



VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN
2022 COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR RECREATION
P L A N



DRAFT: OCTOBER 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Village of Wrightstown Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) was prepared in accordance with the guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and qualify Wrightstown for matching grant funds.

- The Village has grown over the past two decades and in 2021 had a population of 3,157. By 2032, it is projected that Wrightstown will have a population of 3,829 and by 2042 a population of 4,441. See Chapter 1 and Appendix.
- The Village of Wrightstown owns and maintains 25 acres of developed parkland in five total parks. Additionally, there are multiple other municipal, state, and county parks and trails within close proximity of the community. See Chapter 2.
- Multiple forms of public participation were utilized in this planning process including the establishment of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to guide the process, stakeholder interviews, a community-wide online survey, and public open house review of the Final Draft Plan. See Chapter 3 and Appendix.
 - An online survey was utilized to gather over 400 people's opinions on current usage, prioritized park improvements, new facilities, and more.
 - Focus group interview sessions were conducted with Village staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members, school district representatives, and local sports league user groups to gather an understanding of existing issues and future opportunities.
 - The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Village Board also participated in the review of the draft document and providing feedback on key components of the plan.
 - A public open house was held at the 2022 Fall Festival with over 100 people participating. The event featured a booth with the Draft Plan, all maps, and summary materials. Additionally, a priority ranking opportunity was provided to gather input on the plan's key recommendations.
- In comparison to other neighboring communities in the Fox Valley, Wrightstown compares favorably in terms of residents per park, but falls slightly behind in the amount of developed park acres per 1,000 residents. See Chapter 5.
- A service area analysis was conducted to explore the geographic distribution of existing facilities in relationship to residential neighborhoods. There are a few identified existing gaps within Wrightstown as shown on Map 2.
- As of 2022, Wrightstown provides approximately 8 developed acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The new established standard for the Village moving forward will be the provision of approximately 10 acres per 1,000 residents. See Chapter 5.
- To meet the future population demand for developed parks, it is projected that the Village will need to acquire 13 new unconstrained park acres by 2032 and 19 new unconstrained park acres by 2042. See Chapter 6.
- A new parkland evaluation tool was developed to assist the Village in assessing new parkland acquisition opportunities as they may arise over the planning period. See Chapter 7.
- Several new recommended park locations were identified as part of this planning process (Map 3) and a number of recommended improvements to existing facilities were also established in Chapter 7.
- Conceptual park development plans were created for the existing Village-owned property at 261 Clay Street (St. John's Lutheran School site). Following the completion of the school's new facility, new recreational opportunities have been identified for the site if it were to transition into a new Neighborhood Park. See Chapter 7 and the Appendix.
- A detailed set of action steps were identified to assist the Village in advancing the goals and recommendations of this plan through implementation. See Chapter 9.

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INTRODUCTION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Communities throughout the world recognize that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high-quality living environments. Open spaces and outdoor recreation provide a community with many benefits and serve a multitude of functions, including opportunities for recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle, enhancing community aesthetics, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment. The park and open space system of every community should be planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of its population. Proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the community as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities relative to those who will use them.

The Village of Wrightstown's park, recreation, and open space system is one of its many important amenities. The existing system plays a key role in the community's high quality of life, however, there are opportunities for expansion and improvement to serve the Village's growing population, protect and maintain its high-quality natural resources, and embrace opportunities for open space preservation and recreation.

This Village of Wrightstown Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) compiles, reviews, and updates information on the physical facilities and lands that make up the existing Village park and open space system, in addition to providing guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. This Plan serves as an important element of Wrightstown's overall community comprehensive planning program. As such, the CORP addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community over the next 10-20 years, with a specific focus on park and recreation action items over the next 5-year period (2022-2027). Five years is generally considered a reasonable horizon in park master planning because social, cultural, and political conditions tend to change enough over five years for the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that derived from previous plans to be reevaluated.

This CORP has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and qualify the Village of Wrightstown for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Federal Recreation Trails Act (RTA), and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs (State of Wisconsin). The CORP must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. The plan has also been prepared in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 61.35, 236.29 and 66.0617. Furthermore, it will be incorporated as a detailed component of the Village's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

This Plan is intended to incorporate and refine the previous analysis and recommendations presented in the Village's 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Wrightstown's public parks and open spaces are operated and maintained by the Village's Public Works Department. This CORP was prepared under the direction of Village staff, the Park & Recreation Advisory Committee, Plan Commission, and Village Board.



GENERAL REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Wrightstown is a steadily growing community conveniently located halfway between the Green Bay and Fox Valley Metropolitan Areas along the Interstate 41 highway corridor, which connects the area to the City of Oshkosh on the west side of Lake Winnebago and the Milwaukee and Chicago Metro Regions further to the south. Located within both Brown County and Outagamie County, the Village lies approximately 16 miles to the southwest of the City of Green Bay and 16 miles east and north of the City of Appleton along the Fox River, which runs through the middle of the community. The Village shares its northern, southern, and eastern borders with the Town of Wrightstown, while the western part of the Village is adjacent to the Town of Kaukauna.

Historically, the Village of Wrightstown served the surrounding farming community as a social hub and center within which to obtain local daily goods and services. With the conversion of US Highway 41 to a freeway and later an interstate (Interstate 41), the Village has evolved into a bedroom community for the nearby Green Bay and Fox Valley Metropolitan Areas. Many residents take advantage of the location's ease of access to the interstate highway system, commuting to work and other regional destinations nearby, while taking advantage of Wrightstown's small-town character, convenience, and natural amenities.

Because the Village of Wrightstown is located in both Brown and Outagamie Counties, it is important to note that the U.S. Census data used throughout this document for the Village includes both the Brown and Outagamie County portions of Wrightstown.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Wrightstown's currently includes just over 3,000 residents. The need for parks and recreational space is driven by the growing population of the Village. Predicting how the community's 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 Village. The Village of Wrightstown experienced significant population growth between 1990 and 2010, especially between 2000-2010, when the community grew by 33% within a decade. Wrightstown has continued to experience steady growth since 2010, though not at the same level of intensity as in the first decade of the century.

Many of the communities adjacent to Wrightstown, as well as both Brown and Outagamie Counties, have experienced similar trends over the last two decades. Throughout Wisconsin, communities experienced significant construction and development in the 1990s and the years preceding the Great Recession (2000-2008), followed by slow economic recovery that has resulted in much smaller increases in housing development and population over the course of the following decade. However, the Village of Wrightstown, its surrounding communities, and both Brown and Outagamie Counties have continued to see steady population growth in the last several years.

FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION TRENDS

	1990	2000	2010	2020*	2021**	2000-2010	2010-2021
Village of Wrightstown	1,262	1,891	2,827	3,179	3,157	33%	10%
City of Kaukauna	11,982	12,993	15,462	17,089	16,634	16%	7%
Village of Little Chute	9,207	10,448	10,449	11,619	12,525	0%	17%
Village of Combined Locks	2,190	2,463	3,328	3,634	3,627	26%	8%
Village of Kimberly	5,406	6,208	6,468	7,320	7,422	4%	13%
Brown County	194,594	226,778	248,007	268,740	267,612	9%	7%
Outagamie County	140,510	160,971	176,695	190,705	189,938	9%	7%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,893,718	5,901,473	6%	4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census.

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

**WisDOA annual municipal population estimates, 2021.

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that Wrightstown's actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. See the Appendix for the seven population projection methods analyzed. This set of projections were prepared specifically for this Plan and by the Wisconsin Department of Administration because the Village's Comprehensive Plan is over five years old. All are projected through 2040. These forecasts provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

For the purposes of this CORP, the Village will utilize the Linear Growth projection between 1990-2021 scenario as a reasonable, conservative estimate that would result in a total projected population of 3,707 residents by 2030 and 4,318 by 2040. The selected population projection forecast will be used to project future parkland and park impact fees needed in the Village.

FIGURE 1.2: VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN POPULATION PROJECTIONS

	2010	2021*	2025	2030	2035	2040	% Change 2021-2040	Pop. Increase 2021-2040
WisDOA Projections**	2,827	3,157	3,540	3,830	4,055	4,210	33%	1,053
Linear Growth 1990-2021⁽¹⁾	2,827	3,157	3,402	3,707	4,013	4,318	37%	1,161
Linear Growth 2000-2021 ⁽¹⁾	2,827	3,157	3,398	3,700	4,001	4,302	36%	1,145
Linear Growth 2010-2021 ⁽¹⁾	2,827	3,157	3,277	3,427	3,577	3,727	18%	570
Compounded Growth 1990-2021 ⁽²⁾	2,827	3,157	3,815	4,832	6,122	7,755	146%	4,598
Compounded Growth 2000-2021 ⁽²⁾	2,827	3,157	3,579	4,187	4,899	5,731	82%	2,574
Compounded Growth 2010-2021 ⁽²⁾	2,827	3,157	3,293	3,472	3,660	3,858	22%	701

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2010 Census.

*WisDOA annual municipal population estimates, 2021.

**Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.

1. Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years.

2. Extrapolated based on the average annual percent change over the given years.

In 2020, the Village's median age was 33, lower than the statewide median age (40), and that of both Brown and Outagamie Counties (each at 38). The percentage of the Village's population aged 18 and under was 35 percent. That percentage was higher than both the statewide (22) and countywide (24) totals. Nine percent of the Village's population was aged 65 and older – a smaller percentage of the population than surrounding incorporated communities, surrounding towns, Brown and Outagamie Counties, and the state, all of which have at least 15 percent of their populations over the age of 65. The relatively high percentage of residents under 18 should be considered when planning for future community needs. Additionally, while the percentage of residents over 65 has increased slightly since 2000, the median age in the Village has also increased. It is important to keep in mind that there may be a larger percentage of residents over the age of 65 in the next decade and park and recreation facilities need to provide for this age demographic as well.

The population of Wrightstown is predominantly white. This data depicts a relatively homogeneous population, however, there have been small increases in the number of people who identify as some other race, two or more races, or who identify as being of Hispanic or Latino origin. The percentage of residents that comprise these three categories makes up a total of just over 9% of the population and represent a significant portion of the population that identifies as part of a minority group. These findings indicate that care must be taken during the planning process to include and represent these minority groups in the planning for future park and recreation spaces within the community.

The Village's average household size increased between 2000-2020 from 2.76 to 2.84 persons per household. For comparison, the average household size in 2020 in Brown County was 2.4. Additionally, the percentage of owner-occupied housing units has remained the same in the Village since 2000, but this percentage is higher than all neighboring communities and the state except for when compared to the Village of Combined Locks.

Utilizing the population projections and methodology, the projected number of households were also calculated. The Linear Growth Projection between 1990-2020 was also selected to forecast future households. In 2030, it is projected that the Village will add 142 new households, and by 2040, 430 new total households. This projection methodology utilized a customized average household size projection between 2025-2040 based on analysis of the average household size change between 2000-2020 and WisDOA's projected Village household size between 2010-2040. It was determined that a slight decrease in average household size may occur over the next 20 years (8% decline). This factors in the Village's sustained growth in attracting young families for several decades, coupled with an increasingly aging population and increasing proportion of multi-family units planned or under construction.

A slightly modified future household projection was utilized in calculating the estimated cost projections in Chapter 9 to reflect exactly 10 years from adoption of this Plan (2032). The projected new average household size in 2032 (2.7) and the total number of projected new residents over the next decade (672) were used to generate the projected number of new households in 2032 (250).

Parks and recreation are directly related to the community's overall public health because they provide opportunities for residents to participate in physical activities, get outside, and improve health education. In comparison to other neighboring counties, both Brown and Outagamie County rank in the top 50% of Wisconsin counties in terms of overall health outcomes. However, there are still public health areas that can be improved including percentage of adults with obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. This information is important for assessing how healthy the Village of Wrightstown is today, while identifying areas of focus for improvement in the future.

A complete inventory, analysis, and review of Wrightstown's natural resource components, data trends, and existing plans can be found in the Appendix.



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EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES



CHAPTER 2: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

Located along the banks of the scenic Fox River, the Village provides various opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors. As provided below, the Village of Wrightstown's park, recreation, and open space system consists of a range of facilities including passive parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Other publicly-owned sites include those owned by the Wrightstown School District. In addition, a privately owned, public golf course is located on the far northwest side of the Village and two private schools also include outdoor recreational facilities. In total, the Village owns 25 developed acres of parkland in five Village parks.

The presence of outdoor recreation sites and open spaces add significant opportunities for dynamic activity, social connection, physical exercise, and numerous other health benefits to a community's quality of life. They enhance the attractiveness of the community and foster a sense of civic pride and identity. Furthermore, even small green spaces, playgrounds, or parks create a sense of social cohesion and focal point for the surrounding neighborhood.

The full range of the Village's developed park system includes Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Areas located throughout the community. The Village generally has a good supply of well-established parks in the older parts of the community and will need to successfully acquire new park areas within planned residential growth areas. A brief description of each of the community's existing park and open space sites is included below

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Neighborhood Parks

- **Shamrock Park** is an approximately 3.7-acre park located on the far west side of the Village on Royal St. Pats Drive. The park generally serves the immediate neighborhood and includes a playground, swing set, picnic tables, park benches, open space, and a portable toilet. The park facilities are in very good condition.
- **Van Dyke Park** is approximately 2.5 acres in size and is located behind the American Legion Post 436, between Main Street (STH 96) and the Canadian National (CN) railroad. The park serves the immediate neighborhood and includes a softball diamond, soccer field, large play structure, sand box, swing set, park benches, and picnic tables. Parking is shared with the American Legion. The play equipment in the park is aging, however the ball field backstop was recently constructed within the past five years.
- **Wrightstown Lion's-Waupekun Park** is located on the southeastern corner of the intersection of Longwood Lane and Fawnwood Drive and is approximately 1.7 acres in size. The park generally serves the immediate neighborhood and includes a playground, picnic tables, park benches, and brand-new outdoor shelter with permanent bathrooms. The play equipment is newer and in good condition.
- **Zirbel Park and Sledding Hill** is the Village's newest park, located behind Village Hall and across from the Wrightstown Elementary School on High Street (STH 96), and is approximately 6.2 acres in size. The park includes a basketball court, picnic benches, memorial plaza and plaque, and large, sloped greenspace area that during the winter months is used for sledding. The basketball court also doubles as an outdoor ice-skating rink in the winter.



