

Sturtevant, Wisconsin
**Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan**

August 2022

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Community Planning & Consulting, LLC
Appleton, Wisconsin
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Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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Our Vision

*To forge a prosperous and resilient future
for Sturtevant*

Our Mission

*To support the needs of a vibrant,
growing community*

Our Commitment

*To provide a high-quality system of safe and
accessible parks and recreation facilities
for people of all abilities*

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Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

ONE: INTRODUCTION

STURTEVANT

The Village of Sturtevant is located in southeast Racine County in southeast Wisconsin. With a 2021 population of 6,506, it is the eighth largest of the county's seventeen municipalities. Sturtevant is situated approximately twenty miles south of the City of Milwaukee and approximately fifty-eight miles north of the City of Chicago. Other nearby communities include the Cities of Kenosha and Racine and Villages of Elmwood Park, Union Grove, and Wind Point. Lake Michigan's western shoreline lies five miles to the east.

The Village last adopted an outdoor recreation plan in March 2003 and is party to the 2009 *'Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035.'* The Village updated its comprehensive plan in October 2015.

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) describes current parks, recreation, and open space assets, and presents a strategy for meeting future needs. Its purpose is to guide land acquisition, development, and maintenance activities by identifying the general location, character, and extent of existing and desired parks, trails, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, playgrounds, and special recreation areas. Wisconsin Chapter NR 50, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) establishes procedures for the development of a CORP. The adoption of a CORP is a prerequisite for participation in the state's outdoor recreation grant programs and a required component of federal applications for parks and recreation grant funding. Once adopted, a CORP must be updated every five years.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our neighborhoods, and make our communities more attractive places to live. Studies have shown a link between the built environment and the physical, social, and economic health of a community. Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has been building vehicle-dependent environments that foster obesity, poor health, social isolation, and high costs of infrastructure. Planning for parks and recreation facilities can promote active lifestyles, build healthy communities, and lower health care and transportation costs.

Access to outdoor recreation provides a variety of benefits and has proven to be an important component of connected, vibrant communities. This is especially relevant for urbanizing areas, as

increased development often leads to reduced access to recreational and open space. The benefits provided by access to parks, recreation, and open space include:¹

- ▲ **Mental.** Outdoor recreation has psychological benefits, including the prevention or reduction of stress; improved self-esteem, confidence and creativity; spiritual growth; and an increased sense of exhilaration, adventure and challenge from life.
- ▲ **Physical.** Getting outside provides physical benefits, such as aerobic, cardiovascular and muscular fitness, as well as improved functioning of the immune system.
- ▲ **Social.** The great outdoors afford social benefits like bonding with like-minded people who enjoy outdoor activities and feeling an increased pride in your community and nation.
- ▲ **Economic.** People who regularly participate in outdoor recreation tend to be more productive at work. Outdoor recreation creates job opportunities for others, which leads to economic growth. And the preservation of the natural areas needed for outdoor recreation increases property values.
- ▲ **Environmental.** Outdoor recreation provides environmental benefits, including increased environmental awareness. Concern that results from outdoor recreation can lead to increased involvement in environmental issues.

WISCONSIN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

Outdoor recreation influences many aspects of our lives and the larger communities in which we live. For example, people that participate in outdoor recreation, especially from an early age, tend to have stronger connections to nature and conservation ethics. In turn, these connections often lead to stronger support for the protection of natural resources. Thus, participation in nature-based activities is likely to be increasingly important in the public's level of support for protecting air and water quality, open spaces, and wildlife.

Wisconsinites have historically participated in outdoor recreation at higher rates than the national average. This is likely largely attributable to our abundant natural resource base, the quantity and quality of public lands and waters, and cultural traditions that value the outdoors. It is estimated that more than 95% of state residents participated in some form of outdoor recreation in the past year.

Future participation levels will be affected by the size of our population and the rates at which residents engage in different activities. The state's population is projected to grow by about 700,000 additional residents by 2040 and as a result most activities will see increases in the number of participants, even if participation rates for many activities decline as our population ages.

Newer forms of recreation provide users with more options for enjoying the outdoors, and in some cases supplement users' recreational experiences. For example, fat-tire bikes can extend biking opportunities into the winter months, kayaking can be another way to fish small streams, UTVs can be a way for groups to get to a favorite hunting spot, and drones can be a new way to photograph nature. As battery technology continues to improve, it is possible that many applications will affect outdoor recreation in the future.²

¹ Excerpted from: *The Life Habit: Building Blocks of Life*, 2017.

² Source: *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023*, WDNR, March 2019.



Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Activities with the largest increases in participation over the last five years at county parks, forests, and trails in Wisconsin include:

- ▲ Bicycling – winter/fat-tire biking
- ▲ Camping – RV/pop-up
- ▲ Bicycling – mountain biking
- ▲ Riding ATV/UTVs
- ▲ Canoeing/kayaking
- ▲ Bicycling – recreational/rail-trail biking
- ▲ Picnic areas/day use/beaches
- ▲ Paddle boarding
- ▲ Dog walking on trails
- ▲ Hiking/walking/running on trails
- ▲ Fishing

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TWO: PLANNING CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes recent planning activities which provide a foundation for and understanding of the process of CORP development.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING IN STURTEVANT

The Village of Sturtevant's most recent outdoor recreation plan was adopted in March 2003. Prepared by Crispell-Snyder, Inc., the plan established the following goals for parks and outdoor recreation facilities:³

- ▲ Secure the lands and facilities necessary to provide adequate, year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for the present and future residents of the Village of Sturtevant..
- ▲ Provide adequate facilities at all parks as dictated by park use and type.
- ▲ Coordinate development efforts and the use of recreational facilities between the Village of Sturtevant, local schools, churches, and regional facilities.
- ▲ Encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas.
- ▲ Provide residents with safe, reliable recreation equipment throughout the Village's park system.
- ▲ Recognize the potential for new and creative recreational opportunities.
- ▲ Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village's park system.
- ▲ Utilize the existing municipal park budget to implement the plan.
- ▲ Involve senior citizens in park development and beautification projects and provide recreational facilities for their use.
- ▲ Provide recreational facilities which are designed to accommodate the needs of handicapped users.

The 2003 plan also included an Action Plan comprised of the following Village-Wide Recommendations:

- ▲ Secure lands along the environmental corridors and natural areas to protect the existing natural resource base and allow public use.
- ▲ Develop a community-wide trail system that will link the existing park system as well as other local and regional trail systems.

³ Excerpted from: *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Village of Sturtevant, Racine County, Wisconsin, Crispell-Snyder, Inc., March 2003*

- ▲ Accept of acquire high quality park or environmental corridor lands through subdivision dedication and purchase.
- ▲ Pursue funding mechanisms that will provide moneys to support future eland purchases, facility improvements, and recreational programming.
- ▲ Retrofit the existing facilities to meet ADA requirements.
- ▲ Retrofit and replace equipment that does not meet Consumer Product Safety guidelines.
- ▲ Continue to maintain the existing park facilities through the Department of Public Works park operation and maintenance budget.

LAND USE PLANNING IN STURTEVANT

Sturtevant's current comprehensive plan was prepared by Gai Consultants and adopted on May 19, 2015 (see Map 1 on following page). The plan was an update of the Village's 2009 'Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, a county-wide plan prepared by Crispell-Snyder, Inc. The comprehensive plan's recommendations for 'Park and Open Space Sites' are:

- ▲ All remaining natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan be preserved.
- ▲ Preserve and protect open space lands through public ownership, private conservation organization ownership, and through the use of public land use regulation.
- ▲ New community and neighborhood parks be provided as necessary in developing areas as identified in local park and open space plans.

RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

Racine County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County Park and Open Space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Racine County Board in 2001. With the assistance of Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Racine County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. The primary purpose of the plan is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of the existing and future population of the County and to protect existing natural resources.⁴

SEWRPC REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

SEWRPC adopted its first recreation plan for the region, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000 in December 1977. The purpose of the report was to identify existing and probable future park and open space needs within the region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, a regional trail system, smaller non-resource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The report recommended the development of:

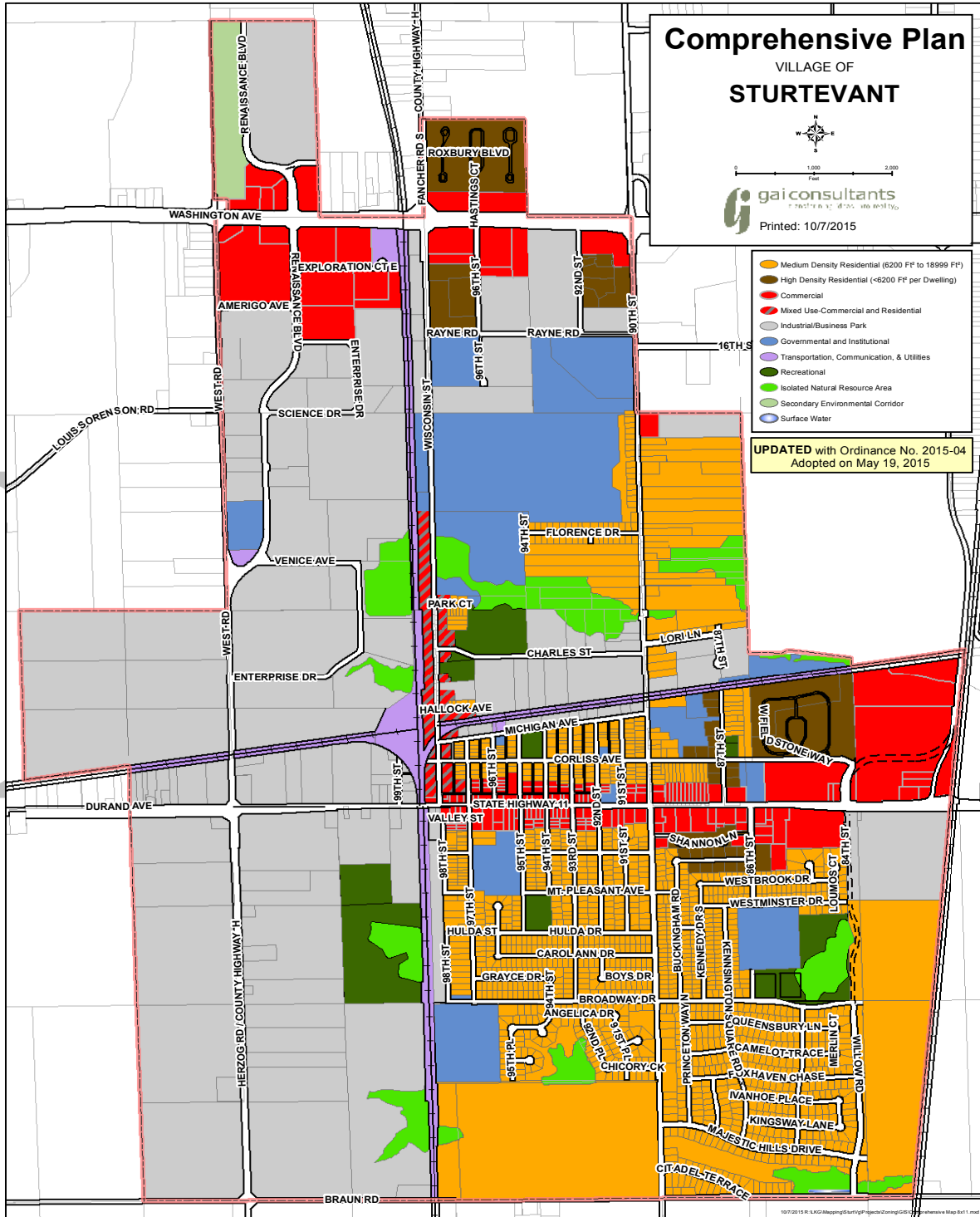
⁴ Excerpted from *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, Racine County Department of Planning and Development and Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

- ▲ A resource-oriented outdoor recreation plan providing recommendations for the number and location of large parks, recreation corridors to accommodate trail-oriented activities, and water-access facilities to enable the recreational use of rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan.
- ▲ An urban outdoor recreation plan providing recommendations for the number and distribution of local parks and outdoor recreational facilities required in urban areas of the Region.⁵

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⁵ Excerpted from *SEWRPC Regional Park and Open Space Plan*, www.sewrpc.org, 2022.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



Map 1: Village of Sturtevant Comprehensive Plan.

