- Bleachers should be on a hard surface
- Bleachers are aging
- Faded parking striping
- Parking lot may soon need resurfacing
- Cracked asphalt near ping pong table
- More bicycle parking needed
- No restrooms
- No drinking fountains
- Exposed tree roots may be trip hazards
- Damaged bat rack



# Robinson Park

## Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- City Band (\$12,000)

## Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

## Improvement Options & Estimate

- Resurface and restripe south parking lot .....\$40,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt paths connecting main path to park facilities including ballfield seating areas, amphitheater and playground .....\$25,000
- Install ADA picnic tables at shelters (10) .....\$15,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install drinking fountain .....\$10,000
- Replace bleachers at ballfields. Install on concrete pads. ....\$6,000
- Add sand surfacing under play structure to cover exposed concrete footing near slide fall zone. Install safety mats to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment .....\$4,000
- Replace damaged amphitheater seating .....\$4,000
- Install new disc golf signage/maps .....\$2,000
- Repair damaged concrete at amphitheater .....\$2,000
- Install new bike rack on concrete pad .....\$1,500
- Replace damaged bat racks .....\$500

**TOTAL \$120,000**

# Robinson Park

## Site Photos:



Park shelter



Bleachers



Play structure



Exposed concrete footing at play structure



Disc golf



Park sign

# Robinson Park

## Site Photos:



Disc golf rules sign



Damaged concrete at amphitheater



Bike rack



Horseshoes



Parking lot



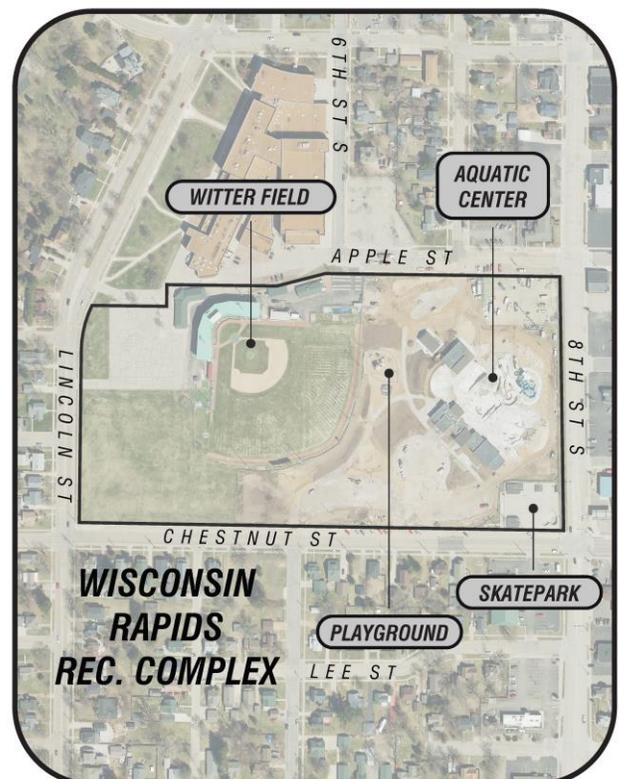
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# Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex

The Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex is a 17.6-acre community park on Chestnut Street between Lincoln Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Major improvements were recently completed on site including the City's new aquatic center, pickleball courts and a playground. The park is also the home of the Wisconsin Rapids Rafter, a Northwoods League baseball team that play their home games at historic Witter Field. Other park facilities include a skate park, multi-sport fields and a park shelter.

## Existing Facilities:

- Aquatic Center
  - Main building
  - Tot pool
  - Leisure pool
  - Recreation pool
  - Water slides
  - Lazy river
  - Zip line
  - Climbing wall
  - Diving board
  - Action channel
  - Basketball hoops
  - Water walk
  - Spray features
  - Shade structures
  - Picnic tables
- Witter Field
  - Baseball field
  - Rafter offices
  - Team shop
  - Grandstands
  - Fan deck
  - Press box
  - Scoreboard
  - Concessions
  - Shelter
  - Picnic tables
  - Bullpens
  - Batting cages
  - Field lighting
  - Play area
  - Sandbox
  - Clubhouse/restroom
- Skate park
- Pickleball courts
- Tennis court
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Splash pad
- Web climber
- Swings (2 belt, 2 tot)
- Puzzle panels
- Multi-sport fields/open space
- Sandlot backstop
- Park sign
- Regulatory signage
- Concrete paths
- Benches
- Parking lots (3)
- Drinking fountains
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Grill
- Picnic tables
- Park lighting
- Bike racks
- Trash/recycling receptacles



# Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex

### Issues:

- Aging asphalt pavement at Witter Field and adjacent parking lot
- Chipping paint at Witter Field grandstand
- Patched concrete at skatepark

### Notes:

Major improvements were recently completed including the aquatic center, the south parking lot, tennis/pickleball courts, a new playground and a park shelter. No significant issues were found with these facilities.

The Wisconsin Rapids Rafters are responsible for improvements and maintenance to Witter Field.

### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- Programs
  - Lap Swim
  - Walk Against the Current
  - Swimming Lessons
  - Water Zumba
  - Pickle Ball Drop-In, Pick-Up Play (Ages 12+)
  - Pickle Ball Tournament (Ages 14+)
  - Kids Golf (Witter Field)
  - T-Ball (Witter Field)
  - Pitch Ball (Witter Field, Ages 6-8)
- Events
  - Parties/family get togethers
- Revenue Generators
  - Uncertain due to late season 2020 Aquatic Center opening and COVID protocols

### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month
- Landscape area maintenance two weeks per year
- Weed pulling during seasonal months

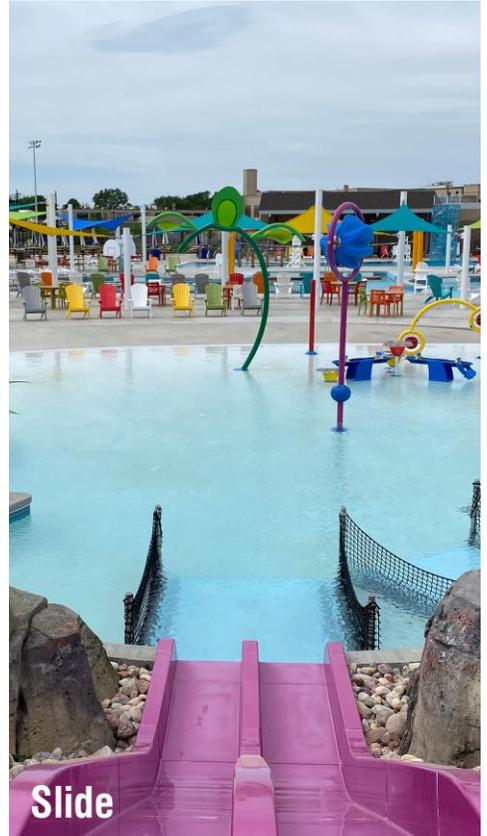
### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Resurface and restripe Witter Field parking lot .....\$80,000

**TOTAL \$80,000**

# Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex

## Site Photos:



# Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex

Site Photos:







# SPECIAL-USE PARKS





# Legion Park

Legion Park is a 3.3-acre special-use park adjacent to the Wisconsin River just south of Apricot Street. Park amenities include permanent picnic tables, a donor paver area and a historic pool mural. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the park and was under reconstruction at the time this plan was prepared.