Community Parks

- **Mueller Park** is located on the east shore of the Fox River at the Plum Creek confluence. The upper portion of the park along Washington Street has been owned and operated by the Village for many years, while the boat launch and lower portion of the park along the river was recently acquired from Brown County. In total, the park includes approximately 11 acres and 1,600 feet of shoreline with a paved boat launch and docks and vehicle/trailer parking area. A new paved path from the boat launch area extends southwest along the wooded shoreline of the Fox River and then upslope to connect to the main portion of Mueller Park, which fronts on Washington Street (CTH ZZ). The park has been utilized for various Village-wide events and is the home location of the Waterboard Warriors Waterski Team. Recently, the Village constructed a new parking lot on the west side of Washington Street to serve the boat launch area. Facilities in the park include a playground, sand volleyball court, horseshoe area, restrooms, picnic areas with grills, two pavilions, a parking lot, and a storage building. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the park is difficult due to a lack of sidewalks or bike lanes/paths on this portion of CTH ZZ.

Private Recreation Facilities

- **Royal St. Patrick's Golf Links** is an 18-hole championship-caliber golf course and clubhouse/restaurant open to the public located in the far western part of the Village, between South County Line Road (CTH U) and Interstate 41. A residential neighborhood is located directly surrounding and within the golf course.

Special Use Areas (other Village-Owned Land)

- **Plum Creek** is a tributary stream of the Fox River that runs through the east side of Wrightstown. This water feature and the 10 acres surrounding it, provides a green space corridor connecting Muller Park to Zirbel Park. It is planned to become a passive recreational space amenity with walking paths along the banks of the creek.
- **Fox Shores Drive** is located in the far northwest portion of Wrightstown. A small half acre parcel is currently owned by the Village where a former eagle nesting site was preserved. The land presents a potential future opportunity for an additional recreational amenity.
- **Lost Dauphin Road** located on the west banks of the Fox River in the northern part of the community is a 6.7-acre parcel that was dedicated to the Village for future open space. This site offers another potential recreational amenity for the Village.



Photo by Gary Arndt

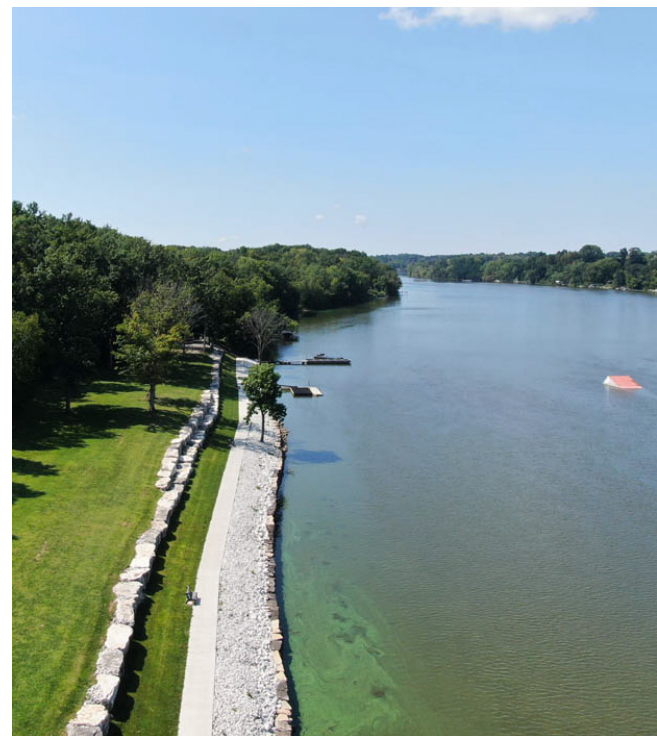


Photo by Gary Arndt

Public School Facilities

The Wrightstown School District contains approximately 86.4 acres including recreational and open space areas at the High School, Middle School, and the Elementary school campus. This includes all school buildings and facilities as well as open space and land dedicated to recreational facilities.

- **Wrightstown Elementary School** is located on High Street (STH 96) immediately across the street from Wrightstown Village Hall. The school has a number of active recreational facilities for younger children including multiple play structures, swing sets, and basketball courts. A softball/Little League baseball field with backstop, sand infield, and dugouts are located north of the school. The outfield is also used for soccer. The facilities are available to the public during non-school hours.
- **Wrightstown Middle School** is located south of Wrightstown Elementary School on High Street (STH 96). The middle school facilities include an asphalt track and bleachers for track and field activities, climbing structures, four basketball hoops, and two softball/little league baseball fields with outfield fences, backstops, portable bleachers, and dugout locations. In addition, there is a sandlot ball field with a backstop. All facilities are in very good condition and are available to the public when school is not in session and/or not being used for organized athletic events.
- **Wrightstown High School** is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of High Street (STH 96) and Shanty Road in the southeastern part of the Village. The recreation facilities at the high school are limited to athletic fields, including two baseball fields, two softball fields, four soccer fields, and a football field with bleachers and press box. Parking for the athletic fields is available at the high school and at a secondary parking lot on Shanty Road, south of the football field. All facilities are in very good condition and are available to the public when school is not in session and/or not being used for organized athletic events.



Photo by Gary Arndt

Private School Facilities

- **St. Clare Catholic School**, located on Main Street (CTH D) has a playground structure behind the school, as well as four basketball hoops in the parking lot across main street.
- **St. John Lutheran School**, located on Clay Street, includes a playground and grass open space area for recreational activities. The site was recently acquired by the Village and the school is planned to move to a new location in 2023. This presents a new potential Village park site in a well-established residential neighborhood. See Chapter 7 for detailed conceptual plans for the future of the property.

Outagamie County Parks

Outagamie County Parks located near Wrightstown provide an important part of the recreational infrastructure in the Village, connecting it to the greater area and regional parks and recreational opportunities.

- **Croche Dam Picnic Grounds** is a small picnic area with a modest observation deck built along the shore of the Fox River located at the southwest edge of the Village.

State of Wisconsin Parks and Trails

- The **Fox River State Trail** has become one of the most popular recreational facilities in Brown County and one of the most heavily used trails within the state. Paving of the trail (between 2001-2008) has enabled activities like in-line skating and skateboarding while also making bicycling easier and more accessible. The Fox River Trail is paved from its Trailhead to Lasee Road in De Pere. From Lasee Road south to the Brown County Line, the trail is surfaced with very fine limestone or similar materials and is not designed for high-speed travel. Located approximately 4 miles east of the Village, the trail connects Wrightstown to the regional recreational network.
- **High Cliff State Park**. Located 15 miles from the Village, High Cliff State Park draws recreational enthusiasts from all over the region to its limestone cliff vistas along the northeastern shores of Lake Winnebago. The park is the only state-owned recreational area on Lake Winnebago, one of Wisconsin's largest lakes. The park offers several camping opportunities, including a family campground consisting of 112 campsites, eight outdoor group campsites, and an accessible cabin for people with disabilities, as well as numerous trails, a fishing pier, bike paths, boating, canoeing, and kayaking on the lake, horseback riding, hunting, and picnicking.



Photo by Gary Arndt

Figure 2.1 below summarizes the Village's developed park facilities and the amenities offered at each. The Figure also includes Special Use Areas and school facilities.

FIGURE 2.1: PARK FACILITY MATRIX

Parks and Facilities Serving Wrightstown	Acres	Drinking Water	Furniture / Benches & Tables	Rest Rooms	Enclosed Shelter	Open Shelter	Swimming	Play Equipment	Open Play Area	Basketball Courts	Horseshoes	Tennis/Pickleball	Volleyball	Baseball / Softball	Soccer Fields	Football Field/Track	Golf / Disc Golf	Skate Park	Sledding Area	Ice Skating	Natural Resource/Passive Area	Camping	Boating (non-motorized)/Canoeing	Fishing	Hiking / Trails	Cross-Country Skiing	Tail/Bike Route Access	Parking
Village Parks																												
Van Dyke Park*	2.5		X	X				X	X					X	X													X
Mueller Park**	11.0	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X								X		X	X				X
Lion's-Waupekun Park	1.7	X	X	X		X		X	X						X													X
Zirbel Park and Sledding Hill***	6.2		X	X				X	X										X	X								X
Shamrock Park	3.7		X	X				X	X																			X
Special Use Areas																												
Plum Creek Corridor	10.0																				X			X	X			
Fox Shores Drive Area	0.5																				X							
Lost Dauphin Road Area	6.7																				X							
Wrightstown School District																												
Elementary/Middle School	36.2	X	X	X				X	X	X					X													X
High School	50.2	X	X	X				X	X						X													X
Private Schools																												
St. Clare School	5.6	X		X				X	X	X																		X
St. John Lutheran School	4.1	X		X				X	X	X					X													X
Private Recreation																												
Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course	189	X		X	X												X											X

All Wrightstown Schools, Private Schools, and Private Recreation includes entire site total acres (all on-site buildings, parking areas, recreational facilities, and open space)

*Does not include American Legion building and parking area.

**Does not include the cemetery.

***Does not include Village Hall and parking area.

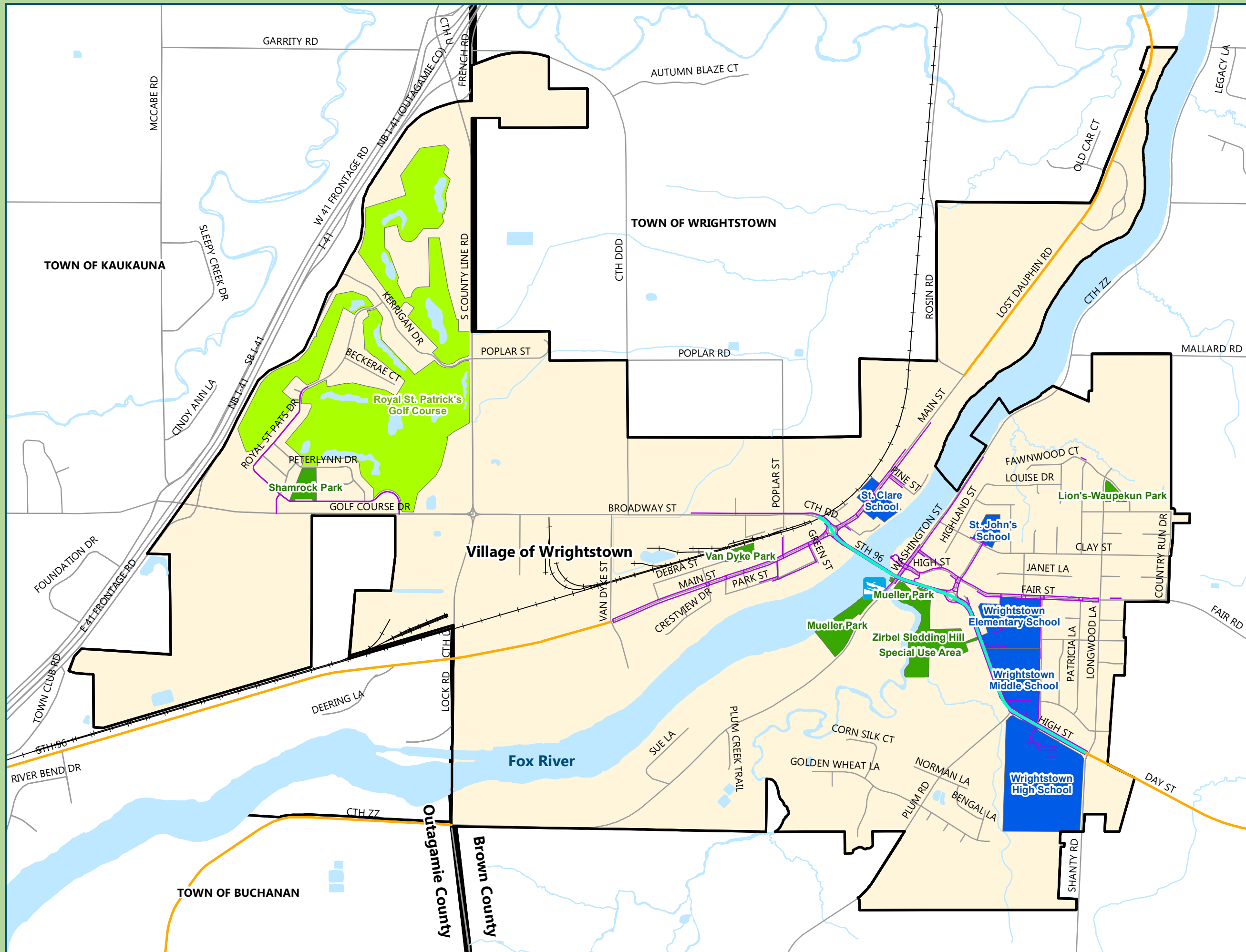
Map 1 - Existing Parks

Village of Wrightstown Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2022

-  Boat Launch
-  Existing Bicycle Lane
-  Existing 5' Paved Shoulder
-  Existing Sidewalk
-  Village Parks
-  School Facilities
-  Private Recreation
-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Surface Water
-  Village of Wrightstown
-  Other Municipal Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

DRAFT

Date: 3/16/2022
Sources: Village of Wrightstown, Lee Engineering,
Brown County, Outagamie County, WI LTSB



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3

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION


COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Village of Wrightstown conducted an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey from March 4, 2022, to April 11, 2022. In total, 423 people provided feedback. The 2022 survey mirrored some components of the survey used in 2019 by the Village's Park Department to provide perspective on how opinions might have changed over the past 5 years. The 2022 survey had over two and half times as many responses compared to the survey conducted in 2019.

