



AGENDA OF THE PARKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025, 5:00 PM

In person at City Hall, Room 207.

Virtual attendance is also available via Zoom.

AMENDED

A. Zoom Meeting Information.

1. Join Zoom Meeting Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84314784824?pwd=THBkdMwTlk4MG5DV3hnbC9xVDhXdz09>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 843 1478 4824

Passcode: 278667

If you wish to speak at this public meeting or leave a comment, please fill out the online [Comment Form](#) prior to the meeting. More detailed [Zoom Instructions](#) can be found online.

B. Roll Call.

C. Approval of the Agenda.

D. Approval of Minutes.

E. Regular Business.

1. Consideration with possible action on the removal of the playground at St. John's Park.
2. Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Galvin for Parks to develop budget and manpower needs to clean all sidewalks under Park Department responsibility within 24 hrs of snowfall.
3. Consideration with possible action on the approval of a masterplan for the Perkins Park Disc Golf/Natural Area.
4. Consideration with possible action on charging a parking fee at Colburn Park on April 24-26, in conjunction with the days of the NFL Draft.

5. Consideration with possible action on the approval of the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2025-2029.
6. Consideration with possible action on a Resolution Adopting the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2025-2029.
7. Consideration with possible action on the approval of a Resolution authorizing applications for Outdoor Recreation Aids for the East River Emilie Park Nature-Based Flood Resilience & Recreational Access Project.
8. Consideration with possible action on the purchase of (1) New 2026 International MV607 Chassis from International Motors, LLC for a total cost of \$96,763.

F. Informational.

1. Director's Report on updates and recent activities of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.
2. Next Meeting: April 30, 2025.

G. Adjournment.

- 1) THIS MEETING IS RECORDED: THE VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AND MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.greenbaywi.gov
- 2) ACCESSIBILITY: Any person wishing to attend who requires special accommodation because of a disability, should contact the City Safety Manager at 920-448-3125 at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting time so that arrangements can be made.
- 3) QUORUM: Please take notice that a majority or quorum of the Common Council will attend this Parks Committee meeting and will constitute a meeting of the Common Council for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.
- 4) REPRESENTATION: The party requesting the communication, or their representative, should be present at this meeting.



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.I

Consideration with possible action on the removal of the playground at St. John's Park.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.2

Consideration with possible action on the request by Ald. Galvin for Parks to develop budget and manpower needs to clean all sidewalks under Park Department responsibility within 24 hrs of snowfall.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. 2025-03-13 Dist 4 to PRF

Online Form Submittal: Alders' Petitions and Communications

From noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Tue 3/11/2025 4:03 PM

To Celestine Jeffreys <Celestine.Jeffreys@greenbaywi.gov>; Eric Genrich <Eric.Genrich@greenbaywi.gov>; Joseph Faulds <Joseph.Faulds@greenbaywi.gov>; Lindsey Belongea <Lindsey.Belongea@greenbaywi.gov>; Melinda Eck <Melinda.Eck@greenbaywi.gov>

Alders' Petitions and Communications

Name	Bill Galvin
Committee Name	Parks Committee
Text of Communication	Communication for Parks to develop budget and manpower needs to clean all sidewalks under Park Dept responsibility within 24 hrs of snowfall. This should include sidewalks or walkways going through City parks, but can be listed as a separate from sidewalks that border park property adjacent to city streets.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.3

Consideration with possible action on the approval of a masterplan for the Perkins Park Disc Golf/Natural Area.

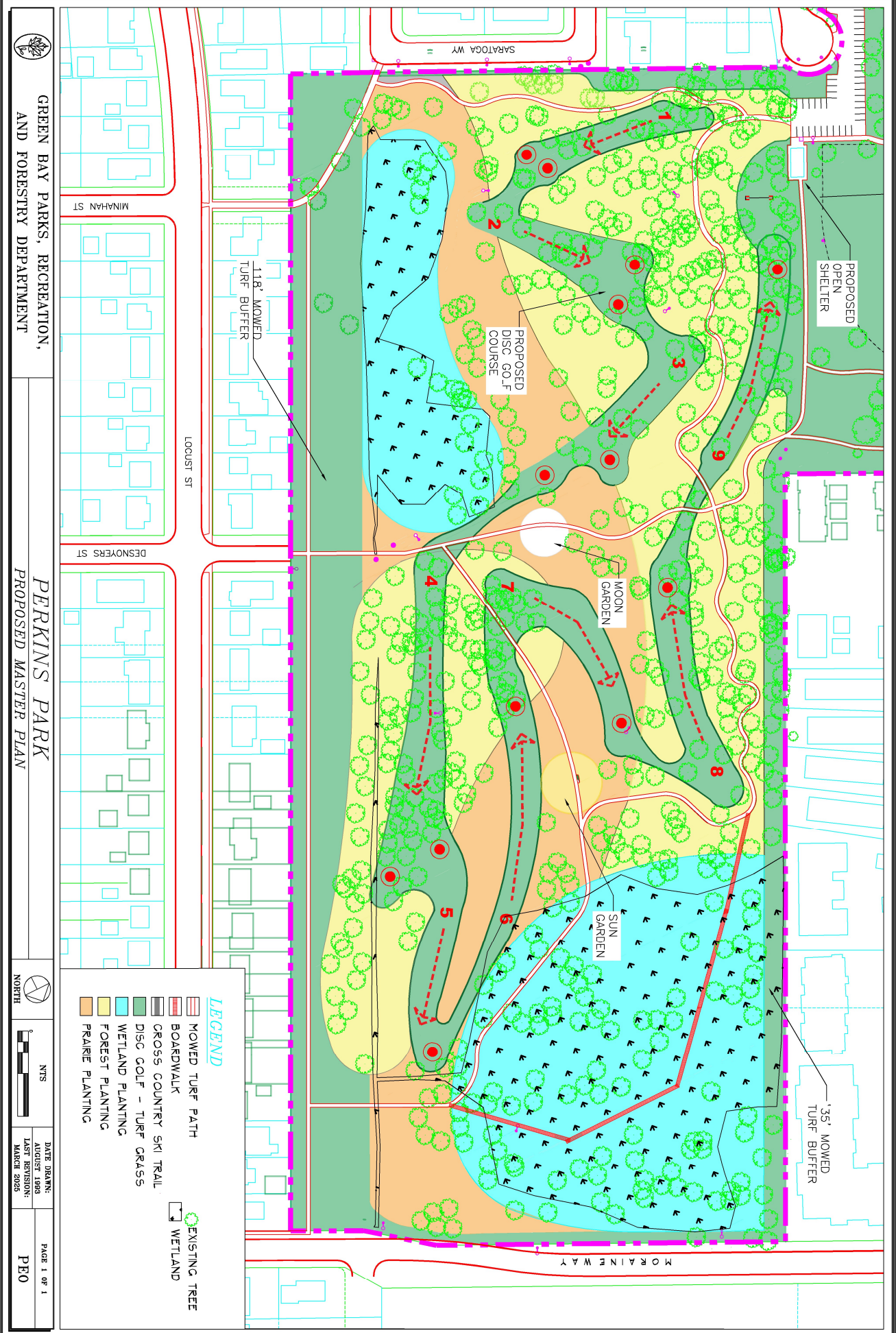
BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Perkins Park Master Plan





Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.4

Consideration with possible action on charging a parking fee at Colburn Park on April 24-26, in conjunction with the days of the NFL Draft.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.5

Consideration with possible action on the approval of the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2025-2029.

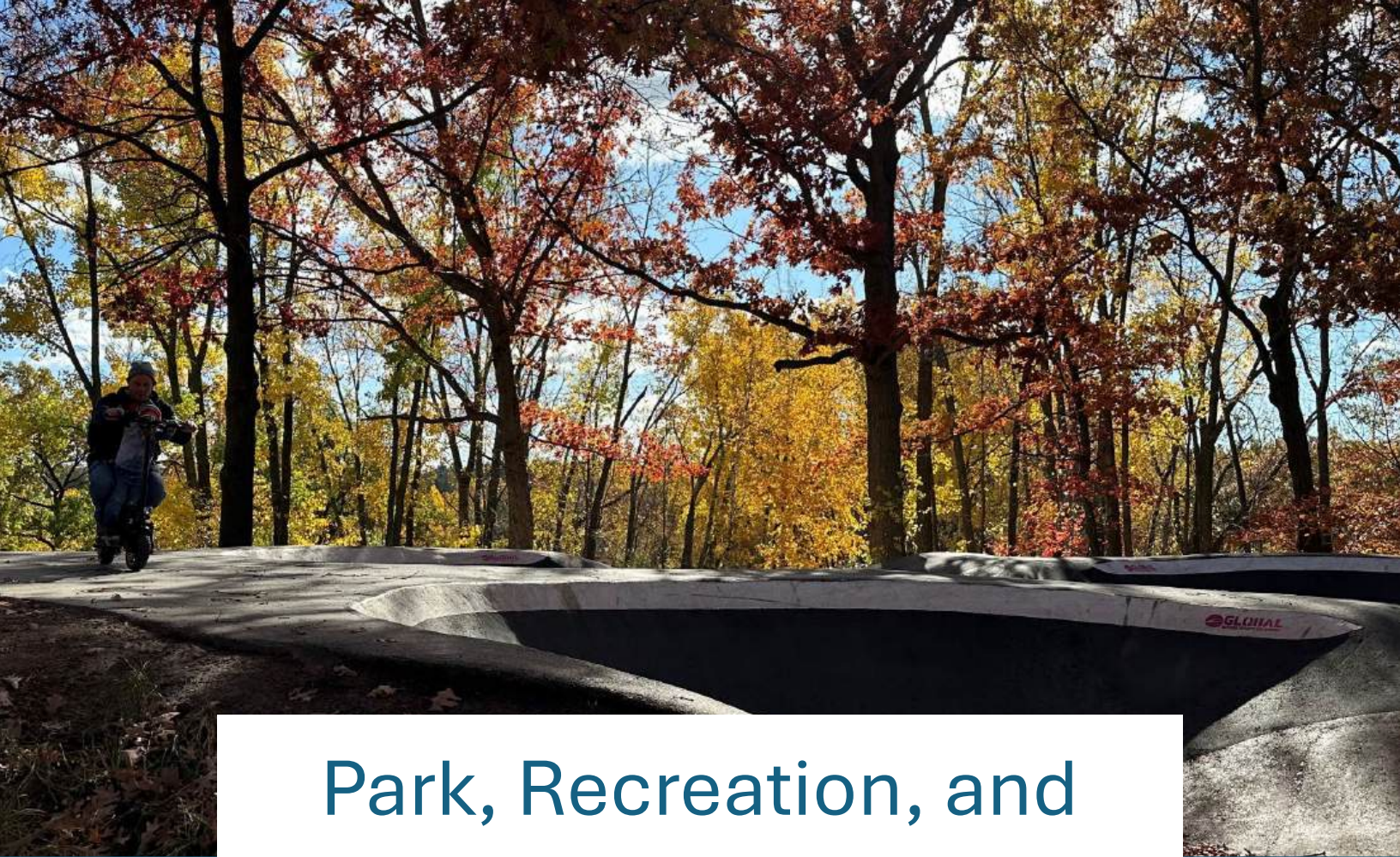
BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. PROP Revised Final-compressed



Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROP)

City of Green Bay 2025-2029

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department
April 2025



Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

Abstract

Title

Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROP) 2025-2029

Author

City of Green Bay – Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department

Abstract

Parks, recreation, and open spaces are essential for the overall health of the community. The 2025 – 2029 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROP) serves as a guide for the planning and development of the parks, recreation, forestry, Wildlife Sanctuary, special facilities, Green Bay Conservation Corps, design and development, city hall maintenance, and administration divisions of the City of Green Bay, Wisconsin.



Acknowledgements

SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

Parks Committee

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Joey Prestley
Chris Wery

Mayor

Eric Genrich

City Council

District 1: Jennifer Grant
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District 7: Alyssa Proffitt
District 8: Chris Wery
District 9: Brian Johnson
District 10: Ben Delie
District 11: Melinda Eck
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Parks Committee Approval: April 9, 2025

City Council Approval: April 15, 2025

Table of Contents

Abstract	1
Acknowledgments	2
Vision	7
Mission	7
Core Values	8
Chapter 1: Purpose	9
Overview	9
Amending the Plan	10
Other Plans and Studies	10
Chapter 2: Strategic Planning	18
Key Strategies	18
Core Value: Representation and Opportunity	19
Total Population	19
Age of Population	19
Graph 1 – Age of Population	19
Race/Ethnicity	20
Graph 2 – Race/Ethnicity	20
Language Spoken	20
Graph 3 – Language Spoken	20
Household Size and Makeup	21
Income and Employment	22
Table 1 – Income Distribution	22
Table 2 – Employment by Occupational Group	22
Core Value: Public Health	23
Physical Health	23
Table 3 – Health Indicators	23
Mental and Emotional Well-being	24
Social Cohesion	24
Spiritual Health	24
Core Value: Sustainability	25
Area Setting	25
Map 1 – Location of Green Bay	25
Area Indigenous and Settlement History	26
Geography and Resources	27
Table 4 – Land Use Distribution	28
Land Use	28
Climate	28
Graph 3 – Climate Graph	29
Flora and Fauna	29
Green Bay Conservation Corps	29
Water Quality/Flooding	31
Air Quality	33
Clean Energy – Solar, Electric, Mass Transportation/Walkability	33
Core Value: Adaptability/Resiliency	34
Emergency Planning/Recovery	34
Flooding	34

Tree and Asset Losses Due to Environmental Factors	34
Pandemic Response	34
Homelessness	35
Table 5 – Homelessness	35
Shifts in Staffing	36
Shifts in Recreational Preferences	36
Core Value: Customer Focus	37
Public Input	37
Social Media	37
Online Registration	37
Marketing	37
Broadband	37
Facility Rentals	38
Maintenance of Parks	38
Chapter 3: Open Space and Recreation Inventory, Distribution, Analysis, and Needs Assessment	39
Introduction	39
Facility Types	40
Table 6 – Park Classification Descriptions	40
Open Space Inventory	41
Open Space Distribution	42
Table 7 – Classifiable Park Acres per 1,000 Population Analysis	43
Open Space Comparison with Other Communities	43
Open Space Access	43
Table 8 – Trail Inventory	44
Open Space Distribution and Access Analysis	45
Recreational Opportunities Summary	45
NRPA Metrics Assessment	45
Graph 4 – Amenities Well Above National Median	46
Graph 5 – Amenities Near or Below National Median	47
Recreational Opportunities Analysis	47
Graph 6 – Facilities	48
PROP Update: Public Input Methods and Data	48
2024 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Survey and Public Input	48
Top Activities enjoyed in our parks	49
Top Amenities enjoyed in our parks	50
Favorite Parks	51
Chapter 4: Action Plan Recommendations	52
Introduction	52
Core Value Strategies	53
New Park and Service Area Recommendations	55
Priorities for Acquisition	55
Unserviced Areas	55
Proposed New Park Areas	55
Recommendations by Activity	56
Art Appreciation/Immersion	56
Baseball/Softball	57
Beer Gardens	58
Boating Facilities	58

Broadband	59
Canoe/Kayak Launch Facilities	59
Community Center	60
Dog Park	60
Ecology and the Environment	60
Fishing Areas	61
Greenways	61
Hockey and Ice Skating	62
New Specialized Facilities	63
Pickleball	63
Playgrounds	64
Playground Program	64
Skate Park	65
Sledding/Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding	65
Soccer	66
Splash Pads/Wading Pools	67
Swimming	68
Tennis	69
Trails	69
Recommendations for Specific Parks, Natural Resource Areas, and Greenways	70
Mini-Park Recommendations	70
Park/School Recommendations	79
Community Park Recommendations	83
Large Urban Park Recommendations	86
Sports Complex Recommendations	87
Special Use Park Recommendations	88
Natural Resource Area Recommendations	92
Greenway Recommendations	93
Urban Green Space Recommendations	97
Non-Municipal Area Recommendations	97
Operations and Maintenance Recommendations	98
Shelters	98
Paving	99
Athletic Field Renovations and Maintenance	99
Planting and Plant Maintenance	99
Urban Forest	100
Emerald Ash Borer	100
Chapter 6: Funding and Implementation	102
Overview	102
Funding Mechanisms	102
Direct City Funding	102
Grants	103
User Fees and Concessions	103
Foundations and Volunteer Efforts	103
The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary	104
The Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park	104
Sponsorship	104
Map 2 – Existing and Proposed Parks, Greenways, and Schools	105

Vision

To serve as a leader in connecting people, parks, and natural resources while enhancing ecology, quality of life, and well-being through careful planning and execution.

Mission

The City of Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department (PRF) promotes wellness and energy through dynamic programs and attractive community spaces.



Core Values

Representation and Opportunity

[\(Page 19\)](#)

The inherent worth of each individual should be encouraged through quality recreational programming and providing park access to all.

Public Health

[\(Page 23\)](#)

Park access and programming serve a significant role in the promotion and protection of public health for those who live, work, learn, and play in the City of Green Bay.

Sustainability

[\(Page 25\)](#)

Our employees plan for and practice responsible management of natural resources to promote healthy ecosystems and welfare for current and future generations.

Adaptability/Resiliency

[\(Page 34\)](#)

Preparedness and ability to respond, recover, and adjust to new difficulties and opportunities as they arise.

Customer Focus

[\(Page 37\)](#)

Our development, programming, and operations meet stakeholder needs and satisfaction through thoughtful planning and actions.



Chapter 1: Purpose

In this Chapter

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--|
| • Overview | • Amending the Plan | • Other Plans and Studies for Recreation |
|------------|---------------------|--|

Overview

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

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

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

This document will provide guidance for the planning of the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department over the next five years. Subsequent review and approval of the plan by the Parks Committee and City Council, along with approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue the City of Green Bay's eligibility for financial assistance through state and federal funding programs.

Amending the Plan

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

This plan has been coordinated with the City of Green Bay's Comprehensive Plan and the concurrent update for that plan, which is titled Go Big Green Bay 2025, various other Brown County planning documents, the plans of neighboring communities, as well as, other major recreation providers in the community, such as, the Green Bay Area Public School District and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB). This plan also takes into account the recommendations of various City of Green Bay master plan documents.



Other Plans and Studies

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

2025-2030 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The 2025-2030 SCORP looks at the current recreation assets within the state along with emerging trends in recreation. Through various methods of analysis, the plan provides a list of common goals so the collective entities involved in the planning and implementation of outdoor recreation within the state can work together to achieve similar defined goals.

The three overarching goals outlined in the SCORP include:

- Ensure that all Wisconsinites have equitable opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation, regardless of where they live or their ethnicity, gender, income, abilities, or age.
- Maintain and expand the sustainability of recreational opportunities in our state, ensuring that existing opportunities are well funded and have the support to grow and expand where needed.
- Grow the collaborative partnership approach across federal, state, regional, and local agencies and private non-profit organizations and businesses to provide high-quality outdoor experiences for all Wisconsinites.

The plan includes the following strategies:

- Provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation close to home.
- Provide needed recreation facilities.
- Improve affordability of participation.
- Support, develop, and enhance mentoring and instructional programs.
- Create more welcoming outdoor spaces.
- Improve the distribution of information on recreation opportunities.

- Expand and diversify funding sources.
- Adapt to new environmental conditions both in terms of participation in outdoor activities as well as the management of recreation opportunities and facilities.
- Lead by example on climate change mitigation.
- Create an implementation plan that identifies desired outcomes as well as the partners to coordinate and advocate for outdoor recreation throughout Wisconsin.

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

Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan

The Area of Concern (AOC) Remedial Action Plan was completed in 1988 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Significant public input was captured in developing the plan which described the specific environmental impairments in Lower Green Bay and the Fox River with actions to correct them. Since this plan's inception, multiple updates have been completed with the 2020-2021 Remedial Action Plan Update being the most

recent. Joliet Park, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, and Renard Island nearshore have been identified as areas that have been environmentally degraded where habitat restoration efforts are being implemented to restore native flora and fauna populations at those properties, as well as, within the Bay of Green Bay. The hope is that these efforts will allow the impairments found within the AOCs to be delisted.

Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan

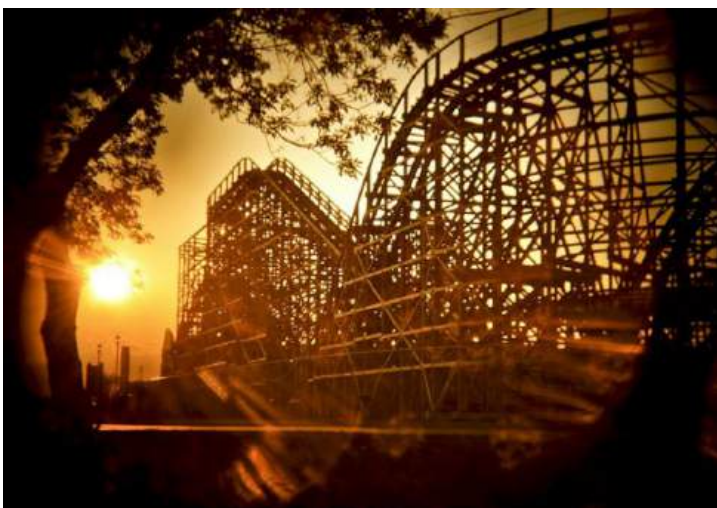
The Baird Creek Greenway is a unique natural area of approximately 500.25 acres within a growing and highly urbanized area. The Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan, completed in November 2006, was developed through a public process involving the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, City of Green Bay staff, project stakeholders, and local citizens. The plan has assisted the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation and the City with the preservation and expansion of this unique asset while guiding public use. The plan looks at appropriate levels of recreational use and public access, designating levels of trail development, identifying unique natural features for protection, preservation, restoration, and educational opportunities, strategies for stormwater management, and interfacing with adjacent development.





Bay Beach Amusement Park Master Plan

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





Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update was completed in 2021 and is an update of the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan revised the current recommended projects along with recommending new projects with new design ideas which include better access to the City of Green Bay Parks. The plan provides an overview of existing urban and rural facilities and makes recommendations for improvements by the municipality. It also provides an overview of programs, funding sources, and design standards.

Brown County Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Brown County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2028 serves as a document to plan for the current and future park and recreation needs of Brown County. While the County sites are largely nature-based and located in less densely populated areas outside of the Green Bay metro area, there are system-wide goals that impact the recreation experience for the City of Green Bay.