### Existing Facilities:

- Asphalt path (Red Trail)
- Donor paver path/planter area
- Open space/natural area
- Historic pool mural
- Permanent picnic tables
- Benches
- Trash/recycling receptacles

### Issues:

- No crosswalks across 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- Graffiti on historic pool mural
- No park sign
- Potential location for additional facilities



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

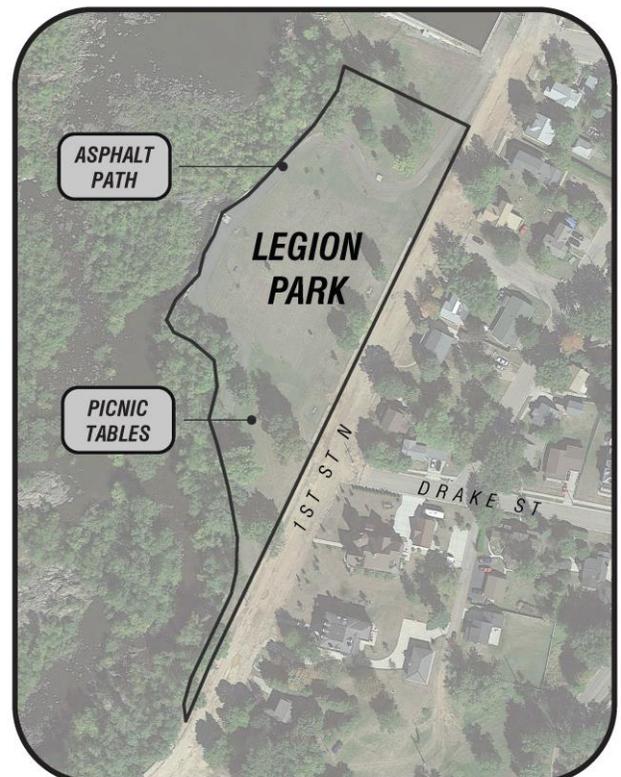
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install crosswalk across 1<sup>st</sup> Street near the intersection with Apricot Street .....\$1,000
- Remove/paint over graffiti on pool mural .....\$500

**TOTAL \$11,500**



# Legion Park

## Site Photos:



Open space



Bench



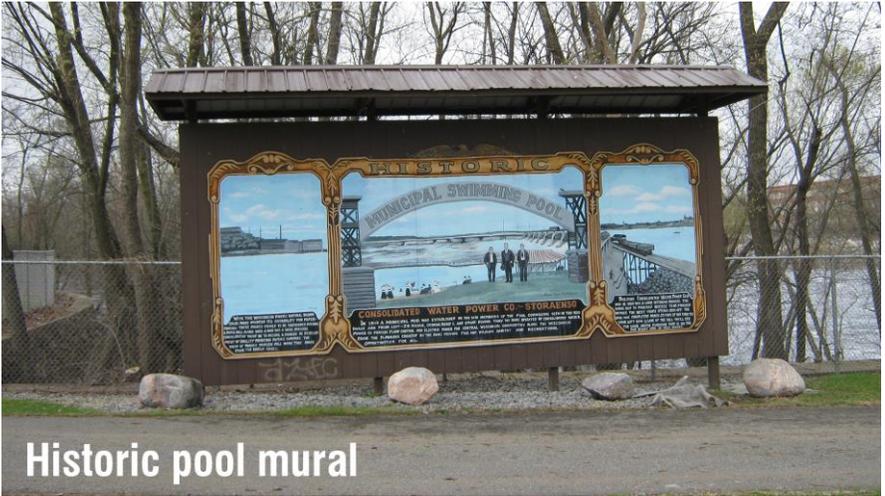
Picnic tables



Path under construction



Donor paver area



Historic pool mural



# Mead Rapids View Park

Mead Rapids View Park is a 1.1-acre special-use park on 1<sup>st</sup> Street north of the Jackson Street Bridge. Amenities include a clock tower, donor wall and historical marker. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the park.

### Existing Facilities:

- Clock Tower
- Rock with park I.D. plaque
- Asphalt path (Red Trail)
- Benches
- Concrete path
- Historical marker
- On-street parking
- Donor wall
- Seat walls
- Planter
- Dog waste stations

### Issues:

- No trash/recycling receptacles
- Tree stump
- Exposed electrical service panels



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

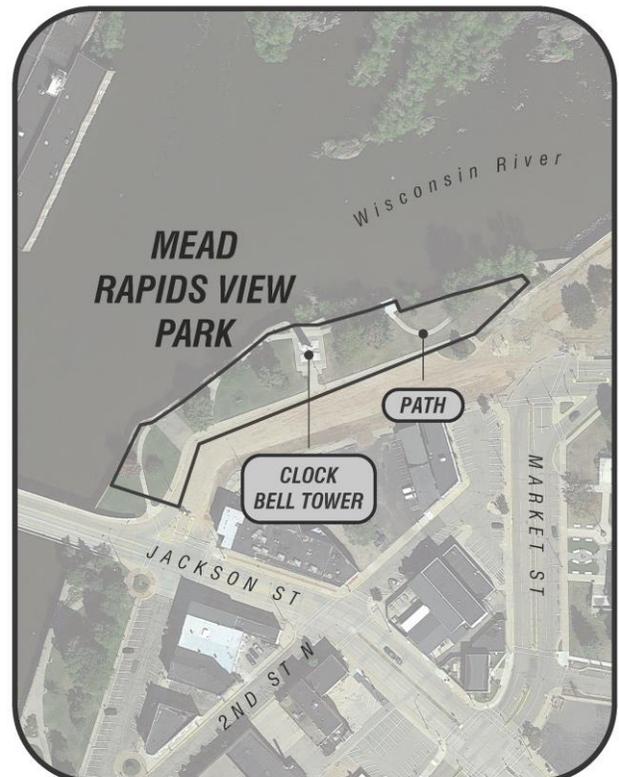
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install trash and recycling receptacles .....\$2,000
- Install box for electrical service similar to the one at Veteran's Park .....\$1,000
- Remove tree stump .....\$500

**TOTAL \$13,500**



# Mead Rapids View Park

## Site Photos:



Tower patrons wall



Concrete path



Rapids view



Historical marker



Clock tower



Electrical service panel



# Rapids Municipal Zoo

The 14.4-acre Rapids Municipal Zoo is located at 1921 Gaynor Avenue. The zoo is open seasonally with a rotating collection of animal habitats. In addition to the variety of animal enclosures, the zoo offers interactive exhibits, a petting zoo and a play area. The City also owns approximately 11 acres south of the zoo for possible park expansion.