Overall, the survey focused on obtaining public opinion and feedback on the current conditions and future needs of the Wrightstown park and recreation system. All survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Of the 423 responses, 73% were Village residents and the rest were mainly from neighboring towns and cities. Additionally, over 65% of respondents were between the ages of 30-49. However, there were a larger number of young respondents under the age of 20 that participated in the 2022 survey compared to 2019 survey results, and the most recent survey also captured responses from over 100 members of the public age 50 and older, meaning that a more wide-ranging age demographic participated in the 2022 survey.

Survey respondents were asked what type of large-scale, small-scale, and specialized park and recreational facilities are needed to serve Village residents, and if they were a High, Medium, or Low priority. The top three responses for each of the High, Medium, and Low priority categories are listed below (respondents were asked to check all that apply).



**2022 Village of
Wrightstown
Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan**

SHARE YOUR OPINION AND HELP GUIDE THE
FUTURE OF PARKS IN WRIGHTSTOWN!

Welcome! This survey is intended to gather input on the Village's current park facilities and programs, in addition to gaining an understanding of the Village's future park and recreation needs.

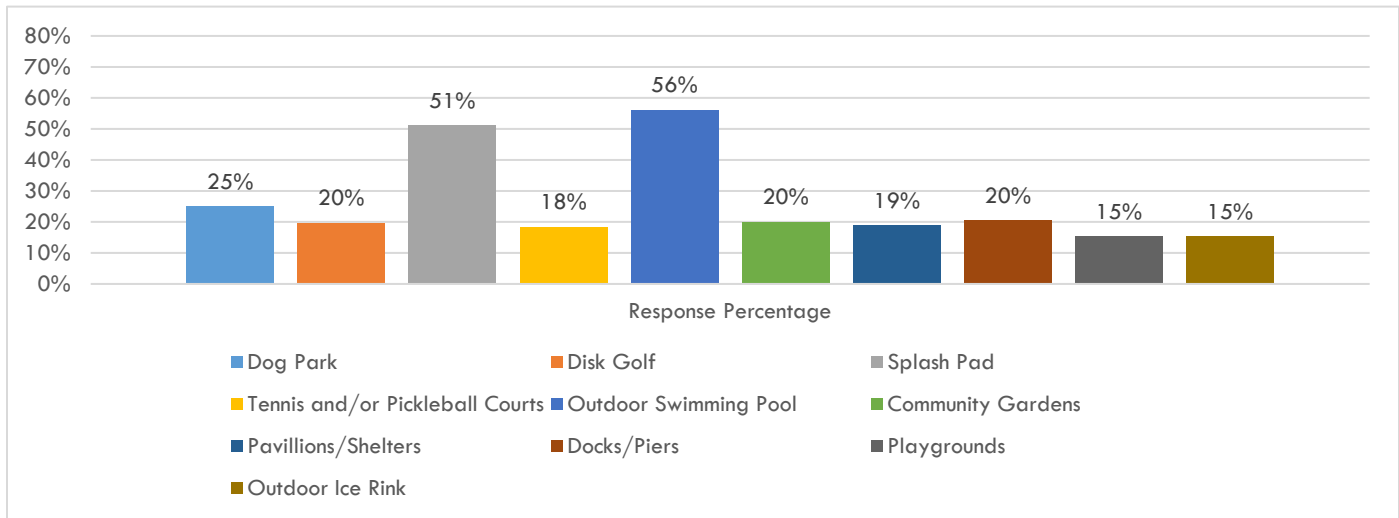
The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

The results of this survey will inform the development of the Village's 2022 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and builds on the survey conducted by the Village in 2019. Overall, the plan will provide a guide to Village leadership in terms of prioritizing future needs and makes the Village eligible for state and federal grant funds that can be utilized for future park and open space improvements.

FIGURE 3.1: TOP THREE NEEDS IDENTIFIED AS HIGH, MEDIUM, AND LOW PRIORITIES

Priority	Percentage
Top Three Needs Identified as the Highest Priority	
Passive Recreational & natural areas (unpaved trails, wildlife viewing areas, picnic areas, woodlands, wetlands)	48%
Community Parks (5+ acres with larger facilities – swimming pools, sports courts and fields, enclosed shelters)	47%
Other (splash pads, swimming pools, expansion of the river walk, and dog park)	29%
Top Three Needs Identified as the Medium Priority	
Neighborhood Parks (1-5 acres with playground equipment, open playfields, 1-2 tennis/basketball courts, outdoor shelter, etc.)	41%
Nature Trails	51%
Restrooms	32%
Top Three Needs Identified as the Lowest Priority	
Pocket Parks (1 acres or less with small playground equipment, open play area, seating, etc.)	53%
Neighborhood Parks (1-5 acres with playground equipment, open playfields, 1-2 tennis/basketball courts, outdoor shelter, etc.)	26%
Community Parks (5+ acres with larger facilities – swimming pools, sports courts and fields, enclosed shelters)	21%

FIGURE 3.2: TOP IDENTIFIED SPECIALIZED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



Overall, the results of the 2022 survey are similar to the results of the data gathered in 2019. The most significant change was in the second highest priority category, with residents indicating that they would like to see more active community parks with larger facilities such as a swimming pool and fields and courts for various sports. The 2019 survey results primarily indicated a desire for more park shelters and open space and did not indicate a high demand for active facilities as is seen in the most recent survey. Additionally, in 2022, respondents favored new natural areas and hiking trails more than participants in 2019 did. The lowest priority new facility was reported to be on-street bicycle facilities (43%) in 2022, which was a similar result to the previous 2019 survey results. The highest priority new facility reported in 2022 was the creation of multi-use trails for recreation and travel throughout the community (indicated by 45% of respondents). It should also be noted that 67% of survey respondents marked the category “No Opinion – Other,” when asked about their interests in new active transportation facilities. The 77 respondents who marked this category and provided additional comments indicated the desire for safer transportation infrastructure and access around the community for children, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In relation to specialized facilities, respondents favored outdoor swimming pools, splash pads, a dog park, and disc golf as the top priorities for the future. This was a shift from the 2019 survey, in which children’s play equipment, bathrooms, shelter structures, benches, and tables were the highest priority.

One new question was added to the 2022 survey that did not appear in the 2019 version. Respondents were asked what types of recreational programming they would like to see more of in the Village. Responses indicated that 51% of respondents expressed the desire to see more programming for children under 13 years old, 33% expressed the desire for programming for teenagers, and 26% of all respondents would like to see more programs for adults in the Village. Responses clearly indicate a desire amongst residents for more social, educational, skill-building, interactive, and entertainment programming within the community and interest in attending programming in the Village’s park and recreation network.

Another important question was how well the Village is maintaining its existing park and recreation facilities. Overall, most respondents expressed that the Village is doing well in this area, especially related to park cleanliness, safety, and mowing. Just over 50% of responses indicated satisfaction with park maintenance, and 34% were very satisfied. Again, this was the general sentiment in the 2019 survey as well.



A majority of the survey focused on how familiar respondents were with the existing parks, if they used the parks, and what additional facility upgrades might be needed in the parks. This question was asked in relation to Village-owned Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Specialized Parks. Overall, most respondents were familiar with two of the Village's key parks, with over 60% of respondents indicating that they have visited Mueller Park and Waupekun Park within the last year. Additionally, a number of respondents stated that they actively used the other Village Parks, especially Zirbel Park and Van Dyke Park. Between the 2019 survey and the 2022 survey, data indicates that significantly more residents are using Zirbel Park and Sledding Hill, Mueller Park, and Van Dyke Park than previously, though this could be attributed to the larger sample of residents who participated in the 2022 survey. Some of the top needs in the Village's existing parks included:

- Maintaining existing facilities for park users
- Improving, upgrading, or replacing playground equipment
- Increasing the amount of shade trees and structures, benches, and permanent public bathrooms
- Expanding on the number of basketball courts, playfields, volleyball courts, trails, and signage.
- New splash pad, pickleball courts, disc golf facilities, outdoor pool, and a dog park

Another new question in the 2022 survey was related to the best way for residents to stay up to date with the Village's current and future recreation opportunities. The top two methods respondents preferred included the Village newsletter and social media, along with email lists and the Village website.



STAFF KICKOFF MEETING, COMMUNITY SITE VISIT TOUR, AND FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS

At the forefront the planning process, a Village staff kickoff meeting was held. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the proposed project, the planning process, and the project schedule, as well as to identify key personnel to be involved in the project within Village staff as well as important stakeholders and interest groups within the wider community.

Additionally, on March 21, 2022, planning consultants and Village staff conducted a tour of the community and its various park and open space assets to gain further understanding and familiarity with specific sites, the community's characteristics and values, and recreational opportunities. Topics discussed with staff included overall needs and priorities, additional amenities needed in existing and future parks, the implications of future growth on the Village's parks and recreational resources, prioritizing connections of trails to and within the community, and ways for residents to stay involved in the planning process.

Part of the community site visit included focus group interviews with key identified stakeholder groups from the Village. Focus group meetings took place over the course of two meetings that afternoon. The two focus groups consisted of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, school district representatives, and members of the public involved in youth sports groups. Collectively, 20 people participated in the interviews. Much of the feedback informed the development of the Plan is reflected throughout.

DRAFT PLAN REVIEW MEETINGS

On July 19, 2022, the Advisory Committee met to review and discuss Draft #1. The meeting centered on an overview of the survey results and the components of the plan, into addition to a discuss of key policy decisions within plan. Specific discussion was also focused on the conceptual park development plans for the St. John's Lutheran school site and a preferred alternative was identified. Overall, committee members were happy with Draft #1 and recommended that the plan be taken to the Village Board for review and discuss.

On August 16, 2022, the Village Board met to review and discuss Draft #1. Similar to the Advisory Committee, the Village Board was happy with the draft and the chosen alternative to the St. John's Lutheran school site park concept plan. No changes were proposed to the plan.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

On October 1, 2022, a public open house review of the Draft Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was held during Fall Festival in downtown Wrightstown. During the event, Village staff and Vandewalle & Associates organized and attended a booth along High Street which provided interested residents with the opportunity to view materials, rank prioritized projects, comment on the plan, and ask questions. In total, 102 people stopped by the booth during the 4-hour event.



Proposed Project Ranking Results:

Park Name	Proposed Project	Public Prioritization
Van Dyke Park	Upgraded playground equipment	1
	Playfield lighting	
	New outdoor shelter with permanent bathrooms	2
	Improve ADA accessibility	
Shamrock Park	New playfield	
	New basketball court	5
	New outdoor shelter with permanent bathrooms	
	Improve ADA accessibility	
Zirbel Park and Sledding Hill	New playfield	
	New indoor shelter with permanent bathrooms and warming house	3
	Sled rentals and sledding hill tow rope	12
	Pickleball on existing basketball court	4
	Trail connection to Plum Creek	5
Lion's-Waupekun Park	Upgraded playground equipment	2
	Improve ADA accessibility	1
	Security upgrades	
Mueller Park and Boat Launch	Upgraded playground equipment	6
	New indoor shelter for events	2
	Improve interior walking path connections between upper and lower areas	3
	Security upgrades	
	Other (please specify): Double the boat launch	2
Plum Creek Trail	New trailhead in boat launch parking lot	1
	New signage along trail	2
	Connect trail to new St. John's school site (Plum Road)	6
	New trailhead at Zirbel Park	6
	Natural resource preservation	2

Proposed Project	Public Prioritization
More river/creek access points	
Paved bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails	16
Unpaved walking paths and trails	1
Recreational programming	
Online shelter rental system for parks	1
Splash pad	15
Pickleball courts	11
Outdoor event venue	5
Softball and baseball fields	4
Soccer, football, lacrosse, etc. fields	5
Basketball courts	3
Community gardens	3
Permanent public restrooms	10
Preserved open space and protection of natural resources	4
Playgrounds	4
Other (please specify):	
Tennis Courts	8
Gaga Ball Pit	5

Written Comments Received:

- Fencing and sound buffering around new park at existing St. John's school site.
- Bike trails and off-street paths along Plum Road.
- Bicycle and pedestrian connections to Fox River Trail along Fair Road or CTH ZZ.
- ATV routes through the Village.
- Boat docks at the end of High Street to help downtown businesses.
- Increased sidewalks and trails between parks, along the river, and within new developments.
- New dog park.
- Cleaning up Waterboard Warriors equipment in Mueller Park.
- Car Show parade during Fall Festival.
- Full size outdoor ice-skating rink for hockey – could go into new park at St. John's school site.
- New nature preserves south of High School campus.
- New splash pad and/or fishing or public access to stormwater pond at new park at St. John's school site.

Verbal Comments Received:

- Many people complimented the Village on the Fall Festival and were really happy with the event.
- Many people complimented the Village on the parks and recreation system today, for taking the time to do this project with the input in the survey and at the event, and the idea of using the St. John's school site for a new park.



RECOMMENDATION AND ADOPTION

On October 11, 2022, the Advisory Committee reviewed the public feedback responses from the public open house and discussed changes needed to the plan. Following the discussion, the Advisory Committee recommended that plan for adoption by the Plan Commission and Village Board.

On October 18, 2022, a joint meeting of the Plan Commission and Village Board was held to review, discuss, and act upon the draft plan. This also featured a public hearing to solicit additional public input prior to any action taken. Following the public hearing, the Plan Commission and Village Board adopted the 2022 Village of Wrightstown Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

4

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

CHAPTER 4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

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

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

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

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

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies are based on the information that has been presented in the previous chapters of this Plan including public input and discussion amongst Village Staff, focus groups, and Park and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee members.