Perhaps most relevant are the recommendations for the shared-use recreation trails in the immediate area. The plan makes the following recommendations:

- Connect the Devil's River Trail from Denmark to Green Bay if the railroad right-of-way becomes available.
- Establish a rail trail on the old railroad bed that runs along Duck Creek to develop a regional trail facility like the Devil's River Trail, Fox River Trail, and Mountain Bay Trail.

City of Green Bay Downtown Master Plan

The Downtown Master Plan (AuthentiCity), adopted in 2014, lays out a 10-to-15-year strategy for guiding land use and growth in coordination with transportation improvements and other public investments. This plan focuses on the Downtown Main Business District east of the Fox River, as well as the Broadway Commercial and Retail District on the near west side of the river. Priorities include targeted development areas, shoreline enhancements, and a major redevelopment site in the downtown core.



Plan recommendations include, enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity with on-street facilities and multi-use trails, public and private green space, and the use of public art will further develop the sense of place in the downtown area. Additional recommendations include improved streetscapes, wayfinding signage, parking coordination, and transit facilities, along with stronger historic preservation, and architectural design review measures. The plan was developed with a citizen steering committee, along with stakeholder interviews, online surveys, and a series of open house presentations geared toward the general public.

City of Green Bay Smart Growth Plan 2022

The Green Bay Smart Growth 2022 Plan was adopted as a comprehensive plan in April 2003 and consists of two volumes. Volume I



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

The City will soon replace the comprehensive plan, with the Go Big Green Bay 2050 comprehensive plan that will guide our city development for the next 10-15 years. Parks Department staff have



been involved in the comprehensive planning to ensure concurrence with the PROP. New findings uncovered during the comprehensive planning process may result in necessary amendments to the PROP.

City-Wide Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Plan

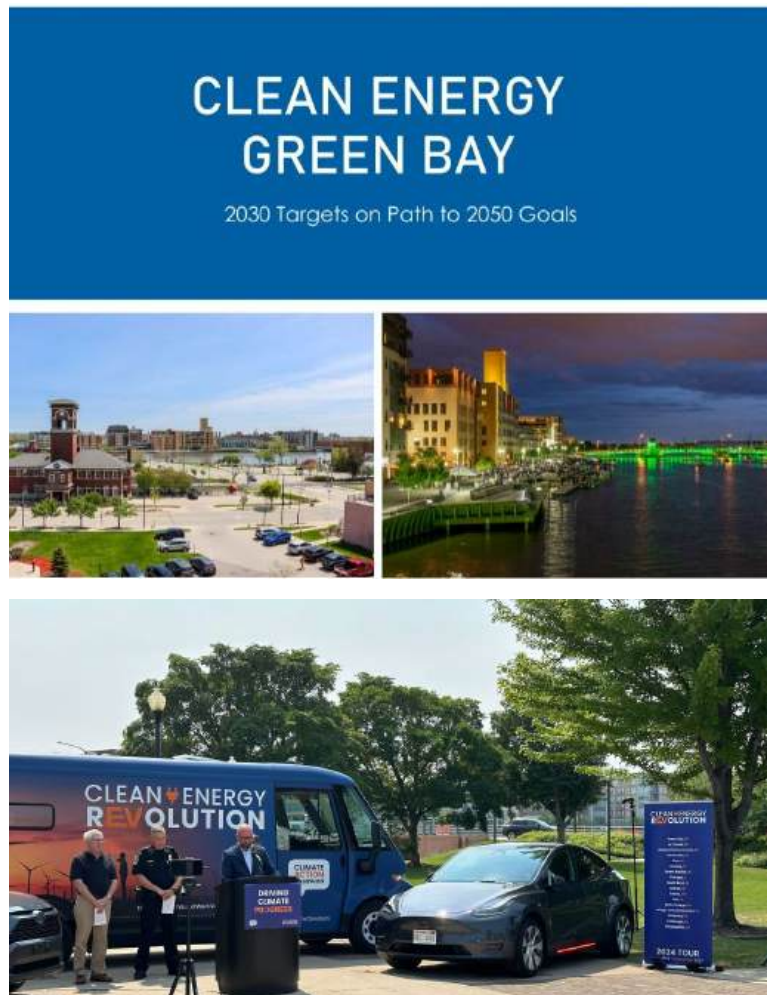
The Green Bay Green Stormwater Infrastructure planning began in December of 2022, and a formal plan was prepared in 2023. Initial stakeholder criteria for consideration of Green Stormwater Infrastructure, (GSI), implementation was discussed during planning. These criteria, include flood-prone/historic ponding areas, high pollutant loading areas, and the need to meet WDNR Stormwater Permit requirements, reducing the costs of storm sewer system upgrades, areas of known stormwater inflow to sanitary sewers, and improving poor water quality in rivers, streams, and the bay.

The City of Green Bay is densely developed with extensive impervious surfaces, such as pavements, roofs, and parking lots. As an effect of this urbanization, the City and its residents face flood-prone areas, stormwater ponding areas, and water quality challenges. The main objective of this plan is to mitigate the effects of urbanization on the City of Green Bay and improve water quality. GSI is a strategy that involves managing stormwater where it falls on each property within the watershed. GSI attempts to mimic the natural environment by capturing, storing, treating, and slowly releasing stormwater runoff, thereby improving water quality and reducing the peak load on the stormwater drainage system and receiving waters. Many potential GSI strategies could be implemented in an urban environment, such as Green Bay. They include bioswales, green

roofs, greenways, porous pavement, rain gardens, rainwater catchment, and more.

Clean Energy Green Bay

In 2021, the City of Green Bay set a goal to reach 100% clean energy and carbon neutrality for the Green Bay community by 2050. This goal reaffirmed the City's commitment to addressing the negative impacts of climate change. In 2022, the City collaborated with Green Bay Metro Transit, Green Bay Water Utility, community members, and businesses to develop an actionable energy plan. Recommendations from the plan include clean electricity/solar installations, electric transportation, education, advocacy, and improved tree canopy cover. The plan results in a 40% reduction by 2030 compared to 2018 emissions.



East River Flood Solutions Project

From 2023 to 2024 the City of Green Bay developed plans to reduce flood hazards along the East River through a range of flood mitigation solutions. The goal of this project is to develop flood mitigation strategies that can be implemented on City-owned or managed properties along the East River and Baird Creek. The project also aims to benefit water quality, wildlife, and recreational access. With input from City staff, the East River Collaborative, and public outreach activities, the top sites with the greatest potential to provide flood storage and related benefits have been selected. East River Emilie Park was selected as the preferred, initial location for a large-scale urban wetland to serve as a resilient flood solution that will benefit people and nature. Other locations, such as East River Van Beaver Park are also being considered.

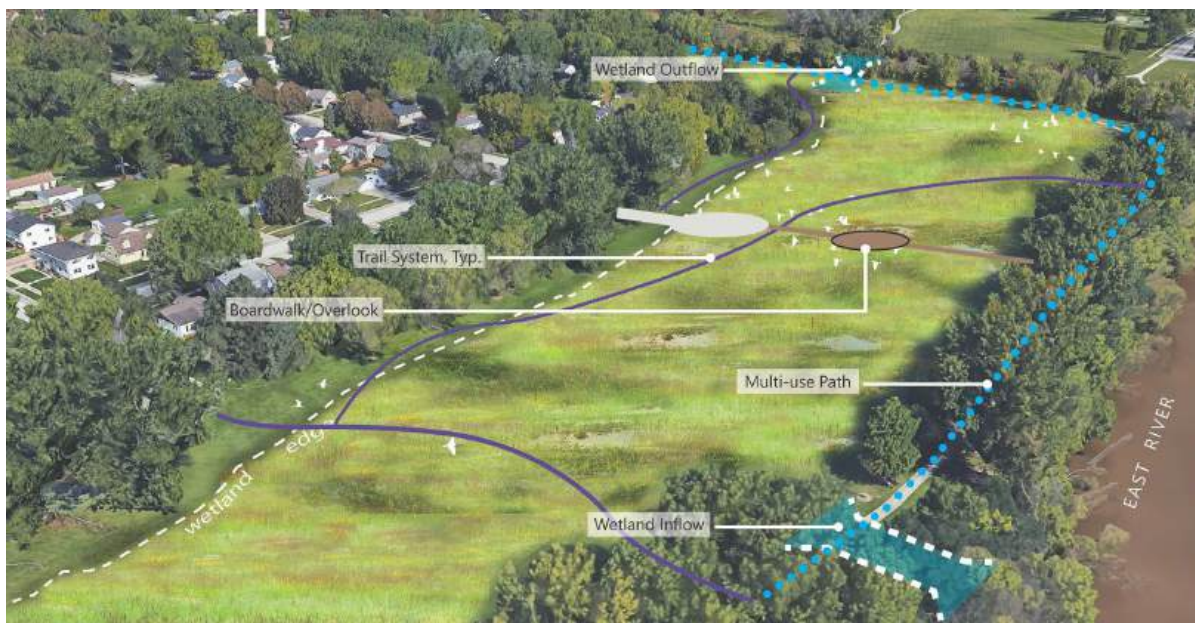
East River Recreational Trail Master Plan

The East River Recreational Trail Master Plan was created in 2024 to focus on flooding issues along the trail and to plan for social, environmental, and economic opportunities

along the trail corridor. The trail spans Green Bay, Allouez, Bellevue, De Pere, and Ledgeview. All five municipalities were involved in the planning for the project along with representatives of The Nature Conservancy and East River Collaborative. Community members were also engaged in the planning. Recommendations for vegetation plantings, flood and water quality structures, alternative routes, and amenities were provided in the plan.

East River Water Trail Project

Local kayakers who utilize the East River recognized the need to improve water quality, remove fallen trees and debris, and restore habitat which prompted a grassroots community-led effort to plan a water trail within the East River Corridor. Brown County Land and Water Conservation, municipal leaders, and nonprofit organizations have come together to expand efforts to improve water quality and outdoor recreational opportunities through stream restoration efforts through this planning.



Green Bay Safe Walk and Bike Plan

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

Green Bay University Avenue Corridor Brownfields Redevelopment Plan

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

The University Avenue Corridor traverses a large and diverse area of the City of Green Bay and lies



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





Chapter 2: Strategic Planning

In this Chapter

- Key Strategies
- Core Values

Key Strategies

- 1. Build community, promote wellness, and ensure equal access for all.**
 - Provide excellent programs, services, places and spaces, and community awareness.
 - Improve civic engagement and provide opportunities for social connection.
- 2. Cultivate an effective, dynamic workplace.**
 - Increase training and professional development opportunities.
 - Expand internal and external communications throughout the department.
- 3. Efficiently and effectively manage all park assets.**
 - Work within the annually adopted budget and comply with policies and procedures.
 - Maintain and communicate inventories of programs, services, places, and spaces.
- 4. Steward of natural spaces and green infrastructure.**
 - Conserve, enhance, and acquire natural areas.
 - Preserve and improve green infrastructure.

Core Values

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has developed core values in which we have categorized historic and existing conditions within Green Bay as they relate to our key strategies.

Core Value: Representation and Opportunity

The inherent worth of each individual should be encouraged through quality recreational programming and providing park access to all.

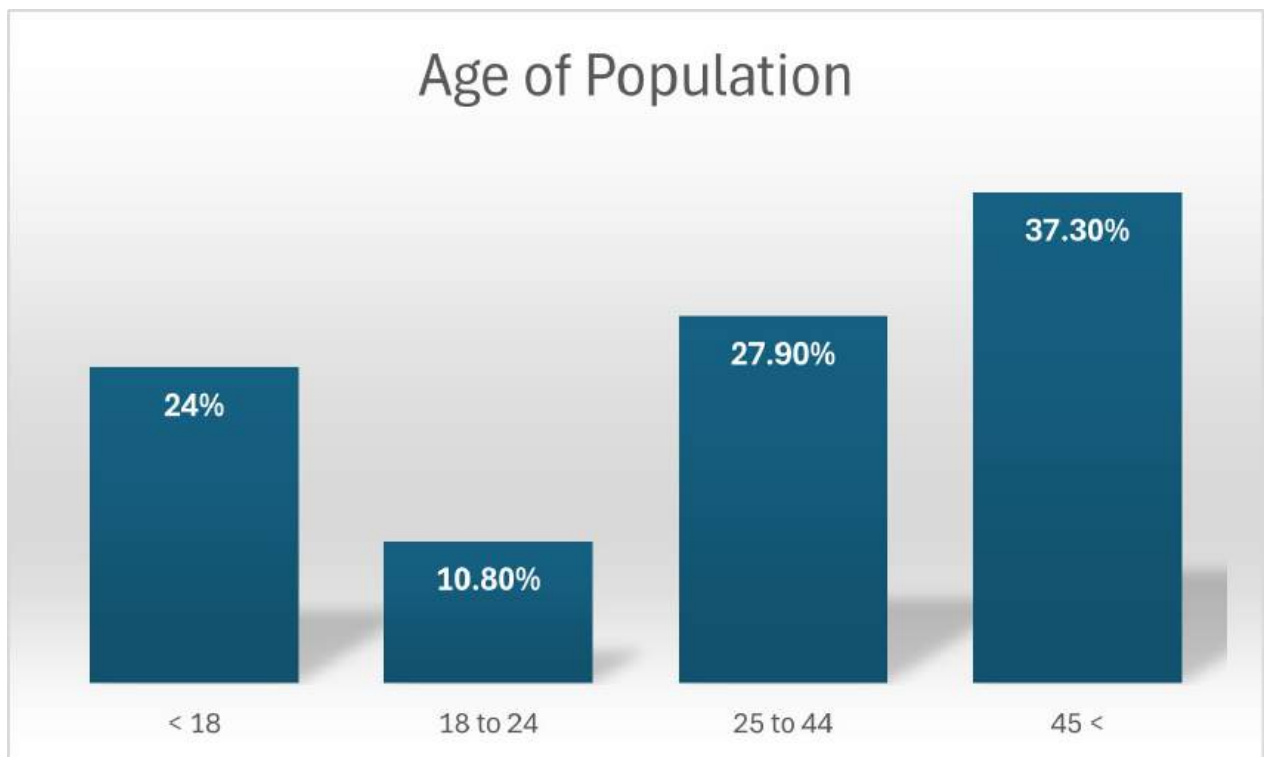
Total Population

The 2020 U.S. Census determined the City of Green Bay had a population of 107,395, an increase of 3.2% compared to the 2010 U.S. Census (104,057 residents). This is a higher growth rate than the previous decade (2000-2010), which saw a 1.7% increase. However, the Wisconsin Department of Administration projects that Green Bay's population could drop below 100,000 residents in 2050, due to decreased birth rates and an aging population in the state. Yet, these demographic trends could be proved wrong if the City maintains its focus on in-fill, multi-family housing development within its urban core and continued home construction on the remaining developable land on the City's urban edges, primarily on the northeast side.

Age of Population

The median age of residents has been increasing from 25.2 in 1970 to 35.2 in 2020. The age distribution of Green Bay is very similar to that of Brown County. The County's median age is slightly older at 37.9. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, **Graph 1** shows Green Bay's age percentages.

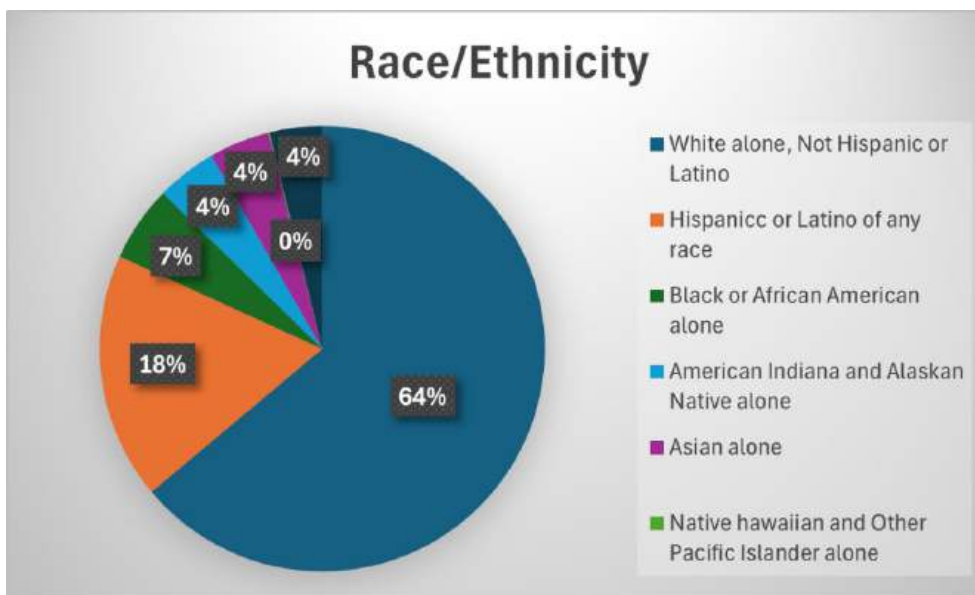
Graph 1 – Age of Population



Race/Ethnicity

While the overall minority group population comprised only 2.75% of the total population in 1980 and 14% in 2000, by 2020 the minority group population comprised 36.1% of the City's total population. This shows a trend of growing racial diversity in the City of Green Bay.

Graph 2 – Race/Ethnicity (2020)



Language Spoken

According to a 2024 EPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJ Screen) report, 16% of the population in Green Bay speak a language other than English in their home.

The Brown County Community Health Assessment 2023 – 2024 shows languages spoken at home as the following:

Graph 3 – Language Spoken (2023-2024)



Household Size and Makeup

The 2020 U.S. Census showed Green Bay having 43,673 households. The average household size was 2.27 persons per household.

The 2020 U.S. Census indicated the following in Green Bay households:

- 49.7% Female.
- 50.3% Male.
- 51.9% Non-family households.
 - 65.6% Individuals living alone.
 - 21.8% Individuals living alone over the age of 65.
- 49.6% Family households.
- 37.1% Married couples living together households.
- 28.9% Households with individuals less than 18 years of age.
- 12.4% Female householder with no husband present.
- 4% Male householder with no wife present.

The proportion of owner-occupied units has decreased from 67% in 1970 to 55% in 2020, while renter-occupied units have increased from 33% in 1970 to 45% in 2020. The changes in household make-up and family size over time also have an effect on the type of housing that is chosen or affordable by households.

The Brown County Community Health Assessment 2023-2024 shows 3.8% of adults in Wisconsin identify as LGBTQ+ with 29% LGBTQ+ adults (25+) raising children.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) emphasizes that public parks and recreation should ensure all individuals have access to quality programs, facilities, and spaces that enhance their lives and communities. Park and recreation planners and designers are crucial in addressing disparities by offering programs and resources that promote a welcoming environment with physical activity and healthy living for all groups.



Table 1 – Income Distribution	
<10,000	5.4%
10,000 – 14,999	5.7%
15,000 – 24,999	10.7%
25,000 – 34,999	9.9%
35,000 – 49,999	15.8%
50,000 – 74,999	21.2%
75,000 – 99,999	12.5%
100,000 – 149,999	13.0%
150,000 – 199,999	2.9%
>200,000	2.9%

Income and Employment

Table 1 shows the incomes including benefits for Green Bay residents.

Individuals in the workforce worked in a variety of sectors of the economy as shown in **Table 2**. The employment per sector reflects a fairly diverse economy with a large percentage of workers engaged in education, health, and social services.

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2020: ACS 5-year Estimates Subject Tables

Table 2 – Industry by Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over	
Education, Health and Social Services	19.3%
Manufacturing	20.4%
Retail Trades	10.9%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, and Food Services	11.6%
Professional, Scientific, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	8.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	5.2%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	6.4%
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	4.7%
Construction	4.5%
Wholesale Trade	3.1%
Information	1.6%
Public Administration	2.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

The population of Green Bay is aging and becoming more diverse. Households are getting smaller, more mobile, and less likely to live in a traditional nuclear family or own a standard single-family home. These demographic shifts will have significant implications for planning outdoor recreational facilities and open spaces and will inform the City's commitment to creating public places for all members of our community to enjoy.

Additional Chapter Resources: U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Green Bay Smart Growth 2022, May 2003, Brown County Year 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan, April 1996

Core Value: Public Health

Park access and programming serve a significant role in the promotion and protection of public health for those who live, work, learn, and play in the City of Green Bay.

Physical Health

Our parks and green spaces offer natural fitness centers and gyms. Walking and biking trails, sports fields, pools, and open spaces offer our community ways to support their physical health.

The Brown County Health Assessment 2023-2024 shows that 19% of adults in Brown County are physically inactive while 36% are obese.

An EPA, EJ Screen report from 2024 shows that the City's health indicator values are fairly close to the state and national levels, while Green Bay exceeds the state and U.S. average in the Persons with Disabilities category.



Table 3 -Health Indicators

Health Indicators					
Indicator	Value	State Average	State Percentile	US Average	US Percentile
Low Life Expectancy	17%	19%	27%	20%	22%
Heart Disease	5.30%	5.60%	43%	5.80%	44%
Asthma	10.60%	10.70%	66%	10.30%	64%
Cancer	6.10%	7%	24%	6.40%	42%
Persons with Disabilities	14.30%	12.40%	70%	13.70%	60%

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Census data shows that in Green Bay 4.1% of the population has difficulty hearing and 4.1% have difficulty with vision.

The PRF considers the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and accessibility in all new developments and works to improve accessibility within our existing facilities. An internal ADA audit of all park facilities was completed and identified improvements have begun. Over the next five years, the remaining projects will be prioritized in an action plan. Since 2007, the City has met ADA-accessibility compliance standards with new construction projects.

Physical health considerations continue to be a priority in PRF planning strategies.

Mental and Emotional Well-Being

Mental health is an important part of overall health that influences physical, social, and economic well-being.

The Brown County Health Assessment 2023-2024 shows Brown County residents reported having four poor mental health days per month on average with 14% of adults having 14 or more days of poor mental health each month. Additionally, the ratio of people seeking mental health care from health providers is 400 to 1 in Brown County which is more than the national average of 320 to 1.

The PRF programming and development considers mental and emotional well-being in its ongoing planning efforts.

Social Cohesion

It is essential for people to feel a part of something and reduce isolation and loneliness for overall wellness. The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community 2023, states loneliness is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, which indicates that loneliness can severely impact social health. Parks, programs, events, and facilities offer a multitude of opportunities to connect with others.



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood that can affect a child's ability to bond with others which can negatively affect physical health. The Brown County Health Assessment 2023-2024 shows 60% of adults in Wisconsin have experienced at least one ACE and 19% have experienced four or more ACEs. It also showed that in Brown County 15% of survey respondents strongly agreed that they feel like they belong in the community, 43% agreed, 28% neither agreed nor disagreed, 10% disagreed, and 4% strongly disagreed.