## Existing Facilities:

- Exhibits
  - Various animal enclosures
  - Gems and minerals
  - Alphabet garden
  - Petting zoo
  - Duck pond
  - Butterfly garden
- Helen's Zoo House (Building with enclosed shelter, kitchen & restrooms)
- Asphalt paths
- Planting beds
- Garden ornaments
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Shelters
- Play structure (2 to 12-year old)
- Swings (3 belt, 1 tot)
- Parking lot
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Bike rack
- Drinking fountain
- Donation box
- Grill
- Open space
- Open space/natural area adjacent to south of zoo

- Little Free Library
- Park signs (2)
- Regulatory signage
- Park lighting

## Issues:

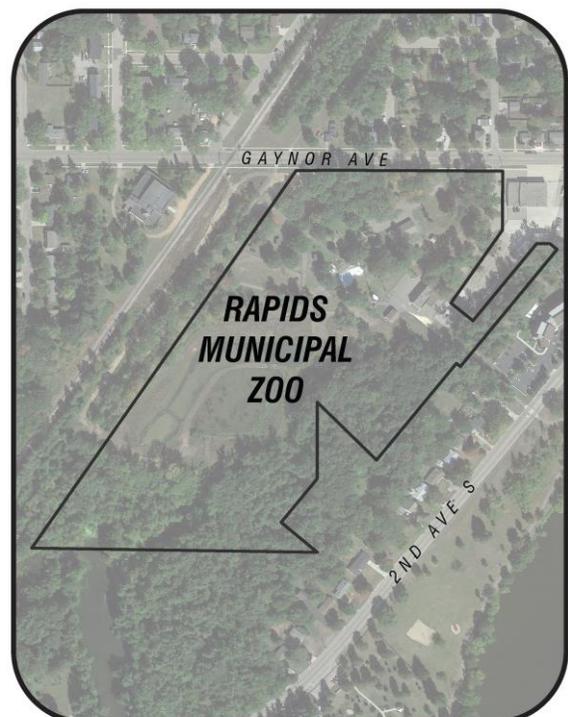
- Some asphalt areas in poor condition/trip hazards
- Duck Pond needs resurfacing (planned for 2021)
- Aging bike rack
- No safety mats under swings
- Play structure is aging
- No ADA access to play area or small shelter near parking lot
- Zoo sign on Gaynor Ave is aging

## Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- Zoo Scavenger Hunts
- Zoo Story & Chat Time
- Art in the Park (Ages 12+)
- Building rental (\$6,100)
- Zoo Admission (Free)

## Maintenance Program

- Zoo Staff (Monday to Friday), animal care/feeding
- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month



# Rapids Municipal Zoo

## Improvement Options & Estimate

- Replace play structure and safety surfacing .....\$65,000
- Resurface asphalt paths .....\$20,000
- Resurface Duck Pond .....\$10,000
- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City’s wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Construct concrete or asphalt path to playground and shelter to provide ADA access .....\$4,000
- Install safety mats under swings .....\$3,000
- Replace bike rack .....\$1,500

**TOTAL \$113,500**

### Site Photos:



**Duck pond**



**Play equipment**



**Park sign**



**Trip hazard**



# Veteran's Park

Veteran's Park is a 1.3-acre special-use park on 1<sup>st</sup> Street, south of the Jackson Street Bridge. Park facilities include a fishing platform, amphitheater and canoe launch. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the park before crossing the river over the Grand Avenue Bridge.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Rock with park I.D. plaque
- Concrete paths
- Plaza areas
- Fishing/observation deck
- Amphitheater with seat walls and stage
- Canoe/kayak launch
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Planting beds
- Dog waste station
- Memorial benches
- Memorial stones
- Flagpole
- Drinking fountain
- Flag disposal box
- On-street parking
- Park lighting
- Planter box
- Trail map
- Trash/recycling receptacles

**Issues:**

- Ahdawagam Trails map is aging
- Potential upgrades to lower level (dedicated canoe/kayak launch area)

**Programs, Events & Revenue Generators**

- None

**Maintenance Program**

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

**Improvement Options & Estimate**

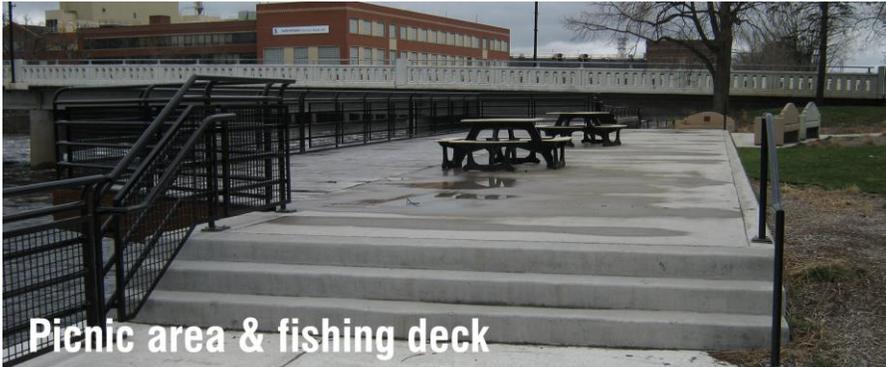
- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Replace trail map with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install canoe/kayak launch at lower level .....\$3,000

**TOTAL \$23,000**



# Veteran's Park

## Site Photos:



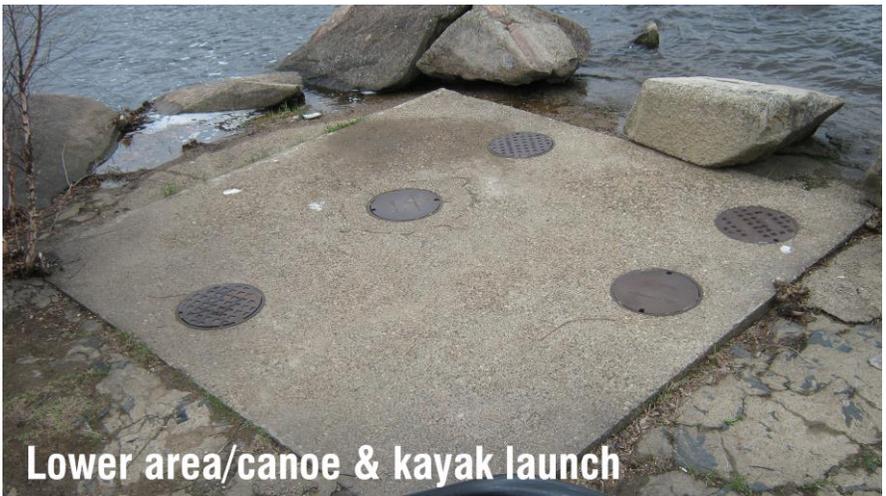
Picnic area & fishing deck



Stage with seating



Benches



Lower area/canoe & kayak launch



Trail map



Concrete path





# CONSERVANCY, OPEN SPACE & NATURAL AREAS





# East River Bank Conservancy

The East River Bank Conservancy is a 1.8-acre conservancy area on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between East Grand Avenue and Mead Street. Park amenities include a concrete path, park benches and natural areas.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Concrete path (Yellow Trail)
- Open space/natural area
- Planting beds
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Trash/recycling receptacles
- Regulatory signage