THREE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Village engaged in a number of public participation actions intended to inform and guide the process of developing the CORP document. Each are describe below and on the following pages.

PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY

In April 2022 the Village of Sturtevant began the process of developing the CORP with the Village of Sturtevant Park and Recreation Survey. Its purpose was to seek input from residents, property owners, and business owners regarding current and potential future recreation facilities including walking and biking trails, community gathering places, and multi-season outdoor activities, among others.

One hundred and eighty-seven individuals completed the 18-question survey, the results of which are presented below and on the following pages.

1. In general, how satisfied are you with the current availability of parks in the Village?

Very Satisfied or Satisfied
76.8%

Unsatisfied or Very Unsatisfied
18.4%

No Opinion
4.9%

2. How often do you, personally, visit a Village park?

Daily
3.2%

Weekly
27.6%

Once or twice per
month
28.6%

A few times each
year
29.7%

Rarely or never
11.9%

3. How close is the nearest Village park to you?

Within walking or biking
distance
79.0%

Biking, but not walking
distance
9.7%

Driving distance
13.4%

I don't know
0.0%

4. Which Village parks have you visited during the past year (check all that apply)?

- 64.2% South Park
- 59.8% Fireman's Park
- 52.0% North Park
- 30.2% Off Broadway Park
- 29.1% Kirkorian Nature Preserve
- 19.6% Hiawatha Ponds
- 14.5% St. Bonaventure Pond
- 1.1% Parkersville Pond

5. For which of the following activities/facilities do you visit a Village park (check all that apply)?

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 69.0% | Fresh air, being outside | 10.9% | Skate park and flat trick pad |
| 51.6% | Playgrounds | 9.8% | Park shelters |
| 48.4% | Walking, hiking | 9.2% | Facility rentals, family gatherings |
| 42.4% | Park paths and trails | 7.6% | Tennis courts |
| 41.3% | Spend time with family, friends | 5.4% | Meet new people |
| 39.7% | Exercise | 4.3% | Sand volleyball |
| 37.5% | Relaxation | 3.3% | Fitness area |
| 32.6% | Baseball field | 2.7% | Soccer fields |
| 24.5% | Sledding hill | 1.6% | Horseshoes |
| 21.7% | Nature, bird watching, photography | 1.5% | Pets, dog park |
| 17.9% | Biking | 1.0% | Village events, holiday events |
| 16.8% | Entertainment | 0.5% | All of the above, fireworks, fishing, pickleball, practice golf, softball |
| 16.3% | Basketball court | | |
| 14.1% | Picnics | | |

6. Which of the following reasons prevent you from using Village parks?

- 52.6% Nothing prevents me, I use parks
- 17.9% Facilities or amenities desired are not offered
- 17.3% Don't know what is offered or available
- 9.2% Use facilities in another community
- 8.7% Accessibility
- 8.1% Too busy
- 6.9% Safety concerns
- 5.8% Difficulty finding parking
- 3.5% Not interested
- 2.5% Quality of equipment, facilities
- 1.5% Bathrooms (access, cleanliness)
- 0.5% Kids aren't little anymore, live in Mt. Pleasant, over-booked and don't have time, parking

7. Which of the following activities, if available, would you or someone in your family engage in (check all that apply)?

64.7%	Food trucks in parks	21.7%	Wellness programs
51.1%	Community festivals, events	17.9%	All abilities park
46.7%	Swimming (indoor pool)	17.4%	Flower gardening
46.2%	Nature trails	16.8%	Card games, board games
45.7%	Swimming (outdoor pool)	16.8%	Pickle ball
44.6%	Splash pad	16.3%	Outdoor art, street art
44.0%	Water park	15.8%	Sand volleyball
42.9%	Mini golf	15.2%	Archery
37.0%	Outdoor movies, music, performances	15.2%	Off-road bicycling
34.2%	Fishing	12.5%	Skate park
28.8%	Sledding	10.3%	Dancing
28.3%	Adventure (climbing wall, obstacle course, etc.)	9.2%	Geocaching
28.3%	Ice skating	9.2%	Operating RC vehicle or drone
27.7%	Community center	7.6%	Woodworking
26.6%	Nature viewing/photography	7.1%	Bocce ball or croquet
25.5%	Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing	6.0%	Shuffle board
24.5%	Disc golf	1.5%	More basketball courts
23.4%	Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, martial arts, etc.	1.0%	Biergarten (beer garden)
22.8%	On-road bicycling for exercise or recreation	0.5%	Football field/soccer pitch, holiday festivals, indoor driving range, more tennis courts, things are fine as they are
21.7%	ATV / UTV trails		

8. Which of the following would you like to see added, expanded, or improved at Village parks (check all that apply)?

59.3%	Restrooms	26.7%	Park maintenance
49.4%	Playground equipment	23.8%	Waste and recycling receptacles
48.3%	Benches, seating	19.8%	Safety and security
44.8%	Sidewalks, paths, trails	18.6%	Parking improvements
33.7%	Grills, picnic tables	16.3%	Accessibility and barrier-free recreation
29.7%	Shelters, pavilions, gazebos	5.8%	Educational, interpretive signs
27.9%	Lighting	1.0%	More and safe waling and biking trails
27.9%	Landscaping, incl: trees, native prairie	0.5%	Ice rink, over-50 park area, bike racks at all parks, safe access for kid, police at skate park, covering for baseball dugouts, beer garden, parking, bigger dog

parks, no chemicals at parks
(Roundup)

9. The Covid-19 pandemic has made you (select one):

More likely to engage in outdoor recreation	No more or less likely to engage in outdoor recreation	Less likely to engage in outdoor recreation	I don't know
47.0%	48.6%	2.7%	13.2%

10. How supportive are you of the Village creating new parks and recreation areas?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
64.0%	27.4%	1.6%	2.2%	5.9%

11. How supportive are you of the Village acquiring land to provide public access to natural areas and open space?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
56.1%	33.2%	1.6%	3.2%	6.4%

12. How supportive are you of developing a Village-wide system of interconnected walking and bicycling paths providing access to and from neighborhoods, parks, the rails-to-trails project, and other key destinations?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
56.2%	34.1%	4.3%	2.7%	3.2%

13. If appropriate facilities, amenities, and opportunities were available, how willing would you be to use Village parks and outdoor recreation areas during winter months?

Very willing	Willing	Unwilling	Very unwilling	No opinion
38.7%	46.2%	6.4%	2.7%	5.9%

14. Where should the Village prioritize future parks and recreation funding?

	High Priority	Priority	Low Priority	Not Necessary
Developing new parks	19.8%	31.6%	27.3%	11.2%
Developing new paths and trails	32.6%	38.5%	13.9%	5.9%
Expanding programs and services	22.5%	39.0%	25.1%	8.0%
Preserving natural resources	33.7%	42.8%	13.4%	2.1%
Providing indoor recreation facilities	23.5%	34.2%	25.1%	8.0%
Upgrading existing facilities	40.6%	41.2%	9.6%	1.6%

15. Compared to other Village priorities, how important do you think it is to develop and maintain parks, trails, open space, recreation facilities, and services?

Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	No opinion
50.0%	44.0%	2.2%	1.6%	3.3%

16. How supportive are you of the Village partnering with nearby communities and Racine County to create new outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
39.1%	41.8%	6.0%	6.0%	7.1%

17. How supportive are you of the Village partnering with local businesses, organizations, and community groups to create new outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
54.9%	37.4%	2.2%	2.2%	3.3%

18. If the Village could do one thing, and only one thing, to improve parks and recreation for you, your family, and your friends, what would that be?

Please refer to the Appendix of this report for responses to question 18.

ENGAGEMENT SESSION





The Village of Sturtevant Parks, Event Planning, and Village Beautification Committee hosted a Community Engagement Session on May 11, 2022 at Village Hall. The purpose of the session is to inform participants of the CORP process, describe existing parks and recreation assets in the community, present Village (and statewide) demographic trends that will guide the CORP planning effort, summarize the results of the park and recreation survey, and identify the recreation amenities desired by residents.

VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY

The Village released the CORP visual preference survey (VPS) online in May 2022. A VPS is a planning tool which allows participants to assign ratings to various development and design alternatives; in this case, park and recreational facilities. The VPS entailed a series of 60 digital images representing options for consideration within the Village of Sturtevant parks and recreation system. Responders were asked to assign a rating to each image, on a scale of +2 (strongly favorable) to -2 (strongly unfavorable), based on their opinion of the facility, structure, or use in question. Ratings of 0.75 or higher represent highly desirable options for Village consideration.

Fifty-four people responded to the survey, the complete results of which are presented in the Appendix. The ten highest rated images are presented in Table 1. Composite scores associated with certain categories of images are presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Ten Highest Rated VPS Images

Rank	Rating	Image	Rank	Rating	Image
1	1.33		6	1.19	
2	1.30		7	1.12	

3	1.25		8	1.08	
4	1.24		9	1.06	
5	1.23			1.06	

Table 2: Composite VPS Ratings by Category of Recreation Facility

Rank	Facility Category Description	Image Numbers	Composite Rating
1	Nature, vegetation, open space, water	14, 20, 22, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 44, 50, 51, 59	0.99
2	Pavilions, shelters, gazeboes, etc.	17, 19, 36, 44,	0.88
3	Trails, paths	14, 21, 22, 30, 31, 34, 38, 41, 50, 51	0.86
4	Community events in park	6, 10, 17, 36, 39, 53	0.81
5	Accessibility and barrier-free facilities	11, 15, 22, 38, 52, 55, 56	0.80
6	Splash pads, pools, water parks	26, 43, 47	0.75
7	Fishing	20, 29	0.58
8	Playgrounds and play structures	4, 11, 15, 18, 23, 25, 45, 52, 55, 56, 58	0.52
9	Sports, athletic fields, courts, etc.	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 13, 33, 42, 49	0.39
10	Community center, senior center	16, 54	0.37

FIRST DRAFT WORKING SESSION

A working session with the Parks, Event Planning, and Village Beautification Committee was held on July 13, 2022 at Village Hall. The purpose of the session was to review the rough first draft in preparation for its presentation to the general public.