Social cohesion is an important factor in every program, event, and facility our department offers. The goal is to create recreational opportunities that are free or affordable for all to participate in and use.

Spiritual Health

Parks play a significant role in nurturing spiritual health by providing serene and reflective spaces that foster a connection with nature, oneself, and others. Immersed in natural settings, individuals often experience a sense of peace and rejuvenation, which can enhance their overall well-being. The tranquil environments within Green Bay parks offer opportunities for contemplation, meditation, and mindfulness, allowing visitors to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life. By incorporating elements, such as peaceful gardens, walking trails, and designated quiet areas, parks can support spiritual health and create spaces where people can find solace, inspiration, and a deeper connection to the world around them. Such thoughtful design not only enriches the recreational experience but also promotes a holistic approach to health that includes the nurturing of the spirit.

Core Value: Sustainability

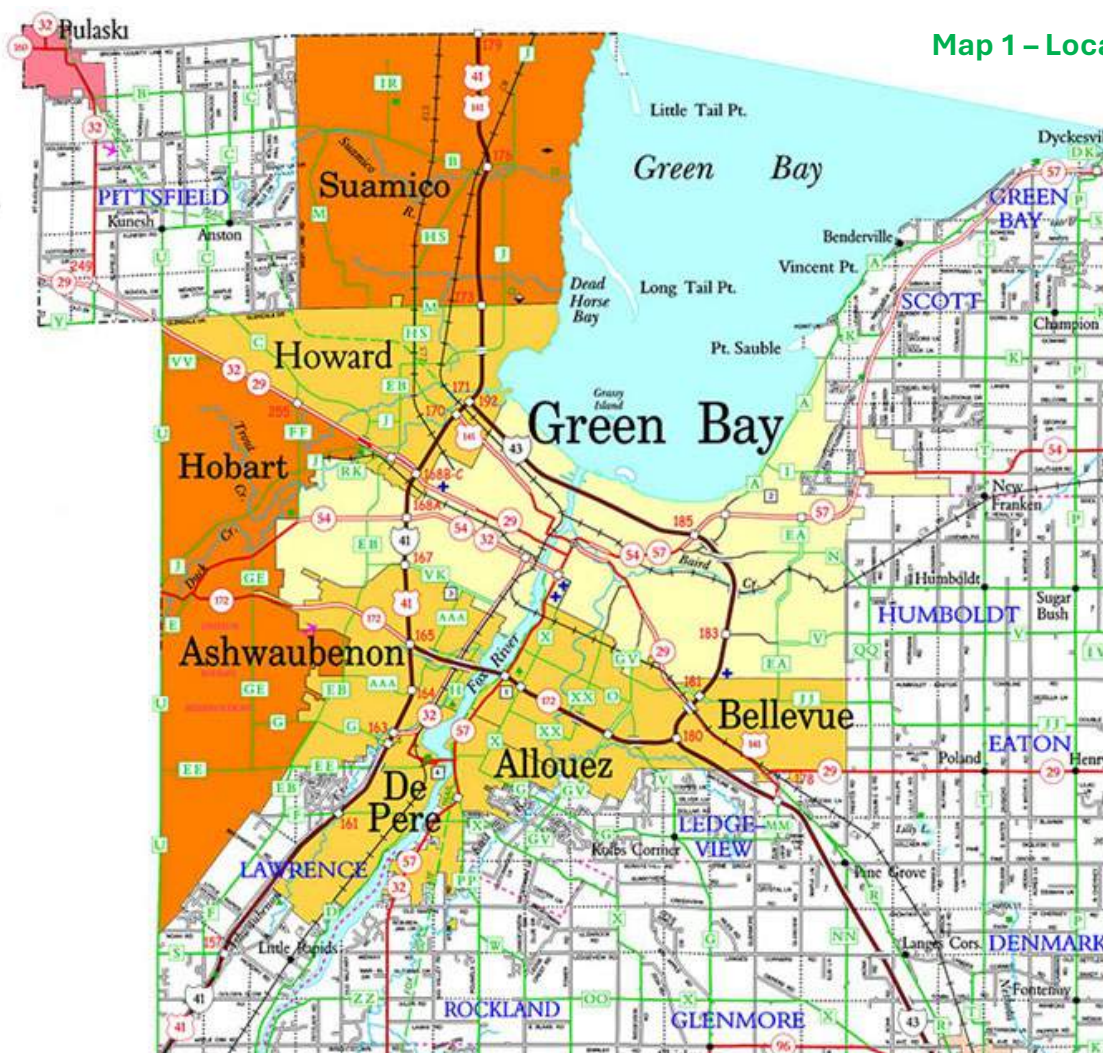
Our employees plan for and practice responsible management of natural resources to promote healthy ecosystems and welfare for current and future generations.

Area Setting

The City of Green Bay is located in central Brown County on the shores of the Bay of Green Bay at the mouth of the Fox River. The City is located 581' above sea level and has a total area of 55.76 square miles, of which 45.58 square miles is land and 10.28 square miles is water. Surrounded by smaller urbanizing communities, Green Bay is part of the largest urban area in the northern half of the state, with a metro area population of 320,050. **Map 1** depicts the location of Green Bay in Brown County and its location relative to surrounding communities.

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

Map 1 – Location of Green Bay





Area Indigenous and Settlement History

The Menominee Indian Tribe was present in Green Bay when Jean Nicolet and other French explorers arrived starting in 1634. By 1667, the Menominee began trading furs with the French for other useful goods. This led the Menominee to create smaller, semi-permanent villages for the spring and summer. By the 1800s, the Menominee had villages along the Fox, Wolf, Wisconsin, and Oconto Rivers, as well as Lake Winnebago, and Green Bay. During this time, the Menominee land base was estimated to be about 10 million acres. However, due to United States Government treaties, this land base is now approximately 235,000 acres. Today, the Menominee Indian Tribe is located approximately 45 miles northwest of Green Bay in the village of Keshena.

The Oneida Nation of Indians of Wisconsin and the United States is a self-governing sovereign nation, originally from what is now New York. The Oneida relocated to Wisconsin in the 1820s to establish new homelands and preserve their sovereignty. In 1838, the Treaty



with the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin and the United States established the 65,400-acre Oneida Indian Reservation along Duck Creek. Through the next few years, the land was divided and ultimately decreased from the original footprint. Today, the Oneida Nation boundaries overlap with parts of the west side of Green Bay. In 2021, the City of Green Bay entered a decade-long intergovernmental agreement with the Oneida Nation.

Green Bay was traditionally settled by large numbers of Belgian, German, Scandinavian, Dutch, and Irish settlers.

Historically rich in natural resources, the Green Bay area transitioned from fur trading to the processing and shipping of resources, including lumber, and eventually became a major producer of paper products. Today, Green Bay is a significant industrial and commercial center. In addition to paper, other major industries include, healthcare and medical services, insurance, food and beverage processing, and transportation.

Geography and Resources

In addition to the Bay of Green Bay, other water resources include the Fox River, a major economic and recreational asset to the City, the East River, and several creeks including Baird, Duck, Willow, Mahon, and Beaver Dam Creeks. Some of these waterways have linear greenways and/or natural resource areas along them. One of the largest intact resource areas is the Baird Creek Greenway, which provides a linear corridor with wooded areas of varied topography, pockets of wetlands, and remnant native plant communities. Lands along the East River contain broad floodplains that were preserved as open space and are utilized for various recreational assets. Most pre-settlement wetlands in the City have been filled including several hundred acres along the bay, but small pockets of remnant wetlands remain throughout.

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

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

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

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



Table 4 – Land Use Distribution

Land Use Category	Area in Acres
Single Family Residential	7,126
Right-of-Way	4,825
Natural Areas	3,614
Agriculture	3,319
Parks and Recreation	2,083
Industrial	1,905
Institutional/Governmental	1,324
Commercial	1,211
Communication/Utilities	968
Multi-Family or Mobile Home	812
Two Family	713
Water	675
Transportation Related	408
Railroad Related	312
Open Space	113
Land Under Development	111

Land Use

The land use pattern of the City is a classic example of historical development in a watercourse-oriented city. Green Bay originated and flourished because the Bay and the Fox River provided trading opportunities and access to other commercial centers. Most industrial development has occurred along both banks of the Fox River. Commercial development is situated in a dominant central business district southeast of the industrial district on the east side of the river. There is also a small, prominent commercial district just west of the Fox River and several major commercial strip developments located along major arterial streets throughout the City. A significant land use feature within the City of Green Bay is the large amount of agricultural and open land lying within the City limits. It amounts to over 10% of the total City area and is located primarily near

the eastern City limits. However, this area is under pressure from expanding residential development. See **Table 4** for the approximate acres of various land use types.

Climate

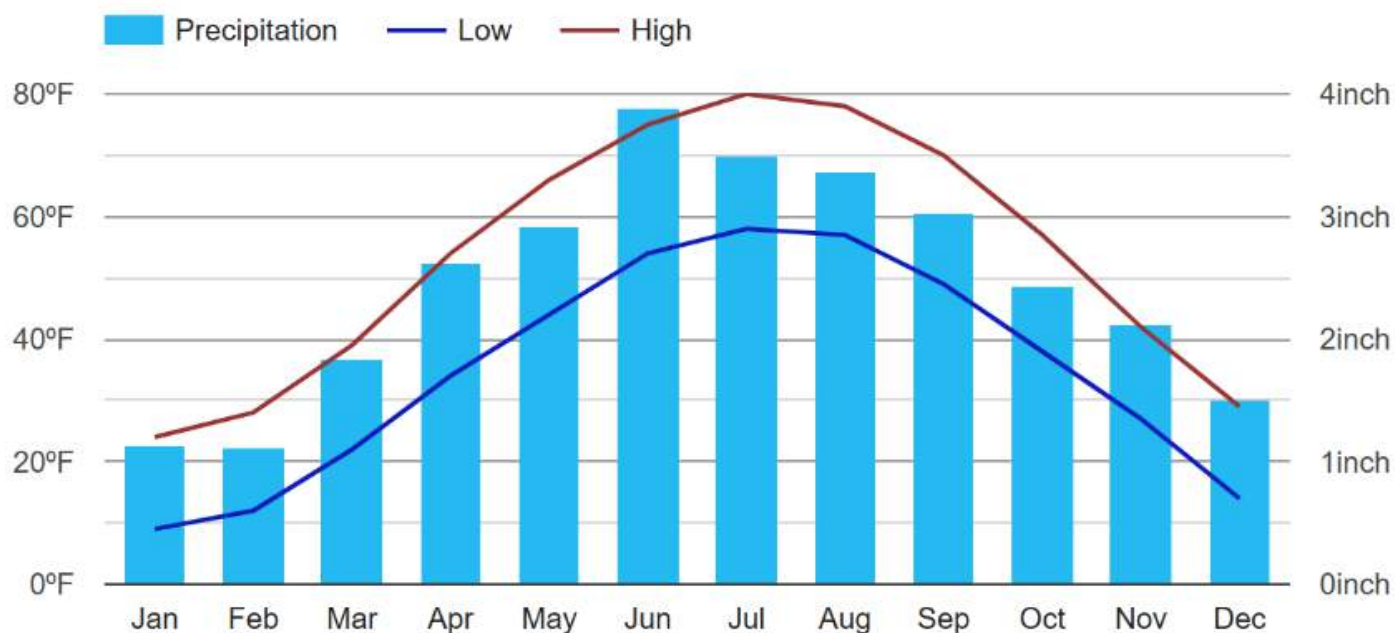
Green Bay has a humid continental climate with warm, humid summers, and long, cold, snowy winters with no dry season. Daily high temperatures don't often exceed 89°F and low temperatures rarely fall below -10°F. The average annual high temperature is 54.7°F and the average annual low temperature is 36.7°F. Green Bay's warmest month is July with an average daytime high temperature of 81°F and an average daily low of 60.1°F. The coldest month is January with an average minimum temperature of 11.1°F and an average maximum temperature of 25.1°F. (See **Graph 3**)

The shortest day (daylight hours) occurs on December 21 with 8:50 hours of daylight; the longest day is June 20 with 15:33 hours of daylight.

Green Bay has an average annual precipitation rate of 31.61" (which corresponds to 55.6" of snow for the cold months). The driest month is February with an average precipitation rate of 1.2"; the wettest month is June with an average precipitation rate of 4.1". *Source: Wisconsin State Climatology Office (NOAA National Climate Data Center 1991-2020 and U.S. Climate Data 1981-2010; Austin-Straubel Airport Weather Station)* (See **Graph 3**)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which perennial plants are most

Graph 3 – Climate Graph



likely to thrive in a location. The map is based on the average annual extreme minimum winter temperature, displayed as 10-degree F zones and 5-degree F half zones. When the map was updated in 2023, it showed a 2-degree F increase from 2012-2023. This shifted Green Bay's Plant Hardiness Zone from 5a (-20 to -15-degrees F) to 5b (-15 to -10-degrees F).

Climate change causes rising temperatures, extreme heat events, drought, and fewer days of freezing which impacts recreational offerings, development, and the natural environment including shifts in ecosystems and natural habitats. The PRF looks to build resilient landscapes and infrastructure that can adapt with climate change.

Flora and Fauna

Loss of indigenous habitat and wildlife has occurred throughout the City of Green Bay

through development and the introduction of invasive plant and animal species, as well as other factors. Locally and nationwide, pollinator decline and endangered species concerns continue to be issues worth discussing and acting on. In Green Bay, there are over 30 endangered species and over 35 threatened species; most of which have been reported on parkland.

Green Bay Conservation Corps

The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) is a 535-acre facility whose primary task is to rehabilitate injured animals and help mitigate wildlife loss while providing refuge for animals in Green Bay. The facility provides care for over 6,500 animals per year on average. Throughout the year, staff plan and host a multitude of educational programs including animal feeding demonstrations, animal ambassadors, storytime, and guided nature hikes. In the summer, the WLS holds



multiple summer camps for children of various ages.

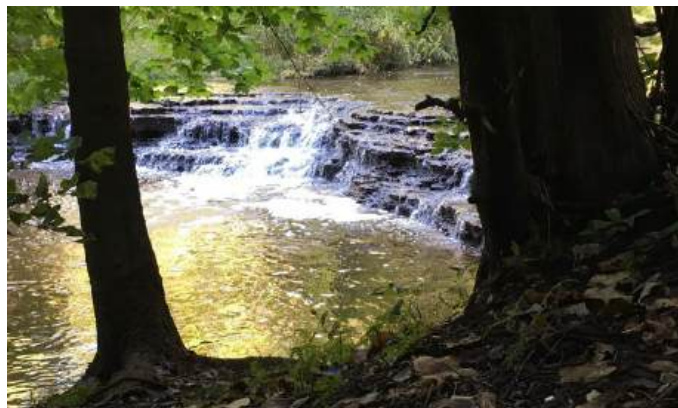
The City implemented the Green Bay Conservation Corps (GBCC) program in 2022 to mitigate habitat and wildlife loss through preservation and restoration efforts. Since its establishment, the GBCC has installed over 40,000 native plants, trees, and shrubs in the park system. In 2024, from May to August Conservation Corps members removed over 9,300 gallons of invasive species from City of Green Bay parks and greenways. The program has been responsible for improving habitat health across over 150 acres; with follow-up treatments occurring on all sites. Additionally, the GBCC engages 150-200 volunteers annually and hosts numerous programs in the park system.

In 2024, the GBCC partnered with the Green Bay Botanical Garden to reimplement the Pollinator Corridor Project to increase habitat throughout the urban city and create a pathway for pollinators to navigate through the city. The GBCC recorded seven occurrences of the Federally Endangered Rusty-Patch Bumblebee in Green Bay parks helping the Fish and Wildlife Service update their population maps.



Frog and toad species are used to indicate habitat health since they are easily impacted by pollutants. In the spring of 2023, the GBCC began surveying the parks system for all frog and toad species completing a total of 75 surveys. These were repeated in 2024 with additional sites added. This data creates a baseline for restoration practices and will allow the program to make informed decisions when planning future projects. Out of the 12 Wisconsin species, 8 were identified.





Water Quality/Flooding

Stormwater runoff and flooding are significant concerns in Green Bay due to the City's geographical and infrastructural characteristics. The City experiences heavy rainfall and snowmelt, which can overwhelm its storm sewer systems. Urban development has increased impervious surfaces like roads and buildings, reducing the natural absorption of water and exacerbating runoff problems.

Green Bay's stormwater runoff issues lead to several problems, including, localized flooding which can damage property and disrupt daily life. The City has implemented various strategies to address these challenges, such as improving drainage systems, creating retention ponds, and promoting green infrastructure like rain gardens and permeable pavements to help manage and mitigate runoff. Additionally, Green Bay is working on enhancing its stormwater management policies and community awareness to better prepare for and respond to flooding events.

In Green Bay, stormwater runoff not only contributes to flooding but also impacts water quality, leading to problems like algal blooms. When rainwater washes over urban areas, it picks up pollutants such as nutrients from fertilizers, pet waste, and other contaminants. These nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, enter waterways and can cause excessive growth of algae, known as algal blooms.

Algal blooms can have several detrimental effects on water bodies, including Green Bay's waterfront areas. They reduce oxygen levels in the water, which harms aquatic life and disrupts ecosystems. Additionally, some algal blooms produce toxins that can be harmful to humans,



pets, and wildlife. To address these issues, Green Bay has been focusing on improving stormwater management practices to reduce nutrient runoff, such as implementing better land use practices, enhancing treatment processes, and promoting community education on reducing pollutants. By tackling both runoff and nutrient pollution, the City aims to protect water quality and mitigate the negative impacts of algal blooms.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been updating floodway maps. This is a significant development for Green Bay, as it helps the city better manage and prepare for flooding events. Floodway maps are crucial for identifying areas at risk of flooding and are used to guide land use planning, development, and emergency response.

With accurate and current floodway maps, Green Bay can enhance its floodplain management strategies, such as updating building codes, investing in flood protection infrastructure, and designing more effective stormwater management systems. Additionally, these updates can improve community

preparedness by providing residents with better information on flood risks and encouraging practices that reduce vulnerability to flooding. Overall, the updated floodway maps play a crucial role in strengthening Green Bay's resilience to flood events and ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.

The City of Green Bay Parks Department plays a pivotal role in addressing stormwater runoff, flooding, and associated issues like algal blooms through various initiatives and management strategies. Through contributions to green infrastructure projects, floodplain management, public education and



awareness, maintenance, and proper planning with park development, the Parks Department helps enhance the City's resilience to flooding, improves water quality, and contributes to the overall well-being of the community by creating functional, sustainable green spaces.

Air Quality

In the City of Green Bay, air quality is a key concern, influenced by factors such as industrial emissions, vehicle traffic, and seasonal changes. The City's air quality has generally been monitored to ensure it meets health standards, but occasional issues with pollutants like ozone and particulate matter can arise. Park and street trees play a crucial role in improving air quality by serving as green lungs for urban areas. Trees and vegetation absorb carbon dioxide and pollutants, release oxygen, and provide natural filtration, helping to reduce the levels of harmful airborne substances. Moreover, parks encourage outdoor activities and promote sustainable practices, such as reducing reliance on vehicles by offering walkable green spaces. By increasing the number of parks and enhancing its green infrastructure, Green Bay can further mitigate air pollution, contribute to a healthier environment, and offer residents cleaner, fresher air.

Clean Energy – Solar, Electric, Mass Transportation/Walkability

As the City of Green Bay plans to integrate clean energy solutions into its parks, the focus on solar power and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure represents a forward-thinking approach to sustainability. Currently, there is only one park with solar panels and no EV charging stations installed in the parks. Planning is underway to incorporate these technologies in future developments. Installing solar panels in parks could provide renewable energy for lighting, signage, and other amenities, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and decreasing the parks' carbon footprint. Similarly, planning for EV charging stations within park facilities would support the shift towards cleaner transportation options, making it more convenient for residents to use electric vehicles.



Additionally, enhancing public transit options and walkability to parks remains a priority, as these improvements can further reduce environmental impact and encourage sustainable transportation practices. By integrating these clean energy initiatives into park design, Green Bay aims to create more eco-friendly spaces that contribute to the City's broader sustainability goals.



Core Value: Adaptability/Resiliency

Preparedness and the ability to respond, recover, and adjust to new difficulties and opportunities as they arise.

Emergency Planning/Recovery

Flooding

As storm events with large amounts of precipitation are becoming more frequent, areas of Green Bay are experiencing more frequent issues with flooding.

Coastal resiliency has been at the forefront of planning related to coastal development. The PRF is looking to prioritize nature-based solutions for coastal projects where environmental and engineering practices weave natural features and/or processes into the built environment to promote sustainability.

Over the past few years, the Parks Department has begun to reduce the size of existing wood chip beds by converting them into turf areas or native plantings. The reason for doing this is that in heavy rainfall events, the wood chip areas flood and the wood chips tend to float away and end up in the storm sewer system. Having turf or plants around the drains or reducing the size of the wood chip beds results in fewer wood chips in the storm sewer and easier cleanup of wood chips in the turf areas.

Tree and Asset Losses Due to Environmental Factors

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been attacking ash trees in Green Bay since 2009. In that time, the street tree population has been reduced from 7,200 ash trees to now 1,600 ash street trees. Forestry staff is taking measures to protect healthy ash trees from infestation to help keep a representative population of ash trees (~5%) in the City. In order to



create a more diverse and resilient urban tree population, staff is planting a wide variety of trees to help reduce the potential impacts of any future insect infestations or disease infections. Current tree planting procedures follow the recommended 10-20-30 rule. This rule serves as a guide to not have more than 10% of the city tree population represented by one species and no more than 20% of the tree population represented by a given genus of tree. No more than 30% of the tree population should be comprised of a given tree family. Forestry staff has made great strides in diversifying the tree population. Only Norway Maple, as a species and maple as a genus are represented higher than these guidelines. Future tree-planting efforts will continue to focus on improving these figures. Reducing the number of maple trees being used to replace street trees and avoid over-use of maples in new developments.

The PRF has been mitigating tree removal and replacing damaged assets such as playground equipment and roofs from falling trees after large storm events.

Pandemic Response

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, protocols are in place to handle a future public health crisis.