**Issues:**

- Flooded path
- Tree stumps
- No park sign
- No trail wayfinding signage



**Programs, Events & Revenue Generators**

- None

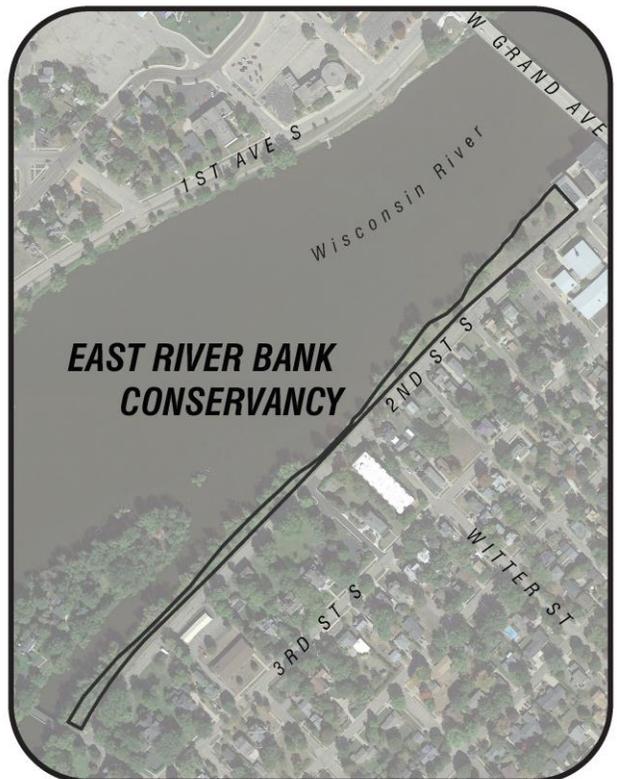
**Maintenance Program**

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month
- Landscape area maintenance two weeks per year

**Improvement Options & Estimate**

- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Remove tree stumps .....\$500

**TOTAL \$20,500**



# East River Bank Conservancy

## Site Photos:



**Benches**



**Flooded area**



**Natural area**



**Bike rack**



**Yellow Trail**



**Stumps**



# Gaynor Park

Gaynor Park is a 2.6-acre natural area/open space on 7th Street between Baker Street and Drake Street.

### Existing Facilities:

- Open space
- Park sign
- Regulatory signage

### Issues:

- No active use facilities



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

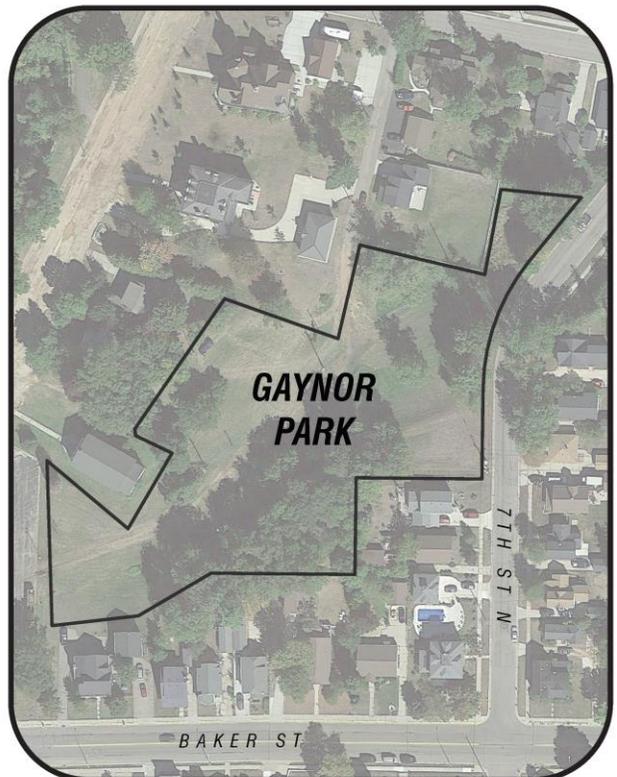
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000

**TOTAL \$10,000**



# Gaynor Park

## Site Photos:



Open space



Park access from 7th Street



Open space



Hill from 7th Street



Regulatory signage



2nd Street access



This 15.2-acre, City-owned natural area is north of Lyon Street between 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West Riverview Expressway. The Ahdawagam Blue Trail runs through the park.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Asphalt path (Blue Trail)
- Natural area

**Issues:**

- City owned property but not an official City park



**Programs, Events & Revenue Generators**

- None

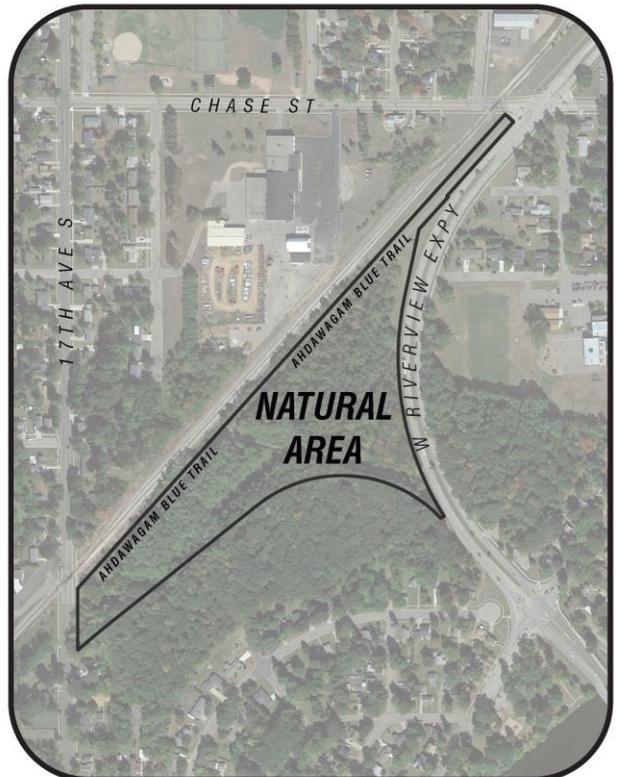
**Maintenance Program**

- None

**Improvement Options & Estimate**

- Install trail wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)...\$10,000

**TOTAL \$10,000**



# Natural Area

## Site Photos:



Natural area



Blue Trail



Blue Trail



Natural area



Natural area



Trail crossing at 17th Avenue



# Savaughn Park

This 3.1-acre natural area is located north of Boles Street between 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Existing Facilities:**

- Natural area

**Issues:**

- No facilities



**Programs, Events & Revenue Generators**

- None

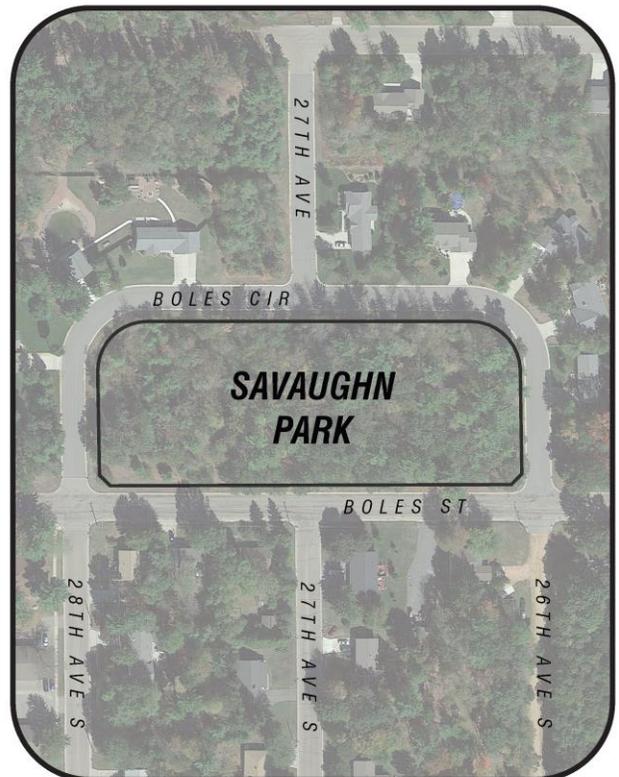
**Maintenance Program**

- None

**Improvement Options & Estimate**

- None .....\$0

**TOTAL \$0**



# Savaughn Park

## Site Photos:





# West River Bank Conservancy

The West River Bank Conservancy is a 2.9-acre conservancy area on the west side of the Wisconsin River between Grand Avenue and East Riverview Expressway. Amenities include two plaza areas and a floating dock. The Ahdawagam Red Trail runs through the entire length of the park.