GOALS

1. Ensure the provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas that meets the needs of and are accessible to all community members, promote public health, and provide diverse recreational opportunities.
2. Preserve the Village's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.
3. Establish a safe, accessible, and interconnected multimodal transportation network to connect the Village's park and recreation system to areas of activity and community neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVES

1. Provide quality outdoor recreation and adequate open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood of the community.
2. Integrate park, recreation, and natural resource preservation in land use planning policies and administration.
3. Provide diverse and equitably situated recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
4. Collaborate with other units of government, including Brown County, Outagamie County, WisDNR, and the Wrightstown School District on park and recreation system planning.
5. Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and bicycle routes in the Village that serve neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, and activity centers.
6. Leverage public-private partnerships, local associations and foundations, and other creative funding sources to help improve and meet the long-term park and recreational needs of the community.



POLICIES

1. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood-gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance of all Village residents, generally 1/3-mile service areas.
2. Require parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu standards for all new residential subdivisions and explore the potential creation of park improvement fees.
3. Prioritize the acquisition of land to proactively plan for and accommodate a future community park.
4. Explore Village acquisition of park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and help facilitate site planning for development. Coordinate land acquisition with state, county, regional, and local agencies to ensure an interconnected system of outdoor recreational facilities.
5. Any new park development should be planned to avoid creating nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
6. Establish bicycle paths and routes on local streets throughout the community to connect neighborhoods with schools, parks, trails, and other destinations.
7. Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Brown and Outagamie Counties, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and planning for potential future alternative transportation corridors and transit modes. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in ongoing Village planning and acquisition efforts and should follow State and ASSHTO standards.
8. Master plans should be considered for all future parkland development. These plans should indicate the future use of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds.
9. As opportunities become available, the Village should consider purchasing properties adjacent to existing park properties to allow for the expansion of existing parks. The Village will need to evaluate each opportunity to determine which properties will sufficiently meet the future needs of the park system.
10. Consider combining Village park and recreational facilities with school facilities, where appropriate and feasible.
11. Preservation of environmental corridors in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure the maintenance and integrity of wildlife and fish habitats, natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, steep slopes, woodlands, and reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate.
12. Investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space. Conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure should be preserved. Consider using public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.
13. Utilize management practices that protect and enhance the natural features of all of its parks. This includes efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental areas, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and implement native species plantings and landscape initiative, to the extent possible.
14. Continue to provide recreation facilities that are designed for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them, the effectiveness of supervision, and the quality of the recreation experience.
15. Continue to market the park system's facilities and programs to the community. This effort could include utilizing social media, email lists, the use of a bi-annual recreational guide, signage, and developing new informational publications. A map identifying park facilities should be included in these materials.
16. Encourage the creation of a "Friends of the Wrightstown Parks" volunteer program to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the Village's park facilities.
17. Work with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and consider measures to promote land preservation and water quality in the Village and surrounding area.



18. Modernize facilities and equipment in older parks and provide new facilities and equipment in undeveloped or partially developed parks.
19. The Village should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
20. Participate in future updates to the Brown County and Outagamie County Bicycle Transportation Plan and Parks and Open Space Plan.
21. Adopt a Complete Streets Policy that requires multi-modal elements as part of every roadway infrastructure project. Integrate United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Association of City Transportation Officials, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation guidelines, best practices, and performance measures into the policy to facilitate true complete streets.
22. Consider developing and adopting a “Health in All Policies” initiative so that public health is integrated in all decision-making process Village-wide.
23. Utilize the Village’s 5-year Capital Improvements Plan to pursue and implement the recommendations of this Plan.
24. Pursue becoming a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community.
25. Develop, host, or partner with the School District, Police Department, or other local organizations on bicycle and pedestrian education programs and other trainings to increase safety and utilization of trails, paths, sidewalks, and streets.

5

PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

CHAPTER 5: PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly developed using a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents.

The following section details the local standards for park and recreational facilities. These standards are a combination of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines and previously established best practice standards based on Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. A calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal or national standards. Furthermore, a locally derived standard does a better job of considering the quality of the park system as well as the quantity of park and recreational facilities provided.

For a full description of each park type in the Village see Chapter 2.

NATIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPARABLE COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS

To understand the role that the Village's Park and Trail System should play in providing park and recreation services, it is useful to understand the role of a municipal park system in the context of national, state, and county services provided.

- **National Parks** are scattered throughout the United States with massive tracts of land that serve as vacation destinations or wilderness areas. They are run by the Department of Interior of the United States government. There are no National Parks in Brown or Outagamie Counties.
- **State Parks** exist as conservation areas, scenic drives, or as weekend getaways, typically away from population centers. State Parks are often designed to encourage tourism, but their primary purpose is to serve residents of their respective states. Nearby State Parks include High Cliff State Park, Heritage Hill State Historical Park, Mountain Bay State Recreational Trail, and Red Banks Alvar State Natural Area.
- **County Parks** function to fill in the gaps that municipal and state governments do not serve. The gaps can include serving a municipal function in portions of a county with municipalities too small to have enough resources to provide parks, conserving large areas of open space that municipalities cannot, or as a tourist venue for people from outside the county. Brown County Bay Shore Park, Fonferek's Glen, and the Brown County Dog Park are examples of county parks located throughout Brown County.
- **Municipal parks** exist to serve residents of municipalities, sometimes on an hourly basis, as hosts for active athletic or recreation programs. The two most common types of municipal parks are Neighborhood and Community parks. Neighborhood parks are usually 1-10 acres in size and have a 1/3-mile service radius. Community parks are larger (10+ acres) and typically serve larger portions of the community with a 1-mile service radius.



On an annual basis, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles data from around the U.S. on park and recreational departments and services provided. In 2022, the NRPA released its latest version of the Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks. It is important to compare the services that Wrightstown provides to the national averages as a benchmark for analysis. A few of the most applicable metrics include:

- On average, 10.4 acres of park land is provided per 1,000 residents in a jurisdiction.

- On a per park basis, there are an average of 2,323 residents per park.
- Per 10,000 residents, an equivalent 8.9 full-time employees on average are employed in each park and recreation department.

Another method in evaluating the existing Wrightstown Parks System is comparing it to other neighboring municipalities. In Figure 5.1, five other communities were selected that ranged in size between 3,627 – 16,634 in total population. Generally, Wrightstown has less total developed municipally owned parks than most other neighboring communities, outside of the Town of Lawrence. However, Wrightstown compares favorably with other municipalities in terms of the total number of residents per park. In terms of the number of developed park acres per 1,000 residents, Wrightstown is just below the national benchmark standard, but comparable to other similar sized (population) communities compared below.

To note, some communities have significant amounts of their existing total park acres that are constrained by environmental factors such as rivers, streams, steep slopes, natural areas, floodplain, and wetlands. Many do not account for that factor in their park planning, thus total acres shown below include both constrained and unconstrained land totals.

FIGURE 5.1. COMPARABLE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

Municipality	2021 Population	Number of Municipal Owned Parks	Residents Per Park	Total Acres*	Acres Per 1,000 People
Village of Wrightstown	3,157	5	631	25	7.9
Village of Little Chute	12,525	11	1,139	86	6.9
Village of Combined Locks	3,627	7	518	93	25.7
Village of Kimberly	7,422	12	619	106	14.3
Town of Lawrence	6,284	2	3,142	19	3.1
Average of Comparable Communities	8,275	12	1,095	131	14.0
NPRA Standards (2022)	-	-	-	-	National Average: 10.4

*Some communities listed in this analysis have a significant number of constrained acres that make up the total parkland acres documented in their respective Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Not all communities listed distinguish constrained from unconstrained acres, so both were considered in this analysis to provide a consistent data point for all communities.

Source: V&A and Village of Wrightstown, Village of Little Chute, Village of Combined Locks, Village of Kimberly, Town of Lawrence, and the National Park and Recreation Association.

While it is important to evaluate Wrightstown based on both national averages and neighboring Wisconsin municipalities, it is difficult to do a one-to-one comparison between parks departments. This is because of the variability in department structure, amenities, distribution of county and state parks, and the number of natural resources in the area. Since there are so many variables, this plan will use customized local standards established for this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans to determine its existing service gaps and future needs.

WRIGHTSTOWN PARK STANDARDS

Overall, the Village currently maintains a standard of approximately 8 park acres per 1,000 residents. Because of the projected future increase in the population over the next 10-20 years, the acres per resident standard is expected to decrease over the planning period. If the Village wishes to maintain or increase the standard, additional park land will need to be acquired. Below, in Figure 5.2, is the breakdown of the developed park acres per 1,000 resident's standards using Wrightstown's 2021 total population.

FIGURE 5.2 FUTURE VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN PARK STANDARDS

	2022 Total Unconstrained Acres	2022 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents	2022 Standard Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	2022 Total Acres Needed to Meet Standard	2022 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standard
Total Municipal Parks	25.0	7.9	10.0	31.6	6.5

*It was determined that none of the existing Neighborhood or Community Parks contained any constrained acres. While steep slopes are present in a few locations, they are being utilized for recreational activities and are not considered constrained in this Plan.

Source: V&A and Village of Wrightstown

SERVICE AREAS

Map 2 depicts the service areas of Neighborhood and Community Parks based on their location within the community. This analysis is utilized to determine the existing service coverage of the Village Park System, in addition to forming the basis of the recommended new park locations as discussed in Chapter 7.

Park service areas were divided into two different distances based on the size, number of amenities, and ability to serve multiple recreational functions:

- Neighborhood Parks: 1/3 Mile Service Area
- Community Parks: 1 Mile Service Area

In most municipalities, service areas range between 1/4 – 1/3 mile because of the need to accommodate all modes of transportation access, especially people who may not own or be able to operate a vehicle (children, handicapped individuals, the elderly, etc.). 1/4 – 1/3 mile is seen as representative distance of mobility or how far most individuals can walk comfortably depending on age, health, and other factors. An additional consideration in the service areas provided by each Neighborhood and Community Park are access barriers (large roadways, natural features, bridges, etc.) and general development density. Wrightstown's service areas were modified to reflect the limited access for an individual walking or biking due to high-traffic volume streets. Those roadways included: STH 96, High Street, Broadway Street, Lost Dauphin Road, and Main Street.

Using these service areas, Map 2 identifies a few small service gaps on the far west side of Wrightstown and several prominent gap in the west and north areas of the Village. These include the northeast portion of the Village north of Mallard Road on the west side of the Fox River, as well as areas around the intersection of Broadway Street and South County Line Road and southwest of Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course. To note, these portions of the Village are not currently densely developed, though they may be in the future. In total, the existing park locations are fairly well distributed throughout the community and provide service to most existing neighborhoods and residents within a 1/4 – 1/3 mile.



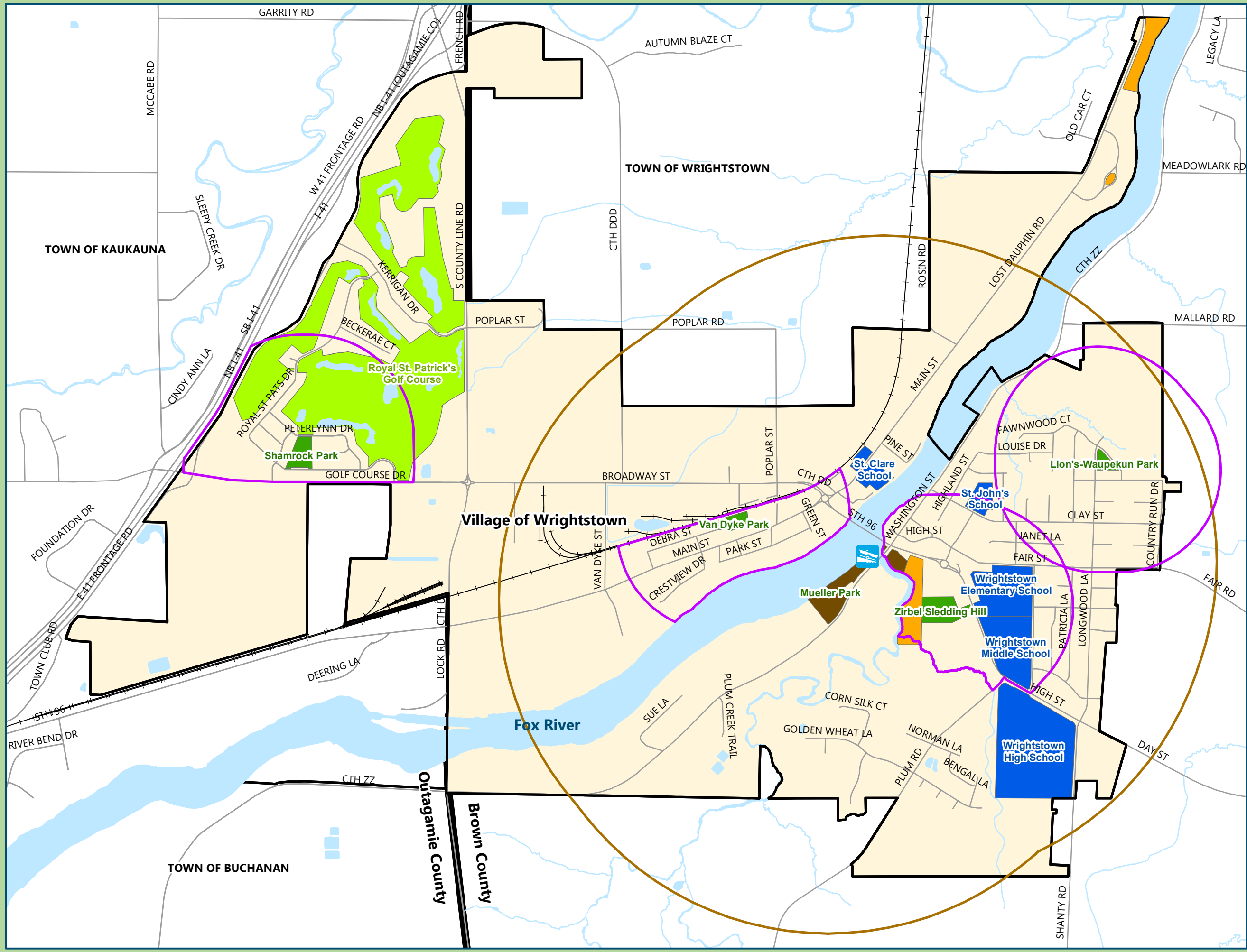
PROGRAMMING AND STAFFING

As of 2022, Wrightstown does not formally offer any recreational programming, however Village staff does assist in coordinating with the various other local organizations to provide recreational activities in various parks throughout the year. All other recreational programming is provided by School District and local sports groups and leagues.