Homelessness

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Green Bay, and throughout Wisconsin is increasing at an alarming rate. The Balance of State Continuum of Care analyzes homelessness data from 69 out of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. This data is split up into subcategories of homelessness, sheltered and unsheltered. Those who are sheltered live in transitional housing or emergency shelters and those who are unsheltered live in places not meant for human habitation. Coalition members counted people experiencing homelessness in January of 2024 and found 343 people who were unsheltered among these communities. This number has increased 28% from 2023. The number of unsheltered people living in Brown County nearly doubled in 2024, affecting 86 people and accounting for 25% of the

total count. In 2023, this number was 48 unsheltered people. Dane County, which has more than double the population of Brown County counted 90 unsheltered people, only four more people than Brown County. Furthermore, Milwaukee County, which has more than triple the population of Brown County counted between 100 and 130 unsheltered people. In Brown County, 616 people are experiencing some kind of homelessness, whether that means being unsheltered, living in emergency shelters, living in transitional housing, or people being served through victim service providers.

Source: Green Bay Press Gazette Brown County’s homelessness numbers ‘startling,’ says leader of Wisconsin Balance of State, April 12, 2024

Table 5 – Homelessness

January Point in Time Count						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Emergency Shelter	238	303	284	388	321	379
Transitional Housing	139	116	134	142	177	151
Unsheltered	5	10	16	28	48	86
Total	382	429	434	558	546	616

July Point in Time Count						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Unsheltered	--	--	41	89	125	154

**Comparatively, Dane County found 89 people unsheltered in January 2024. Our unsheltered numbers are rivaling a County that has over double our population size.

The Green Bay Parks, Recreation, and Forestry staff understand that resolving the complex issues associated with homelessness in parks requires time, understanding, and collaboration with social service providers. Parks and other green spaces welcome all members of the community. Anyone can experience homelessness and those experiencing homelessness are part of our community.

Shifts in Staffing

Starting in 2020 Parks Maintenance and Recreation programs noticed a lower number of applications for our seasonal positions. To help resolve the issue, the department put a focus on marketing strategies, hiring bonuses and incentives, and an increase in wages. The trend continued until 2023 when we saw a rise in applications and hires. In 2024, the Parks and Recreation divisions were fully staffed for the first time since 2020.

This trend also affected our aquatics programming. Beginning in 2018, the number of lifeguards available was trending down. During the COVID-era, a worldwide shortage struck our area hard. Certification classes weren't available, and current lifeguards weren't recertifying. The PRF worked to correct the issue by raising lifeguard wages and offering free certification courses. After multiple summers operating short-staffed, reducing services, and altering schedules, staffing for lifeguarding (and other recreation areas) is trending back to what it was prior to the COVID-era.

Shifts in Recreational Preferences

The PRF recognizes that trends in recreational programming are continually shifting.

Beer gardens are becoming more common nationally within park and recreation facilities and programming. The City of Green Bay is currently working to develop beer garden service sites within Green Bay parkland and has updated the ordinance to allow PRF staff to serve malt beverages in parkland.

Pickleball continues to grow as a sport nationally and locally. The PRF is working to develop new pickleball facilities within parkland in addition to painting pickleball lines on existing tennis courts to accommodate both uses.

Nature play and nature-based programs are becoming more popular nationally and should be considered as part of the PRF's development and programs.



Our community has responded more to special events and one-day workshops or classes. Registration numbers in long-term programs have been declining over recent years. Our focus over the next five years is to offer more workshops, individual classes, and special events.

Core Value: Customer Focus

Our development, programming, and operations meet stakeholder needs and satisfaction through thoughtful planning and actions.

Public Input

The PRF engages with the community and stakeholders to develop parkland and programs whenever possible, to ensure we are meeting the desires and needs of the majority within the community.

The PRF seeks public input during the development of master plans for parks or a change in the use of an existing park. This process includes notifying the Alderperson of the District where the proposed work is occurring, Neighborhood Associations, and landowners within 400' of a park boundary when a public input meeting is being held. Additionally, the PRF works with Bid Districts, the Green Bay Area Public School District, user groups, and other stakeholders regarding input on the development of parkland and trails within the City.

Ongoing input and requests are carefully evaluated as the PRF plans for development, programming, and funding. The PRF is actively working to see how public input methods can be streamlined and improved.

Social Media

The PRF posts park and recreational information and updates on Facebook and Instagram where we monitor comments from the public regarding



development, programs, and events to better understand what the public is interested in and opposed to. Additionally, these platforms offer the public resources for suggesting new opportunities for the City to consider.

Online Registration

Online programs and shelter registrations have helped to streamline the registration process while expanding the service window to users outside of regular business hours.

Marketing

The PRF has a marketing coordinator whose focus is on marketing and public outreach. This role helps to create a consistent brand and message throughout the department.

Broadband

Broadband access for residents of Green Bay has seen notable improvements in recent years, though challenges remain. The City has made strides in expanding high-speed internet

coverage to underserved areas through various initiatives and partnerships with internet service providers. Efforts include infrastructure upgrades and investment in fiber-optic networks to enhance connectivity. However, disparities still exist, particularly in more remote or economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Addressing these gaps remains a priority, with ongoing discussions around policy adjustments and funding opportunities aimed at ensuring equitable and widespread broadband access for all Green Bay residents.

Facility Rentals

The Parks Division currently rents 16 enclosed shelters to the public which are available during the months of April through October. The shelter rentals are balanced to eight shelters on the east side of the city and the west side of the city. There are five open shelters within the parks system that are open to the public. Although the primary shelter rental season is from April through October, on a daily basis. The list of available shelters is analyzed and updated on a yearly basis.

Bay Beach Amusement Park currently rents open shelters, a dancehall, and an open area



available for the months of May to September during normal operating hours.

The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary offers various rental opportunities including a banquet facility, several indoor meeting rooms, and outdoor spaces.

Maintenance of Parks

Currently, there are 24 full-time park maintenance workers who provide the maintenance to the City parks. This includes:

three carpenters, one painter, one HVAC specialist, one pool maintenance worker, seven mechanics, and one city plumber. With additional park facilities coming, more park staff is going to be needed to maintain the parks to a satisfactory level.





Chapter 3: Open Space and Recreation Inventory, Distribution, Analysis, and Needs Assessment

In this Chapter

• Introduction	• Facility Types	• Open Space Inventory	• Open Space Distribution	• Open Space Comparison with Other Communities
• Open Space Access	• Open Space Distribution and Access Analysis	• Recreational Opportunities Summary	• NRPA Metrics Assessment	• Recreational Opportunities Analysis
• Prop Update Public Input Methods and Data				

Introduction

This chapter looks at the classification of parkland, as well as, an inventory of existing open space, trails, park amenities, and recreational opportunities within Green Bay. We’ve also evaluated parkland distribution and National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommendations, standards, and metrics. Additionally, we’ve gathered public

input to better understand local community preferences. This allows us to compare, analyze, and understand where we are meeting, exceeding, or falling short in providing service areas and services within Green Bay. This chapter along with previous chapters guides us in developing recommendations found in Chapter 4.

Facility Types

The NRPA established park classifications in the “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines”, 1996. These guidelines are general considering the differing socioeconomic, climatic, geographic, and cultural diversity of various areas as it would be almost impossible to apply all of the standards of every situation in every community.

See **Table 6** for descriptions of classifications.

Table 6 – Park Classification Descriptions

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini -Park (4)	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ -mile distance in a residential setting.	2,500 sq. ft. to one acre.
Neighborhood Park (30)	The neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. The focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ - ½ -mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 to 10 acres.
Park/School (15)	Depending on the circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable.
Community Park (7)	The community park serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site, usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½- to 2-mile distance.	30 to 50 acres is typical but can be variable to accommodate desired uses.

Large Urban Park (1)	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as, preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	50 to 75+ acres, can be variable to accommodate desired uses.
Sports Complex (2)	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	25 acres minimum, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.
Special Use (9)	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable – dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Natural Resources Areas (1)	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Greenways (13)	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Urban Green Space (11)	Public green space areas including pedestrian trails.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.

Open Space Inventory

There are 69 parks that the PRF manages with a total of 2,677.08 acres of recreational open space in the City of Green Bay.

Of these, there are four mini-parks, 31 neighborhood parks, 15 parks/schools, and 7 community parks that makeup 915.29 acres, with the City owning 773.63 acres and the School District owning 141.66



acres. The City owns 1 large urban park, 2 sports complexes, and 9 special-use parks which make up 747.56 acres of open space. Additionally, the City owns 1 Natural Resource Area, 13 Greenways, and 11 Urban Green Spaces consisting of 1,014.23 acres.

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

Open Space Distribution

The existing Green Bay park system is a result of over 100 years of park development. **Map 2** shows where existing parks are located.

Green Bay open space has been generally based on the neighborhood park concept resulting in many newer areas of the City having park access as described by these standards. Yet, older park areas have more parks within closer proximity but of smaller size.

Past experience in Green Bay has shown that 15 acres of actual usable space has worked well for neighborhood parks, while 25 acres of usable space works well for community parks. In the case of neighborhood parks, this often results in a total park area of 20 to 40 acres (Community Park, 30 to 60 acres) when combined with a waterfront parkway or natural area.

Some neighborhoods are cut off by busy four-lane roadways or similar barriers that can be difficult for younger children and adults to safely navigate. The PRF is working to create better access to parks throughout the City.

Table 7 – Classifiable Park Acres per 1,000 Population Analysis

	NRPA Guidelines		City of Green Bay Parks	
Park Types	NRPA Guidelines by Park Type Acre per 1,000 population	Equivalent acres based on Green Bay's population	Total Acres by park type as of 2024	Actual acres per 1,000 persons
Mini Park	0.25 – 0.5	26.85 – 53.70	2.44	0.02
Neighborhood Park	1.0 – 2.0	107.40 – 214.79	376.29	3.5
Community Park	5.0 – 8.0	536.98 – 859.16	536.56	5.0
Large Urban Park	Variable	*	76.45	0.71
Sports Complex	Variable	*	64.08	0.60
Special Use Park	Variable	*	607.03	5.65
Natural Resource Area	Variable	*	129.24	1.20
Greenways	Variable	*	853.07	7.94
Urban Green Space	*	*	31.92	0.30

Notes: City of Green Bay Population used for calculations is 2020 U.S. Census data population of 107,395.

Open Space Comparison with Other Communities

Table 7 shows the NRPA suggested numbers of each type of facility per unit of population. This is useful when considering how well various facility types are distributed throughout the City. However, these are meant to be used as approximate minimum guidelines and not absolute requirements. The number and size of recreation facilities tends to fluctuate greatly from one community to another depending on local demand.

Open Space Access

The NRPA recommendations suggest that all residents should have safe, easy access to a neighborhood park, community park, or park/school site within one-half mile of their home or a play lot (mini-park) within one-quarter mile. The City's walkability to parks is shown in **Map 3**.

The following trail inventory (**Table 8**) indicates the various trail types throughout the park system that are recognized and maintained by the City. In addition to those listed here there are many miles of informal, unimproved dirt trails throughout the park system, especially within the larger greenways and open space areas that are not counted in the trail inventories below.

Table 8 – Trail Inventory

(See Map 3)

Existing Paved Shared-Use Trails	Existing Miles
Baird Creek Trail	3.10
Baird Creek Preserve Trail	0.40
East River Trail – Main Trail	2.28
East River Trail – Streu’s Pharmacy	0.10
East River Trail – West Bank, South of Cass Street	0.84
Fox River West Bank	0.43
Fox River East Bank	2.19
University Avenue Recreation Trail	0.87
Webster Avenue Trail	0.74
West Side Trail	1.14
Total	12.09

Existing Informal Trails	Existing Miles
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.72
Ken Euers Park	2.00
Red Smith Park	0.68
Wildlife Sanctuary	6.20
Total	11.60

Existing Cross-Country Ski Trails	Existing Miles
Baird Creek Greenway	3.32
Christa McAuliffe Park	0.82
Colburn Park	1.93
Ted Fritsch Park	0.65
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.28
Perkins Park	1.66
Preble Park	0.60
Wildlife Sanctuary	4.32
Total	15.58

Designated Mountain Bike Trails (Dirt)	Existing Miles
Baird Creek Greenway	8.00

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

Open Space Distribution and Access Analysis

The City does a reasonable job of meeting the needs for open space through the provision of neighborhood and community parks, but acquiring additional parkland is needed to accommodate existing and new service areas.

Many parks are within walking distance to most residents which is especially true in the “older” areas of the City that developed with the traditional grid pattern. Where the provision of classifiable parkland falls short is in the outlying eastern and western edges of the City, which is developed on an auto-oriented planning pattern where development is more dispersed.

Recreational trail development should continue to be an ongoing goal for the PRF to tie into new and existing parklands for easier access.

Recreational Opportunities Summary

The PRF offers a multitude of different recreational programs, events, and amenities that accommodate varying

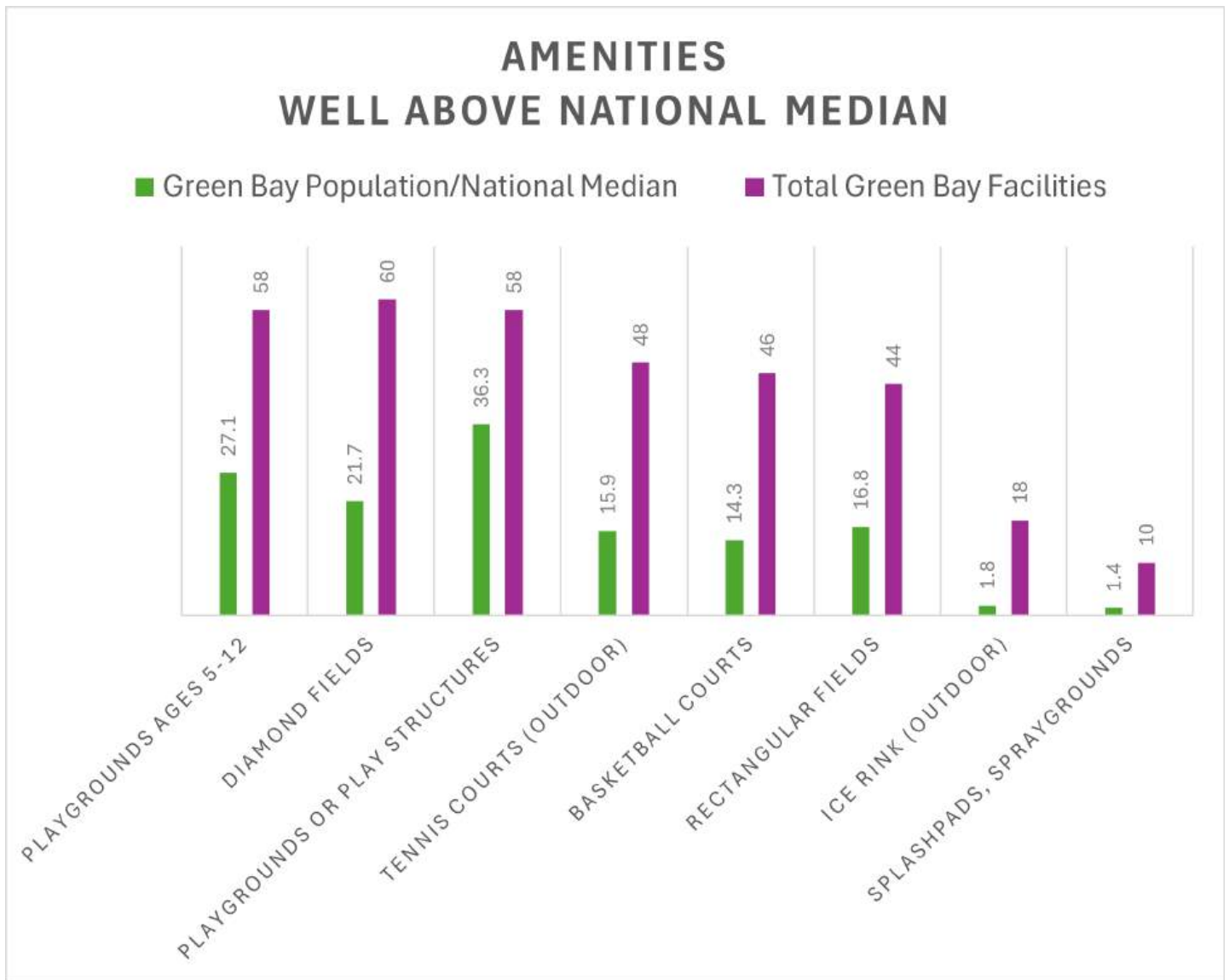
demographics. Based on public input, local and national trends, and program analysis, the recreation staff creates a five-year strategic programming plan. This plan is analyzed and revised annually. The goal is to create recreational opportunities that will serve the needs of our community.

NRPA Metrics Assessment

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) Park Metrics Benchmark Database information is gathered annually with nearly 1,000 park and recreation agencies participating in providing this data. The NRPA publishes a summary of the findings yearly for anyone’s use in the NRPA Performance Review. With this information, we can compare Green Bay park facilities and recreation programs with those of our peers. However, these metrics are relative, especially in considering the size of a community, and should serve as general criteria to aid in the planning and decision-making process, not as absolute requirements as every community has different needs.



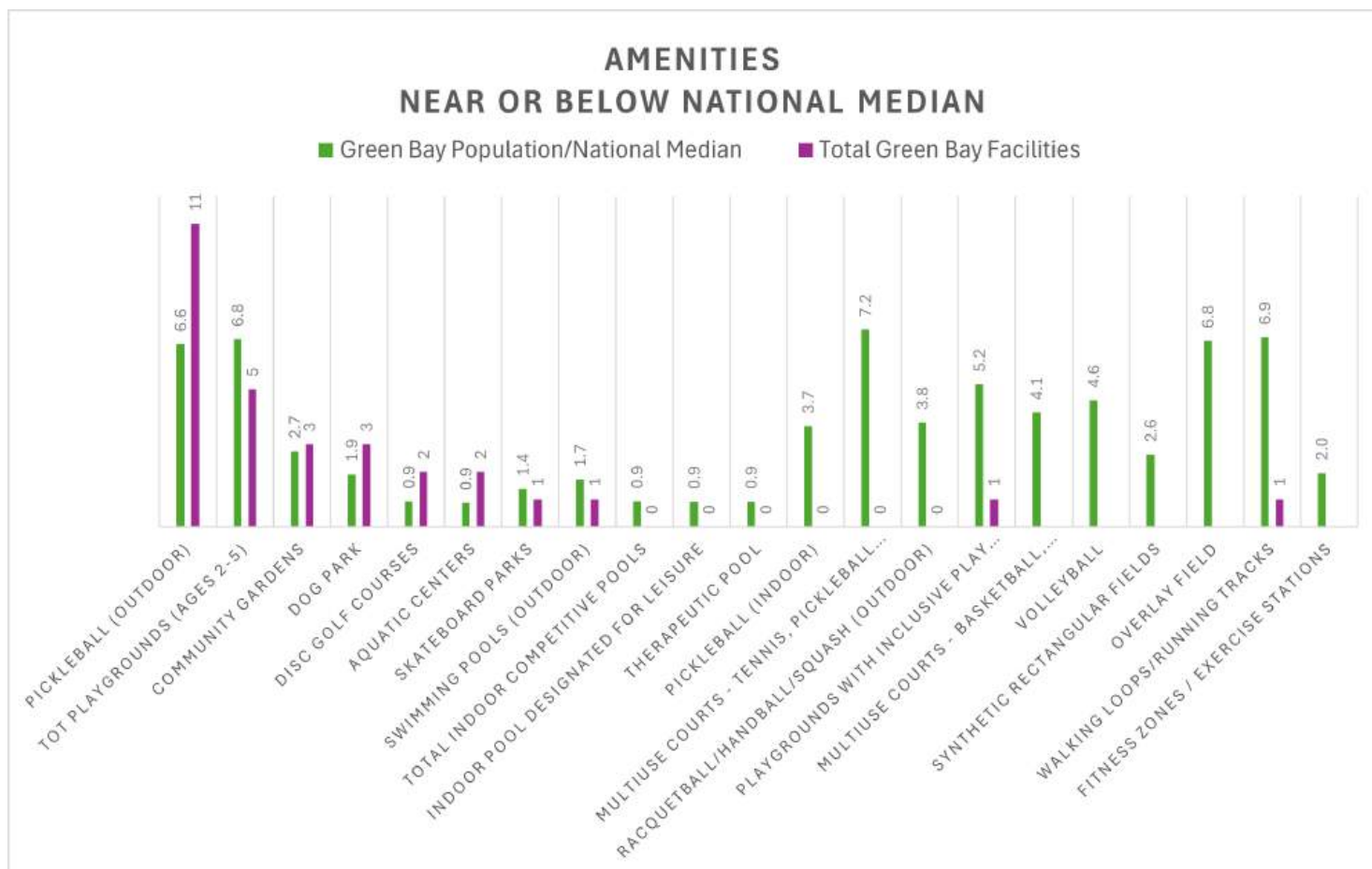
Graph 4 – Amenities Well Above National Median



By comparing our data with other municipalities, we can find potential deficiencies and excesses regarding facilities in comparison to communities that have similar populations and existing amenities.

Graph 4 shows an inventory of activities and amenities located within the City’s open space areas to demonstrate how Green Bay compares with the national 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review metric findings. The criteria selected for the NRPA comparison included 1. jurisdiction population: 100,000 to 250,000, 2. number of parks maintained: 50 or more, and 3. acres of parks maintained: 1,000 to 3,500.