FIRST DRAFT WORKING SESSION

The first draft of the Village of Sturtevant Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was presented on **MONTH DAY**, 2022 at Village Hall.

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FOUR: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

The goals and objectives presented in this section were developed based upon the results of the public engagement efforts described in the previous section of this report, state trends identified in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-23 (SCORP), and recommendations from the Parks, Event Planning, and Village Beautification Committee and Village staff.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Ensure parks, recreation facilities, and other public spaces provide access for all residents

- ▲ Identify underserved groups and engage their representatives in park and recreation facility planning
- ▲ Develop all future parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces to accommodate the special needs of elderly and disabled users, compliant with ADA Title II and Title III.
- ▲ Identify opportunities to update and expand existing facilities and services to increase accessibility.
- ▲ Apply safe design principles in order to make parks and recreation facilities safer and more user friendly.
- ▲ Bring equity to parks and recreation planning by making facilities available to all user groups.
- ▲ Identify and remove structural and cultural barriers impeding outdoor recreation opportunity.

Build a healthier, happier, more resilient community

- ▲ Expand walking, biking, running opportunities with additional trails, paths, and bikeways.
- ▲ Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.
- ▲ Provide opportunities for community gathering by allowing mobile food establishments in Village parks.
- ▲ Encourage volunteerism.
- ▲ Utilize financial resources efficiently and equitably.
- ▲ Strengthen community image.
- ▲ Enhance health and wellness through innovative and diversified parks, arts, recreation, and cultural opportunities.
- ▲ Provide opportunities for relaxation, learning and socialization to promote personal growth and wellbeing.

- ▲ Encourage family participation.
- ▲ Provide quiet outdoor spaces for rest and reflection.

Preserve, enhance, and make accessible natural resources and open spaces

- ▲ Encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and provide habitat for at risk species.
- ▲ Acquire and preserve important natural areas and open spaces.
- ▲ Focus future acquisition efforts on the development of passive parks and recreation facilities.
- ▲ Incorporate native plants into landscaping and stormwater plans for all outdoor recreation facilities.
- ▲ Work with willing landowners to preserve significant natural resources located on private property through the use of conservation easements or other land preservation tools.

Develop a year-round park and recreation system embraced by the community

- ▲ Identify locations for seasonally specific activities such as tree planting, ice-skating, and cross country skiing, among others.
- ▲ Utilize the park system to host seasonal festivals, farmers' markets, mobile food establishments, monthly events, and other such gatherings.
- ▲ Provide park and recreation programs for families, kids, seniors, etc.
- ▲ Effectively promote and publicize area recreational programs and events.

Diversify the transportation system by expanding multi-modal opportunities.

- ▲ Identify opportunities to increase multi-modal connectivity between neighborhoods, existing parks and trails, schools, and other key destination nodes within the Village.
- ▲ Work with Racine County and SEWRPC to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into County highway repair and reconstruction projects.
- ▲ Identify appropriate streets as designated bicycle routes.
- ▲ Utilize wayfinding tools to assist residents and visitors in navigating to and from parks and recreation facilities and other Village destinations.

Continually evaluate outdoor recreation levels of service

- ▲ Identify opportunities to build small, mini (pocket) parks in areas underserved by parks and playgrounds.
- ▲ Provide a park system that creates opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy and benefit from recreation facilities, and public open space.
- ▲ Offer a diversity of parks and recreation facilities including pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, natural areas, and conservancies.
- ▲ Ensure that each neighborhood has access to appropriate recreational facilities.
- ▲ Ensure that future parks and recreation facilities are sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common areas for neighborhood gatherings.
- ▲ Engage the general public in the design and development of future parks and recreation facilities.

- ▲ Meet recreational needs with maximum effectiveness and with minimum expense.
- ▲ Work with Racine County, SEWRPC, and adjacent communities to identify opportunities for shared facilities and services.
- ▲ Pursue state and federal grants to acquire and develop desired parks and recreation facilities.
- ▲ Pursue public-private partnerships to aid in acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks and outdoor recreation facilities.
- ▲ Consider pursuing revenue generating recreational facilities and events to supplement parks and recreation budget.
- ▲ Update the CORP at least once every five years.

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FIVE: COMMUNITY 0.58

INTRODUCTION

The community that is now the Village of Sturtevant originated at a junction of the east-west Western Union Railroad (built in 1852) and the north-south Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad (1873).⁶ Following a series of name changes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Village of Sturtevant was established in 1923. Today, the community of roughly 7,000 hosts a diverse array of commercial, industrial, governmental / institutional, recreational, and a variety of residential land uses.

Located less than 2 miles from Interstate-94 and centrally located between Milwaukee and Chicago, Sturtevant offers an innovative and supportive environment for large and small businesses. The Village is home to a mix of internationally owned firms and distribution companies with many located within the community's two business parks. The attractive location makes Sturtevant a great place to live, work, and play.⁷



Village of Sturtevant Memorial Day Parade.

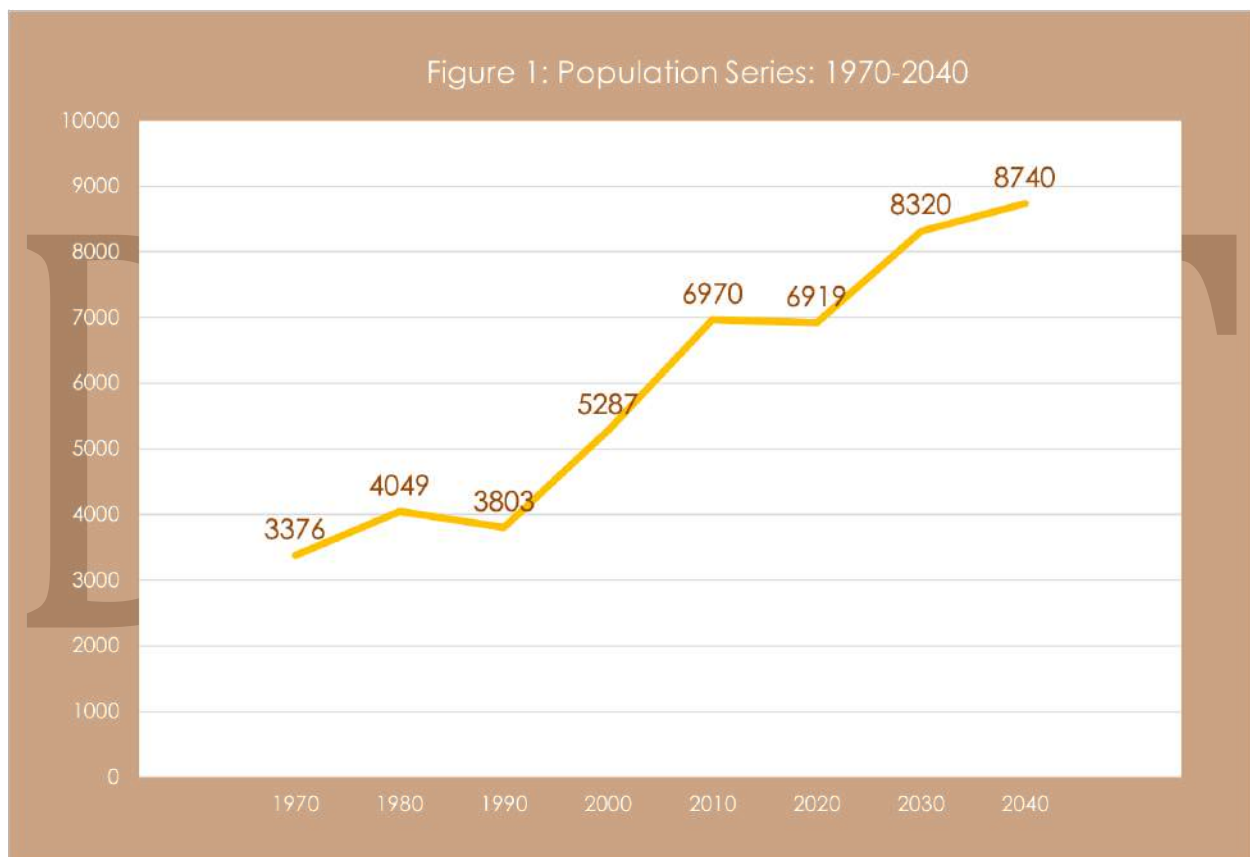
Throughout the year, the Village of Sturtevant has many community- involved events. Some events are: Cooking with Tweens, Memorial Day Parade, Park & Rec Summer Program, Sturtevant Youth Baseball, Movies in the Park, Christmas Train and the Village Christmas Tree Lighting.

⁶ Source: The Great American Stations website, 2022.

⁷ Excerpted from Village of Sturtevant, Greater Racine County website, 2022.

POPULATION PROFILE

The Village of Sturtevant had a population of 6,919 as of the 2020 U.S. Census, representing a 105% increase from 1970. Continued growth is projected during the next two decades. Figure 1 shows the actual and projected population for the Village, from 1970 through 2040. Figure 2 compares the population of the Village within select age groups for the years 2000 and 2019. These groups are important for planning purposes since each represents a differing set of needs with respect to outdoor recreation, transportation, housing, and the like. Table 2 provides a brief description of each group, its characteristics, and examples of potential park and recreation needs.



On average, 60% of people age 6-17 regularly participate in outdoor recreation. By the age of 45, that number has fallen to 37%. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, one out of five Americans was engaged in sports and exercise each day, on average 30 minutes per day. Running, jogging, and trail running activities were the most popular outdoor activities amongst people in the United States in 2020 aged six years and older, accounting for almost 64 million participants. The second most popular outdoor activity in the North American country was hiking with approximately 58 million participants during the same year. ⁸

⁸ Source: Share of People Participating in Outdoor Recreation in the United States by Age Group, Statista website, 2022.