The parks are staffed by one full time equivalent Department of Public Works staff person and two seasonal employees. In order to provide the high level of service that the Village desires, it is recommended that at a minimum the existing ratio of full-time to part-time staff, in addition to the ratio of programming to maintenance staff remain the same over the next five years. However, if new or expanded programming, facilities, or land acquisition takes place, additional staff should be considered, and is recommended to maintain the existing level of service. According to the National Recreation and Park Association's 2022 Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks Field Report, the national average of full-time park employees per 10,000 people in a jurisdiction is 8.9. This translates to approximately 2.8 parks and recreation staff need to meet the national benchmark based on Wrightstown's existing population.

Map 2 - Park Service Areas

Village of Wrightstown
Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan 2022



- Boat Launch
- Community Park 1 Mile Service Area
- Neighborhood Park 1/3rd Mile Service Area
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Area
- School Facilities
- Private Recreation
- Roads
- Railroad
- Surface Water
- Village of Wrightstown
- Other Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

DRAFT

Date: 3/16/2022
Sources: Village of Wrightstown, Lee Engineering,
Brown County, Outagamie County, WI LTSB

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ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

CHAPTER 6: ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This Chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village of Wrightstown’s existing park and recreational facilities meet community needs, evaluating the following components:

- An application of established local and national park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the Village (Chapter 5).
- A qualitative analysis of the Village’s park system based on both an understanding of the Village’s goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities.
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of each park location.
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the Village’s park and open space system.
- A review of the Wisconsin’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in Chapter 7.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Existing Facilities

As documented in Chapter 5, the Village’s existing park acres do meet the established local standard for a total of 10 unconstrained acres of municipally-owned parkland per 1,000 residents (Figure 6.1). Constrained areas are defined as a combination of WisDNR wetlands and floodplains, steep slopes (greater than 12%), drainageways (75’ buffer around perennial streams or 50’ buffer around intermittent channels), and woodlands (combined 80% cover area). The unconstrained areas are all of the parkland acres that do not fall within a constrained area. To calculate the amount of existing parkland per resident, only the unconstrained acres were used. Again, it was determined that none of the existing Neighborhood or Community Parks in the Village contained constrained acres.

FIGURE 6.1: TOTAL PARKLAND BY TYPE

Park Type	2022 Total Acres	2022 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents
Neighborhood*	14	4.5
Community*	11	3.5
Total	25	8.0

**It was determined that none of the existing Neighborhood or Community Parks contained any constrained acres. While steep slopes are present in a few locations, they are being utilized for recreational activities and are not considered constrained in this Plan.*
Source: V&A and Village of Wrightstown

Future Park System Needs

The future recreation needs of the Village are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the Village in future years. This type of needs assessment is a critical component of this Plan. It is included in part to satisfy Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 and 236.29 regarding the collection of fees, and also to assist the Village with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks.

For the purposes of this Plan, the Village will continue to utilize the standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Based upon the analyses provided in this Chapter and in Chapter 5, the Village chose to pursue the national standard for park acres per resident (10 acres/1,000 residents) because the community would like to proactively expand its park and recreational offerings, including new parkland. Figures 6.3 and 6.4 show the minimum additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the Village’s projected population in 2032 and 2042.

Figure 6.3 presents the 2032 park acreage needs projection which is a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure of impact fees. The 2032 projection will be used to estimate future costs in Chapter 8, and to determine parkland acquisition and improvement recommendations based on what the Village can reasonably expect to accomplish in the ten-year timeframe. Based upon the analysis presented below, the Village will need an approximate total of 13 additional acres of parkland by 2032 to accommodate the future population and increase the intended level of service.

FIGURE 6.3: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2032

2022 Total Acres	2022 Acres Per 1,000 Residents	Wrightstown Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents	2032 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards*	2032 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards*
25	8	10	38	13

Note: all figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

*Population projection in 2032: 3,829

Figure 6.4 shows that, based on the population projections in Chapter 1 and local standards, the Village will need to add approximately 19 acres of neighborhood and community parkland to the current park system by 2042.

FIGURE 6.4: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2042

2022 Total Acres	2022 Acres Per 1,000 Residents	Wrightstown Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents	2042 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards*	2042 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards*
25	8	10	44	19

Note: all figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

*Population Projection in 2042: 4,441

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations, a thorough assessment of the Village's existing facilities must include an analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Wrightstown unique from other communities, this includes:

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

Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this Chapter does not include outdoor school recreational facilities because the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does not consider these areas in the calculation of total parkland within a community. Additionally, they are prioritized for school district-based activities and can be closed to the public on occasion. While they do offer additional recreational facilities in many neighborhoods throughout the community and accommodate some of the local demand, they are not considered in the calculations and analysis of this Plan.
- While there are no county or state outdoor recreational facilities within Wrightstown, nearby amenities offered by state, county, or other municipalities also contribute to the area's overall parks, recreation, and open space system. Each helps serve Wrightstown residents, although most are only accessible by vehicle or bicycle.
- Village residents have access to many recreational facilities, however, the survey and public open house results (see Appendix) indicated there is a need for some additional facilities and amenities such as:



- Community Park
- Passive recreational space and trails
- Swimming pool
- Splash pad
- Playfields
- Multi-use paths and trails

GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location and distribution of the park and open space facilities in relation to a community's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. Map 2 illustrates how effectively the Village of Wrightstown's parklands serve the various developed areas of the Village. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in Chapter 5.

The area served by a park is influenced by several factors. These include the size of the park, location, transportation accessibility, and natural or manmade barriers. Displaying park service areas based on these factors suggests locations where additional park facilities might be necessary to serve residents.

Wrightstown is unique in that it is geographically spread-out in comparison to other communities of its size. This is due to a range of factors including the Fox River, topography, and accessibility and proximity of I-41 on the far western edge of the Village. In the older neighborhoods of Wrightstown along the river and adjacent to downtown, parks are well distributed, and the school district sites are within close proximity. However, there is one existing service area gap south of High Street on the east and west sides of Plum Road. The western side of Wrightstown is more isolated in terms of geographical distance from downtown. Existing service area gaps are located on the north side of Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course, Main Street, and Lost Dauphin Road.

As the Village continues to grow, existing and future gaps in park and recreation facility service areas will need to be addressed. The large area of the Village west of the intersection of Quality Court and Broadway Street, as well as portions of the northeastern part of the Village extend northeast along Lost Dauphin Road on the west side of the Fox River, though not heavily developed at this time, are not serviced by any neighborhood or community parks within close proximity. If the community continues to growth in both areas, there may be opportunities to fill these existing gaps with the addition of new parkland. Overall, as Wrightstown continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands, open space, and recreational opportunities.

REVIEW OF THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2019-2023 (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2019-2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Some of the key issues, concerns, and factors influencing the future of outdoor recreation include:

- Demographic shifts in age, urbanization, and diversification
- The declining overall maintenance of infrastructure, especially recreational facilities
- Technology advances effecting the way we travel, use parks, and distribute information
- Equitable distribution of public lands
- Declining habitat quality and invasive species maintenance
- Increasing extreme weather events and weather pattern shifts
- Funding opportunities and increasing costs



7

PARK FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS



CHAPTER 7: PARK FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations to expand and improve Wrightstown's existing park and open space system based on current deficiencies and opportunities identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan, and new park and facilities needs as indicated by future population growth. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

Based on the Village's projected population in 2032 (3,829 residents) and 2042 (4,441 residents), and its local standard of 10 acres per 1,000 residents, Wrightstown will need to provide approximately 13 additional acres of active parkland by 2032, and 19 new acres of parkland by 2042. It is also recommended that various additional improvement to existing parks also be made. In addition to active recreation areas, it was also prioritized through this Plan's public participation events, that more passive, "nature-based", and trail recreation opportunities were also desired. This Plan recommends that additional acreage in passive, nature-oriented parks is developed in addition to active park development acreage. This recommendation assumes that Wrightstown will continue to grow at a moderate rate, and that park and open space planning will be oriented toward serving a steadily growing population. The timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the Village's developed and newly developed areas.

Map 3 shows the approximate locations for future recreational facilities in the Village. More precise park boundaries will be determined during formulation of specific neighborhood plans, during the preliminary stages of detailed site development plans, or when lands are acquired or platted. Proactive identification of lands suitable for active parks or natural areas worthy of conservation is recommended early in the development process.

Additionally, an evaluation tool was created to help score and compare proposed parkland when it is presented to the Village during the plat review process. The tool utilized nine different criteria to evaluate proposed parkland and can be used to evaluate a proposed subdivision plat to determine if there is proposed to be enough parkland, the proposed parkland is the right type of land, and is there other land that may be better suited for park and open space in the area. See Appendix A for the evaluation tool, criteria, and scorecard. It is recommended that the evaluation criteria be used in all future discussions and reviews of subdivision plats and potential parkland acquisition.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

Recommended park improvements were developed through feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Village staff, and the public, a review of the goals, objectives, and policies of existing plans, and the inventory and analysis of existing park and recreation system conditions within Wrightstown. This comprehensive analysis led to the following list of existing park recommendations.

Over the next 5 years, it is unrealistic to think that all projects for each park and trail will be implemented. To account for this, the recommendations provide a broad range of projects that can be implemented incrementally in the short, medium, and long term as deemed feasible by the Village.



FIGURE 7.1 RECOMMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Existing Neighborhood Parks	
Site Name	Recommended Site Improvements
Van Dyke Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor lighting installation for softball field New playground equipment and ADA accessible ground covering Paved walking path connection to the playground and softball backstop Relocated playground to provide more space for additional soccer field New outdoor shelter with permanent bathrooms American Legion – existing parking infrastructure can be reduced to provide more playfield space, or the existing parking and building could be reused A park development master plan for the site and the future of the American Legion should be completed prior to substantial facility improvements. Security upgrades including cameras or motion sense lighting
Shamrock Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create paved walking path around the park and connection to playground Addition of one or more active recreational field (soccer or softball) or gaga ball pit Paved basketball court (half or full court) ADA accessible ground covering under playground area Address drainage issues New outdoor shelter with permanent bathrooms Security upgrades including cameras or motion sense lighting
Zirbel Park & Sledding Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider addition of new soccer field at the top of the hill Install a tow rope for the sledding hill and/or sled rentals on-site Paved walking path connection from parking area to basketball court Retrofit basketball court to include pickleball lines and nets to allow for temporary pickleball play Connect the parking area and basketball court with the future trail planned along Plum Creek Consider an indoor shelter with bathrooms and warming house Security upgrades including cameras or motion sense lighting
Lion's-Waupekun Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install paved walking path from street to shelter and playground areas New playground equipment (long-term), ADA accessible ground covering, and gaga ball pit Security upgrades including cameras or motion sense lighting

*Bolded text is the highest priority ranked project for each park based on public open house feedback received.

FIGURE 7.2 RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Existing Community Parks	
Site Name	Recommended Site Improvements
Mueller Park & Boat Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the unused space adjacent to the rental shelter into the park for more active use by constructing an additional building or new recreational facility at this location Replace playground equipment with ADA accessible ground covering Install a paved walking path connection to the playground Regrade the service driveway down to the lower park area and add a walking path connection Establish a trailhead in the new lower parking area to connect to the planned passive recreational path along Plum Creek Upgrade trail connectivity and signage – including maps and wayfinding Create a new shelter with electricity and the ability and versatility to host a wide variety of events such as bands, weddings, food trucks, festivals, beer gardens, etc. Security upgrades including cameras or motion sense lighting Expand the boat launch to allow multiple boats to be launched simultaneously Add new boat docks to the end of High Street to provide increased access to downtown businesses (not located within the boundaries of Muller Park)

*Bolded text is the highest priority ranked project for each park based on public open house feedback received.

RECOMMENDED NEW PARKS

Future infill and new development throughout the Village will likely result in the need for Neighborhood and Community Parks. In response to this identified need, Map 3 shows alternative locations for six Neighborhood Parks and three Community Parks in the Village’s growth areas. Specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are platted or acquired. The following is a description of these general park recommendations. Models for Neighborhood and Community Parks can be found in the Appendix.

Neighborhood Parks

Several park areas are recommended to provide service for developing areas. These parks are for intense recreational activities serving areas that are currently developing or areas that will be developing in the near future. They should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood with safe walking and bicycling access, and approximately 5-10 acres, serving an area within a 1/3 radius, or a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons.

To accommodate the Village’s projected population increases, additional neighborhood parkland acquisitions are recommended. The Village should add new neighborhood parks to the northeast, north, and east to serve the Village’s future residential growth areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. Recommended general locations for six future neighborhood parks are identified on Map 3, however, the timing and precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs, or land is acquired or platted



FIGURE 7.3 RECOMMENDED NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Recommended Neighborhood Park	Conceptual Location
Neighborhood Park 1	Far east side to serve the Village’s future growth area near or connected to future multi-use trail network.
Neighborhood Park 2	Far east side to serve the Village’s additional future growth area near or connected to future multi-use trail network.
Neighborhood Park 3	Central location east of the Fox River at the intersection of Turner Street and Clay Street at the former St. John’s Lutheran School site. This land is currently owned by the Village and represents a prime opportunity for the development of a new neighborhood park. Conceptual park development plans have been prepared for this site and are detailed later in the Chapter.
Neighborhood Park 4	Southeast side to serve the Village’s future growth area, near or connected to proposed multi-use trail and Wrightstown High School.
Neighborhood Park 5	West of the Fox River adjacent to Main Street in the future growth area north of St. Clare School to serve the Village’s future residential population west of the river.
Neighborhood Park 6	North side off Lost Dauphin Road to service an existing gap in the Village’s service area on land already owned by the Village.
Neighborhood Park 7	Northwest side adjacent to County Line Road to serve the new residential development currently under construction in this area. This facility is planned to be semi-private as part of the condominium development and include pickleball courts.
Neighborhood Park 8	Adjacent to Van Dyke Road, the Village owns two parcels that total approximately 3.5 acres. This site offers a potential new recreational facility for Wrightstown (community gardens).