Graph 5 – Amenities Near or Below National Median



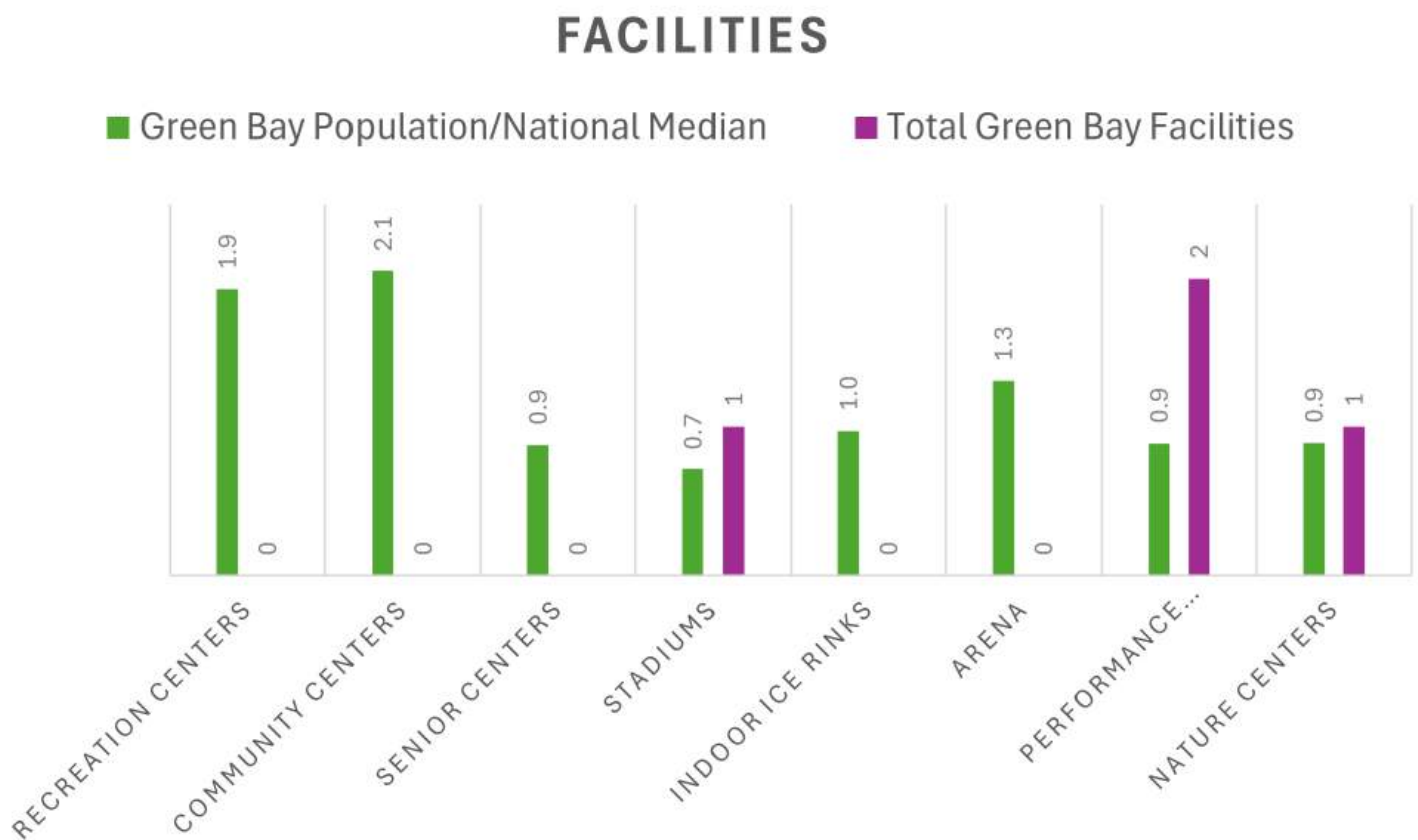
Recreational Opportunities Analysis

Based on **Graph 4** the department is well above the national median in diamond and rectangular fields, basketball courts, outdoor ice rinks, and playgrounds dedicated for ages 5-12. And although, we are above the national median, our community is still requesting more baseball fields. Splash pads continue to be a popular amenity in our community and will continue adding these while there is a continued need.

Based on **Graph 5** pickleball courts continue to be a focus and a popular request. And although we are slightly above the national median, we will continue to development a plan to add more pickleball opportunities in our community.

Overall, indoor amenities continue to trend low due to the fact that our department does not have a community center or use an indoor space to house these activities. If these types of facilities become available in the future, it will completely alter the way programs are offered. (See **Graph 6**)

Graph 6 – Facilities



PROP Update: Public Input Methods and Data

2024 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Survey and Public Input

In 2024, the PRF conducted an electronic survey that was issued through social media asking the public to comment on current and recommended park facilities, amenities, programming, and the importance of the biotic community. In 2024, the PRF also gathered similar public input at the Kids' Day event at Bay Beach Amusement Park. The results from the survey and public input are incorporated into this plan. The following information is a snapshot of the survey and input results received by approximately 1,000 respondents.

Top Activities

enjoyed in our parks
based on public input



Swimming

Playgrounds



**Exploring
Nature**



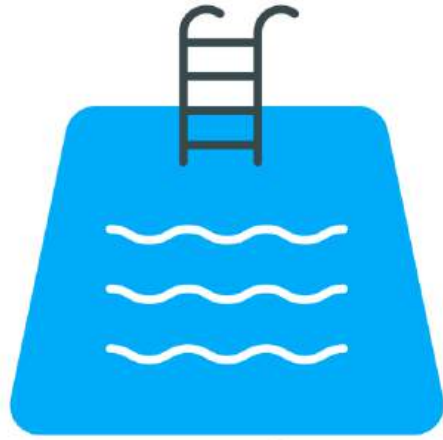
Walking



Special Events

Top Amenities

enjoyed in our parks
based on public input



Pools



Nature



Trails



**Amusement Park
Rides**



Splash Pads

Favorite Parks

based on public input



Bay Beach Amusement Park



Colburn Park



Baird Creek



Joliet Park



Wildlife Sanctuary



Astor Park



St. James Park



Red Smith Park



Fisk Park



Joannes Park



Chapter 4: Action Plan Recommendations

In this Chapter

• Introduction	• Core Value Strategies	• New Park and Service Area Recommendations
• Recommendations by Activity	• Recommendations for Specific Parks, Natural Resource Areas, and Greenways	• Non-Municipal Area Recommendations

Introduction

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

- **Core Value Strategies**
- **New Park and Service Area Recommendations** - Outlines recommendations for land purchase and related new park sites to serve anticipated future population growth.
- **Recommendations by Activity** - General development strategies that focus on specific activities rather than specific parks.
- **Recommendations for Specific Parks, Natural Resource Areas, and Greenways** - Expansion and improvements of existing parks by park area.

- **Non-Municipal Area Recommendations -** Recommendations pertaining to lands not managed by the City of Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Core Value Strategies

The following Core Value Strategies have been developed to better understand how we can achieve goals within our core values, and to develop recommendations.

1. Improve public access to parks, trails, and waterways.

- Provide easily accessible parks within convenient walking distance from all residential neighborhoods.
- Develop an interconnected system of off-road, multi-use paths to connect communities and destinations, and to provide an alternative means of transportation.
- Develop easy access to the shorelines of waterways.

2. Design park facilities and programming to accommodate representation of all community members.

- Consider physical, mental, and social health needs.
- Engage and plan for diverse populations.
- Identify underrepresented groups and help them to participate and feel connected.
- Development of park and recreational facilities should be made barrier-free and accessible to disabled park users to meet the guidelines of the ADA.
- Design to meet the goals and objectives of inclusive play and programming when designing and implementing new facilities.



3. Protect and enhance natural resources and systems.

- Plan for and practice sustainable methods for healthy ecosystems.
- Protect environmentally significant areas, biodiversity, and waterways.
- Create and enhance riparian areas, vegetative buffers, and native landscapes.
- Control invasive species.
- Provide a high-quality urban forest within all parks, greenways, and rights-of-way.
- Offer nature-based facilities and programming to promote land stewardship within the community.
- Implement resilient green infrastructure which will help to enable the community to withstand and recover from disruptions and disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and the more frequent storms that have more rain in shorter periods of time.

- 4. Acquire parkland to enhance existing and future assets.**
- 5. Planning and implementing fiscally responsible park development.**
 - a. Work within the adopted budget.
 - b. Obtain grant and sponsorship funding for projects and programming.
- 6. Ensure that existing levels of service are maintained and supported throughout the park system and are increased as new parks and facilities are developed.**
- 7. Create and foster equitable engagement for park development and programming.**
 - a. Communication for diverse users.
 - b. Provide year-round, high-quality neighborhood and community-based recreation programs and facilities to meet the variety of community needs.
- 8. Improve the park system's capacity to withstand current and future environmental patterns.**
 - a. Consider clean energy planning in development as well as equipment and vehicle use.
- b. Plan for and implement coastal and flood resiliency mitigation measures.
- 9. Engage with groups, organizations, and stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and opportunities.**
- 10. Pursue regional solutions to regional issues.**
- 11. Sustain and improve cultural resources and placemaking within the community.**
 - a. Protect and enhance areas of historical importance.
 - b. Provide parks and recreation facilities that are designed to complement the characteristics of the surrounding service neighborhood.
 - c. Incorporate unique and engaging design elements including art, in park and open space areas that promote a sense of place.



New Park and Service Area Recommendations

Priorities for Acquisition

The 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review states that jurisdictions similar to Green Bay with populations of 100,000 to 200,000, that maintain 50 or more parks, and 1,001 to 3,500 acres, average the following total park acres:

1,427 acres	Low Quartile
1,859 acres	Median
2,555.8 acres	High Quartile

Additionally, the review also shows that these communities average the following miles of total trails:

22.5 miles	Low Quartile
38 miles	Median
85 miles	Upper Quartile

With Green Bay having 2,677.08 acres of recreational open space, it’s important to note that while we fall in the upper quartile, a large portion of this acreage is greenway where the land has steep topography and wetland areas that are not easily accessible to many patrons. Also, with Green Bay having 31.69 miles of trail that can be accessed year-round, we fall in between the low quartile and median for trail services. Additionally, the population within Green Bay is expected to continue growing and as discussed in Chapter 3, geographic distribution relative to service area, as well as, demand related to facility type, will require the acquisition of additional parkland and development of new facilities to meet future recreation needs.

Priorities for land acquisition will be contingent upon the changing characteristics of a neighborhood, the growth rate of developing areas, and changes in the demand for specific recreational facilities, as well as the need for trail development. Priority acquisitions should be consistent with Parks Committee objectives. Staff should aggressively develop a long-range acquisition plan detailing purchasing objectives with suggested funding sources.

Unserviced Areas

The developed residential areas of the City are for the most part well-serviced by the existing neighborhood and/or community parks, but there are a few locations within the City where existing parkland is not easily accessible. See **Map 4**. Each of these areas should be carefully studied and reviewed with the local residents and elected officials to identify the demand and outline alternate ways to meet the needs. Solutions should be sought that combine public and private resources into a joint project to serve these areas cost-effectively. It may be difficult or impossible to serve some locations, due to the fact no open space may be available and areas may be cost prohibitive to purchase. **Map 2** diagrams some of the park expansion and acquisition recommendations.

Proposed New Park Areas

The far eastern portion of the City is currently rural in nature. The City should explore the possibility of purchasing land for park development in both the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the City. Both areas will likely see residential growth over the next 20 years. In addition, the Planning Department has identified properties along the East River that are susceptible to flooding that could be acquired for park development.

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

Also, the addition of more pocket parks and parklets should be explored.

The PRF should work closely with the Planning Department to monitor the future land use to determine the exact locations for the new

parkland because the property value in these areas will significantly increase when development occurs. (See **Map 2** - Proposed new park areas are identified in magenta).

Recommendations by Activity

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

Art Appreciation/Immersion

The Parks Department is working with the Public Arts Commission and Planning Department towards incorporating more art along pedestrian corridors and within the parks.





Baseball/Softball

There is a shortage of baseball fields in Green Bay, especially in high school, American Legion, and Babe Ruth leagues. Some demand is unserved, including a high school freshman program. With the addition of the new Perkins baseball field, there are now four full-size baseball fields in Green Bay. The Facility Development Standards suggest there should be at least 21 baseball fields in the City. Only two of the six high schools (one public and one parochial) have their own baseball field. The Blue Ribbons, a franchise team, currently play at the premier field in Joannes Park. Based on the Facility Development Standards, we would suggest considering adding one baseball diamond on each side of the City within the next five years along with improvements to fencing. Some other diamond locations should be consolidated so that there are several parks with

at least two diamonds to allow regulation high school play, aid tournaments and allow for more efficient maintenance.

On the east side, there is the possibility to create at least one new ballfield at Preble Park, Danz Park, or the proposed east side high school/D6 South/D6 North Park Complex.

On the west side, we recently completed ballfield improvements to Perkins Park and Beaver Dam Park. We will continue to explore adding and improving ballfields as opportunities arise.

Historically, the most popular park-related recreational activity in Green Bay has been softball. With the growth in popularity of activities such as soccer and more individualized sporting/recreation opportunities, a decline in the popularity of softball was anticipated. For the most part, this has not occurred, and numbers are staying steady. Softball remains very popular in Green Bay. Overall, the demand for additional fields is worth noting.

The City now has 32 softball diamonds, 14 of which are lighted. This number has declined from 63 in 1992 but still exceeds the 21 fields suggested by the Facility Development Standards. Many of these fields are also used for youth Little League and youth softball. These diamonds serve 67 adult teams in 11 leagues, as well as numerous youth teams in 22 youth leagues. Youth baseball (Little League) had approximately 750 participants in summer leagues of t-ball through Majors divisions and another 125 in Babe Ruth play; Minors and Majors divisions had 200 playing fall ball with another 125 in Babe Ruth.

Each high school has a girls' varsity and junior varsity softball team, but only one has a softball field. Girls' youth softball programs had

approximately 250 participants in summer leagues and another 100 playing in fall games.

Per recommendations in our previous PROP plan, we recently converted one baseball field into two softball fields at Colburn Park. This created a four-field softball facility on the west side. Finger Road Ballfield Complex is also a four-field facility on the east side.

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

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



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

Beer Gardens

Beginning in 2025, the PRF will begin hosting beer garden events. Possible locations for these events are Leicht Park, The Shipyard, Bay Beach Amusement Park, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, and various neighborhood parks. These events may include small concerts, family games, and activities.

Boating Facilities

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

The City of Green Bay offers transient floating docking along the Fox River at Leicht Memorial Park, The Shipyard, and CityDeck. Leicht Memorial Park also accommodates cruise ship docking. There are several businesses and condo developments in the downtown area that also offer transient docking. It appears as though there are adequate transient docking opportunities within the City. There have been requests for the City to create overnight docking options with utilities. Although there are no plans to implement this in the near future, the City will keep it in consideration if the opportunity arises.

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

Broadband

The PRF should work to fund and implement more broadband services within the park system.

Canoe/Kayak Launch Facilities

The City of Green Bay currently has four designated canoe/kayak launch areas within the City. The CityDeck, The Shipyard, and East River Trail near Main Street, all have ADA-accessible floating kayak launches built into the shoreline. Additionally, there is an informal launch located along the Fox River at the base of the Porlier Fishing Pier, which is not developed. It consists of a mowed walk leading from South Adams Street to the shoreline. The City should consider securing funding to develop this site with a paved walk with site amenities.

Other possible launch sites include the following:

- Along the Fox River, Riverview Place is currently undeveloped and is planned to be a small scale or informal canoe/kayak launch

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

- Along the East River, East River Van Beaver Park would make an ideal location for a canoe/kayak launch site in coordination with the proposed flood storage project work.
- There are also additional possible canoe/kayak launch sites within the Bay of Green Bay. The development of shoreline improvements at Bay Beach Amusement Park along with other habitat and infrastructure improvements proposed for Ken Euers Nature Area would make these ideal locations.



Community Center

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

Dog Park

The City has one dog park located at Whitney Park. There is a desire from the community to have more dog parks located throughout the City. Plans are currently in the works to install medium-sized dog parks at Meyer Park and The Shipyard. The City should evaluate the feasibility of installing a large dog park facility to accommodate users.



Ecology and the Environment

The PRF will plan and design parks and greenways to sustain environmentally sensitive features, reduce negative environmental effects and serve as models of land stewardship. We will work judiciously to reduce the amount of park area devoted to mowed turf and introduce in its place (preferably native) plant species that require less maintenance, provide habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife, and provide filtration of water runoff. Invasive, non-native plant species should be controlled whenever feasible. Best management practices, such as the City's Pesticide Policy will be utilized to improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Finally, recycled and local products will be used wherever possible.

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

Fishing Areas

There are ample fishing opportunities from City parkland.

The old Porlier railroad bridge that crosses the Fox River was converted to a fishing pier on the east bank in 2005. This pier was the only designated public fishing pier in Green Bay. Due to deterioration of the structure, it has been closed for access and is scheduled to be removed. This location and additional locations will be researched over the next five years for the installation of a new pier along the Fox River.

The only areas in the park system currently promoted with shoreline fishing spots, and to some degree managed as such, is the lagoon system at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and the fishing platforms at East River Van Beaver Park, Metro Boat Launch, and The Shipyard development. The lagoons at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary have been dredged, and a freshwater well was installed, in addition to a major waterfall to promote water circulation. Additional work could be done to improve the water quality of the lagoons. The lagoons are stocked annually with fish. An informal ADA fishing pier was installed, and the Sanctuary regularly hosts fishing events to teach children how to fish. Due to the success of this program, the City should secure funding to develop the site with walks, more ADA-accessible fishing piers, and an open shelter. The East River platforms are marginal for fishing quality.

Informal fishing does occur at other park facilities, such as, Leicht Memorial Park, Joliet Park, Ken Euers Nature Area, Veterans Memorial Park, and along the banks of rivers. The City should continue to promote informal fishing.

The planned addition of a pier at Bay Beach Amusement Park in 2026 will increase fishing opportunities at the City's most popular park. The Metro Boat Launch will also have improved fishing opportunities along the shoreline in 2026 with an ADA-accessible walk and handrail. Leicht Memorial Park's master plan shows adding improved ADA-accessible fishing opportunities as well. The City will continue to plan for and fund these improvements.

Greenways

Drainage ways are important assets in terms of their environmental significance, i.e. providing wildlife habitat, efficient, cost-effective management of stormwater control and reduction of flooding, natural amenities, and recreational opportunities. **Map 2** diagrams recommendations for the continued purchase and expansion of the greenways/drainage ways. For the most part, these areas should be maintained as natural open spaces. The delineation of these areas is primarily established by the Public Works Department based on drainage-related criteria. The County



also identifies most of these drainage ways as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). Areas adjacent to parks or of exceptional natural value such as LaCount Creek, Willow Creek, Beaver Dam Creek, and Mahon Creek should be considered for possible nature trail development. This of course would be contingent on the local citizen preferences and in some cases may require the purchase of additional land.

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

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

Hockey and Ice Skating

There are four hockey rinks in the City. The ice rinks have been divided equally between the east and west sides of the City. Each side of the



City has two boarded hockey rinks along with an auxiliary skating rink at each site. There is also a large skating rink on each side of the City as well. With reducing the number of rinks staff can focus on the hockey rinks when the weather is right for flooding and are able to get the rinks up in a more efficient manner. Currently, there are no plans to develop additional hockey rinks. Evidence suggests that there is a high demand for hockey rinks in Green Bay, but there is no specific data to support that claim. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department staff should quantify the need and examine options to outdoor rinks, such as, a large indoor facility. An indoor rink should be a joint public-private venture if it is verified that the demand exists to support it.

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

New Specialized Facilities

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

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

Pickleball

Pickleball has been growing in popularity throughout the country and the City of Green Bay. Many of the current pickleball players are ages 55 and older. In general, the City is working to accommodate more facilities and programming for this age group. The Parks Department recently converted two existing tennis courts at Edison Park into six permanent pickleball courts. There are currently four additional pickleball courts at Edison Park with portable nets located within the remaining two tennis court areas at Edison Park which will result in a lit, ten-court tournament facility. There is a desire by the pickleball enthusiasts to convert the remaining two tennis courts to six dedicated pickleball courts.

In 2024, Murphy Park added a four-court pickleball complex, which replaced two existing tennis courts. In the next five years, the goal is to add additional seating and shade structures to existing courts. These courts were designed in a way that additional courts could easily be added if funding is secured.

Additional Pickleball programming is on the five-year recreation strategic plan and the PRF will continue to analyze and receive public input from the community.





Playgrounds

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

The Green Bay Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has stayed abreast of these changes.

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

resources. In addition, paved walks should be provided to all playgrounds per ADA guidelines.

The City currently maintains 58 playgrounds. In order to maintain a 20-year replacement schedule, three playgrounds need to be replaced on a yearly basis. Additional playgrounds should be included in the D6 North and D6 South Parks as development of those parks occurs. Other playgrounds may be required in some of the small, unserved areas of the City.

In 2024, with a donation from the Friends of Bay Beach we implemented the City's first all-inclusive playground.

New playgrounds are planned to be installed at both The Shipyard and JBS developments.

Nature-based playgrounds should be considered when replacing playgrounds as an alternative to traditional playground equipment. The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is an ideal location for a nature playground, as well as urban areas where nature engagement is scarcer.

Due to tight budgets, playground replacement is beginning to fall behind this schedule. If possible, the City should maintain a regular phased program of replacements. (See specific park proposals for details of playground replacement needs.) Safety, play value, and maintainability are the main criteria for replacement.

Playground Program

The Summer Parkee Program is available at 16 locations across Green Bay's east and west sides and welcomes approximately 50,000 participants each year. In partnership with the Green Bay Area Public School District, free

lunches are provided at 15 sites through a USDA Grant, which supports children ages 6-18.

The program offers a variety of activities, including Games Day, themed weeks, sports tournaments, Kids' Day, Wildlife Sanctuary visits, drama and skit days, the Brown County Library reading program, and Kiddie Karnival. With a legacy spanning over a century, this Green Bay tradition continues to thrive as the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department explores new ways to keep the program fresh, engaging, and fun for future generations.

Skate Park

The City maintains one concrete skate park at Joannes Park, and it has been very popular. Annual fundraising efforts have generated enough funds to explore the expansion of the skate park. The PRF has received funding to hire an engineer to improve the facility and the hope is to fund the improvements within the next five years. The City should also study the possibility of providing another facility on the west side. Professionally designed skate parks (for skateboards and in-line skates) can offer challenges not available elsewhere and may



also reduce the traffic and abuse on paths, sidewalks, railings, and walls that were never meant for such activity.

Sledding/Downhill Skiing/ Snowboarding

The City operates Triangle Sports Area which has a sledding hill with a Magic Carpet tube lift and areas to downhill ski and snowboard. Due to recent weather conditions, it has been difficult to maintain decent snow conditions for the facility, limiting the availability of the use of this facility for these activities. The City recently acquired snow-making equipment for Triangle Sports Area. A storage shed for the snow groomer and the necessary infrastructure is planned to be installed in 2025.

Additionally, Colburn Park, Fireman's Park, and (John) Muir Park are neighborhood parks that have sledding hills.

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



Soccer

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

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

Green Bay and its neighboring communities do not have a sufficient number of soccer fields for existing demand even though there are now 36 fields in Green Bay (plus 16 owned by the schools) compared to 23 in 1995 which exceeds the number suggested by the Facilities Development Standards. However, the fields vary in size with most being smaller than the suggested standard size. The west side of the City is especially under-served. Due to the insufficient number of fields, some games are held at dusk, making it difficult to play. No fields are currently lighted. Lighting could expand the use of some fields, but it is costly. There are currently limited opportunities in Green Bay for soccer tournaments because of a lack of facilities with multiple fields.