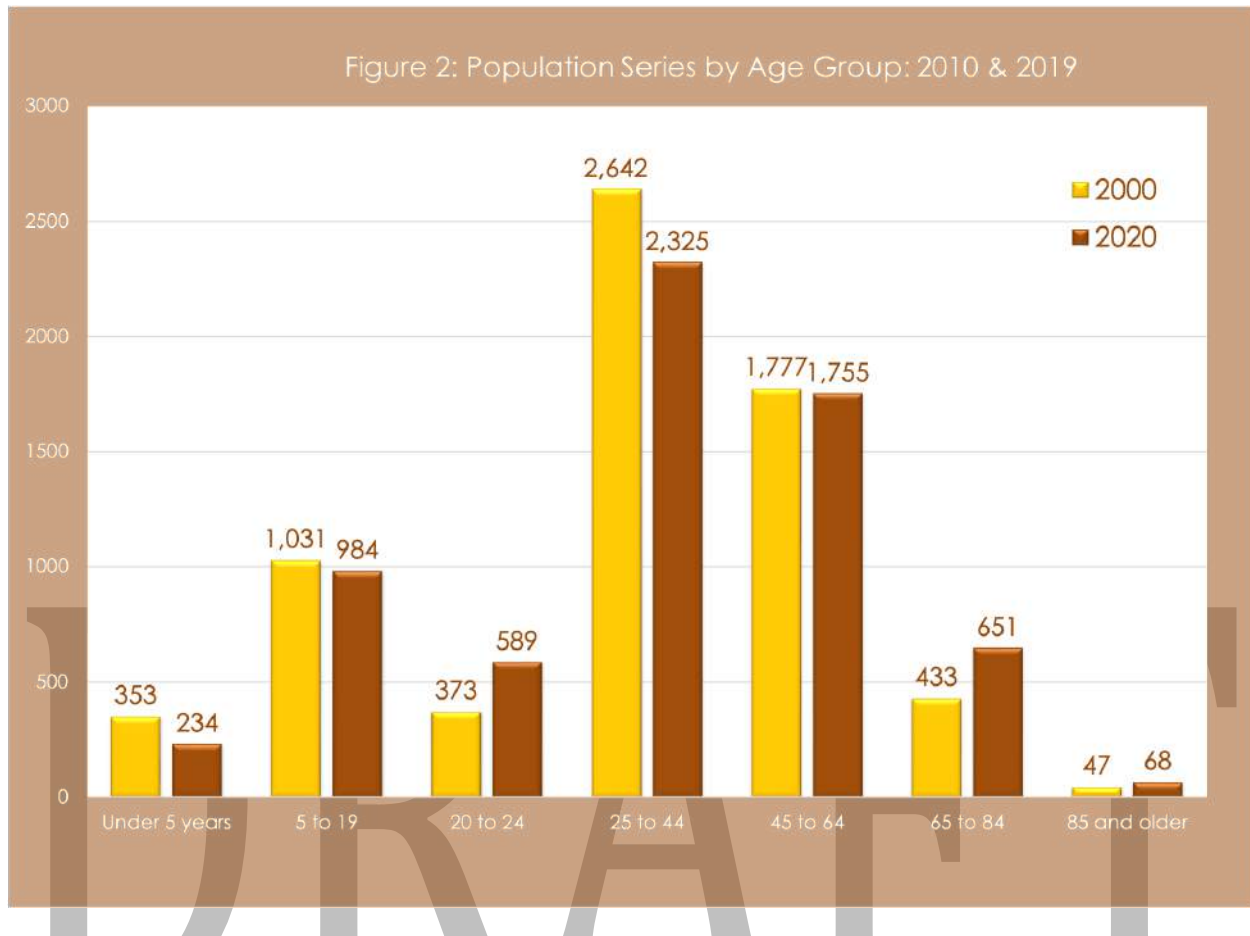


Table 3: Characteristics and Needs of Select Age Groups

Age Group	Description	Characteristics	Types of Park & Recreation Needs
Under 5	Infants, toddlers, pre-school, and kindergarten	Entirely dependent upon others	Playgrounds; splash pads; summer park programs; neighborhood parks; gymnastics and tumbling.
5 to 19	School aged children and young adults	Dependent upon others for lodging, food, education, and most other needs	Athletic facilities; multi-purpose sports fields; BMX/skate parks; disc golf; RC/drone areas; adventure facilities (climbing walls, ropes course, etc.); ice rinks; summer park programs; youth baseball/ soccer; neighborhood parks; teen center; youth fitness & wellness programs; after school programs.
20 to 24	Post high school; job and career training (college, trades, military, etc.)	Somewhat dependent upon others for certain needs	Ice rinks; music in the park; disc golf; RC/drone areas; adventure facility (climbing walls, ropes course, etc.); martial arts, sports fields/courts.

25 to 44	Established adults	Increasing earning and spending potential; traditional child-raising years	Outdoor fitness stations; public art; water features (fountains, reflecting pools); camping; community gardens; yoga/tai chi in the park; softball/volleyball leagues; meeting space for rental.
45 to 64	Mature adults	Prime earning years, often 'empty nesters'	Community gardens; outdoor fitness stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; pickleball; meeting space for rental.
65 to 84	Retirement-age	Decreased earning, sustained activity level, increasing healthcare costs	Hiking/biking trails, equipment rentals (kayaks, XC skis, etc.), community gardens; senior exercise stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; dancing; pickleball; meeting space for rental.
85 and older	Post retirement	Decreased earning, spending, and activity level	Community gardens; senior exercise stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; dancing.
All ages	n/a	n/a	Multi-use trails; pedestrian & bicycle facilities; passive parks; fishing areas; swimming pools; music/movies in the park; public art; water features (fountains, reflecting pools); nature center/nature trails; equestrian trails; picnic areas; dog parks/exercise areas; performing arts facility; multi-generational community center; programs for people with disabilities; community festivals & special events; arts & crafts.

Note: The information presented in this table is intended to reflect examples of the types of park and recreation facilities that may be desired by the given population group. It should not be considered an exhaustive list.

General Population Characteristics

The demographic information presented below was collected from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey by the Census Bureau sent to approximately 250,000 addresses monthly. It gathers information previously contained in the long form of the decennial census.

- ▲ The median age is 36.1 years (Racine County, 41.1; Wisconsin, 39.9).
- ▲ 78.8% of respondents identified race as White, 15.9% Black or African American, 1.0% Asian, and less than 1.0% American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
- ▲ 2.2% identified as Two or More Races, with 1.0% Some Other Race.
- ▲ 6.1% of the population identifies as 'Hispanic or Latino (of any race)'. *Note: Under Census Bureau policy, the terms 'Hispanic' and 'Latino' are considered an ethnic or cultural identifier, not a race.*
- ▲ 10.0% have earned a Bachelors or higher degree
- ▲ The Village hosted 2,255 housing units
- ▲ Median household income was \$51,345 (Racine County, \$60,779; Wisconsin, \$64,168).

LANDSCAPE PROFILE

Sturtevant's natural landscape provides a foundation for outdoor recreation planning. This section includes brief descriptions of aquatic and terrestrial resources along with a list of those endangered and threatened species known or believed to exist in Racine County.

Physiography & Topography⁹

Glaciation has largely determined the physiography, topography, and soils of Racine County. Of the four major stages of glaciation, the last and most influential was the Wisconsin Stage, which is believed to have ended about 11,000 years ago. Racine County varies from gently rolling glacial plains and ground moraines in the eastern half to steeper hills in the west. Ground moraines are typically comprised of dense basal till, which frequently contains a combination of silt and clay. The eastern edge of the County also contains the lake terrace, which runs parallel to and contiguous with the shoreline of Lake Michigan. To the west, the western side of the Fox River is comprised of sand and gravel outwash deposits. Glacial outwash deposits are common along the major rivers and streams of Racine County. Outwash is alluvial in origin and was deposited by glacial melt water. A few places also contain lacustrine deposits, which include the sediments of glacial lakebeds.

Geology¹⁰

The bedrock formations that underlie the unconsolidated surficial deposits in Racine County primarily consist of Silurian Age dolomite. Eastern Racine County has prominent areas in which the Racine formation of dolomite reef strata are exposed either through natural outcroppings along the Root River and Lake Michigan or in old quarries. This reef strata has a rich diversity of fossil marine organisms. Southwestern Racine County provides good examples of glacial topography extending from Walworth County. Kettle and kame glacial formations can be found in this area. The advances of glacial ice sheets resulted in a wide range of glacial deposits over the underlying bedrock. The most substantial glacial deposits, represented as depth to bedrock, are 100 to 300 feet thick, and located in the central portion of the County. Areas where bedrock ranges from zero to less than 100 feet are generally found in the eastern and western portions of the County. Bedrock in Sturtevant's shoreline areas tends to be located within 25-50 feet of the surface. Bedrock throughout the remainder of the Village is 50-100 feet below surface with the exception of small portions at the northwest and southwest corners lying at 100-150 feet.

Surface Water Resources

Surface waters, including streams and lakes and their associated wetlands, floodplains, and shorelands, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. They provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development of the County, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Racine County is traversed by a subcontinental divide that separates the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River drainage basin from the Mississippi River drainage basin. The divide exerts

⁹ Excerpted from A Multijurisdictional Plan for Racine County: 2035, SEWRPC, November 2009.

¹⁰ Excerpted from A Multijurisdictional Plan for Racine County: 2035, SEWRPC, November 2009.

a major physical influence on the overall drainage pattern of the County, but also carries with it legal constraints that, in effect, prohibit the diversion of any substantial quantities of Lake Michigan water across the divide.

Watersheds

A watershed is a land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.¹¹ Sturtevant lies within the Root River and Des Plaines Rivers watersheds, the former of which drains to Lake Michigan, the latter to the Gulf of Mexico via the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Approximately eighteen linear miles of streams have been identified within Village boundaries, of which a portion of the West Branch of the Root River is the only perennial stream.

Wetlands¹²

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promote the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils.

Wetlands vary widely because of regional and local differences in soils, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation and other factors, including human disturbance. Inland/non-tidal wetlands, like those found in Sturtevant, are most common on floodplains along rivers and streams (i.e., riparian wetlands), in isolated depressions surrounded by dry land (e.g., playas, basins and potholes), along the margins of lakes and ponds, and in other low-lying areas where the groundwater intercepts the soil surface or where precipitation sufficiently saturates the soil (e.g., vernal pools and bogs). Inland wetlands include marshes and wet meadows dominated by herbaceous plants, swamps dominated by shrubs, and wooded swamps dominated by trees. Many are seasonal. The quantity of water present and the timing of its presence in part determine the functions of a wetland and its role in the environment.

Woodlands

Woodlands are defined by SEWRPC as those upland areas one acre or more in size with seventeen or more deciduous trees per acre, each measuring at least four inches in diameter at breast height and having 50% or more tree canopy coverage. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also identified as woodlands. Woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Under good management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, woodlands can contribute to the maintenance of a diversity of plant and animal life. Woodlands, which may require a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the

¹¹ Source: What is a Watershed, National Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2021.

¹² Source: What is a Wetland, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2021.



siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection.

Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are areas in the landscape containing especially high value natural, scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational features. In southeast Wisconsin they generally lie along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in the Kettle Moraine area. From the air, these areas often appear as long intertwining ribbons of natural vegetation and surface waters. They contain the best remaining woodlands and wetlands, wildlife habitats, undeveloped shorelands and floodlands, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, and steeply sloped lands in the region.

Land Use

Sturtevant's land base is typical of a mature municipality, with a higher density core comprised of an array of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses intermixed with parks, surrounded by lower density residential, manufacturing, and open space interspersed with trails, open spaces, and a number of small lakes and ponds. Unlike many incorporated communities, Sturtevant possesses a considerable supply of available, undeveloped land, primarily concentrated in the north, southeast, and southwest of the community. Potential opportunities exist for public and private parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation facilities within and around future development.