Community Parks

These parks will serve both short-term and long-term future development. They may include recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, a community center, tennis courts, and others. They may also contain areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, bicycling, sitting, viewing, and picnicking. It is important that these parks be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have adequate off-street parking, and also be accessible by foot and bicycle. These parks should be approximately 30-40 acres and serve an area within a 1-mile radius.

To accommodate the Village's projected population increases, additional community parkland acquisition is recommended. The Village should add new community parks as the Village grows to the northeast, northwest, and south to serve the Village's future residential growth areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. Recommended general locations for three future community parks are identified on Map 3, however, the timing and precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs, or land is acquired or platted.

FIGURE 7.4 RECOMMENDED NEW COMMUNITY PARKS

Recommended Community Park	Conceptual Location
Community Park 1	Northeast side to serve the Village's future growth area. This park should be connected via multi-use trails to the planned future multi-use trail, which could provide connections to additional community parks, schools, and bicycle routes.
Community Park 3	Southeast side to service the Village's future growth area. This could include either the north or south side of Day Street and should connect via multi-use trail to the High School campus.
Community Park 2	Southwest side south of main street on the west side of the Fox River to serve the future neighborhood growth area in this part of the Village. This park should be connected via multi-use trails to the Fox River and Main Street.

NEW PARKLAND EVALUATION TOOL

A method is needed to evaluate a subdivision plat to determine if there is proposed to be enough parkland, if the proposed parkland is the right type of land, and if there's other land that may be better suited for park and open space. Staff and policy makers alike need a method of analyzing a site prior to making any formal determinations. Through the review of best practices, in addition to information provided by the Village staff, Parks Advisory Committee, Plan Commission, Village Board, and the public, the following Parkland Evaluation Tool was created. The tool utilizes nine different criteria to score a given site during the subdivision plat review process. It is recommended that this matrix be used in all future park or trail acquisition determinations at the Plan Commission level. It is also recommended that the table be reevaluated and adapted on an annual basis to most accurately reflect the needs of Wrightstown as they change overtime. Figure 7.5 presents each Evaluation Criteria and the Site Score associated with each attribute of the park or trail being proposed.

FIGURE 7.5: PROPOSED PARKLAND EVALUATION TOOL

Evaluation Criteria		Scoring System
1	Identified on Map 3: Future Park Facilities and/or Chapter 7	0 = Parkland is not directly stated or inferred in Chapter 7 or on Map 3 10 = Parkland is not directly stated, but inferred in Chapter 7 or on Map 3 20 = Parkland is directly stated in Chapter 7 or on Map 3
2	Percentage of Constrained Lands (WisDNR wetlands and floodplains, steep slopes (greater than 12%), drainageways (75' buffer around perennial streams or 50' buffer around intermittent channels), and woodlands (combined 80% cover area))	0 = Parkland consists of between 50%-100% constrained lands 10 = Parkland consists of between 1%-49% constrained lands 20 = Parkland has no constrained lands
3	Stormwater Retention	0 = Parkland is made up of over 50% lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention. 10 = Parkland is made up of between 1-49% lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention.

Evaluation Criteria		Scoring System
		20 = None of the parkland will be made up lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention.
4	Accommodate Active Uses as Identified by Local User Groups	0 = Parkland could only function for an entirely passive recreational use in the future as identified by local user groups. 5 = Parkland could accommodate some active recreational uses as identified by local user groups, but not enough space for at least one full size playfield. 10 = Parkland could function for both an active and passive recreational use in the future and can accommodate at least one full size playfield as identified by local user groups.
5	Meets a Service Area Gap (Map 2/Chapter 5)	0 = Parkland already covered by a service area in Map 2 10 = Parkland not covered by any service areas in Map 2
6	Provides a Connection to an Existing State, County, or Municipal Park or Trail	0 = Parkland will not connect to any future or planned State, County, or Municipal park or trail 5 = Parkland is an opportunity for a future connection or is directly adjacent to an existing or planned State, County, or Municipal park or trail
7	Addresses a Goal, Objective, or Policy (Chapter 4)	0 = Parkland or future uses are not directly stated Chapter 4 5 = Parkland or future uses are directly stated in Chapter 4
8	Protects a Valuable Natural Resource (environmental corridor as shown on the Comprehensive Plan's Natural Resource Map)	0 = Parkland includes no land within an environmental corridor 5 = Parkland is adjacent to or a portion of it resides in an environmental corridor
9	Provides an Amenity or Recreational Programming Opportunity Not Offered by the Village of Wrightstown	0 = No, the parkland or future use is already an existing Village of Wrightstown amenity or recreational program 5 = Yes, the parkland or future use is not an existing Village of Wrightstown amenity or recreational program

The maximum score for a given site, if all nine of the Evaluation Criteria were entirely satisfied would be 100. While it is highly unlikely any future potential parkland will score a perfect 100, it is recommended that a tier system to be utilized to categorize site scoring. Figure 7.6 displays the tiers in which a proposed parkland can fall within. It is recommended that the following approach be taken based on the park's evaluation score.

- Any site score of 49 or under should not be pursued at this time because it does not meet enough of the evaluation criteria and needs improvement.
- Any site score between 50-79 should be pursued, however additional evaluation and determination based on the details of the situation may be necessary before accepting the land.
- Any site score 80 or above should be pursued and meets or exceeds nearly all evaluation criteria.

FIGURE 7.6: PARKLAND EVALUATION SUMMARY

Site Score	Land Acquisition Approach
0-49	Does Not Meet Needs
50-79	Recommend (With Further Evaluation)
80-100	Highly Recommend

It should be noted, each individual situation presents unique circumstances that may fall outside of this evaluation. Figures 7.5 and 7.6 are recommended to be used as supporting information in the determination of any future proposed parkland, not the sole source of determination. A case-by-case approach is the most effective method to factor in all aspects of a particular situation.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL SITE – CONCEPTUAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Through this planning process, a more in-depth analysis was done for site and facility improvements at the former St. John School site. This site currently provides some recreational opportunities in the form of play equipment and an open green space area; however, facilities are mainly used by school attendees. The Village currently owns this site, and it provides a prime opportunity for the development of a new neighborhood park. Due to the central location of the site and the opportunity to increase its use and development as a model for future new park facilities (in terms of layout, accessibility, and facilities), a conceptual site plan was developed. During the development of this Plan, it was undetermined what the future of the former St. John Lutheran School building would be. Located at the intersection of Clay and Turner Streets, this site could potentially redevelop as a park to serve the surrounding neighborhood, be subdivided and have portions sold for private development, or continue to be used by the Village for a different function. Ideally, it is recommended that this site become a part of the community's park and recreation system.

For a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs for each facility identified in each alternative see the Appendix.

Alternative 1 – Building Reuse, Soccer, and Splashpad

This alternative includes the addition of two new soccer fields in the rear of the property that could be utilized by under 8-year-old participants and doubles as one new field for under 10-year-old participants. The southern portion of the site would be redeveloped into a splashpad, playground, and open-air shelter with new off-street parking adjacent. Finally, the existing school building would remain in place with the opportunity to reuse the structure as a community gathering place or potential redevelopment into a small multi-family building.

Alternative 2 – Building Demolition, Soccer, and Pickleball

This alternative includes the addition of two new soccer fields in the rear of the property that could be utilized by under 8-year-old participants and doubles as one new field for under 10-year-old participants. On the southern portion of the site, a new playground, open-air shelter, and three pickleball courts would be added. This alternative requires demolition of the existing school building to provide space for off-street parking and the pickleball courts.

Alternatives 1 and 2 provide new outdoor recreational opportunities that are not currently located within the Village of Wrightstown but have been prioritized through this planning process. These include a splashpad, pickleball courts, and potential recreational building. Additionally, each of the alternatives presented could facilitate new community garden spaces. A typical plot is 8 feet by 12 feet and can be customized within each park to fit within the other new improvements identified. It is recommended that the new park development provide community garden space.

Chosen Alternative

Of these two alternatives, Alternative 1 was selected by Village staff and the Advisory Committee as the future conceptual site plan for the St. John's Lutheran School site. It was determined that the Village would benefit most from new playfields, a playground, and splashpad due to the site's proximity to young families in the neighborhood. Additionally, the future reuse of the existing school building presented a unique opportunity for the Village to expand programming and meeting space, in addition to potentially providing activity space for other local organizations to utilize. During the Public Open House, two additional opportunities were identified for the site. This included a fence surrounding the property to provide a buffer for neighboring residents and the option of potentially removing the fence around the existing stormwater pond to utilize that area for fishing during the summer and ice skating/hockey during the winter. Both ideas should be further explored during the detailed planning of the site's improvements in the years to come.

Together, the chosen alternative provides new recreational amenity opportunities that are not currently found in Wrightstown, filled an existing need in terms of new playfield space, and reflected much of the feedback generated through the public input phases of the project. In order to develop this park into the community's vision as shown in the conceptual site plan, it was estimated that the total cost could be between \$2,100,00 and \$3,600,000 depending on the costs of redeveloping the existing school building.

There are several different opportunities that the Village could leverage in seeking the money needed to develop the property into a new park with the desired amenities. These include:

- Business sponsorship or naming rights
- Public/private partnership
- Capital Improvements Planning
- Partner with Brown County, the School District, or other local institutions and organizations
- Private donations
- Seek matching grants
- Implementation of park impact fees
- Partner with local sports leagues
- Park and recreational programming user fees

Another important aspect of the site that must be considered prior to future investment in the new facilities will be involvement and outreach of the neighborhood. If constructed, the proposed plan will be a significant new community destination, drawing residents from around the Village both during the week and on weekends. The current school use does not attract the same number of people on a regular basis. Due to these potential impacts, the neighborhood should be consulted prior to the development of new recreational facilities on the site.

Potential Park Concept
Alternative 1: Building, Soccer, Splashpad & Playground

U10 Soccer Field

U8 Soccer

U8 Soccer

Playground

Splashpad

Shelter

Building Reuse

Existing Stormwater Pond

Building parking (45)

0' 100'

Draft: May 17, 2022
 Vandewalle & Associates

U8 Soccer

Splashpad
~~Shelter~~

9. (14)

Existing
Stormwater
Pond

Building Reuse

0' 100'

Potential Park Concept

Alternative 2: Soccer, Pickleball & Playground



Potential Park Concept

Wrightstown, Wisconsin

Highland Street

Clay Street

Turner Street

Sharla Street

New Fence

U10 Soccer Field

U8 Soccer Field

U8 Soccer Field

New Fence

New Fence

Safety Clear Zone

Playground

Splash Pad

Shelter

Open Air
Restrooms
& Splash Equip.

Parking

Existing Building Reuse

Existing Stormwater Pond

Existing Fence

Revised: October 12, 2022

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0' 30' 60' 120'



Map 3 - Future Park Facilities

Village of Wrightstown
Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan 2022

Future Park Facilities

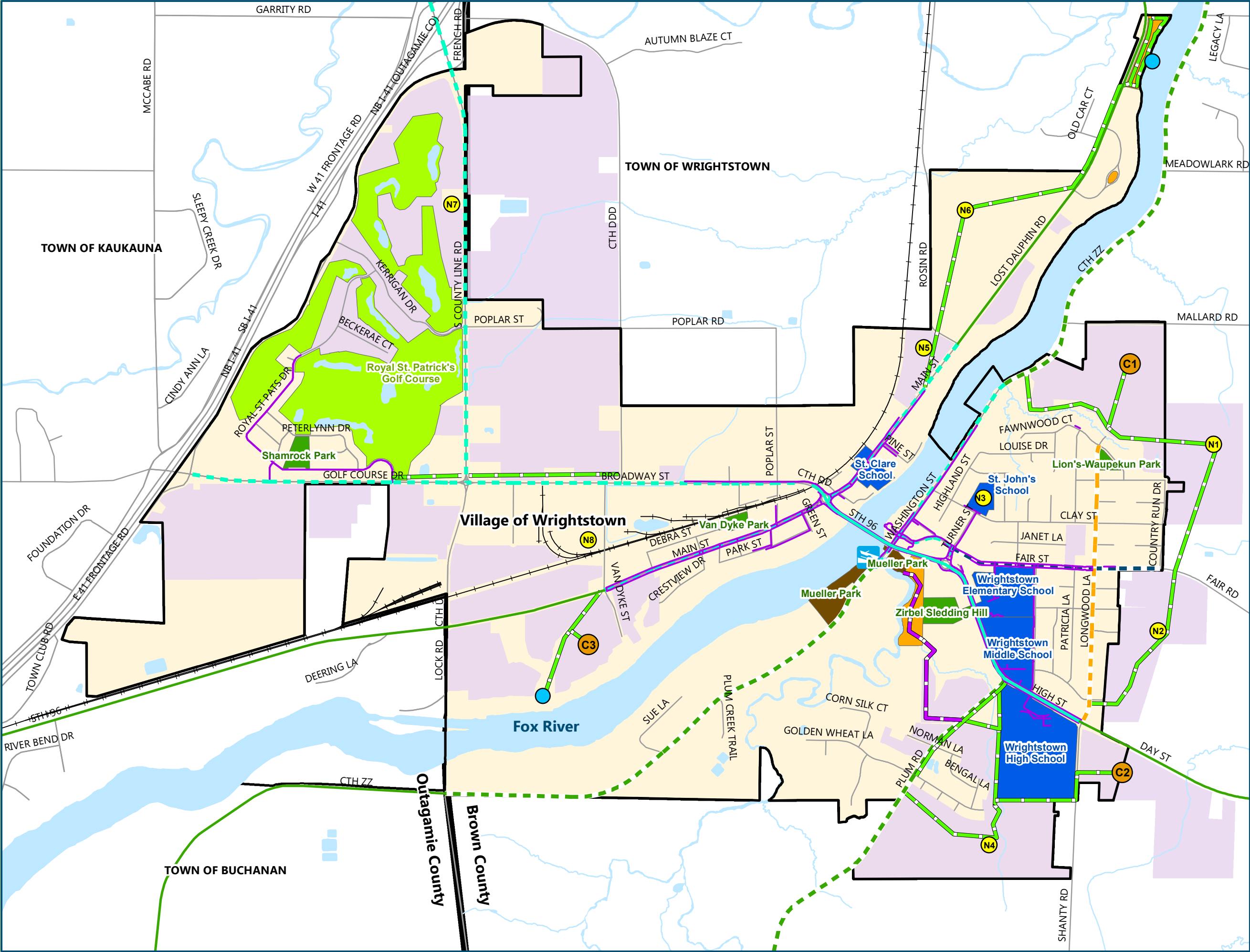
- Planned Community Park
- Planned Neighborhood Park
- Potential River Access
- Boat Launch
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Special Use Area
- Planned Growth Area
- Existing Sidewalk
- School Facilities
- Private Recreation
- 5' Paved Shoulder
- Existing Bicycle Lane