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

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

The Arnie Wolff Sports Complex on the far east side was developed to accommodate a six-field soccer complex with a parking lot. In 2022, the plans to expand the parking lot were completed. Some of these full-size fields at the Arnie Wolff Complex were reconfigured to accommodate varying age groups within the Arnie Wolf Complex. Additionally, the Perkins Park master plan includes the addition of two soccer fields on the west side.

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



Splash Pads/Wading Pools

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

There are currently nine splash pads located within the City. Three splash pads are located on the near east side of town, four are located on the near west side of town, one is located at Red Smith Park on the far east side, and one is located downtown on CityDeck. Two additional splash pads will be constructed in 2025/2026. The City recently acquired funding to partner with the Oneida Nation to install a new splash pad at Ted Fritsch Park. A splash pad will also be constructed at the JBS Park. Many additional neighborhoods are requesting splash pads. The City should continue to investigate constructing additional splash pads on the east side and west side as demand increases.

The City currently has three wading pools and does not charge a fee. All three wading pools were constructed a minimum of 35 years ago and are starting to show their age. Although these facilities are extremely popular, wading pools are costly to maintain and complicated to manage because of their complex systems and extensive state requirements. Because the facilities are popular with families with young children, the City will study alternatives such as splash play areas when it comes time for replacement. Splash pads have fewer legal requirements and are simpler systems.



Swimming

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

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

The department is currently developing a master plan for Joannes Aquatic Center. The facility is almost 30 years old and is on the line for major updates and repairs.



Tennis

The City has consistently maintained tennis on a neighborhood basis with 48 courts on municipal property and another 15 on school lands for a total of 63 tennis courts.

City staff should carefully monitor the use of its tennis courts and consider phasing some out. As tennis courts need future major repair, the City should consider combining and centralizing its courts into fewer but larger complexes, as was done at all of the high schools within the City. This provides players with a better likelihood of getting an open court without having to travel to several areas. The City will continue to renovate tennis courts on an as-needed basis.

Trails

Pedestrian/bicycle trails should be developed in an effort to connect parks, open space areas, and major activity nodes in the City. Over the last decade, the City has been active in the construction of multi-use trails throughout the City. The City will continue to create more trails as opportunities arise and would eventually like to link all major city trails into one comprehensive trail system that will also connect to the adjacent communities. See **Map 3**, The City Trail Map, for detailed recommendations.

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

Over the next five years, the City will continue efforts to connect the East River Trail to the Fox

River Trail and Baird Creek Trail. Once this one-mile missing link trail connection is built there will be over 40 miles of continuous trails all linking together in Green Bay.

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



Recommendations for Specific Parks, Natural Resource Areas, and Greenways

Mini-Park Recommendations

Admiral Flatley Park

General Information:

This park (1.00 acres) was relocated to the current location along the Fox River. Amenities within the new park include, a bronze sculpture of Admiral Flatley, a gazebo, a memorial obelisk, and several tables with seating.

Proposed Activities:

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

(Henry S.) Atkinson Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Much of the historic stone wall has recently been replaced.
- Seek other park development opportunities consistent with the needs of the neighborhood.

Brisk Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

Downtown Pocket Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Determine the long-term vision for this park.

Neighborhood Park Recommendations

Astor Park

General Information:

Medium-sized neighborhood park (8.30 acres) located within the historic district. Amenities include three lit tennis courts, one tennis court that has lines painted for pickleball, one basketball court, one ice rink, a playground, a shelter, a wading pool, a semi-formal perennial garden, and a pollinator corridor planting.

Proposed Activities:

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



Badger Park

General Information:

Small neighborhood park (5.67 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, a playground, and natural areas with trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Recently a large portion of the natural area had to be clear-cut due to Emerald Ash Borer. This area should be studied to determine what the best use of the area is. There is a desire by the neighborhood to convert this area to a soccer field so temporary soccer goals were placed there until the long-term vision of the park is created.
- Add ADA-accessible walk-to playground.
- Seek better neighborhood connectivity and recreation opportunities.

Baird Place

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Bay View Park

General Information:

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



Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court paving
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete
- Replace the playground
- pollinator corridor planting

D6 South Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a master plan.
- Coordinate athletic field court development with school needs.
- The first developments typically include parking, playgrounds, ball diamonds, and soccer fields.

East River Emilie Park

General Information:

Large neighborhood park (23.09 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two small soccer fields, shore fishing, a multi-use trail following the river's edge along with expansive mowed turf areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue research on the purchase of adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to parkland.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Works, restore historic floodplain wetland as a large-scale urban wetland with walking trails, boardwalk, observation platform, and shoreline access that serves as a multi-benefit, resilient flood solution.
- As funding becomes available, install solar lighting along pathways, boardwalks, and improved trail modifications.
- Replace the shoreline access.

East River (George J.) Meyer Park

General Information:

Medium-sized neighborhood park (9.71 acres). Amenities include a playground, mature trees, a memorial, shore fishing, and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Seek opportunities for park enhancement.
- Improve the trail crossing on Mason Street.
- Continue research on the purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to parkland.
- Install a dog park.

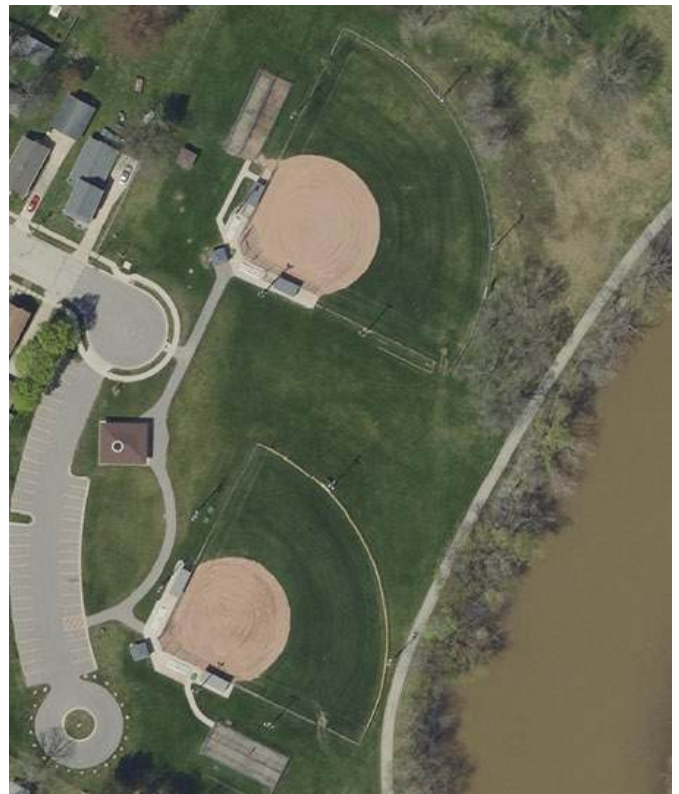
East River Optimist Park

General Information:

Medium-sized neighborhood park (9.08 acres) consisting of two lit softball/Little League fields, a parking lot, shore fishing, concession stand, batting cages, and a multi-use trail along the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

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



East River Van Beaver Park

General Information:

Large neighborhood park (44.12 acres) situated along the east bank of the East River. Amenities include one lit football/ultimate frisbee field, one basketball court, a practice soccer area, a playground, a shelter, Forestry Division tree nursery, shore fishing, and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Improve the areas where the ballfields used to be. This area can be converted to soccer fields or some other suitable use. Because this area is within the floodway, limited grading and improvements can be done.
- Develop a master plan for the park.
- Install a parking lot.
- Research the possibility of adding a pedestrian foot bridge across the East River in the vicinity of Debra Lane to Grignon Street.
- As funding becomes available, purchase adjacent properties that are prone to flooding and convert to parkland.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Works, create a large-scale urban wetland with walking trails, boardwalk, observation platform and shoreline access that serves as a multi-benefit, resilient flood solution.
- As funding becomes available, install solar lighting along pathways, boardwalks, and improved trail modifications.
- Remove tree nursery from this park.

Eastman Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Redevelop east end of park.
- Improve park drainage.
- Renovate the ball field.
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete.
- Re-locate the current playground to a dryer location on site.

Eighth Street Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate or replace the shelter.
- Add security lighting within the park.
- Explore the possibility of expanding or improving the community garden; this may include ADA access, a parking area, raised beds, etc.
- Install a large bioswale to collect runoff and alleviate flooding concerns by storing and treating rainwater before conveying it to a nearby storm sewer.
- Add pollinator corridor planting.



Farlin Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate or replace the shelter.
- Convert grass to native planting on the hillock area.
- Repair or replace the tennis courts.

Fireman's Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court.
- Research feasibility of adding tow ropes on sledding hill.
- Add more winter facilities to the park.
- Add pollinator corridor planting.
- Analyze the need for long term use of the shelter room for park activities.

(Ted) Fritsch Park

General Information:

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



Proposed Activities:

- Coordinate with the neighborhood and Oneida Tribe to design and install a splash pad.
- Connect to sanitary sewer.
- Repave asphalt around the shelter.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Improve the trail system.
- Preserve natural areas.
- Create linkage to neighborhoods to the west by installing a pedestrian bridge, crossing the ravine in the greenway.

He-Nis-Ra Park

General Information:

Large neighborhood park (54.94-acres) consisting of expansive natural areas with developed hiking, biking, and fat tire biking trails throughout. He-Nis-Ra Park is located adjacent to King Elementary School and Lombardi Middle School and shares facilities with the schools. Amenities within the park include, a heavily wooded forest, open prairie area, playground, open shelter, nature trails, and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

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

JBS Park and Boulevard Park

General Information:

Medium sized neighborhood park (11.05 acres) adjacent to the Kroc Center. Amenities include splashpad, playground, urban plaza, urban farm, adult swing benches, gas fire pits, walkways, and multi-use trail. This park will be constructed in 2025 and open to the public in 2026.



Proposed Activities:

- Work with Wello and other partners to implement the urban farm program.
- Secure funding to construct an urban barn/community room.

(John F.) Kennedy Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate shelter.

Lakeside Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Marquette Park

General Information:

Medium sized neighborhood park (7.90 acres). Amenities include two soccer fields, two football fields, one practice ball field, three tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, and a wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

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

Mather Heights Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Replace aging wading pool with splash pad.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Replace playground.
- Install underground stormwater storage area within the park.
- Place a bioswale near the removed ballfield to intercept runoff from the park's open space.

(Christa) McAuliffe Park

General Information:

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



Proposed Activities:

- Connect this park with a multi-use trail to the existing Baird Creek Trail.
- Construct two tennis courts or pickleball courts.
- Explore the feasibility of installing a splash pad.
- Restore and maintain prairie plantings.

(John) Muir Park

General Information:

Large neighborhood park (21.98 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two lit tennis courts, one court is painted for pickleball, one basketball court, playground, shelter, ice rink, sledding, and parking lot. The park also contains a large natural wooded area with informal trails.

Proposed Activities:

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

Murphy Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Create a park master plan.
- Replace parking lot.
- Expand the pickleball courts if the demand increases.
- Research the feasibility of constructing a joint use indoor facility with the Military Avenue Business District to be used for park and recreation purposes and the weekly farmer's market.

Navarino Park

General Information:

Small neighborhood park (3.32 acres). Amenities include a playground, seating area, a large Adirondack chair, bioswales, rain gardens, and interior park walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Secure funding to install the remaining amenities shown in the master plan. These elements include a shelter, splash pad, and pedestrian scale park lighting.

Olde Preble Neighborhood Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate ballfield.
- Install concessions building.
- Replace the parking lot.
- Install a habitat garden.

St. James Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Research permanent seating for bandshell.



St. Johns Park

General Information:

Small neighborhood park (1.37 acres) consisting of park shelter, basketball court, playground, and an open space area.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with the police and Homeless Task Force to find ways to improve the park, addressing the issues associated with the homeless population within the park and creating a positive experience that will benefit the neighborhood.
- Replace playground. Consider placing the new playground at an alternative park location.

St. Phillip Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Seymour Park

General Information:

Medium neighborhood park (9.47 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, two playgrounds, ice skating, shelter, open shelter, splash pad, community garden, food forest, edible landscape garden, two stormwater ponds, and native plantings. There is an active park gardening program for neighborhood children.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the purchase of the south railroad yard for park expansion
- Replace playground. Consider downsizing to one playground
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete
- Continue to develop and expand the food forest area

VT Pride

General Information:

Small neighborhood park (3.08 acres) consisting of a playground, shelter, and a multi-use trail to the Kroc Center.

Proposed Activities:

- Secure funding to implement master plan.
- Install walkway to playground per ADA-requirements.
- Renovate or replace shelter.

Whitney Park

General Information:

Small neighborhood park (3.05 acres) consisting of a parking lot, playground, small bandshell, small dog run, shelter, half basketball court, and pollinator corridor planting.

Proposed Activities:

- Shelter renovations.





Park/School Recommendations

(Henry S.) Baird Park/School

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Improve trail access to Baird Creek Greenway.
- Improve tennis courts.

Beaumont Park/School

General Information:

Small park/school site (8.82 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two lit tennis courts, two courts are painted for pickleball, one soccer field, shelter, playground, and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

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

Beaver Dam Park/School

General Information:

Large park/school site (22.89 acres) adjacent to MacArthur School. Amenities include three lit softball/Little League fields, two football fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, open shelter, ice hockey, ice rink, and parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- The adjacent school will close permanently in 2026. Work with the School District to determine the feasibility of converting the school property to parkland.
- Continue to improve the softball/Little League complex.
- Install a central concession stand with restrooms.
- Relocate and add parking stalls.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Replace culvert under existing entrance parking lot drive.

Chappell Park/School

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Work with School District on a possible property trade to accommodate additions to the school and school parking lot.
- Find alternate location for the existing cricket field due to the School District plans for expansion.

Danz Park/School

General Information:

Large park/school site (34.55 acres). Amenities include one baseball field, one softball/Little League field, roller hockey court, basketball court, park shelter, and a playground. East of Danz Avenue there is also a tot playground, one soccer field, wetland stormwater pond, Green Bay Parks Century Grove tree planting, seating area, access to the Baird Creek Trail, and a pollinator corridor planting.



Proposed Activities:

- Possibly renovate roller hockey to permanent regulation sized court.
- Pave entrance walks leading to the Baird Creek Trail.
- Determine the feasibility of adding a dog park.
- Either eliminate the ballfields or renovate the ballfields to address the wet conditions.
- Add flood storage area.

Edison Park/School

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court.
- Update sports lighting for softball and hockey.
- Renovate the south shelter.
- Renovate remaining tennis courts to pickleball courts.
- Add concession stand and restroom by baseball field.

Eisenhower Park/School

General Information:

Small park/school site (10.34 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one soccer field, two lit tennis courts, one basketball court, park shelter, and a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Seek opportunities for park enhancement.
- Repair foundation to park shelter.

Fort Howard Park/Jefferson Head Start Learning Center/Park Shop

General Information:

Medium sized park/school site (10.76 acres). Amenities include two tennis courts, one basketball court, one splash pad, park shelter, playground, and Forestry Department tree nursery. This park/school site is adjacent to the Park Maintenance Facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Expand park shop indoor garage areas.



- Pave Park Maintenance Facility back parking lot.
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete.
- Replace park shop gas tanks.
- Continue to improve and install the new forestry tree nursery.

Fort Howard Park/School

General Information:

Small park/school site (3.66 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one basketball court, one playground, and a replica log cabin located on school property.

Proposed Activities:

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

Lombardi and Martin Luther King Park/School

General Information: (See He-Nis-Ra Park for more information)

Large park/school site (27.37 acres). Amenities include two practice softball fields, two soccer fields, one basketball court, two playgrounds, and several parking lots. The park/school site has direct access to He-Nis-Ra Park's trails and natural areas. The original Porlier School is located along West Point Road. The structure has been abandoned for years.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to improve the trail system and to promote this as a fat tire bike location.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Work with School District to evaluate the use of, or removal of, the old Porlier School: This is a school owned building that has been vacant for decades.
- Expand parking along West Point Road.

Nicolet Park/School

General Information:

Small park/school site (5.04 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, two half basketball courts, one soccer field, and one playground.

Proposed Activities:

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

Red Smith Park/School

General Information:

Large park/school site (37.51 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one soccer field, two half basketball courts, one shelter with restrooms, two playgrounds, one splash pad, ice hockey, ice skating, nature trails in wooded area, and pollinator corridor planting.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to improve the trail system in the wooded property and to coordinate with the Conservation Corps to use the woodland as a trial demonstration area.
- Continue central walk from park property to the school.
- Install site lighting.
- Explore the possibility of converting the existing practice ball field into a regulation softball/Little League field.

(Anne) Sullivan Park/School

General Information:

Small park/school site (9.26 acres). Amenities include one soccer field, two half basketball courts, one playground, and direct access to the Baird Creek Trail and East River Trail.

Proposed Activities:

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

Tank Park/School

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- The Green Bay Area Public School District recently closed the adjacent school. The City should work with the School District to determine the future use of the school property.
- Renovate enclosed shelter.
- One-half of the playground was recently replaced; replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Install a large bioswale near the basketball court to capture runoff from park and convey to the nearby storm sewer system.

(Laura Ingalls) Wilder Park/School

General Information:

Large park/school site (31.64 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, four soccer fields, one park shelter, and one playground. The park has direct access to the Willow Creek Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

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

Community Park Recommendations

(Enos) Colburn Park

General Information:

Large community park (60.13 acres). Amenities include five (one lit) softball/Little League fields, two concession stands, two soccer fields, two tennis courts, two bocce ball courts, one basketball court, two park shelters, two playgrounds, one hockey rink, ice skating, and natural wooded area. There is also one box pool with a bathhouse constructed in 1967 and recently renovated.

Proposed Activities:

- Light two Little League/softball fields.
- Renovate Fisk Street park shelter, incorporating a concession stand into the design.
- Install open shelter.

- Add paved walk from Ninth Street parking lot to open shelter.

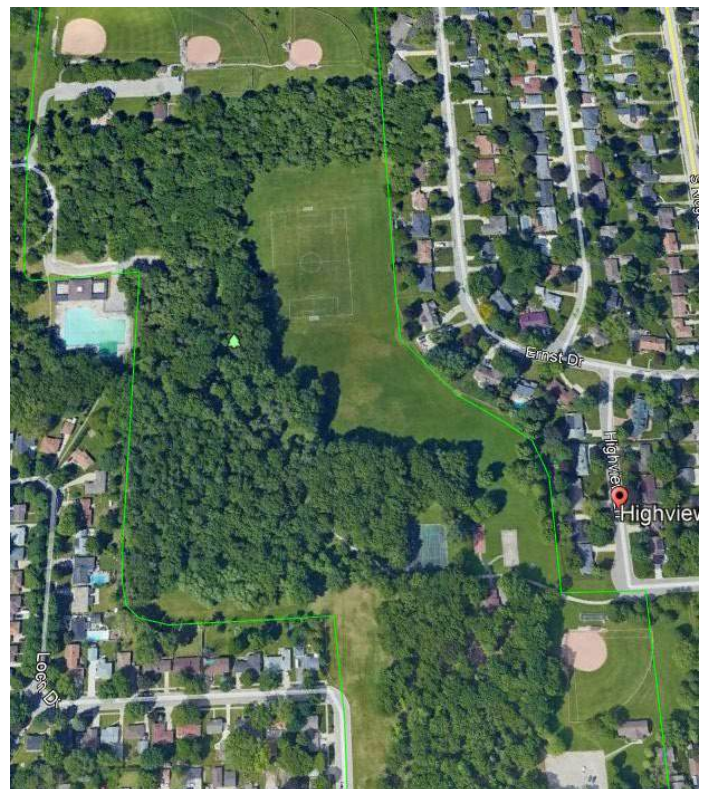
D6 North Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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



(Hiram C.) Fisk Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Consider purchasing residential properties on west end for park expansion.
- Remove or replace the 13-plus year-old playground.
- Re-stain the splash pad concrete.
- Expand parking lot.

Joannes Park

General Information:

Medium sized community park (30.3 acres) adjacent to East High School. Amenities include one aquatic center, the Joannes Baseball Stadium, seven tennis courts, one basketball court, skatepark, police community center, shore fishing, one playground, and one park shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Install walk from southeast parking lot to high school.
- Complete the master plan for modifications to the aquatic center. Secure funding to implement any modifications and improvements to the pool and amenities.
- Add a few new skating features to the skate park.
- Improve the Joannes Baseball Stadium.

Perkins Park

General Information:

Large community park (59.14 acres). Amenities include two (one lit) baseball fields, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, ice skating, one park shelter with restrooms, playground, disc golf course, a large, wooded area along the east end of the park, and a pollinator corridor planting.

Proposed Activities:

- Repave the parking lot on Fisk Street.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Research installation of splash pad and an open shelter.
- Recently many trees in the natural area were removed due to Emerald Ash Borer. A new master plan is being finalized for this area showing modifications to the disc golf course, habitat restoration, and tree



plantings. The PRF will begin implementing portions of this plan as funding becomes available.

- Convert the east parking lot into permeable pavement.
- Install a bioswale at a low point to the north of the park to capture the runoff from the baseball diamond.
- Install shared use path from N. Fisk Street to Moraine Way per Safe Walk and Bike Plan.
- Add lighting to unlit baseball field.
- Reconfigure disc golf course.

Preble Park

General Information:

Small community park (14.55 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two soccer fields, one basketball court, one park shelter, playground, large mature trees, and an east side park shop.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Add walk from playground to park shelter.
- Repave Skyline Boulevard parking lot and drives
- Stabilize the northern steep slope along Hillside Lane.
- Update the ballfield and install batting cages to serve the needs of the Green Bay Area Public School District.



The Shipyard

General Information:

This future park (11.03 acres) is located north of Mason Street along the west bank of the Fox River. Current amenities include a shore walk, multi-use trail, transient boat dock, canoe/kayak launch, riverfront seating, fishing area, and in-water habitat improvements.

Proposed Activities:

- An open green space, outdoor beer garden, fountain splash pad, playground, outdoor exercise equipment, dog park, restrooms, and urban beach are planned to be installed starting in 2025
- Work with other City departments to secure funding to construct a retail shipping container area. Ownership, maintenance, and program management of various facilities is yet to be determined and may involve a public/private partnership. In any case, all facilities will be for public use.