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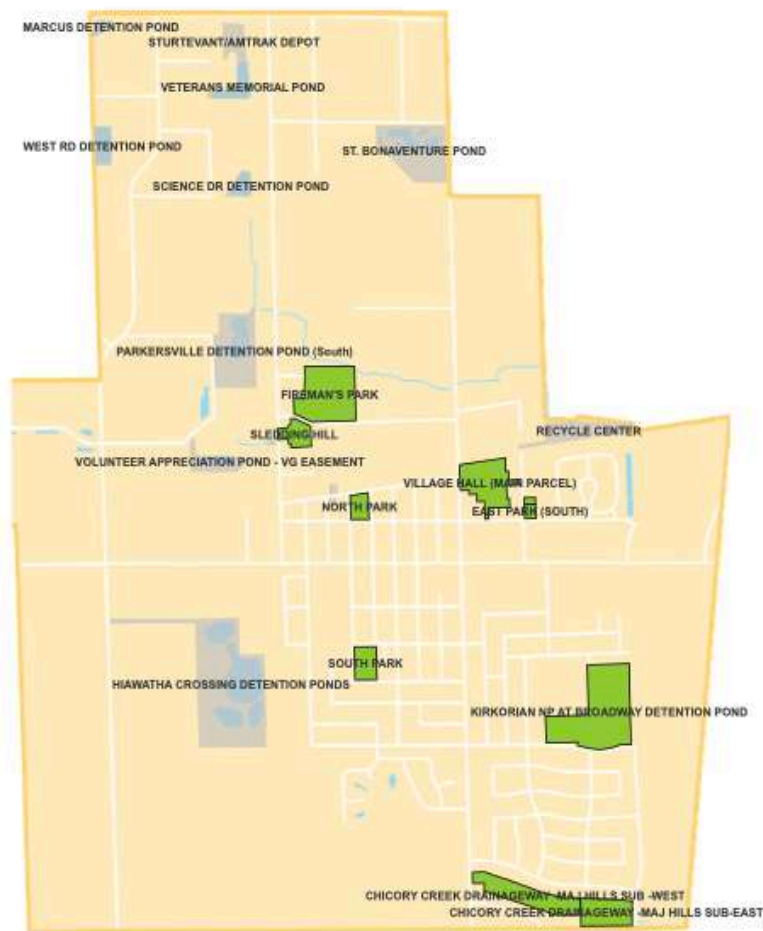
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SIX: INVENTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Sturtevant hosts nine public parks and open spaces encompassing nearly 120 acres of land and water. Available amenities include sports fields, athletic courts, playgrounds, shelters, and picnic facilities, among others. The Village also has marked bike lanes on 90th Street, Broadway Drive, and Wisconsin Street. Additional publicly accessible recreation facilities include play grounds, trails, and athletic fields at Schulte Elementary School.

Nearby parks and outdoor recreation facilities include: Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area, Cliffside Park, Petrifying Springs Park, and Old Settlers County Park. Nearby beaches on the shore of Lake Michigan include: Carre-Hogle Park, Racine North Beach, Racine Zoo Beach, and Samuel Meyers Park.



Map 2: Village of Sturtevant parks, ponds, and open spaces.

VILLAGE PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

East Park / Skate Park

East Park / Skate Park is 1.18 acres in size and is located at 2845 87th Street at the intersection of 87th Street and Corliss Avenue. The primary amenities at this facility is an oval skate park and flat trick pad. East Park / Skate Park is served by a portable toilet.

Fireman's Park

Fireman's Park is 18.02 acres in size and is located at 9630 Charles Street just east of Wisconsin Street. Amenities include three ball fields (Beck Field, Karnopp Field, and Woiteshek Field), one small ball/kickball field, playground, shelter/restrooms, and a concession stand. An undeveloped portion of the park located southeast of the intersection of Charles Street and Wisconsin Street hosts a sledding hill.



East Park / Skate Park and Fireman's Park.

Hiawatha Ponds

Hiawatha Ponds is a 39.95-acre site hosting a series of stormwater detention ponds enclosed within a walking trail. It is located at 3137 CTH H south of Durand Avenue.

Kirkorian Nature Preserve

Kirkorian Nature Preserve is 15.6 acres in size and is located along Willow Road. It adjoins the Schulte Elementary School site. The preserve hosts a small lake, walking trail, and boardwalk with viewing platform.



Hiawatha Ponds and Kirkorian Nature Preserve.

North Park

North Park is a 2.24-acre urban park hosting a pavilion, shelter with restrooms, play apparatus, basketball/tennis court, sand volleyball court, and walking paths. It is located at 2826 94th Street between Corliss Avenue and Michigan Avenue.



North Park.

Off Broadway Dog Park

Off Broadway Park is 5.77 acres in size and is located at 8500 Broadway Drive abutting Kirkorian Nature Preserve. It hosts two fenced-in play areas for dogs and a detention basin.

Parkersville Pond

Parkersville Pond is a 15.1-acre stormwater detention facility located at 9900 Venice Drive west of the Soo Line rail line. The site hosts a detention pond encircled by a walking trail.



Off Broadway Park (Sturtevant Dog Park) and Parkerville Pond.

South Park

South Park is 3.6 acres in size and is located in a residential neighborhood at 3209 95th Street. The park hosts a lighted ball field, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, pavilion, and restrooms.

St. Bonaventure Pond

St. Bonaventure Pond is a 16.29-acre site located at 9001 Rayne Road southwest of the intersection of Rayne Road and 90th Street. It hosts a paved waling path surrounding a series of small detention ponds.



South Park and St. Bonaventure Pond.

NEARBY PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Cliffside Park

Cliffside Park is a 233-acre facility located in the Village of Caledonia. Along with ninety-two camp sites located in three secluded areas of the park, Cliffside hosts a comfort station (with sinks, toilets, and showers), ball fields, basketball courts, soccer fields, trails, a playground, and two shelter areas with picnic tables, grills, and electric service.



Old Settlers County Park

Old Settlers park is 13 acres in size and is located in the Village of Union Grove. Outdoor recreation facilities include: shelters and pavilions for rent, grills and picnic tables, a playground, ball field, horseshoe pit, and restrooms.



Petrifying Springs Park

Petrifying Springs Park is the oldest park in Kenosha County. In addition to an 18-hole golf course, the park offers: four pavilions for rent; a ball diamond; chess tables; cross-country skiing, hiking, and snowshoeing trails; a dog park, a playground; restrooms; a sandy volleyball court; and, lighted sledding hills.



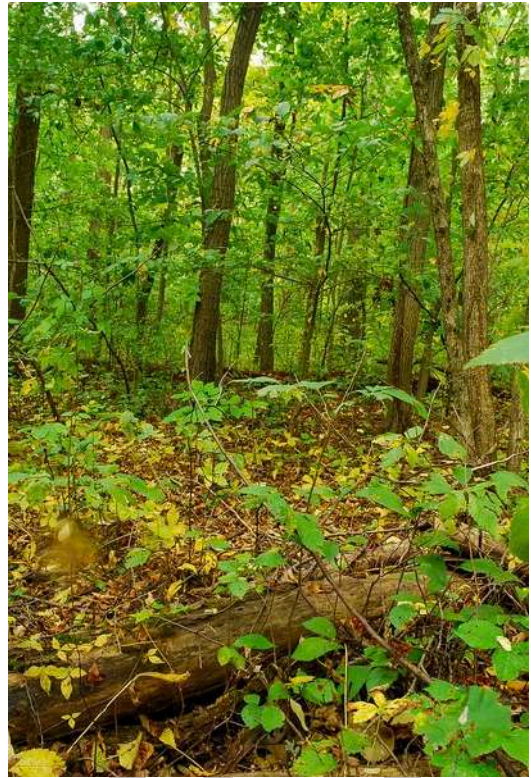
Cliffside Park, Old Settlers Park, and Petrifying Springs Park

Sanders County Park / Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area

Sanders County Park is located in Mount Pleasant. The 80-acre site features a five-acre campground, athletic facilities, picnic areas, and a nature trail. Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area, located within the county park, is 33 acres in size and hosts a southern dry-mesic forest ecosystem providing habitat for a number of at risk and threatened plant and animals species.

Public Beaches

Nearby beaches on the shore of Lake Michigan include: Carre-Hogle Park, Racine North Beach, Racine Zoo Beach, and Samuel Meyers Park.



Sanders Park Hardwoods State Natural Area

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SEVEN: SCORP 2019-2023

INTRODUCTION

States are required to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years so as to be eligible to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. SCORPs are intended to evaluate outdoor recreation trends and issues of statewide importance and set forth ideas about recreation’s future role in the state. There are several required elements for SCORPs, including identifying priorities for use of LWCF grants. Of the many important issues related to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin, the SCORP highlights the areas of greatest need, thus providing a framework for evaluating LWCF grants.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts, and other state political subdivisions are eligible to apply for LWCF grants for acquisition or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. These government entities best understand their citizens’ needs, as well as the opportunities to leverage their local resources and assets. As such, the focus of the SCORP is on providing a range of information, at the county level where possible, to help the public and their elected officials place local conditions, needs, and opportunities into a broader framework.

Table 4: Nature-Based Activities for SCORP 2019-2023

- ▲ Bicycling – rail-trails, mt. biking, fat-tire/snow biking
- ▲ Bird/wildlife watching - at home and away from home
- ▲ Camping – tent, RV/pop-up
- ▲ Canoeing/kayaking
- ▲ Cross-country skiing
- ▲ Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- ▲ Driving 4-WD vehicles on trails/routes
- ▲ Fishing – lake, stream, river
- ▲ Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.
- ▲ Geocaching
- ▲ Hiking/walking/running on trails
- ▲ Horseback riding on trails
- ▲ Hunting – big and small game, turkey, migratory bird
- ▲ Ice skating
- ▲ Motor boating
- ▲ Nature photography
- ▲ Personal water craft riding
- ▲ Picnicking/tailgating/cookout
- ▲ Riding ATVs/UTVs on trails/routes
- ▲ Riding motorcycles on trails/routes
- ▲ Sailing
- ▲ Snowmobiling
- ▲ Snowshoeing
- ▲ Stand-up paddle boarding
- ▲ Swimming – lakes/rivers/ponds
- ▲ Target shooting – firearms, archery
- ▲ Trapping
- ▲ Visiting a nature center
- ▲ Visiting a beach/beach walking
- ▲ Visiting a dog park
- ▲ Walking/running dogs on trails
- ▲ Waterskiing/tubing/wakeboarding

Source: SCORP 2019-2023, WDNR.

2019-2023 SCORP Objectives

- ▲ Provide an analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand.
- ▲ Provide information and context that is useful to counties, local units of government, organizations, Native American Nations, and others as they develop plans and policies for recreation opportunities in their communities.
- ▲ Ensure Wisconsin's continued eligibility for National Park Service LWCF state-side grants.
- ▲ Establish priorities for LWCF grants and guidance for other applicable state and federal funds.