### Existing Facilities:

- Asphalt path (Red Trail)
- Plaza areas (2)
- Floating dock
- Open space/natural area
- Boat ramp
- Flagpole
- Winnebago/Ho-Chunk monuments
- Benches
- Dog waste stations

### Issues:

- Missing pavers at plaza areas
- Damaged block wall at south plaza area
- No trash/recycling receptacles
- No park sign
- No trail wayfinding signage



### Programs, Events & Revenue Generators

- None

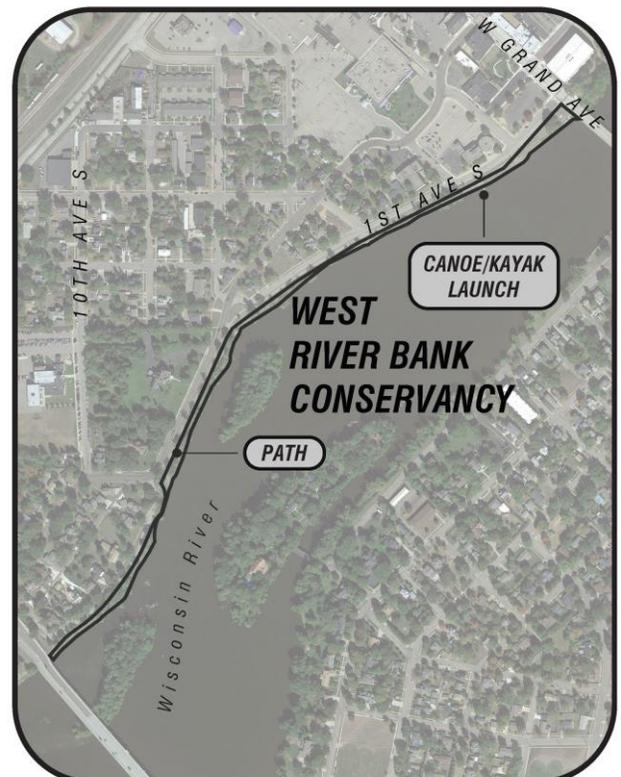
### Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- String trimming twice a month

### Improvement Options & Estimate

- Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) .....\$10,000
- Install trail wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3) ..\$10,000
- Install trash and recycling receptacles .....\$3,000
- Replace missing pavers at plaza areas .....\$500
- Repair damaged block wall .....\$500

**TOTAL \$24,000**



# West River Bank Conservancy

Site Photos:



Plaza area



Red Trail & dock



Memorial bench



Boat ramp



Flagpole & monuments



Damaged wall & missing pavers



## 4 IMPLEMENTATION

The previous chapter of this report detailed a number of specific improvement options. This chapter provides the mechanism for implementing them. It includes a compilation of capital improvements, park development mechanisms and funding sources. The chapter also includes the process for adopting, monitoring and updating this plan.

### 4.1 Plan Approval and Amendments

#### Introduction

A prerequisite to participation in outdoor recreation grant programs is the adoption and subsequent Department of Natural Resources acceptance of a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Comprehensive planning is an overall survey of the existing facilities within a given jurisdiction that gives recommendations for future improvements. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) is only the first step in the development of a recreational park site or system.

Master planning, which follows the recommendations of the comprehensive plan, is an overall view and analysis of an existing or proposed park area. The purpose is to guide the orderly development of a park or recreational facility. Site planning, is the detailed plan of how an area within a park or recreation area will be developed. Site plans supply the construction details needed to develop a facility recommended in the master plan. It is anticipated that master planning for proposed parks and park improvement projects is a high priority and should be featured prominently when budgets are determined over the life of this plan.

#### Formal Plan Approval

This CORP should be approved by the Common Council after thorough review by the Park and Recreation Commission. The City should follow all rules and procedures established in the citizen participation plan adopted as part of the comprehensive planning process (per State Statute 66.1001) when adopting this plan.

#### Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision-makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and should be developed in coordination with the Park and Recreation Commission before they are presented to the Common Council for approval. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the parent plan.

The Wisconsin Rapids Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will make the City eligible for funding by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the year 2026. Since this plan was developed with a five-year timeframe, it should be amended in 2026 to ensure grant eligibility and to reflect progress made over time.

## 4.2 Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

### 4.2.1 Parkland Dedication

Many communities have developer exactions for parkland acquisition. These exactions are designed to help a growing community acquire new park land to keep pace with new residential development. As residents move into a new subdivision, they place additional stress on existing park facilities. Developer exactions, agreed upon during the subdivision review and approval period, provide land, cash or a combination of both to be used for the provision of park facilities that serve the new neighborhood.

The City has adopted the following policy for the dedication of parkland. The code can be found in Chapter 12, Section 6 of the Wisconsin Rapids Municipal Code:

*“In the design of the plat, due consideration shall be given by subdivider and the planning commission to the reservation of suitable sites of adequate area for future schools, parks, playgrounds and other public purposes.”*



### 4.2.2 User Groups

The City should coordinate with potential user groups when planning new facilities to see if cost-sharing, donation or outright purchase options exist. Groups that could potentially be involved include youth sports groups, private organizations and school districts.

### 4.2.3 Planned Giving

In many communities, parkland development occurs with the availability of land. Donations of private land for a public purpose is not uncommon, and criteria for accepting these lands is needed. A formal procedure should be in place for how the land will be planned and used in the best interest of the community. An established planned giving program through the City would allow prospective patrons to dedicate land in a legal manner that provides a legacy for how the land will be utilized over time.

### 4.2.4 Grant Funding

Implementation dollars are available for acquisition and development of recreation spaces and facilities. Linear parks and trails can be funded through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or the Department of Transportation (WDOT). The WDNR also provides funds for the acquisition of lands, the stabilization of shorelands and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. A complete list of grant opportunities is provided in Section 4.3.

## 4.3 Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development

The state and federal government provide grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. Many of these programs require that a local government submit an approved park and open space plan or master plan to the Wisconsin DNR as a condition for eligibility. By adopting this plan, by ordinance, the City will have met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs until 2026.

### 4.3.1 Projects that Require Grant Funding

The high cost of park improvement projects necessitates the acquisition of outside funding to enable development. Grant funding provides seed money and crucial capital for leveraging additional community dollars and support. While many projects identified in this plan would benefit from the acquisition of outside funding sources, some projects will require grant funding if they are to be realized. Grant programs are discussed in the following section (4.3.2).