Large Urban Park Recommendations

Bay Beach Amusement Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Work with Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park to construct the proposed developments of the master plan.
- Implement a site wide storm water management plan.
- Phase 1 desired shoreline improvements include replacing the shoreline walk and the installation of a 450" long wildlife viewing platform. Phase 1 work will begin in 2025.
- Phase 2 desired shoreline improvements include the installation of a sand swimming beach that is approximately 1,000 linear feet, and a bathhouse with restrooms/concession stand. Work will also include wetland habitat restoration and improved fishing habitat.
- Pave additional parking stalls in the main parking lot. There is currently no funding in place to implement phase 2.
- Replace the Falling Star with a new ride.
- Renovate the main pavilion into a year-round destination facility.
- Pavilion renovations may include dance hall renovations, converting the west side storage area into an alternate use, restaurant improvements, adding an outdoor dining terrace and replacement of all electrical.
- Additional desired improvements include, adding more rentable open shelters, a kiddie coaster, a new maintenance/storage building, additional rides, and a west end rental shelter.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Works, implement in water habitat and coastal resiliency improvements. This project will compliment Phase 1 and 2 shoreline improvements and may include a boardwalk, trails, and gathering circle for enhanced connectivity, gathering and wildlife viewing.
- Install sidewalk along Irwin Avenue per Safe Walk and Bike Plan.
- Install habitat improvements along the shoreline and within the waterway as part of the DNR Area of Concern initiative.



Sports Complex Recommendations

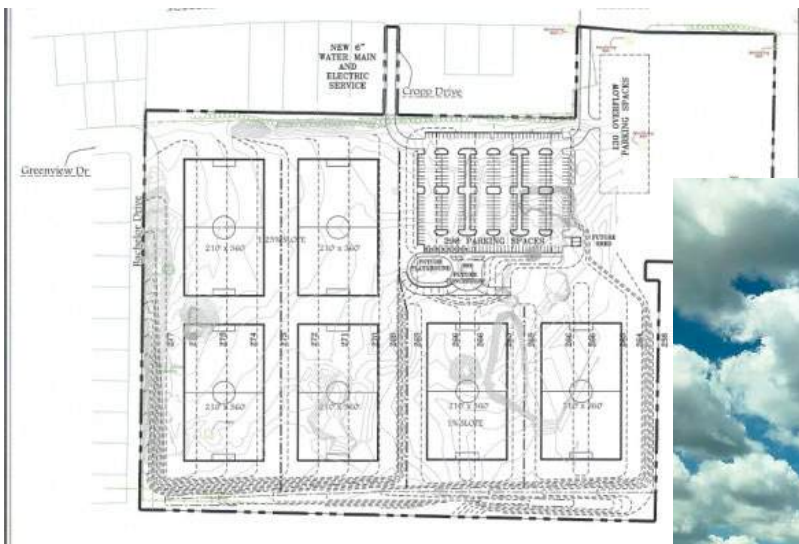
Arnie Wolff Sports Complex

General Information:

This facility (38.27 acres) sits atop a former fill site with six soccer fields, a parking lot, and a concession stand with restrooms.

Proposed Activities:

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



Finger Road Ballfield Complex

General Information:

This (25.81 acres) facility consists of a tournament softball/Little League complex containing four fields constructed on top of the clay cap of an abandoned fill site and concession stand with restrooms.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with the user group to install a storage shed and open shelter.
- Improve the infield drainage.
- Continue to coordinate with the Public Works Department to monitor and maintain the landfill systems to the satisfaction of the DNR.

Special Use Park Recommendations

Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

General Information:

- The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is Green Bay's largest city park. With 542.98 acres of land, 55 acres of lagoons, scenic waterfall, outdoor amphitheater, outdoor raptor theater, and 6.2 miles of hiking and skiing trails.
- The Nature Education Center offers hands-on educational exhibits (walk through diorama with otter slide, walk in live bee tree, and a crawl through burrow for families), resource library, classrooms, meeting rooms, full kitchen, auditorium, and a gift shop.
- The Dick Resch and Family Learning and Conservation Center offers a rental banquet facility with a 250-person capacity and the OAK Learning Center (Outdoor Adventures for Kids), a four-year old nature-based kindergarten. The students are taught by a licensed teacher and a naturalist. They spend the majority of their school day outdoors while they are prepared academically, physically, and emotionally for kindergarten.
- The Observation Building sells corn for waterfowl feeding, has an animal nursery viewing window, along with an animal care and rehabilitation center. The Resch Conservation Wing exhibits include, live snakes, bats, a forest, field, and beach songbird aviary.
- The Raptor Trail has outdoor exhibit viewing of waterfowl, cranes, native hawks, falcons, owls, eagles, and vultures. All exhibits are handicap accessible.

- The Habi-Trek Trail is an accessible hard surfaced path that meanders from the Nature Center to the Woodland Building with indoor nocturnal exhibits of, turtles, flying squirrels, mice, snakes, and mink. Outdoor habitats include, otter viewing tank/grotto, fisher, bobcat and cougar canyon, a pack of timber wolves, a raven aviary, and a crow/porcupine exhibit.
- A grassland community featuring white-tailed deer, coyotes, turkeys, sandhill cranes, and eco-learning stations.
- Manger Lagoon is a public fishing area for youth 15 years and younger and handicapped individuals of all ages. There is an informational kiosk, fishing docks, and chimney swift nesting tower.
- Resch Falls and Kress Trail are the centerpiece of the lagoon renovation project.



Proposed Activities:

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

Facility goals for the next five years include:

- Add security cameras throughout the facility.
- Replace the floating boardwalk.
- Replace the raptor theater.
- Replace aging equipment and materials in buildings (e.g. heat pumps and carpeting in the 21-year-old Nature Center).
- Replace the Chipmunk Trail boardwalk.
- Repave the residence parking lot.
- Repair residence house siding.
- Replace the flooring in the Nature Center.
- Replace a great deal of fencing throughout the facility.
- Install a new deer shed and public exhibit area.



- Improve signage throughout the trail system.
- Fine tuning of the physical site including plant material replacement around the core buildings.
- Investigate the design, fabrication, and installation of new educational exhibits utilizing touch screen technology.
- Explore the feasibility of an addition to the Animal Care Center to accommodate the increase in rehabilitation admissions.
- Explore the addition of a new larger cougar habitat exhibit.
- Convert existing cougar exhibit into a lynx exhibit.
- Upgrade/retrofit our facilities to meet accessibility standards.
- Develop and continue to implement long-term management strategy for invasive plant species, including biological control release research site and grant writing to effect management practices.
- Improve vegetation and natural wildlife habitat whenever possible.
- Convert from propane to natural gas.
- Replace walk-in freezers.
- Complete a large-scale habitat improvement project as part of the DNR Area of Concern Improvement initiative.

CityDeck

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Construct the proposed overlook platform adjacent to the Walnut Street Bridge.
- Continue to promote this facility for downtown events.
- Develop a maintenance plan to accommodate aging sitting areas and landscaping.

Green Bay Metro Boat Launch

General Information:

This (12.95 acres) facility is the only City managed public boat launch facility. Amenities include a large parking lot, a comfort station with restrooms, and ten boat launch slips.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace aging parking lot paving and landscaping as necessary.
- Replace concrete entrance ramps.
- Enhance shoreline fishing.
- Secure funding for additional amenities, which may include a fishing pier, picnic area, and an overlook structure.
- Explore the possibility of linking this property to Bay Beach Amusement Park with a paved, multi-use trail.
- The land is owned by NEW Water and leased to the City. If possible, this land should be purchased or develop a long-term lease (in lieu

of existing short-term) to protect the public investment.

- Work with NEW Water to improve and promote the existing shelter as a meeting location for various organizations.



Jackson Square

General Information:

Small (1.37 acres) special use park consisting of walkways, stone wall, and flower beds.

Proposed Activities:

- Move overhead wires underground.
- Improve landscape beds.
- Explore other possible park amenities to increase the usage of the space.
- Consider adding a playground to this park.

Joliet Park

General Information:

This (3.68 acres) special use park consists of, bay frontage, shore fishing, a gravel drive, and natural areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Pave the entrance drive and parking lot.
- Encourage fishing. Representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have indicated that this site is one of the top fishing spots in the region.
- Maintain and enhance natural areas.
- Implement Area of Concern habitat restoration plans with enhanced public access.

Leicht Memorial Park

General Information:

This (11.32 acres) special use park is primarily used for downtown festivals and activities. Amenities include dock wall for large vessels, floating transient docks, shore fishing, boat launch, stage, Flags of Diversity display, statue, and parking.

Proposed Activities:

- Research the purchase of the north leased area.
- Construct a beer concession stand with restrooms, a rental shelter space, outdoor seating, and an upper balcony.
- Construct a permanent stage structure on the existing park owned land along with gathering spaces and water access improvements.
- Continue to promote temporary docking location for cruise ships.

Riverview Place

General Information:

Small (0.77 acres) park designated as an informal boat launch for canoes and kayaks.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the feasibility of park expansion. This may include, property purchase, installation of a parking lot, and formal boat launch facility.

Triangle Sports Area

General Information:

This (31.29 acres) special use facility consists of, a ski hill, tubing hill, disc golf course, bike skills course, and a rentable shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Repair erosion issues around the disc golf course tees and baskets.
- Continue to coordinate with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation on prairie





restoration and trail improvement efforts in the area.

- Install new snow equipment storage shed and install the necessary permanent utilities to accommodate snow making.
- Install new snow tube storage facility.
- Install gas service to existing shelter.
- Expand parking lot.

Veteran's Memorial Park

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Natural Resource Area Recommendations

Ken Euers Nature Center

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Coordinate other wildlife and habitat restoration projects with other agencies and Public Works.
- Coordinate with Ducks Unlimited to install a northern spawning channel in the bay.
- Improve fishing access.
- Relocate the parking lot.
- Install an overlook tower.
- Improve trails and add ADA-accessibility along the recently improved cells. Complete trail extensions to Bay Port Drive.
- Install overlooks along the water's edge.



- Coordinate to implement National Estuarine Research Reserve System designation components into the site.
- Add a canoe/kayak launch.
- Provide additional environmental and trail signage.
- Continue to work with various agencies to help control the removal of invasive plant species along the bay. Currently the high-water levels are doing a good job controlling invasive vegetation, but they will likely return when the water levels go back to normal.
- Explore the feasibility of creating a second managed waterfowl habitat wetland west of the existing parking lot.

Greenway Recommendations

Baird Creek Greenway

General Information:

Baird Creek Greenway (524.95 acres) includes a combination of facilities including cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails, a multi-use trail, parking areas, nature trails, and a shelter/warming facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue property acquisition prior to development occurring.
- Continue the multi-use trail from Baird Creek Road to Christa McAuliffe Park. Hire a consultant to complete an engineering analysis of the proposed route.
- Continue informal trail development and install boardwalks where necessary.
- Work with mountain bike group to continue maintenance of the existing mountain bike trails and bike skills course.
- Address excessive erosion along the creek and within the greenway.



- Efforts should continue to expand the restoration efforts and find other opportunities for prairie development.
- The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Baird Creek Greenway, completed the Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan. The City will work closely with the Foundation to ensure that all future development corresponds with the master plan objectives.
- Continue to work with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation to secure funding for acquisition, development, and maintenance projects. The City will also work with the group to manage volunteers on various initiatives.
- Add flood storage areas.

Barina Creek Greenway

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway.

Beaver Dam Greenway

General Information:

Small narrow drainage way (54.18 acres) on the west side of Green Bay. Many informal trails have been created throughout the greenway. There is one paved trail connecting Stoneybrook Lane to Beaver Dam Drive.

Proposed Activities:

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

Ellis Creek Greenway South Branch

General Information:

Small (15.31 acres) drainage corridor and storm water retention area with gravel walks.

Proposed Activities:

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

Fox Greenway East Bank

General Information:

This (15.28 acres) greenway is located in the heart of Green Bay's downtown. Most of the Fox River's east bank has been redeveloped over the last 15 years. Recent developments include, CityDeck, The Metreau Apartments, Hagemeister Park, Riverfront Lofts, St. Brendan's Inn, Johnson Bank, and Nicolet

Bank. The City has worked closely with these developers to ensure that the City maintained sufficient greenway corridors with necessary linkages to businesses and the rest of the downtown. The Fox River State Trail is located within this greenway and is one of the most heavily used trails in the state. A sculpture walk was recently added along the trail in the downtown area.

Proposed Activities:

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



- Widen and replace the Fox River Trail near Monroe Avenue and connect the Fox River Trail to the East River Trail.
- Work to develop enhanced seating to support the farmer's markets along the Doty Street right-of-way connection and Fox River Trail.

Fox River Greenway West Bank

General Information:

The (2.20 acres) Fox River West Bank Greenway is located in the heart of downtown Green Bay. The City currently owns property along the bank from Walnut Street to Dousman Street. This greenway is adjacent to, Veteran's Memorial Park, the Neville Museum, and Leicht Memorial Park. This narrow strip of shoreline property consists of, a riprap edge, a brick river walk, and a firefighter's memorial.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a master plan that addresses the potential re-design of Veteran's Memorial Park, a new riverfront walkway, shoreline treatments, along with connections to the Broadway Shopping District, the Neville Museum, and Leicht Memorial Park.
- Actively pursue the relocation of the coal piles.
- Better connect the neighborhood and walkways to The Shipyard.
- Replace brick trail with asphalt walk.

He-Nis-Ra Greenway

General Information:

Large (63.45 acres) drainage corridor and natural area south of He-Nis-Ra Park.

Proposed Activities:

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

Hutchinson Bog

General Information:

This (9.74 acres) wetland area donated to the City adjacent to a new subdivision development. There is very little potential for recreational activities other than a passive trail system.

Proposed Activities:

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

LaCount Creek Greenway

General Information:

This (10.72 acres) small drainage way is located just west of Ted Fritsch Park. Due to the steep topography and mature vegetation this property has minimal recreational potential other than trail use.

Proposed Activities:

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

Mahon Creek Greenway

General Information:

With a direct access to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Arboretum Trail, this (24.54 acres) parcel is connected to one of the most natural largely undisturbed areas to be found along the bay shore.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of adding a trail link under Highway 54-57 to the University's campus.
- When feasible, purchase additional property to the south to extend the

greenway through the entire drainage way and work with property owners to develop conservation easements when purchase is not possible.

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

Newberry Conservancy

General Information:

This (16.66 acres) natural area, immediately east of Preble High School. Small unnamed tributary stream.

Proposed Activities:

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

Nicholson Creek Greenway

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Oneida Creek Greenway

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Willow Creek Greenway North Branch

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Willow Creek Greenway South Branch

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

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

Urban Green Space Recommendations

East River Greenway – North Trail

General Information:

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

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to work with the property owners from Irwin Avenue to Main Street to secure the necessary property and development of the property.
- Install the trail section from Baird Street to Irwin Avenue.
- Repave west bank of trail from Grignon Street to Goodell Street.

West Side Trail Corridor

General Information:

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

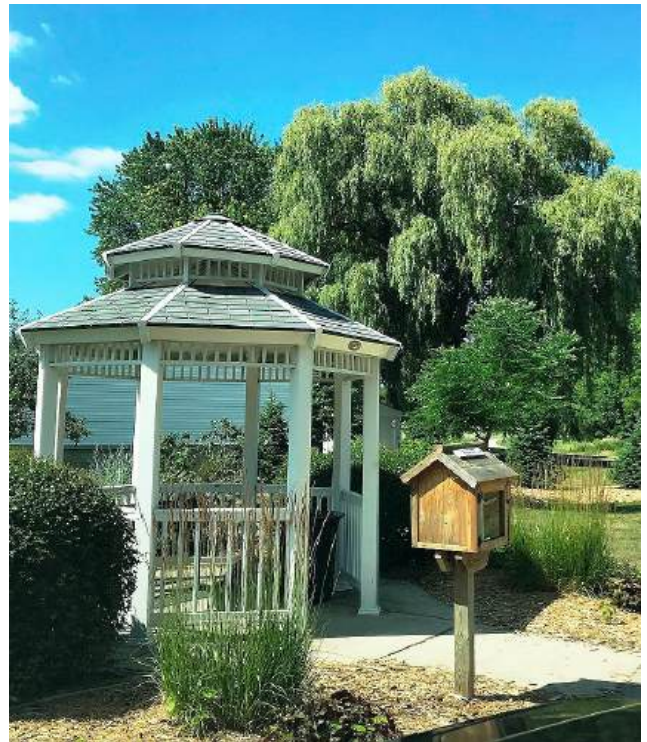
Proposed Activities:

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

Non-Municipal Area Recommendations

Green Bay Area Public School District

The school system and park system of Green Bay have a long history of cooperation over the



years. This of course should continue in the future on jointly used park/school facilities. Whenever feasible, new schools should continue to be built in conjunction with neighborhood park facilities. This avoids unnecessary expenditures and duplication of facilities and provides larger expanses of open space. More cooperation is needed, however, in developing recreational facilities in school sites not adjacent to parks. With the recent consolidation of the school system there is a possibility for park expansion opportunities on the sites where the schools are closing. We should take this opportunity to resolve many of the park/school boundary issues.

Oneida Nation Reservation Lands

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

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

Niagara Escarpment Scenic Pathway

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

Northeast Business Park

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

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

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

Cooke Park

The site is owned by the City of Green Bay and leased/maintained by the National Railroad Museum. Although the City has ownership of the land the City does not manage the Park. The City should continue to support future efforts by the National Railroad Museum to expand and improve the museum.

Operations and Maintenance Recommendations

The City of Green Bay is very similar to many other communities in Wisconsin in the fact that it is often times easier to secure funding to build new facilities than it is to maintain existing facilities. Historically, it seems as though shelters, paving, athletic fields, and landscaping have suffered the most through budget constraints. It is not only difficult to find adequate funding for materials and supplies, but it can be just as difficult to find the available staff to complete the work. Over the last 15 years the Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has been very proactive in securing annual funding to begin renovating aging park facilities. This process should continue over the next five years. Whenever a new facility is proposed within the park system the City should analyze the current staffing levels and propose amendments if necessary.

Shelters

The Green Bay Parks Department currently maintains 16 open shelters without restrooms and 42 shelters with restrooms. The PRF has executed a considerable amount of shelter improvements regarding, ADA-accessibility, restroom modifications, and the installation

of vandal resistant materials, as well as automatic locks on restrooms. The City should continue to secure funding on an annual basis to keep the shelters current and in good condition, as well as continue the addition of automatic locks on restroom doors.

Paving

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

Athletic Field Renovations and Maintenance

Approximately, 15 years ago the Green Bay Parks Department began annual budgeting to correct the many years of deferred athletic field maintenance. Many fields need new fencing, player benches, bleachers, sports lighting, grading, drainage improvements, etc. The City has recently dedicated a large amount of funding to improve the ball fields and create athletic field complexes. This process should continue over the next five years to encourage first class athletic fields in Green Bay.

Planting and Plant Maintenance

Landscaping is ongoing in the park system, in order to replace diseased, overgrown, or inappropriate plant materials. Plant renovation does not mean extensive planting, but rather,

carefully thought-out landscaping to accentuate spaces, as well as provide shade and buffers. Most parks in the City could use some form of plantings to enhance existing spaces or create new passive areas. Another planting priority should be to establish and protect more natural areas or convert underutilized turf areas to natural areas. These areas are extremely valuable for passive recreation, environmental education, wildlife habitat, climate moderation, ground water regeneration, and control of stormwater runoff. With the increased awareness of non-point source pollution, the Parks Department should promote more unmowed areas within the parks. In addition, the City should continue to promote the planting of native vegetation and prairie development. Due to the shortage of funds, park staff is often working with private groups within the community to plant and maintain the plant beds and native plantings throughout the City. The City has also been reducing the number of annual beds and relying more on perennial flowers and grasses to reduce labor and maintenance costs. All these measures should continue.





Urban Forest

The Forestry Division of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is responsible for maintaining the urban forest within the City's public lands including all of the trees within the parks and along City street rights-of-way. The Forestry Division conducts a regular schedule of mulching and pruning and monitors trees for signs of insect/disease and decline to ensure trees do not pose a safety risk. The Forestry Division annually removes and replaces trees as needed. They also operate a tree nursery where all of the City trees are cared for until they are ready to plant. The Forestry Division should continue to be funded and staffed to ensure a well-maintained urban forest for the many benefits it provides. The Forestry Departments should develop a policy for the enhancement of Urban Tree Canopy (UTC). Promoting a diverse, sustainable UTC provides economic and environmental benefits to the residents and visitors of Green Bay. Efforts to replant and restore the UTC lost to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) should be a priority to ensure a sustainable UTC exists into the future.

Emerald Ash Borer

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

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

Forestry crews have been active reducing the ash tree population with pre-emptive removals and removals of infested ash trees to keep the population of EAB as low as possible to continue the "slow the spread" campaign. To date, forestry crews have removed approximately 5,000 ash street trees. Current ash tree representation is ~8% of the city street tree population. This level of species representation is considered healthy and sustainable. These trees continue to be treated on a regular schedule to help protect them from becoming infested by EAB. In the coming years the EAB population will crash due to the lower number of ash trees on the landscape. This population crash will help the remaining ash trees rebound from insect attacks and help improve the overall health and vigor of the remaining ash trees.

In the past, the City of Green Bay has partnered with the WIDNR and the Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to create a parasitic wasp release program to further slow the spread of EAB in areas where insecticide treatments are not practical. These small stingless parasitic wasps specifically target EAB adults and larvae to naturally decrease the populations of EAB in environmentally sensitive areas. These tiny insects are no bigger than mosquitos and their sole mission is to seek out and attack EAB populations. Reproducing populations of these beneficial insects will remain, if EAB populations persist. This program helps to reduce the number of EAB in natural areas. Once the EAB population crashes, the population of these insects will also crash.

In the next five years Green Bay Forestry will continue a multi-pronged approach in its continued effort to manage this devastating pest. By the end of the next five-year cycle all pre-emptive removals will be complete and the remaining desirable trees will be on treatment protocol that will treat over half the ash tree population annually to provide the most effective protection from EAB. The ultimate goal is to have a healthy ash tree population representing no more than 10% of the street tree population.

The latest implementation to our ash tree program is wood utilization. Past practice of disposing woody material produced during tree removal was for all ash wood to be tub ground into wood chips. Tub grinding all ash wood prevented the spread of EAB through firewood and the seasoned wood chips were utilized in the City parks. Given the amount of wood chips produced and the fact that the ash wood was still a very usable material, Green Bay Forestry has implemented a wood utilization

program that finds the best use for woody material produced during tree removal. Ash wood is now being used in several markets including, paper pulp, pallet material, railroad switch ties, furniture, dimensional lumber, flooring, and artisanal work. Proceeds from the sale of ash wood are put back into the forestry program to offset the costs of tree planting and tree maintenance for the trees replacing the ash trees that have been removed.