TOP PRIORITIES

- ▲ Focus on natural resources and habitat
- ▲ Provide more places near urban centers to support nature-based recreation
- ▲ Meet increasing demand for trails (nonmotorized and motorized)
- ▲ Increase shore access for fishing, boating, swimming
- ▲ Support local recreation efforts

SCORP GOALS

- ▲ Boost participation in outdoor recreation
- ▲ Grow partnerships
- ▲ Provide high-quality experiences
- ▲ Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits
- ▲ Enhance funding and financial stability

LOWER LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL REGION

The SCORP is divided into eight regions: Great Northwest, Northwoods, Mississippi River Corridor, Western Sands, Lake Winnebago Waters, Southern Gateways, Upper Lake Michigan Coastal, and Lower Lake Michigan Coastal (see map on following page). The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region is the most urban and populous of the eight regions. The urban influence of Milwaukee and its surrounding suburbs has led to an extensive network of trails and associated recreation facilities such as dog parks, athletic fields and sport courts. Despite this urban influence, some areas of the region offer opportunities for undeveloped outdoor recreation. The five units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are easily accessible not only to the region's residents but also the greater Chicago metropolitan area and are some of the most heavily used public lands in the state.

Landscape Setting

This region is also home to some of the world's best examples of continental glacial activity. Drumlins, eskers, kettle lakes, kames, ground and end moraines, and other glacial features are evident throughout the entire area. A particularly striking area is the long "ridge" (known as a kettle interlobate moraine) that formed between the Green Bay and Lake Michigan lobes during the Wisconsin Glaciation. The area is protected in part by the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Historically, many of the state's richest and most diverse streams and rivers were found in the southeastern part of Wisconsin. While most of these have been degraded, improving management practices have improved many of these waterways. However, the Mukwonago River has maintained its quality and harbors one of the highest concentrations of fish, mussels and other aquatic invertebrates in the Midwest.

Recreation Uses and Participation

Lake Michigan is a major recreational resource for this region. It provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, wind- surfing, sailing and all types of boating. There are a number of parks in the area located along Lake Michigan. Richard Bong State Recreation Area offers the widest variety of recreation activities of any state property, including canoe/kayaking, swimming, fishing, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, motorcycling and hunting. Being a former military airbase, it is also an excellent example of how high-quality recreation areas can be more a function of location, size, and soils that can accommodate a variety of activities, than "wild" settings.

Several rivers that empty into the lake, such as the Milwaukee, Root and Pike, also provide surprisingly good fishing that includes spring and fall runs of salmon and steelhead from Lake Michigan. Some urban recreational trails for walking, bicycling, and roller blading exist, such as the Root River in Racine and Oak Creek Parkways and the Hank Aaron State Trail in Milwaukee. As would be expected in an urbanized area, there is very little land available for open space recreation, such as camping and hunting. However, there are still many small patches of natural landscape left that could support activities such as bird watching and nature observation.

Public Outdoor Recreation Supply

The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region has approximately 95,000 acres of public land available for outdoor recreation. Properties in close proximity to Lake Michigan are especially popular, as well as other small pockets of land dispersed between the region's large urban centers. This section briefly describes the public conservation and recreation lands in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region.

Federal

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages approximately 1,400 acres in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal area, located in both Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Walworth counties. These parcels are reserved mainly for waterfowl production and grassland protection.

State

The Department of Natural Resources owns over 90,000 acres in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region. State properties in the region span the range of intended recreational settings and development levels. At one end of the spectrum are properties such as Kohler-Andrae and Harrington Beach State Parks that include developed campgrounds, miles of trails, boating opportunities and picnic sites. The Kettle Moraine State Forest State is a prominent property in this region, providing numerous trail and developed recreation opportunities. In contrast, properties like Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area, the most intact large bog in southeastern Wisconsin, housing a relict community of flora and fauna. Although these types of properties can provide some limited recreation opportunities for low-impact activities such as hunting, bird watching and nature study, their primary purpose is not necessarily to provide recreation opportunities requiring development or infrastructure.



Kettle Moraine State Forest. Image courtesy: Chicago Tribune.

County

The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region does not have any county forests, but county parks provide campgrounds, boat launches, walking trails and other types of recreational opportunities. For example, an impressive 172 parks in Milwaukee County totaling over 15,000 acres, provide

opportunities for cross-country skiing, mountain biking and birding. Sheboygan county has also been active in recent years, developing over 39 miles of paved off-road, multi-use trails.

Trends in Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Strong Increase

- ▲ Bicycling – winter, fat tire
- ▲ Bicycling – mountain biking

Moderate Increase

- ▲ Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding
- ▲ Bicycling – recreational, rail-trail
- ▲ Picnic area, day use areas, beach areas
- ▲ Target archery at designated ranges
- ▲ Bird, wild life watching

Slight Increase

- ▲ Camping – RV / pop-up
- ▲ Camping – tent
- ▲ Dog walking on trails
- ▲ Hiking, walking, running on trails
- ▲ Fishing
- ▲ Nature photography
- ▲ Swimming in lakes, ponds, rivers

Slight Decrease

- ▲ Cross country skiing – groomed trails
- ▲ Hunting – turkey
- ▲ Hunting – small game
- ▲ Hunting – big game

Moderate Decrease

- ▲ Horse riding
- ▲ Cross country skiing – ungroomed trails
- ▲ Trapping



Fat tire biking in northern Wisconsin and paddling the Root River. Images courtesy (from top): American Birkebeiner, Racine County Eye.

▲ Snowmobiling

STATEWIDE RECREATION NEEDS

Places Near Population Centers

Because of the inverse distribution of our population and public lands as well as the limited amount of time people have to participate, there is a very large need to provide more places for people to participate in outdoor recreation near where they live. In particular is the need to provide opportunities for residents to visit places after work or for a couple of hours on a weekend. Places that provide opportunities for hiking, all types of bicycle riding, dog walking, picnicking, and different water-related activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are likely to be heavily used.

Trails

By nearly every measure, the largest need throughout the state is for more trails that enable people to experience natural settings, visit the vibrant down-towns of our cities and villages, commute to work, and access favorite sites. All types of trails are in demand – hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, ATV/UTV and motorcycle riding, and 4WD vehicle trails.

Water Access – Shoreline and Boat Launches

Lakes, streams and rivers are a defining feature of Wisconsin. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, from the thousands of inland lakes and the tens of thousands of miles of flowing water, residents and visitors have been drawn to the water's edge to fish, hunt, launch any manner of watercraft, bird watch and beach walk. Access to water remains a universal need throughout the state.

Camping Opportunities

With a large cohort of retirees travelling in RVs combined with an adventurous younger generation, demand for camping has grown in recent years and is likely to remain popular for years to come. Given the divergence in desired experiences – some campers wanting access to hot showers and Wi-Fi while others wanting neither – recreation providers will need to collaborate and coordinate on providing the camping experiences best suited to different public lands.

Dog Parks and Exercise Areas

Taking care of a dog has many benefits, not the least of which is the exercise people get in walking their pets. With the steady rise in dog ownership (75% of people in their thirties own a dog) and an urbanizing population has come an increasing demand for places to walk, play with, socialize and train our canine friends. Many municipal and county dog parks are among their most visited properties.

Target Shooting Ranges

Many hunters and shooting sports participants live in rural areas or belong to gun clubs and practice their craft on their or the club's property. However, as our population continues to urbanize there is a growing need for places where people can practice gun and archery marksmanship and safety. By their nature, firearm ranges generate considerable sounds and siting new ranges has been a challenge in more populated areas of the state.

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EIGHT: PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

Standards provide a means by which to assess existing facilities to determine whether current and future needs are met. These standards provide context, but are not intended to be a determinant of need.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Most local governments rely upon a 'needs analysis' to determine a desired level of service. The purpose of such an assessment is to ensure that adequate park and recreation facilities are available for residents and user groups. These analyses may be based on established national standards, current local needs, existing natural and cultural resources, or some combination thereof. Public opinion is a key component of the needs assessment process.

Standards-Based Needs

The most widely adopted standards are based on early National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Guidelines. First issued in 1934, they reflected the experience and recommendations of a group of outdoor recreation professionals rather than systematic research of local needs and desires. As a result communities across the U.S. possess nearly identical standards though geography and population vary greatly.

- ▲ Recommendation of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.
- ▲ A classification system for parks, which vary in size, amenities, and service area.
- ▲ Facility Development standards as a guideline for the number of facilities needed per capita.

Although widely accepted, there is increased recognition that national-based standards may not be providing communities what they really want. A growing school of park and recreation planners argue uniform standards:

- ▲ Emphasize how much, rather than how good.
- ▲ Reflect past desires and expectations rather than today's needs.
- ▲ Do not recognize the unique conditions, resources, and needs of different communities and cultural groups.
- ▲ Are often unrealistic and difficult to implement.

The main critique of uniform standards is that they may contribute to underachievement in more ambitious communities. Demand-based standards go a step further and may better address the specific needs of Sturtevant.

Demand-Based Needs

Demand-based needs assessments are closely tied to the results of public input, participation rates, and current usage data. The results of the demand-based assessment will refine land acquisition and programming needs, and identify facility provision priorities.

Resource-based Needs

Finally, resource-based needs are those constructed upon the physical and environmental resources that provide the underlying foundation upon which the parks and recreation system rests. These include creeks and streams; woodlands, wetlands, and remnant grasslands; historic and cultural landscapes; and Lake Michigan.

Table 5: Parks and Open Space Classifications

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria / Service Area	Size Criteria
Mini-Park (also Pocket Park)	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	The basic unit of the park system and the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum. 5-10 acres optimal.
School Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of park, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location and size of school district property.	Variable, depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Special Purpose Park	A park or recreation area that meets a specific need or serves a particular purpose.	Entire community.	Varies with the size of the area and land available.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually	Minimum necessary to of accommodate desired uses, with

	neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community- based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	serves the entire community.	50 acres being typical minimum.
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Greenway	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose visit.	Variable- dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Private Park / Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable- dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Source: National Recreation and Park Association.			

ASSESSING PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS AND DEMAND

NRPA regularly develops outdoor recreation standards based upon national surveying. Such standards can be effective as a guide to determining whether existing facilities and services are sufficient to meet existing (and future) needs. Within communities of similar size the determination of adequacy may be influenced by a number of variables, including:

- ▲ The culture of the community.
- ▲ The percentage of the population represented by seniors, youth, motorized and silent sports enthusiasts, etc.
- ▲ The availability of natural assets such as lakes, forests, grasslands, and the like.
- ▲ Proximity to state and county parks and recreation facilities.
- ▲ Seasonal fluctuations in non-resident population.

NRPA's 2021 Field Report recommends municipalities provide one park for every 2,277 residents served and 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.¹³ The report was drawn from the results of surveys submitted by nearly 1,000 agencies (i.e., municipalities) across the U.S. The data was used to establish typical population-based benchmarks for parks and recreation facilities. The best

¹³ Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, National Recreation and Park Association, 2021.

standards are those deemed adequate by residents. Regardless of how they are developed, standards must:¹⁴

- ▲ Reflect the needs and lifestyles of current residents and the area being served.
- ▲ Provide a basis for measuring achievement of community objectives, both quantitative and qualitative.
- ▲ Be attainable within a reasonable time frame and with available or reasonably anticipated funding sources.
- ▲ Be based on sound principles, information, and a credible development process, and flexible enough to handle unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

Table 5 compares NRPA parks and recreation standards for municipalities and current Village of Sturtevant figures.