### 4.3.2 Grant Programs

This section provides general information and details for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park and recreation facilities. Categories, by authorization agency, include:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Other Programs (Various Agencies)

#### ***Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)***

**Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program:** Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Governor Warren Knowles and Senator Gaylord Nelson, the Wisconsin Legislature created this innovative program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

All grant program awards cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. Projects eligible for Stewardship grant programs require that all land acquisition and development projects provide public access for “nature-based outdoor recreation” purposes. DNR decisions as to whether a particular project activity is “nature-based outdoor recreation” are made on a case-by-case basis. Please note that purchase and installation of playground equipment and the purchase of land for recreation areas not related to nature-based outdoor recreation (dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, etc.) are not eligible.

For more information and to submit applications contact the West Central Region representative (listed below). All applications are due May 1.

Chris Halbur  
Telephone: (920)360-1490

Email: [christine.halbur@wisconsin.gov](mailto:christine.halbur@wisconsin.gov)

The Stewardship Program includes the four funds described below (A – D).

#### **A. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)**

**Description:** Stewardship sets aside 50% of funds for projects that improve community parks and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Applicants compete against other applicants from their region. Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation such as fishing piers, hiking trails and picnic facilities. Funds are not available for non-nature based activities such as baseball and soccer fields. Costs associated with operation and maintenance of parks and other outdoor recreation facilities are not eligible for Stewardship funds.

#### **Eligible Project Examples:**

1. Land acquisition projects that will provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.
2. Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water-based outdoor recreation.
3. Property that provides special recreation opportunities in areas adjacent to floodplains, wetlands and scenic highways.
4. Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including areas of physical or biological importance and wildlife areas. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
5. Land within urban areas for day-use picnic areas.
6. Land for nature-based outdoor recreation trails.

**Ineligible Project Examples:**

1. Projects that are not supported by a local comprehensive outdoor recreational plan.
2. Land to be used for non-nature based outdoor recreation such as athletic facilities.
3. Acquisition and development of golf courses.

**B. Urban Rivers (UR)**

**Description:** Stewardship allocates 20% of funds annually to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition of land or easements adjacent to rivers. Funding will be provided for projects that are part of a plan to enhance the quality of a river corridor. Applicants compete against other applicants statewide. The purposes of the program are:

1. To provide for economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban rivers or riverfronts;
2. To improve outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, including but not limited to fishing, wildlife observation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, canoeing, boating, hiking and bicycling;
3. To preserve or restore significant historical, cultural or natural areas along urban rivers.

**Funding Priorities:** Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.
2. Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
3. Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
4. Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.
5. Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
6. Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
7. Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality.

**C. Urban Green Space (UGS)**

**Description:** The intent of the Urban Green Space Program (UGS) is to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect from urban development areas that have scenic, ecological or other natural value and are within or in proximity to urban areas; and to provide land for noncommercial gardening for the residents of an urbanized area.

**Funding Priorities:** Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- a. Planning considerations, including:
  - Specifically implementing a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
  - Implementing the approved master plans of 2 or more units of government or regional planning agencies
  - Preserving land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database
  - Implementing elements of water quality plans or initiatives
- b. Project considerations, including:
  - Serving the greatest population centers
  - Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
  - Providing accessibility
  - Having unique natural features, threatened/endangered species or significant ecological value
  - Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
  - Having water frontage
  - Containing or restoring wetlands
  - Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
  - Protecting an area threatened by development
  - Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
  - Having regional or statewide significance
  - Relating to brownfield redevelopment
- c. Administrative considerations, including:

- Projects that are ready to be implemented and/or to continue previously started projects

#### **D. Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)**

Description: The purpose of the Acquisition of Development Rights Program is to protect natural, agricultural or forest lands that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. "Development Rights" are the rights of a landowner to develop their property to the greatest extent allowed under state and local laws. The goals of the program are achieved through the purchase of those development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes or estuaries
- Property that creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial or industrial development
- Property that is within the boundaries of an acquisition project established by the DNR, a government unit or a non-profit conservation organization where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program
- Property that is within an environmental corridor that connects two or more established resource protection areas

**Federal Programs Related to the Stewardship Program:** The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Act (RTA) programs fund projects that are similar to the Stewardship programs. One primary difference is that LWCF and RTA programs are not restricted to nature-based outdoor recreation projects. In these programs, nature-based outdoor recreation projects compete against projects with non-nature based recreation elements for LWCF funds. Another difference is that federal programs have additional requirements that must be satisfied – for example, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Historic Preservation Act, etc. Federal programs administered through the DNR include the two funds described below (E, F).

#### **E. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Description: This program was established to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation activities.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Relationship to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; activities must be in locally approved plans
- Regional or statewide in nature
- Acquires land where a plan supports need
- Provides or enhances water-based activity
- Serves the greatest populations
- Involves other local government cooperation, volunteers, local donations
- First time applicants
- Sponsor has completed past projects
- Provides multi-season, multi activity use
- Basic, over elaborate, facilities
- Participant over spectator facilities
- "Nature based" restriction does not apply

#### Eligible Project Examples:

- Land acquisition
- Development of outdoor recreation facilities, including active sports facilities

### **F. Recreational Trails Act (RTA)**

Description: These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTA funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, County or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. 30% of funds must be used on motorized trail uses, 30% on non-motorized trail uses and 40% on diversified (multiple) trail uses.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages.
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on Federal lands).
- Acquisition of easement or property for trails.

### ***Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)***

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation offers a variety of programs that can provide financial assistance to local governments, along with other public and private entities, to make improvements to highways, airports, harbors, bike, rail and pedestrian facilities. The use of these funds in Wisconsin Rapids would be most closely tied to developing trails to link parks to places of employment, residence and commerce.

### **G. Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)**

Description: This program allocates federal funds to complete a variety of improvements to federal-aid-eligible roads and streets in urban areas. Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Communities are eligible for funding on roads functionally classified as major collector or higher. The WisDOT requires that pedestrian and on-street bicycle accommodations be part of all STP projects within or in the vicinity of population centers, unless extraordinary circumstances can be demonstrated to WisDOT for not providing these accommodations.

Contact: Alex Hegeman, North Central Region at (715)365-5777 or [alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov](mailto:alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov)

### **H. Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)**

Description: This program allocates federal funds to complete a variety of improvements to rural highways. Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Communities are eligible for funding on roads classified as major collectors or higher.

Contact: Alex Hegeman, North Central Region at (715)365-5777 or [alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov](mailto:alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov)

### **I. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Description: The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.” TAP is a legislative program that was authorized in 2012 by the federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The Transportation Alternatives Program was authorized as part of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in 2015. The program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Examples of bicycle and pedestrian projects that TAP will likely fund include: multi-use trails, paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses, bridges, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. Local municipalities contribute 20% of the project costs. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles.