Proposed Bike/Ped. Facilities

- Sharrow
- Paved Shoulder
- Bicycle Lane
- Buffered Bicycle Lane
- Off-Road Multi-Use Trail
- Proposed Plum Creek Trail
- Roads
- Railroad
- Surface Water
- Village of Wrightstown
- Other Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundaries

DRAFT

Date: 6/20/2022
Sources: Village of Wrightstown, Lee Engineering,
Brown County, Outagamie County, WI LTSB



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Through the planning process, additional unique recreational opportunities were identified. In the future development and upgrades of existing and new parks, it is recommended that the Village consider the following unique opportunities and partnerships as population and demand increase:

Splash Pad

A splash pad has become a very popular alternative to community swimming pools because they are far less expensive to build and maintain, and because they are safer and do not require constant lifeguard supervision. Splash pads also function as interesting features of community civic spaces. The Village should consider adding a splash park to an existing or future Neighborhood or Community Park.

Pickleball Courts

Pickleball is an increasingly popular recreational pastime across the country. The game is becoming a popular alternative to tennis and the nature of the gameplay allows it to be accessible to many different age groups. Pickleball is particularly popular with middle-aged and older recreationists, who make up a large segment of Wrightstown's population, and public input in the planning process identified significant interest in the installation of courts. There are several pickleball facilities, leagues, and groups already established throughout Brown County and the greater Fox Valley region. If an opportunity is presented to add this type of facility in an existing or future park, it is recommended that the Village strongly consider such a facility. One way to accommodate new pickleball courts in the Village at a low cost is to work with the School District to potentially provide access to existing tennis courts and paint minimally intrusive pickleball lines on those courts. As part of any new pickleball court facility in the Village, the feasibility of utilizing the same facilities for tennis courts should also be explored.

Permanent Outdoor Events Venue

To provide space for community programming and further activate the Village's park and recreation system, the Village should consider the creation of a permanent outdoor events venue. Popular around the country for creating space for active community use, a dedicated event space could be designed to host summer concert series, food truck events, festivals and celebrations, and facilitate community gathering. The survey conducted among Village residents as part of this planning process confirmed that residents desire to have festivals and more meaningful gathering opportunities. In considering the incorporation of such an amenity into the parks and recreation network, it is recommended that the Village identify a central, widely accessible location for such a facility. A permanent outdoor events venue could be used to activate a location downtown along the community's main street or could be located to provide residents with access to the Fox River, further cementing the natural feature as a key characteristic of the community.

Beer Garden

Beer gardens have become very popular in many communities as a seasonal amenity that can be used to generate new revenue for the community and create a gathering space for residents during warm months. They do not take up a large amount of space and can utilize an existing shelter, parking lot, or open space area. Examples of beer gardens that have been successfully implemented in existing parks include a traveling beer garden throughout Milwaukee County, multiple permanent beer gardens in Milwaukee County Parks within the City of Milwaukee, and the annual beer garden at Olbrich Park in Madison.

Other Potential Opportunities for Special Use Areas

- The establishment of a pocket park in the far northeast neighborhood along Fox Shores Drive. While this isolated area features large single-family homes lots, a small pocket park featuring a shade structure and seating area could be developed and mature trees in the area could be preserved for future eagle nesting, providing access to a small public park space for area residents.
- The Village owns 6.72 acres of land along the Fox River and Lost Dauphin Road in the far northeast part of the community. The area could be developed to contain a walking trail loop, small off-lease dog recreation area, and could serve as a future long-term park with access to the Fox River, though providing parking accessibility for automobiles may be a challenge at this location.
- Private land within the Haven Hills Neighborhood could be converted into passive recreational paths along Plum Creek, though establishing parking and access could be difficult. If the Village were to pursue such a trail, a public-private partnership could be established to construct this type of facility.

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8

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 8: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations on other key components that play a role in the community's park and open space offerings including natural resources, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and programming. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

NATURAL AND OPEN SPACE AREAS RECOMMENDATIONS

Wrightstown residents prioritized more natural recreation areas in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan process, the 2019 community parks survey, and again in 2022 during the creation of this plan. The Village should consider accepting any quality land donations for conservancy or natural and open space uses; however, these lands will not count toward the land dedication requirements in Chapter 9.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2021, the Village of Wrightstown completed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that identified, analyzed, and prioritized future bicycle and pedestrian connections and improvements. Outside of the recommended trail connections to future planned parks on Map 3, this Plan recognizes and furthers the recommendations of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Proposed Paths and Trails

This Plan recommends several off-street paths and trail segments within the community's existing boundary and growth area. These trails and paths are essential to linking existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks and environmental corridors, existing and future school sites, the Fox River Trail, and the Fox River.

Unpaved natural trails serve to connect facilities within developed parks and can serve as the main recreational element of an undeveloped park. This type of trail is most appropriate for natural resource areas such as Plum Creek, along the Fox River, and other similar environmental corridors shown on Map 3.

Paved paths serve developed parks to connect on-site park facilities or connect multiple recreational locations together. This type of trail is recommended along Broadway Street, Plum Road, and to connect new parks as they are developed in the Village's growth areas to strategically link new residential developments with each other and create connections between recommended new community and neighborhood parks. Another key paved trail opportunity is a connection between Wrightstown and the Fox River Trail in Greenleaf. The Village will continue working with Brown County and neighboring Towns to explore opportunities and develop a multi-use trail link. While past efforts did not come to fruition, this connection is still viewed as a high priority project to increase multi-modal connections, boost tourism and economic development, and provide safe bicycling and walking facilities to this key regional asset.

Proposed On-Street Bicycle Routes

This Plan also recommends continuing to develop an on-street bike route system along existing and proposed Village streets. Today, there is one existing bicycle route through Wrightstown that runs along STH 96 from the High School to the west side of the Fox River. Building on the existing route, it is recommended that additional on-street sharrows, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, and buffered bicycle lanes be added. Each are shown on Map 3.



Plum Creek Trail Extension

Currently, the Plum Creek Trail connects Mueller Park's parking area to Zirbel Park and Sledding Hill. It is recommended that the trail eventually be connected with to the new St. John's school site planned for the corner of Plum Creek Road and High Street (as shown on Map 3). Once established, it is recommended that the Village develop trailheads at Muller Park, Zirbel Park, and the new St. John's school site to provide wayfinding signage.

The Plum Creek environmental area represents one of the Village's primary natural habitat areas for local wildlife, in addition to being a passive recreational resource for the community. Restoration efforts are currently underway with a grant procured by the Village in 2022. Work is anticipated to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2024. This will include restoring the integrity of the creek's banks so that this important ecosystem and wildlife refuge can be maintained. The establishment of a trail segment along Plum Creek, as well as its preservation, was a high priority according to residents who responded to the public survey for this planning process.

Once completed, another unique component of the trail could be the establishment of a Storybook Trail. This includes permanent signs established along the trail that show different pages of a popular children's book. As walkers traverse the trail, they can stop to read the pages at each sign, culminating at the end of the book and trail. This activity combines walking, nature exploration, and reading. A partnership with the Library offers opportunities to connect programming and select different books throughout the year. It is recommended that the Village explore this option as part of the development of Plum Creek Trail. .



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey conducted among Village residents as part of this planning process confirmed the need for youth and teen programming and the desire of residents to have festivals and more meaningful gathering opportunities. It is recommended that Wrightstown explore opportunities to expand recreational programming.

One of the first steps is the creation of database of all existing recreational activities within the Village. This would include the Village, School District, local sports leagues, and other recreation-based groups. The database could be utilized to develop an annual or bi-annual recreational programming guide. Much of this information is currently siloed by group and the Village could take a leadership role in undertaking this effort to combine programming schedules. The new Village of Wrightstown recreational programming guide can increase access to and participation in various recreational activities, festivals, and events in the community, while also helping to inform residents and potentially attract tourists. It is likely that this effort would require additional staffing to build the database, coordinate with the various stakeholders, and develop the recreational programming guide itself. The Village should consider the use of newsletters, local media, websites, social media, and email lists to distribute information about events and programming taking place throughout the community.

As Wrightstown's population continues to grow and the desire for more recreational programming increases, it is also recommended that the Village explore opportunities to develop new programming. This could include educational classes, fitness or exercise classes, new local events or festivals, and sports leagues. However, in exploring this opportunity it is recommended that the Village consult with other community organization to avoid any future duplication of offerings. Additionally, this would also require additional staffing resources that may not be attainable within the planning period.

Sport and Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, and Leisure activities Topline Participation Report, 2019

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association conducted a national survey in 2018 of a random sample of over 20,000 Americans. The findings help to provide large trends related to inactivity, demographics, and participation. A few data points that are important for the Village to consider over the next five years are:

- 27% of the US population is inactive, meaning that they do not participate in any level of calorie burning activities in an average week, which is an increase since 2013.
- Class-based (yoga, karate, etc.), fitness (cardio, lifting, swimming, etc.), and outdoor activities (hiking, trail running, etc.) have all increased in overall participation since 2013.
- The most popular activities by age group:
 - Baby Boomers focus on low-impact activities
 - Gen Xers participate most in team sports
 - Millennials prefer to participate in the most diverse set of activities across many different types
 - Gen Zers focus on high calorie burning/more intensive activities

COLLABORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to implement the recommendations of Chapter 7 and 8, it will take a collaborative effort between the Village and its local partners. This includes the School District, Brown and Outagamie County, state and regional governments, nonprofits, volunteer groups, and the private sector.

The Village has several opportunities to collaborate with other units of government in planning for park and outdoor recreation facilities over the planning period. These opportunities include the following:

- Work with the WisDNR on coordinating park, open space, and environmental corridor protection and use activities.
- Work with Brown and Outagamie Counties on any potential park expansion areas within proximity of the Village that could benefit interconnectivity and access to park and recreational opportunities.
- Work with the Wrightstown School District to determine ways to work together to provide needed and innovative park and recreational facilities that encourage community use and environmental education.
- Continue to participate in regional park, open space, multi-use trail, and bike route planning efforts, particularly when Brown and Outagamie Counties update their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans or when regional jurisdictions update their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans.



9

ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

CHAPTER 9: ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in Chapter 7 and 8. It is intended to assist the Village with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy §66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding the opportunities to collect fees, if desired. However, the adoption of this Plan does not commit or require the Village of Wrightstown to collecting these fees through an impact fee ordinance.

ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Based on a projected growth of 672 residents by the year 2032, applied to the Village standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (for developed parks), the Village would need to spend a minimum of \$409,500 in 2022 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 250 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$1,638 per new household would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 2,265 square feet per household would satisfy the projected demand, if land dedication were preferred. However, any future land dedication must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The Village will continue to accept conservancy areas as donations to the park system; but these lands will not count toward this land dedication calculations. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.



FIGURE 9.1: PROJECTED PARKLAND DEDICATION AND FEE-IN-LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION

Calculation		Value
A	Projected Population Growth in 2032	672 residents
B	Projected Household Growth in 2032	250 households
C	Additional Acres Needed in 2032 (Figure 6.3)	13 acres
D	Land Dedication Requirement per HH (Row C/Row B)	0.05
E	Land Cost Per Acre (average cost per acre listed)	\$30,000
F	Projected Cost of land acquisition (Row C + Row G)	\$390,000
G	Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*5%)	\$19,500
H	Total land acquisition costs (Row F + Row G)	\$409,500
I	Fee-in-lieu of land dedication per household (Row H/Row B)	\$1,638
J	Land Dedication per Household in square feet (Row D*43,560)	2,265 square feet

ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Each new park should have a minimum amount of playground equipment and opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of users. However, state law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 9.2 outlines the playground costs associated with each future park type in Wrightstown.