Standards	NRPA	Sturtevant
Residents Per Park (pop. less than 20,000)	1,235	
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents (pop. less than 20,000)	12.4	
Miles of Trails (pop. less than 20,000)	3	
Park and Recreation Staffing per 1,000 Residents (pop. less than 20,000)	10.3 FTE	
Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Staff (all municipalities)		
Operations Maintenance	45%	
Programming	31%	
Administration	17%	
Capital Development	4%	
Other		
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per Capita (pop. less than 20,000)	\$114.62	
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per Acre Park and Nonpark Sites (pop. less than 20,000)	\$7,959	
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per FTE (pop. less than 20,000)	\$95,913	
Distribution of Operating Expenditures		
Personnel Services	54%	
Operating Expenses	38%	
Capital Expenses not in CIP	5%	
Other	3%	

Excerpted from: 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review, NRPA, 2021.

¹⁴ Source: Criteria for Developing Outdoor Recreation Standards, Seymour Gold.

ACCESSIBILITY

Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II¹⁵

Title II prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services of public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other instrumentalities or special purpose districts of state or local governments. It clarifies the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, for public transportation systems that receive federal financial assistance, and extends coverage to all public entities that provide public transportation, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance.

This title outlines the administrative processes to be followed, including requirements for self-evaluation and planning; requirements for making reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination; architectural barriers to be identified; and the need for effective communication with people with hearing, vision and speech disabilities. This title is regulated and enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice.

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¹⁵ Source: United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 2022.

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NINE: PARKS AND RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the CORP is to guide the Village in the acquisition, development, and enhancement of the recreational resources necessary to meet current and future needs. The recommendations presented in this section are based upon a number of public participation and community engagement activities, a review of state and national recreation standards, and an inventory of local and regional parks and recreation facilities. The recommendations are also guided by the goals and objectives presented in Chapter Three: Community Engagement. The timing of park acquisition and development and improvements to existing facilities will coincide with the demand for recreational facilities and be based upon the availability of funding.

POLICY-BASED PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

Consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, it is the policy of the Village of Sturtevant to provide *accessible*, *equitable*, and *sustainable* parks and recreation facilities. A fourth category, General, applies to all other improvements and additions to the Village’s park and recreation system.



Accessibility

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities accessible to people of all abilities.



Equity

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities free from cultural, locational, economic, and other barriers that preclude participation and enjoyment by all residents.



Sustainability

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities designed and maintained to preserve, enhance, or restore water quality, wildlife habitat, and natural landscapes.



General

General recommendations for parks, trails, and recreation facilities.





Equity in Access

Equality and equity are not synonyms. Equity in access is achieved when a park system provides just and fair quantity, proximity, and connections to quality parks, green spaces and recreation facilities, as well as programming that are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming to everyone.

Source: NRPA, 2021

Table 7: Policy-Based Recommendations

Policy Area	Recommendation
	Conduct system-wide audit for compliance with ADA requirements.
	Retrofit all parks to accommodate users of differing abilities. Modifications to include parking areas, structures and shelters, picnic tables, water fountains, play equipment, courts and play fields, and trails and paths, among others.
	Transition all non-compliant playground equipment to ADA-compliance.
	Ensure universal access to parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Prioritize under-served neighborhoods for new park and recreation facilities.
	Ensure parks and recreation facilities are located within safe walking distance (generally five minutes) of all neighborhoods. Use sidewalk and path markings to provide direction to parks.
	Provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities connecting all neighborhoods to community destination nodes.
	Utilize parks for community gatherings, cultural events, and local festivals.
	Incorporate natural landscaping and functional habitat into all parks. Grow, not mow.
	Consider transitioning to Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management systems when existing systems require repair and replacement.
	Identify opportunities for installation of solar and wind energy systems.
	Transition to LED lighting fixtures.

	<p>Incorporate community gardens and 'food forests' into existing and proposed parks.</p>
	<p>Plant more trees in parks.</p>



Possibility Playground, Port Washington WI. Image courtesy possibilityplayground.org.

Accessible Playgrounds

Playing at the playground is an essential part of childhood. It helps kids get the physical exercise they need to stay healthy and develop critical cognitive, emotional and social skills. Every kid deserves the chance to learn, have fun and create joyful memories on the playground. An accessible playground is one that offers a range of play experiences to children of varying abilities. There must be:

- ▲ An accessible path from the building or parking lot to the edge of the play area.
- ▲ An accessible path from the edge of the play area to the play equipment.
- ▲ Surfacing that complies with ASTM 1951 (Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment).

















Once a child is in the play area, they must be able to access the play equipment by either moving out of their mobility device onto the playground structure (such as a transfer station) or by direct play structure access in their mobility device (such as a ramp).

Source: 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 2021

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 7 includes general outdoor recreation recommendations to be incorporated into the Village of Sturtevant park system.

Table 8: General Park and Recreation Recommendations

Policy Areas	Recommendations
	Ensure all parks are regularly maintained, welcoming, and safe.
	Provide restrooms and drinking water facilities at all developed parks.
	Install bicycle racks at all park locations.
	Provide pedestrian and bicycle access from all parks to the Route of the Badger Trail, via sidewalks, trails, and on-road bicycle lanes.
	Provide sufficient trash and recycling receptacles at all parks.
	Ensure safety mats or similar material available under all play equipment
	Regularly communicate with user groups regarding facilities
	Provide sufficient resources in support of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and recreational programs.
	Make parks available for use by community groups.
	Encourage local entrepreneurs to use park system for yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, art, music, and similar classes.
	Develop Village of Sturtevant Parks & Recreation Wayfinding System and park signage.
	Continue to hold and promote a summer-long 'Movie in the Park' program rotating between select parks.
	Partner with School District and local businesses to create a multi-cultural, system-wide park and recreation mural program.
	Establish a 'Food Truck Friday' program, rotating between select parks.
	Have each park host at least community one event each year. Multiple neighborhood events.
	Establish free Wi-Fi hot spots in parks and other Village-owned properties.



Carts in Parks, City of Madison. Image courtesy City of Madison Parks.



































ADA-compliant park amenities. Images courtesy from top left: water fountain from Redheaded Blackbelt; picnic table from Bultrite Bleachers; swing set from Bluegrass Playground, Inc., bonded wood carpet trail bed from Zeager

ADDITIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO CURRENT PARKS

The recommendations below are in addition to those presented as Policy-Based and General Park & Recreation Recommendations.

Table 9: Park Additions and Enhancements

Park	Recommendation	Policy Areas			
East Park / Skate Park	Add pavilion or shade structure.				
	Add additional benches and picnic tables.				
	Add small native prairie and additional trees. Replace bulk of remaining lawn with no-mow grass.				
Fireman's Park	Plant trees along each side of Charles Street and eastern boundary of northern portion park.				
	Add small misting feature or similar water feature.				
	Add additional playground equipment.				
	Transition lawn at sledding hill to native, no-mow grass.				
	Add benches, grills, and picnic tables.				
	Add walking trail encircling and connecting northern and southern sections of park.				
	Add paved parking to northern section and informal parking area to southern section of park.				

Hiawatha Ponds	Add mowed trail diverging from walkway for cross country skiing and access to interior of site.				
	Maintain and expand native prairie restoration and reforestation on site.				
	Add parking area.				
Kirkorian Nature Preserve	Incorporate educational wayfinding system into existing trail network.				
North Park	Consider bandshell, pavilion, and similar such structures.				
	Add additional playground equipment.				
	Incorporate butterfly garden.				
	Upgrade basketball courts; include foursquare courts.				
Off Broadway Park / Sturtevant Dog Park	Plant trees and prairie along Broadway Drive south of detention basin and along northern border of site.				
Parkersville Pond	Incorporate native prairie restoration and reforestation throughout site.				
South Park	Add large splash pad.				
	Add additional playground equipment.				
	Transition to native, no-mow grass.				
	Add pickleball courts.				
	Upgrade basketball courts; include foursquare courts				

St. Bonaventure Pond	Incorporate native prairie restoration and reforestation throughout site.				
	Add mowed trail diverging from walkway for cross country skiing and access to interior of site.				
	Add small, accessible playground.				

FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The following parks, outdoor recreation facilities would be potentially welcomed additions to the Village of Sturtevant park system.

All-Abilities Park



Image courtesy Go Valley Kids.

An inclusive park, or all-abilities park, is a universally designed, sensory-rich environment that enables children to develop physically, socially, and emotionally.¹⁶ With inclusive playgrounds, the objective is to include everyone. They are thoughtfully designed to provide a safe place where children of all abilities can play together, and are developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities.

An inclusive playground takes away the barriers to exclusion, both physical and social, providing a sensory rich experience for all. An inclusive playground focuses on the following components to ensure a positive, engaging experience for all children:¹⁷¹⁸

Core Elements of Inclusive Playgrounds

- ▲ **Physical Accommodations.** Accommodating physical disabilities is one component of an inclusive playground. This includes meeting ADA requirements by providing a wheelchair accessible route and ramps/transfer points. Customized equipment such as special swings allow all kids to enjoy the playground as it is meant to be enjoyed.
- ▲ **Engaging.** Inclusive playgrounds provide a number of different opportunities for children to explore. They integrate all the senses and encourages social play. There is a little something for everyone including those that like to climb, run, spin, slide, swing and more.
- ▲ **Integrated.** A true inclusive playground doesn't mean that there is special equipment in a separate area off to the side, but rather a space designed as a cohesive community where play opportunities are integrated throughout. This is important for social development.
- ▲ **Promote Inclusion.** Just as the name suggests, inclusive playgrounds have another mission that goes beyond the physical accommodations and specialized equipment. These playgrounds do so much for the community. They educate and bring families and people together. They stress the importance of inclusion in every day activities, no matter the ability level. They prove that kids of all abilities enjoy exploring, learning, interacting and having fun together. They stress compassion and, well, *inclusion* of those that are different from you. That's a lesson that benefits us all.

Size & Location

The ideal site for an all abilities park will be 5-7 acres in size, easily accessible by bicycle, and with full access to required utilities.

¹⁶ Excerpted from: Inclusive Playgrounds: How to Plan, Design, and Build Inclusive Playgrounds, General Recreation Inc., 2021.

¹⁸ Excerpted from: What is an Inclusive Playground, May Recreation, 2021.

Pocket Parks



Fondy Park. Image courtesy City of Milwaukee, WI.

The defining characteristic of a pocket park is its size. Although there is no strict definition, Pocket Parks are generally recognized as public park spaces that occupy less than one acre of land. In contrast to larger neighborhood or regional parks that attract park goers from all around a city, Pocket parks are built with the intention of providing the community within the park's immediate

vicinity with the benefits of a public park, offering scaled-down features and recreational amenities to relay the same benefits afforded by larger parks at a fraction of the space.¹⁹

Potential amenities, dispersed across all such parks, may include: small event space, play area for children, small splashpad, basketball half-court, community garden, rain garden, skating rink, climbing wall, and rest and reflection areas, among others.

Size & Location

Less than one-acre in size located within five- to ten-minute walk of all residential neighborhoods.

18-hole disk golf course



Johnson Park Disc Golf Course, City of Racine. Image courtesy UDisc.