Contact: Travis Houle, State Coordinator at (608)266-9656, [travis.houle@dot.wi.gov](mailto:travis.houle@dot.wi.gov) or

Contact: Alex Hegeman, North Central Region at (715)365-5777 or [alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov](mailto:alexander.hegeman@dot.wi.gov)

## ***Wisconsin Department of Administration***

### **J. Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)**

Description: Available through the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), communities receiving CDBG funds from the State may use the funds for many kinds of community development activities including, but not limited to:

- Acquisition of property for public purposes
- Construction or reconstruction of streets, water and sewer facilities, neighborhood centers, recreation facilities and other public works
- Demolition
- Rehabilitation of public and private buildings
- Public services
- Planning activities
- Assistance to nonprofit entities for community development activities
- Assistance to private, for profit entities to carry out economic development activities (including assistance to micro-enterprises)

Contact: BCD Director at (608) 333-8047 or email [DOACDBG@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DOACDBG@wisconsin.gov)

## ***Other Programs***

### **K. 10-Minute Walk Planning Grants**

Description: The 10-Minute Walk campaign is a National Recreation and Park Association program that offers grants to support park related planning efforts in communities. The goal of this program is to increase access to parks in chosen communities that are within a 10-minute walk. The first round of \$40,000 grants were awarded on April 1, 2018 and an additional 10 communities received grants in 2019. Additional application periods are expected in the near future.

To qualify for the 10-Minute Walk grants the applicant must:

- Be a local government park and recreation agency
- Provide a signed statement of support for the 10-Minute Walk Campaign from the Mayor of the applicant City
- Provide a signed statement of support from at least two partners on the project (outside of parks and recreation)
- Demonstrate a clear interest and commitment to the campaign, strong project management, and leadership support

Contact: <https://10minutewalk.org/>

### **L. KaBOOM! Grants**

Description: KaBOOM! is a non-profit partnered with national organizations and businesses that awards grants for playground development. KaBOOM! accepts applications for grants on a rolling basis from child serving non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities.

Applicants with the best chance of receiving grants will:

- Serve children from a low-income area, serve children with special needs or serve children in a disaster impacted area
- Demonstrate the need for a playground
- Have a space that does not currently have a playground or have a playground that needs to be replaced
- Will implement a community-build model to engage the larger community in all aspects of project planning and playground build execution

Contact: Grant applications can be filled out at the KaBOOM! website; [kaboom.org](http://kaboom.org)

## M. Foundation Grants

Anthem Foundation – Provide grants to communities to support health related programs.

Clif Bar Family Foundation – Provides grants for projects that increase opportunities for outdoor activity, reduce environmental health hazards and build stronger communities.

National Environmental Education Foundation – Awards grants for the promotion of a safer and healthier environment.

The Skatepark Project – Grants provided for the creation of skateparks.

U.S. Bank Foundation Play Grants – Grant support for play spaces for K-12 students in low to moderate income areas.

## N. Online Grant Provider Lists

- FundsNet Services
- SPARK Grant Finder
- The Grant Helpers
- Afterschool Alliance Funding Database
- Federal Grantswire
- Grantmakers in Aging
- NPRA Grant Resources
- Grants.gov
- American Therapeutic Recreation Association

## O. Purchasing Partnerships

Description: Some equipment suppliers will allow multiple municipalities to make group purchases of equipment. Details of this type of agreement vary between manufacturers, but the result will often be a reduced cost to the purchasing municipalities. Examples include US Communities (<http://www.uscommunities.org/>) and Buy Board (<https://www.buyboard.com/>).

## P. Friends of the Park Foundation

Description: The National Association of Park Foundations helps communities create Friend of the Park Foundations for their local park system. An annual fee for membership can be used to fund park projects. Membership in the foundation includes educational programs, advocacy, networking opportunities and other information related to local parks.

## 4.4 Capital Improvements Plan

Capital improvements to a park are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance, on the other hand, is considered to be the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building. Routine maintenance of park facilities does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the park department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, such as upgrading a restroom facility to be barrier-free, is usually considered to be a capital improvement.

Most projects can be easily identified and categorized, but some are difficult. When a project falls on the borderline between a capital improvement and maintenance, the overall cost becomes the determinant. Projects with a high cost, such as that for seal coating roads or parking lots, are categorized as capital improvements.

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park and the value of the project to the overall City park system. Capital improvements for this plan are ranked in the following manner:

- a. Improvements to existing facilities that will:
  - i. Correct health and safety hazards
  - ii. Upgrade deficient facilities
  - iii. Modernize adequate but outdated facilities
- b. Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, park committee input, City budgeting)
- c. Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through level of service, population projection and age cohort analyses

Generally, improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program. New facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in each park location. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always given the highest priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through empirical analyses are usually ranked the lowest.

Parks have been divided by classifications established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, Conservancy, and Special-Use parks. Improvement costs are shown by year (2022-2026) which establishes a priority ranking – higher priority improvements would occur sooner in the schedule. In some cases a capital improvement may utilize a special fund. Depending on the fund, it may or may not be reflected in the subtotal for each park type.

Potential costs for site master plans have not been included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) table but should be accounted for the budget planning. Depending on the level of public involvement and final deliverables, the City should anticipate a cost of \$15,000-\$25,000 for each site Master Plan. It should also be noted that if the City brings on new parklands, the required maintenance for these new facilities will also carry a long-term cost implication. A basic mini-park for example will require at minimum, weekly mowing. Neighborhood and Community parks will require mowing, snow removal, playground maintenance and potentially other monthly or annual upkeep depending on the level of facility development.

The total improvement cost by park classification and by year is assembled in **Table 4.1**. Costs associated with each park improvement option are based upon recent regional project construction costs and may be spread out over many years.

**Table 4.1:** Total Improvement Costs by Year and Park Classification

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>MINI PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$10,000	\$0	\$84,563	\$0	\$0	\$94,563
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$79,500	\$140,500	\$81,488	\$114,450	\$161,250	\$577,188
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$219,500	\$238,500	\$114,800	\$49,350	\$188,125	\$810,275
<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$57,000	\$22,500	\$10,250	\$72,450	\$3,225	\$165,425
<b>CONSERVANCY PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$64,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$64,500
<b>ALL PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$430,500	\$401,500	\$291,100	\$236,250	\$352,600	\$1,711,950

Detailed CIP tables by individual park can be found on the following pages.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>						
<b>Henry Demitz Park</b>						
Construct small restroom building				\$80,000		
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install drinking fountain		\$10,000				
Subtotals	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$100,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 84,000	\$ -	\$ 104,000
<b>Lyon Park</b>						
Remove existing shelter and restroom building. Replace with combination shelter/restroom building					\$150,000	
Install new play structure (2 to 12-year old)		\$65,000				
Resurface/restripe parking lot	\$25,000					
Install drinking fountain				\$10,000		
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Construct asphalt or concrete path from parking lot connecting to park facilities including the playground, shelter and restroom building				\$6,000		
Replace 2 existing picnic tables at shelter with ADA approved models	\$3,000					
Remove and replace bench at playground		\$1,500				
Install bike rack on concrete pad				\$1,500		
Subtotals	\$38,000	\$66,500	\$0	\$17,500	\$150,000	\$272,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 38,000	\$ 66,500	\$ -	\$ 18,375	\$ 161,250	\$ 284,125
<b>Poplar Springs Park</b>						
Construct small parking lot		\$12,000				
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install drinking fountain				\$10,000		
Construct concrete or asphalt path from proposed parking lot to playground		\$3,500				
Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment	\$3,000					
Install recycling receptacle	\$1,000					
Subtotals	\$14,000	\$15,500	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$39,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 14,000	\$ 15,500	\$ -	\$ 10,500	\$ -	\$ 40,000
<b>Sand Lot Park</b>						
Construct asphalt or concrete path to bleachers at ballfields to provide ADA access		\$40,000				
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Replace bleachers			\$6,000			
Replace benches at playground			\$4,500			
Replace 3 picnic tables with ADA approved models	\$4,500					
Replace/install team benches at ballfields			\$4,000			
Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment	\$3,000					
Install horseshoe backboards	\$500					
Patch cracks in basketball court	\$500					
Replace bat racks	\$500					
Subtotals	\$19,000	\$40,000	\$14,500	\$0	\$0	\$73,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 19,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 14,863	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,863
<b>Ward Johnson Park</b>						
Replace play structure and safety surfacing			\$65,000			
Repair and resurface tennis courts and stripe for tennis and pickleball		\$12,000				
Repair or replace tennis court fencing. Install gate to allow for ADA access		\$12,000				
Install drinking fountain				\$10,000		
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install bike rack on concrete pad				\$1,500		
Replace safety mats under swings	\$1,000					
Install baseboard at bottom of backstop fencing to close gap and prevent fence curling	\$1,000					
Trim vegetation at sandlot backstop	\$500					
Move picnic table to hardscape surface	\$0					
Subtotals	\$12,500	\$24,000	\$65,000	\$11,500	\$0	\$113,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 12,500	\$ 24,000	\$ 66,625	\$ 12,075	\$ -	\$ 115,200
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$79,500	\$140,500	\$81,488	\$114,450	\$161,250	\$577,188