FIGURE 9.2: PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS BY PARK TYPE

	Neighborhood	Community
Pavilion with Restrooms	-	\$50,000 (1)
Open Air Shelter	\$25,000 (1)	-
Playground	\$75,000 (Small)	\$150,000 (Large)
Seating/Picnic/Rest Area	\$5,000 (Small)	\$15,000 (Large)
Little League Baseball Field		\$200,000 (1)
Full Sized Soccer/Play Field (without lights or nets)	\$50,000 (1)	\$200,000 (4)
Sidewalks and Bike/Walking Path	\$50,000 (1)	\$150,000 (1)
Signage	\$5,000 (1)	\$15,000 (1)
Miscellaneous Landscaping and Lighting	\$10,000 (1)	\$40,000 (1)
Site Work	\$50,000 (5 facilities)	\$100,000 (10 facilities)
Parking Lot	\$18,000 (12 stalls)	\$72,000 (48 stalls)
Total Cost of Facilities	\$578,000	\$2,587,000
Typical Park Size	5 acres	20 acres
Total Playground Costs per Acre	\$57,600	\$49,600
Adjacent Road and Utility Improvements Costs Per Acre (Figure 8.3)	\$37,335	\$18,668
Average Improvement Cost Per Acre	\$94,935	\$62,268
Prioritized Development of Each Park Type	50%	50%
Average Improvement Cost Per Acre (weighted)	\$81,601	

FIGURE 9.3: ROAD AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS CALCULATION

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards) in Acres	5	20
B Typical Park Size in Square Feet (Row A * 43,560)	217,800	871,200
C Conceptual Road Frontage on Two Sides in Linear Feet ($\sqrt{\text{Row B} \times 2}$)	933	1867
D Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$400	\$400
E Parkland Portion (Half) of Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot	\$200	\$200
F Road and Utilities Improvement Cost for Typical Park (Row E*Row C)	\$186,676	\$373,352
G Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Acre for Typical Park (Row F/Row A)	\$37,335	\$18,668

Figure 9.4 shows what would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements. It should be noted that this figure is approximate and subject to significant change associated with economic fluctuations and the rapidly rising cost of construction materials such as wood, steel, concrete, and asphalt.

FIGURE 9.4: PROJECTED RECREATION FACILITIES FEE

Calculation		Value
A	Projected Additional Population in 2032 (individuals)	672
B	Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2032 (dwelling units)	250
C	Calculated Additional Acres Needed (Figure 6.3)	13
D	Average Park Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Figure 8.2)	\$81,601
E	Projected Cost of Improvements (Row C*Row D)	\$1,060,819
F	Calculated Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)	\$4,503

TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

The adoption of this Plan does not compel the Village to establish or enact impact fees. The purpose of this analysis is to provide a methodology for how impact fees could be calculated in the future. It is an exercise in exploring costs related to population changes and new park development, if the Village were to solely take on the responsibility of funding new parks and their improvement. Impact fees are not imposed upon existing residents and, if established, are only required for new construction of housing units in the Village.

If formally adopted by ordinance, impact fees should be imposed on each new household unilaterally. In instances where development has dedicated lands, it will only be necessary to collect the improvement costs, or \$4,503 per dwelling unit. However, where land dedication does not take place, the total identified impact fee is \$5,881 per dwelling unit. In either instance, this represents approximately three percent of the cost of a newly constructed dwelling unit in the Village.

In general, parks should provide both active and passive features in one area. Therefore, where possible, neighborhood parks with intense recreational activity should be located near environmental corridors (which ultimately may carry trail facilities). More care is required in the design of regional and community-wide facilities due to the need for parking lots, lit athletic fields, and courts. For such parks, extensive on-site landscaping and berming may be desired to mitigate adverse traffic, sound, and lighting impacts.

As of 2022, Wrightstown does not impose a parkland dedication requirement, fee-in-lieu of land dedication, or impact fees for park development.



FIGURE 9.5 TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

Traditional Residential Dwelling Unit	
Identified Land Dedication	2,265 square feet
Identified Fee in Lieu of Land	\$1,638
Identified Improvement Fee	\$4,243
Total Identified Impact Fee	\$5,881

IMPACT ON NEW HOUSING COSTS

Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing park impact fees on housing costs within the municipality. The following assumptions were made in this analysis:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment are no more than 30 percent of a household's gross income
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the Village of Wrightstown's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2020 was \$79,015 according to 2015-2020 American Community Survey data)
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the Village population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$197,538), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in the Village of Wrightstown costs approximately \$207,414 (according to U.S. Census 2020 data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the Wrightstown is \$185,100).

Assuming a single-family detached housing price of \$185,100, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of \$197,538, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$1,060.

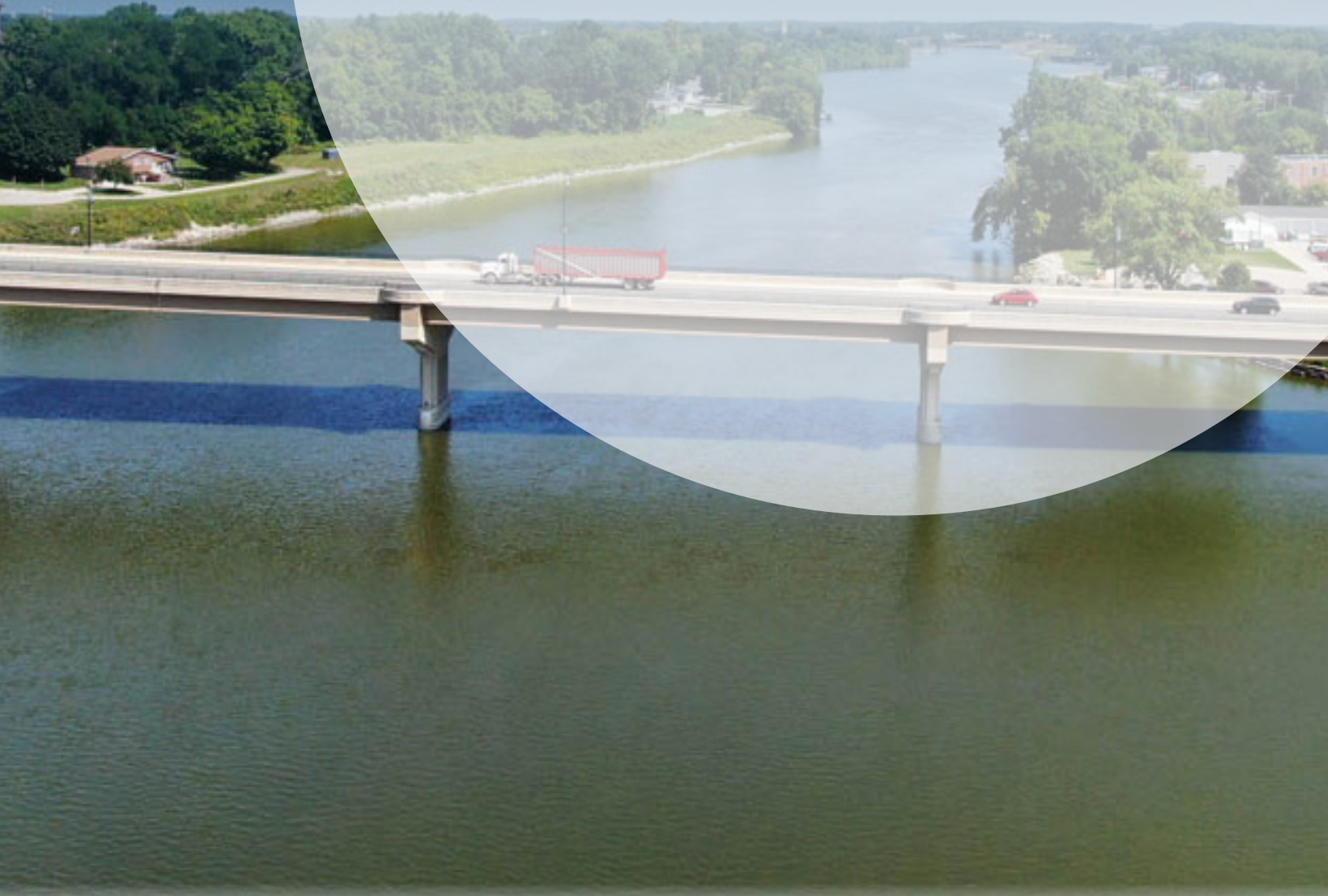
If the Village chose to impose fees for parkland acquisition and park improvements, this would impact the cost of new housing construction in Wrightstown. When adding this Plan's identified park impact fee of \$5,881, the mortgage amount for a single-family detached home would increase to \$203,419. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would increase to \$1,092 per month. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the identified park impact fee is \$31.57 per month, or a 3 percent increase.

Therefore, using the assumptions for a typical single-family home in the Village of Wrightstown, park impact fees would have some impact on the cost of new housing in the Village of Wrightstown.

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10

IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTION PLAN



CHAPTER 10: IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

In striving to achieve the vision and goals of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, specific follow-up actions will be required. This final chapter is intended to provide a roadmap for these implementation actions by identifying priority programs and actions. This Chapter, in combination with Chapter 7 and 8, should be utilized to help guide project implementation by the Village of Wrightstown over the next 5 years.

PLAN UPDATES

The Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and State of Wisconsin Stewardship Funds. In order to remain eligible, the Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. Based on this deadline, Wrightstown will update this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan before the year 2028 (i.e. five years after 2022), at the latest. The Village should continue to monitor any changes to state or federal regulations related to grant eligibility over the next five years.

ACTION PLAN MATRIX

Figure 10.1 provides a detailed list and timeline of the major actions that the Village intends to complete in implementing this Plan. Often, such actions will require substantial cooperation with other Village Departments, state and local governments, non-profits and volunteer groups, and local organizations and entities throughout the area. The list of recommendations is divided into four different categories—based on different implementation tools or Plan elements. This list is not exhaustive. It includes the recommendations that are likely to be actions taken over the next five year. The Village Board may choose to pursue additional actions or prioritize other actions as conditions change.

The table has three different columns of information, described as follows:

- Action Item: The first column lists the actual steps, strategies, and actions recommended to implement key aspects of the Plan.
- Potential Partners: The second column lists additional Village departments, agencies, or other groups who would be a great partner in the pursuit of accomplishing the Action Item.
- Implementation Timeframe: The third column is the suggested timeframe for the completion of each recommendation. It reflects the priority attached to the recommendation. Each timeframe is defined as follows:
 - In Progress means that the Action Item has already started to be addressed at some point and it is still a priority moving forward. These Action Items should be continuously reevaluated to make sure that progress is being made.
 - Short means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 1-2 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
 - Medium means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 3-5 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs. These funding sources are included in the Appendix. It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.



Figure 10.1 Action Plan Matrix

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Establish new access points along the Fox River through property acquisition or during development of these areas.	Counties, WisDNR	Ongoing
Implement the recommendations of the Village Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Counties, WisDNR, MPO	Ongoing
Participate in any future updates to the Brown or Outagamie County CORP or Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.	Counties	Ongoing
Work with the School District on any future updates to the Safe Routes to School Plan and participate in future School District planning efforts and updates to the Strategic Plan.	School District	Ongoing
Work with state on any future plans for parks, recreation, and bicycle and pedestrian planning in and around the Village.	WisDNR, WisDOT, MPO	Ongoing
Utilize the Village Capital Improvements Plan to implement the recommended improvements to each existing facility as detailed in Chapter 7.	Village Board	Ongoing
Annually review the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan at a Plan Commission and Village Board meeting to track progress and set priorities for the upcoming year.	Village Board and Plan Commission	Ongoing
Maintain and update the Village's Park and Trail Map on the website.	Village Staff	Ongoing
Evaluate any new parkland acquisition using the evaluation matrix in Chapter 7.	Plan Commission	Ongoing
Actively pursue grant opportunities as they arise that align with the recommendations of this Plan.	Village Staff	Ongoing
Complete the Plum Creek Trail extension from Mueller Park to the new St. John's School site. Explore opportunities for the establishment of a Storybook Trail component.	Village Staff, St. John's School, and Library	Short
Establish Parks Friends Groups or other volunteer initiatives to assist with park maintenance and cleanup.	School District, local organizations and employers	Short
Develop relationships and information sharing between local economic development and tourism groups to highlight events, programming, and recreational opportunities in Wrightstown.	Economic development agencies, RPC, Counties	Short
Begin acquiring and assembling land for a new Community Park.	Village Board	Short
Create a database of all existing recreational activities in the Wrightstown area.	School District, local sports leagues, Counties	Short
Explore opportunities for local business sponsorships to fund park improvements.	Local organizations and employers	Short
Establish a parks donation program where residents can donate money to assist in the future park improvements.	Local organizations and employers	Short
Develop an online park shelter rental system on the Village website.	Village Staff	Short

Action Item	Potential Partners	Timeframe
Explore the creation of a land dedication or fee-in-lieu required for all new residential neighborhoods based on the recommendations in Chapter 9. Require the inclusion of a new Neighborhood Park with any new residential neighborhood developed.	Village Board and Plan Commission	Short
Create and adopt an Official Map that reflects Map 3 and aligns with the Village Comprehensive Plan to proactively plan for future parks and trails within Wrightstown's growth areas.	MPO, Plan Commission	Short
Develop a Village-wide recreational programming guide.	School District, local sports leagues, Counties	Short/Medium
Establish a Village recreational programming social media page to provide updates on local activities.	School District, local sports leagues, Counties	Short/Medium
Hire a part time recreational programming staff person.	Village Board	Short/Medium
Develop a multi-use trail connection between Wrightstown and the Fox River Trail in coordination with Brown County and neighboring Townships.	Brown County, MPO, Towns, State	Medium
Develop a Playground Management Plan and ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan to monitor infrastructure and plan for maintenance and upgrades needed.	Village Staff	Medium
Develop a detailed conceptual redevelopment plan for Van Dyke Park to proactively plan for the future of the American Legion.	Village Staff	Medium
Establish partnerships between nearby universities to provide a cost-effective method of conducting additional studies, research, and park planning.	Lawrence, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Green Bay, St. Norbert, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee	Medium
Partner with local employers to connect people looking to volunteer with opportunities to assist in the maintenance of Village parks.	Local organizations and employers	Medium
Explore the opportunity for completing updates to this Plan in conjunction with the next update to the Village Comprehensive Plan to provide efficiencies and promote cohesive community plans.	Village Board and Plan Commission	Medium