Disc golf is played much like golf except, instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. A disc golf hole begins from a tee area and ends at a target, the most common of which is an elevated metal basket. As a player progresses down the fairway, he or she must make each consecutive throw from the spot where the previous throw landed. In group play, the farthest away player always throws first. Players should not get ahead of the away player. The trees, shrubs, and terrain changes located

¹⁹ Excerpted from: Pocket Park Toolkit, The Trust for Public Land, 2019.

in and around the fairways provide challenging obstacles for the golfer. When the 'putt' lands in the basket, the hole is complete.²⁰

Installing a disc golf course in a public park is a relatively inexpensive investment that will bring a high yield in park use. A quality disc golf course takes advantage of existing vegetation and terrain. Flat wide open places without mature trees do not make for a desirable course. While course design is limited most by the available land, designers should consider the intent of the course before is installed. Courses can be installed with the intent to be difficult to attract tournament level players, or less difficult and beginner friendly to encourage new players and family activities. With multiple tee pads and pin positions, most courses can accommodate both.²¹

Size & Location

A well-designed disc golf course will range in size from 10 to 20 acres and, s a community park, can be located anywhere within the Village.

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²⁰ Source: Professional Disc Golf Association, 2022.

²¹ Source: How to build a disc golf course, Discmania, 2022.



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TEN: FUNDING OPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

A variety of funding sources are available for parks, open space, and trail projects. These range from payments or land dedication by property developers, federal and state grants and loans, and direct expenditures from the general fund. Private sector fund raising is also a viable option, particularly if some form of recognition is offered in return for investment (naming rights, signage, engraved brick pavers, etc.).

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

General Fund

The primary sources of all public park and recreation funding in the U.S. is the municipal general fund, primarily via capital improvements planning. A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) provides the means of planning for major project costs by creating a multiyear schedule for physical public improvements. The schedule is based on the projection of fiscal resources and prioritization of improvements five to six years into the future. Capital improvements include new or expanded physical facilities that are relatively large in size, expensive, and permanent. A parks and recreation oriented CIP outlines a community's capital item needs and purchase plans, including:

- ▲ Street improvements (e.g., widening, crosswalks, signalization, corridor studies, etc.)
- ▲ Park acquisition and improvements
- ▲ Pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Capital items are generally defined as those costing \$5,000 or more and anticipated to last at least five years. The CIP process helps to ensure that improvements are made in a logical order and do not surprise local officials or taxpayers. It allows a community to focus on needs and goals and establish rational priorities.

Park Impact Fees²²

Chapters 236.45, is. Stats. and 66.0617, Wis. Stats. provide for the collection of impact fees allowing Wisconsin municipalities to pay for anticipated capital costs associated with new development. Capital costs refer to the one-time cost of constructing, expanding or improving physical, public facilities such as highways, sewage treatment systems, and outdoor recreation, among others. Prior to developing or imposing an impact fee, a municipality must conduct a detailed needs assessment to determine the portion of facility costs necessitated by the new development.

²² Source: Planning Implementation Tools: Impact Fees, UW Stevens Point Center for Land Use Education, 2008.

The impact fee may not be used to pay for inadequacies in the current system. Rather than distributing costs associated with new development among existing property owners (generally in the form of increased property taxes), impact fees are collected from the developer or property owner at the time of building permit. They also do not cover operational or maintenance costs, which can be significant over the lifetime of a facility. Once established, impact fees are typically incorporated within a Land Division and Subdivision Ordinance.

User Fees

Local government may impose user fees to offset the costs of park improvements, recreation programs, and maintenance. These fees are discretionary and are typically established by the elected body. User fees are more common with certain recreation facilities than others. Examples include RV campgrounds, indoor skate parks, and RC fields, among numerous others.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Programs

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (KNSP) in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

Funding for KNSP comes from state general obligation bonds. The State sells bonds to investors to raise funding, then repays the debt over subsequent years. The application deadline is May 1 of each year. Applications should be submitted to the local WDNR Regional Office. KNSP subprograms include:

- ▲ **Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks.** KNSP sets aside 50% of the funds in the Local Assistance Program for projects that improve community recreation areas and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Funds are allocated on a regional basis with 70% distributed on the basis of each county's proportionate share of the state population and 30% distributed equally to each county. Applicants compete against other applicants from their region. Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation. Nonprofit conservation organizations may only apply for funds for land acquisition. They are not eligible for funds for development projects.
- ▲ **Acquisition of Development Rights.** The purpose of the Acquisition of Development Rights Program is to protect natural, agricultural or forest lands that enhance and/or provide nature-based outdoor recreation. 'Development Rights' are the rights of a landowner to develop their property to the greatest extent allowed under state and local laws.

Recreational Trails Program

Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the WDNR for this program are split between WDNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50% of eligible project costs.

Urban Forestry Grant

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers urban forestry grants to cities, villages, towns, counties, tribes and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in or conducting projects in Wisconsin. These grants fall into three categories: Regular grants, startup grants and catastrophic storm grants.

- ▲ **Regular Grants.** Regular grants are competitive cost-share grants of up to \$25,000. Grants are to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs, not to subsidize routine forestry activities.
- ▲ **Startup Grants.** Startup grants are competitive cost-share grants of up to \$5,000. These simplified grants are available to communities that want to start or restart an urban forestry program.
- ▲ **Catastrophic Storm Grants.** Catastrophic storm grants fund tree repair, removal or replacement within urban areas following a catastrophic storm event for which the governor has declared a State of Emergency under Chapter 323.10, Wis. Stats.

Lake Management Grants

Eligible for municipalities that have approved management plan within five years of the year in which the grant application is submitted for Lake Management Plan Implementation. Focus areas include lake management planning, lake protection and classification, and aquatic invasive species control.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.” TAP was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP- 21). TAP combines three previously separate programs: Safe Routes to School, Transportation Enhancements, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. Eligible projects include:

- ▲ Trail facilities for non-motorized transport.
- ▲ Constructing safe routes for non-drivers.
- ▲ Converting abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation.
- ▲ Constructing turnouts, scenic overlooks and viewing areas.
- ▲ Community improvement activities.
- ▲ Any environmental mitigation activity.
- ▲ The Recreational Trails Program.
- ▲ The Safe Routes to School Program.
- ▲ Projects in the right of way of former interstate system routes or other divided highways.

All TAP projects are funded 80% federally with a 20% local match. Projects must be completed within approximately six years or will risk loss of funding.

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Community Development Investment Grant

The Community Development Investment Grant is administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. It supports urban, small city, and rural community redevelopment efforts by providing financial incentives for shovel-ready projects with emphasis on, but not limited to, downtown community-driven efforts. Grant recipients must demonstrate significant, measurable benefits in job opportunities, property values, and/or leveraged investment by local and private partners. The grant is available on a continual basis without specific application deadlines.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Funds may be used for projects such as:

- ▲ Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges.
- ▲ Mountain bike facilities.
- ▲ Bike parks and pump tracks.
- ▲ BMX facilities.
- ▲ End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, and bike storage.
- ▲ Bike facility engineering and design work.
- ▲ Bike facility construction costs including materials, labor, and equipment rental.

Grant requests may be made for amounts up to \$10,000, but funding may not exceed 50% of the project budget. Grant cycles are held one to two times per year.

Kodak American Greenways Program

The American Greenways Program is the nation's longest running community based grant program that expands and enhances our nation's network of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. The program is a partnership between Eastman Kodak Company, the National Geographic Society, and The Conservation Fund.

National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund

The National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Eligible applicants include towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school district. Eligible projects include:

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

- ▲ Development of basic outdoor recreation facilities.
- ▲ Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use.

OTHER SOURCES

Other sources of funding involve more work and dedication, but can contribute to making a project reality. Examples of local fund raising include:

- ▲ Buy-a-Foot (or Yard)-of-Trail campaigns.
- ▲ Local excise tax on bicycles or outdoor equipment.
- ▲ Matching funds from local retailers.
- ▲ Fund raising event -- outdoor concert, festival, etc. -- targeted to the project in question.

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APPENDIX

PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY: QUESTION 18

Table 10: Question 18 – If the Village could do one thing, and only one thing, to improve parks and recreation for you, your family, and your friends, what would that be?



Response	Total Number
Interconnected bicycle pedestrian trails (not on roads); connection to local, regional trails; safer street crossings.	23
Upgrade existing playground equipment; add more equipment.	19
Improve safety; more security; more security at Skate Park.	8
More parks.	8
Access to nature, green space.	6
Restrooms.	6
Water park / pool.	6
Community center; indoor pool; indoor exercise; STEM; seniors.	5
Ice rink.	5
Splash pad.	5
ATV / UTV / golf cart access.	4
Maintain existing facilities.	4
Add lights to parks.	3
All abilities park; accessible facilities at existing parks.	3
Community events.; food trucks.	3
Improve basketball courts; more courts; fence in courts.	3
More facilities for younger kids, older kids.	3
None; lower taxes.	3
Picnic areas, benches, grills, etc.	3
Stock ponds for fishing; fishing platforms.	3
Improve baseball/softball facilities and programs; make available during week days; rejoin RYCBA.	2
Improve Kirkorian.	2
More activities for families; adults.	2
Pickle ball courts.	2
Another dog park; larger dog park.	1
Beer garden.	1
Create community gathering point; downtown.	1
Develop one outstanding park.	1
Disc golf.	1
Improve existing parks.	1





Keep Sturtevant rural.	1
No beer garden.	1
Provide more information on existing parks and recreation facilities.	1
Rentals for family gatherings; birthday parties.	1
Replace tennis courts at South Park with football/soccer field.	1
Sand volleyball court at South Park.	1
Summer camp.	1

VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY





The tabulated results of the Visual Preference Survey are presented in Table 9.

Table 11: VPS RESULTS

Rank	Image Number	Rating	Images
1	50	1.33	
2	14	1.30	

3	22	1.25	
4	51	1.24	
5	38	1.23	
6	4	1.19	

7	17	1.12	
8	53	1.08	
9	15	1.06	
9	59	1.06	





11	27	1.02	
12	47	0.90	
13	19	0.88	
14	35	0.86	





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15	45	0.84	
16	31	0.82	
17	44	0.81	
18	11	0.75	

	43	0.75	
20	25	0.71	
21	42	0.70	
22	13	0.69	

D R T

	36	0.69	
24	33	0.66	
	20	0.62	
25	39	0.62	

	26	0.61	
27	32	0.61	
29	28	0.58	
30	21	0.57	




D R T

31	29	0.54	
32	6	0.52	
33	8	0.51	
33	46	0.51	



35	16	0.50	
36	34	0.47	
37	52	0.45	
38	12	0.41	

	1	0.37	
39	60	0.37	
41	24	0.36	
42	40	0.31	

D R T

	58	0.31	
44	18	0.29	
45	9	0.28	
46	5	0.27	

47	48	0.26	
	49	0.26	
49	30	0.24	
50	54	0.23	

51	7	0.17	
52	2	0.16	
53	55	0.12	
54	41	0.10	

55	56	0.04	
56	3	0.0	
57	10	(0.10)	
58	57	(0.12)	

59	23	(0.24)	
60	37	(0.29)	

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