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>						
<b>Ben Hansen Park</b>						
Remove existing shelter and replace with combination shelter/restroom building					\$150,000	
Resurface and restripe parking lot		\$40,000				
Establish a community garden					\$25,000	
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Replace trail map with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install drinking fountain				\$10,000		
Install safety mats at play equipment to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment	\$3,000					
Construct concrete or asphalt path from Red Trail to play equipment to provide ADA access		\$2,500				
Construct concrete or asphalt path from parking lot to shelter to provide ADA access		\$2,500				
Install recycling receptacles (2)	\$2,000					
Install bike rack on concrete pad		\$1,500				
Subtotals	\$25,000	\$46,500	\$0	\$10,000	\$175,000	\$256,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 25,000	\$ 46,500	\$ -	\$ 10,500	\$ 188,125	\$ 270,125
<b>Mead Field/Splash Pad</b>						
Resurface and restripe parking lots			\$100,000			
Construct concrete or asphalt path connecting parking lots to park facilities including ballfield bleacher areas, shelters, tennis courts and playground		\$70,000				
Replace play structure and safety surfacing	\$65,000					
Replace bleachers at ballfields. Install bleachers at east and southwest fields on concrete pads		\$25,000				
Resurface tennis courts. Restripe for tennis and pickleball.				\$25,000		
Construct basketball court east of tennis courts				\$12,000		
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Repair shelters/press boxes/concession stands in need of touch ups. Repairs to siding, painting, damaged doors, etc.		\$10,000				
Install ADA picnic tables at shelters (6)	\$9,000					
Replace team benches at ballfields		\$6,000				
Repair leaning center field fence at baseball field. Construct fencing to prevent "walk through" between tennis court and baseball field fencing		\$2,500				
Install baseboard at bottom of backstop fencing at east ballfield to close gap and prevent fence curling	\$1,000					
Subtotals	\$85,000	\$113,500	\$100,000	\$37,000	\$0	\$335,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 85,000	\$ 113,500	\$ 102,500	\$ 38,850	\$ -	\$ 339,850
<b>Robinson Park</b>						
Resurface and restripe south parking lot		\$40,000				
Construct concrete or asphalt paths connecting main path to park facilities including ballfield seating areas, amphitheater and playground		\$25,000				
Install ADA picnic tables at shelters (10)	\$15,000					
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install drinking fountain			\$10,000			
Replace bleachers at ballfields. Install on concrete pads.		\$6,000				
Add sand surfacing under play structure to cover exposed concrete footing near slide fall zone. Install safety mats to provide safe fall zones and ADA access to play equipment	\$4,000					
Replace damaged amphitheater seating		\$4,000				
Install new disc golf signage/maps			\$2,000			
Repair damaged concrete at amphitheater		\$2,000				
Install new bike rack on concrete pad		\$1,500				
Replace damaged bat racks	\$500					
Subtotals	\$29,500	\$78,500	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 29,500	\$ 78,500	\$ 12,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,300
<b>Wisconsin Rapids Recreation Complex</b>						
Resurface and restripe Witter Field parking lot	\$80,000					
Subtotals	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000
<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$219,500	\$238,500	\$114,800	\$49,350	\$188,125	\$810,275

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>SPECIAL-USE PARKS</b>						
<b>Legion Park</b>						
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install crosswalk across 1st Street near the intersection with Apricot Street	\$1,000					
Remove/paint over graffiti on pool mural	\$500					
Subtotals	\$11,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 11,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,500
<b>Mead Rapids View Park</b>						
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install trash and recycling receptacles	\$2,000					
Install box for electrical service similar to the one at Veteran's Park		\$1,000				
Remove tree stump	\$500					
Subtotals	\$12,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 12,500	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,500
<b>Rapids Municipal Zoo</b>						
Replace play structure and safety surfacing				\$65,000		
Resurface asphalt paths		\$20,000				
Resurface Duck Pond			\$10,000			
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Construct concrete or asphalt path to playground and shelter to provide ADA access				\$4,000		
Install safety mats under swings	\$3,000					
Replace bike rack		\$1,500				
Subtotals	\$13,000	\$21,500	\$10,000	\$69,000	\$0	\$113,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 13,000	\$ 21,500	\$ 10,250	\$ 72,450	\$ -	\$ 117,200
<b>Veteran's Park</b>						
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Replace trail map with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install canoe/kayak launch at lower level					\$3,000	
Subtotals	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$23,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,225	\$ 23,225
<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$57,000	\$22,500	\$10,250	\$72,450	\$3,225	\$165,425

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>MINI PARKS</b>						
<b>Woods Grove Park</b>						
Install 2 to 12-year old play structure			\$65,000			
Construct concrete or asphalt path from park entrance to proposed play structure			\$12,500			
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install benches (2)			\$3,000			
Install trash and recycling receptacles			\$2,000			
Subtotals	\$10,000	\$0	\$82,500	\$0	\$0	\$92,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 84,563	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,563
<b>MINI PARKS</b>						
Subtotal	\$10,000	\$0	\$84,563	\$0	\$0	\$94,563

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
<b>CONSERVANCY, OPEN SPACE &amp; NATURAL AREAS</b>						
<b>East River Bank Conservancy</b>						
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Remove tree stumps	\$500					
Subtotals	\$20,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 20,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,500
<b>Gaynor Park</b>						
Replace park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Subtotals	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
<b>Natural Area</b>						
Install trail wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Subtotals	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
<b>Savaughn Park</b>						
None					\$0	
Subtotals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>West River Bank Conservancy</b>						
Install park sign with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install trail wayfinding signage with a style consistent with the City's wayfinding and signage plan (See Chapter 1.3.3)	\$10,000					
Install trash and recycling receptacles	\$3,000					
Replace missing pavers at plaza areas	\$500					
Repair damaged block wall	\$500					
Subtotals	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	
Totals	\$ 24,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
<b>CONSERVANCY, OPEN SPACE &amp; NATURAL AREAS</b>						
Subtotal	\$64,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$64,500