Chapter 6: Funding and Implementation

In this Chapter

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding Mechanisms |
|--|--|

Overview

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

At the first possible opportunity any property identified for purchase should be placed on the Official City Map to reserve the right for

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

Funding Mechanisms

Direct City Funding

The City will continue to budget for projects through department budgets or secure bonding for the development of park and

recreational facilities on a yearly basis as identified in priority plans. Additional dollars and/or dedicated lands for park development can be acquired through the land division and development process in expanding urban areas of the City.

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

Grants

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

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

User Fees and Concessions

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

Foundations and Volunteer Efforts

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

The City has also been successful in partnering with local corporations such as the Green Bay Packers to fund the purchase of materials and equipment for playgrounds and to provide employee volunteers to assist with installation. Local construction and supply companies have also provided donations of materials and construction services. Many new playgrounds have been built through

these partnerships. In addition, the Green Bay Area Public School District has partnered with the City on both development projects and recreational programming at all the school locations.

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

The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary

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

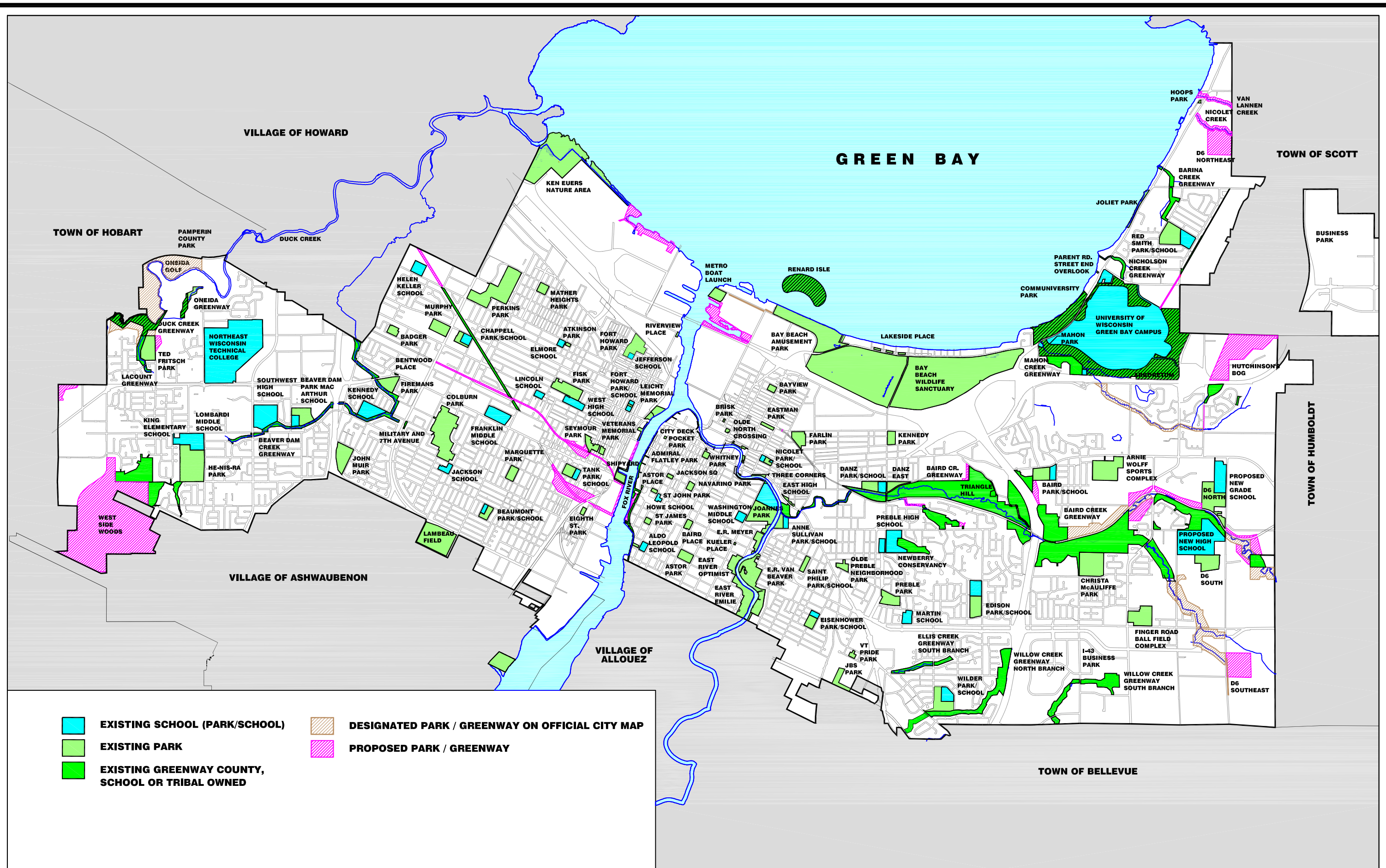
The Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park

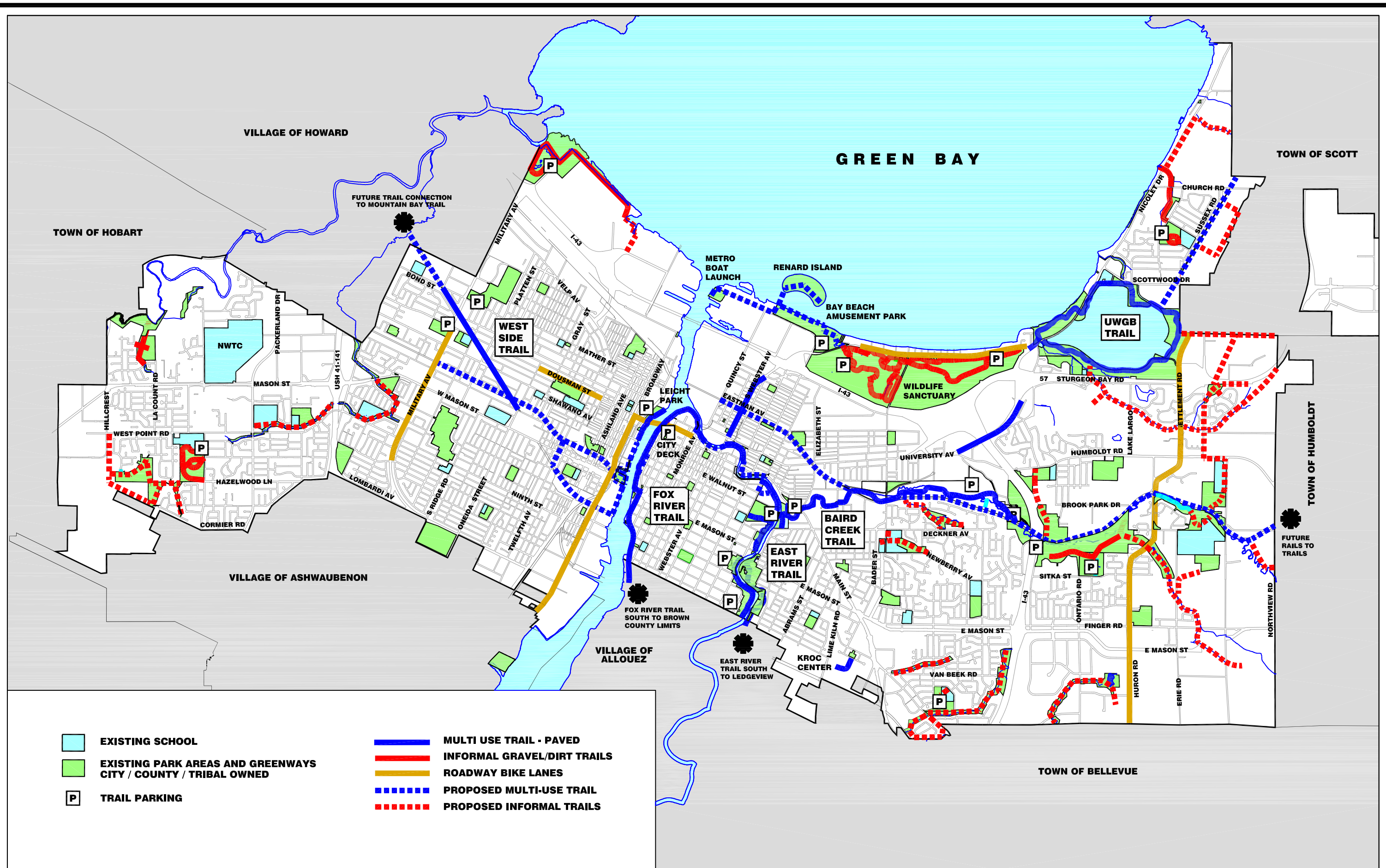
In 2012 in conjunction with an updated master plan, the City created a special revenue fund for Bay Beach Amusement Park. Bay Beach is now responsible to pay all of its operating expenses, but in return it is able to retain all of the revenue generated from the park instead of it going back into the City's general fund. Therefore, monies generated at the park will stay in the park to pay for continued improvements. In addition, a Friends of Bay Beach group was formed with a mission of generating

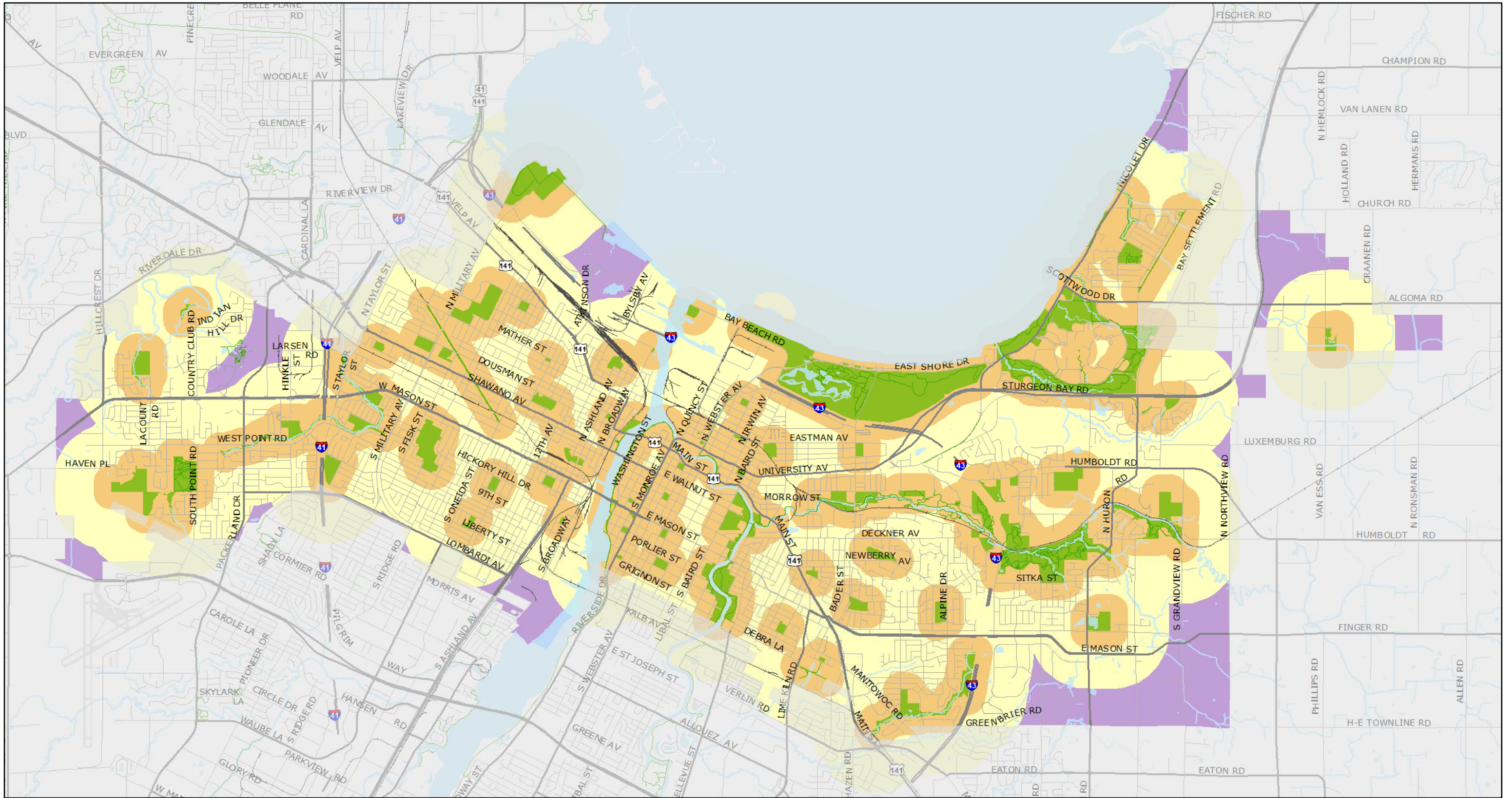
fundraising dollars specifically to fund various capital projects and help implement elements of the master plan over the next ten years. These changes have put the park in a good position to fund its master plan elements and continue expansion in the coming years.

Sponsorship

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



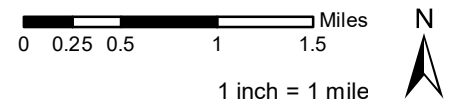




Map 4 Distances from Green Space

This is a compilation of records and data located in various City of Green Bay offices and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City of Green Bay is not responsible for any inaccuracies or unauthorized use of the information contained within. No warranties are implied. Map prepared by City of Green Bay Department of Community and Economic Development. E.R. 10 Feb 2025 X:\Planning\Work Order Requests\2024\24.18 Parks 5yr Plan\NRPA_Distances.mxd

- Green Space
- Trails
- Areas within 0.2 miles/300m from Green Space
- 0.6 miles/1km from Green Space
- Areas over 0.6 miles/1km from Green Space





Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.6

Consideration with possible action on a Resolution Adopting the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2025-2029.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Draft Resolution for Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
GREEN BAY PARK, RECREATION,
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2025-2029**

April 15, 2025

BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN BAY:

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Green Bay Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2025-2029, on file with the Clerk and Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, is hereby adopted.

Adopted _____

Approved _____

Eric Genrich, Mayor

Celestine Jeffreys, Clerk



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.7

Consideration with possible action on the approval of a Resolution authorizing applications for Outdoor Recreation Aids for the East River Emilie Park Nature-Based Flood Resilience & Recreational Access Project.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Resolution Knowles - Nelson Stewardship Grant East River Emilie Park
2. Form 8700-191
3. Concept Designs_ER Emilie Park_09 2024

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS FOR
OUTDOOR RECREATION AIDS FOR THE EAST RIVER
EMILIE PARK NATURE-BASED FLOOD RESILIENCE &
RECREATIONAL ACCESS PROJECT**

April 15, 2025

BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN BAY:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Common Council for the City of Green Bay to develop lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the attached application; and

WHEREAS, the project is described as Outdoor Recreation Aids for the East River Emilie Park Nature-Based Flood Resilience & Recreational Access Project, and further described on the attached application cover sheet; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned grant is desired as one source of financial aid to help carry out the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City does hereby authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry or their designee, to act on behalf of the City of Green Bay to:

- Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available related to the Outdoor Recreation Aids for the East River Emilie Park Nature-Based Flood Resilience & Recreational Access Project.
- Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date.
- Submit signed documents; and
- Take necessary actions to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Green Bay will comply with state or federal rules for the programs; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Adopted _____

Approved _____

Eric Genrich, Mayor

**Stewardship Local Assistance, Federal Land & Water
Conservation Fund, & Recreational Trails Program
Grant Application**

Form 8700-191 (R 01/2025)

Page 1 of 6

Notice: Use of this form is required by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for any application filed pursuant to ss. NR 50.06, NR 50.21, and NR 51, Subchapters XI-XV, Wis. Adm. Code. Personal identifiable information will only be used in conjunction with the programs listed above. If you have any questions contact your local community service specialist. Personally identifiable information provided on this form will be used for program administration and will be available to requesters as required under Wisconsin's Public Records Law [ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stats.].

Applicant		Individual Authorized to Act on Behalf of Applicant	
City of Green Bay		Dan Ditscheit	
Street or PO Box		Title	
100 North Jefferson St		Parks, Recreation and Forestry Dept. Director	
City, State, Zip Code		Telephone Number	Mobile Number
Green Bay WI 54301		(920) 448-3381	
County		E-Mail Address	
Brown		Dan.Ditscheit@greenbaywi.gov	

Grant Payment Information:

ACH Payment Email Address or ☐ Check Mailing Address (if different from applicant)

Finance@greenbaywi.gov	Name	Address		
	Organization:	City	State	ZIP Code

Section 1: Project Information

Financial Summary

Grant Programs Applicant is Eligible For: (refer to eligibility chart in program guidance)

Note: If an applicant is awarded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding, additional Stewardship and Land and Water Conservation funding will not be awarded even if the project is eligible for these programs. The RTP grant award maximum is \$100,000.

☒ Stewardship ☒ Land and Water Conservation Funding ☐ Recreational Trails Program

Project Type (select one) ☐ Acquisition ☒ Development ☐ Rehabilitation ☐ Maintenance

Project Title: East River Emilie Park Nature-Based Flood Resilience & Recreational Access Project

Financial Summary
(Manually complete blue boxes)

Grant Request STEW/LWCF (up to 50%)	Grant Request RTP (up to 80%)
\$244,046	

Match Sources

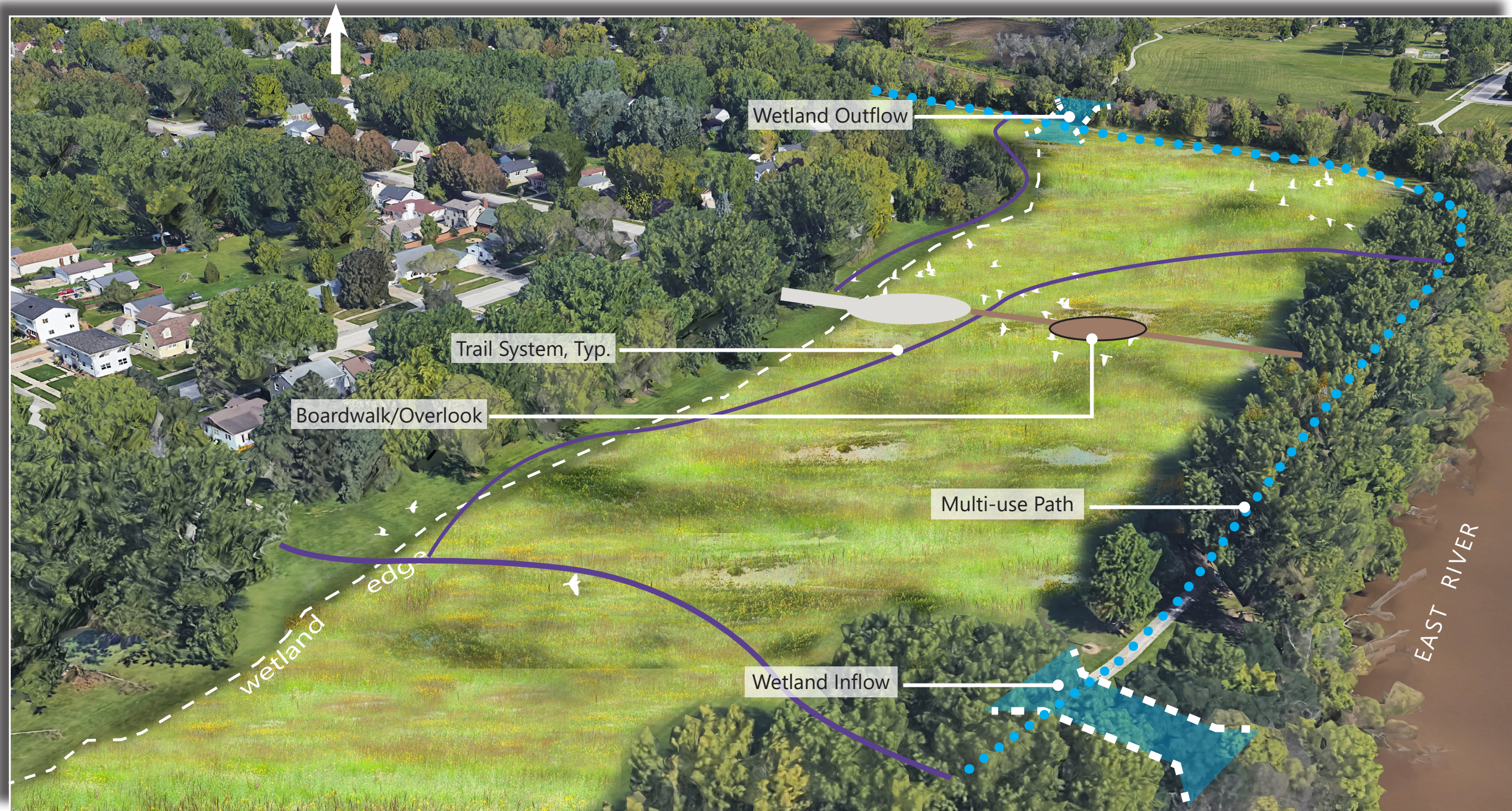
Sponsor Funds (Cash and/or Force Account)	\$94,047	
Donations (Cash, Labor, Materials, Equipment)		
Other (list): Fund for Lake Michigan	\$150,000	
Total Sponsor Match:		
	\$244,047	
Total Project Costs STEW/LWCF		
	\$488,093	
Total Project Costs RTP		

Project Location

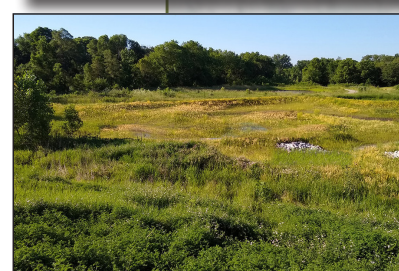
Township	Range	☒ E ☐ W	Section	1/4 1/4	1/4	GPS Coordinates (Decimal Degrees):	County
23 N	21		6			Lat: 44.4922 Long: -87.9966	Brown
UEI # (12 digits)						Congressional/Legislative District Numbers	
ZCUZDCHFP7C6						WI Senate 30	WI Assembly 90 US Congress 8

Census Tract #: 55009001600

(Go to <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>; zoom in on location and click to get Census Tract #)



Perspective View



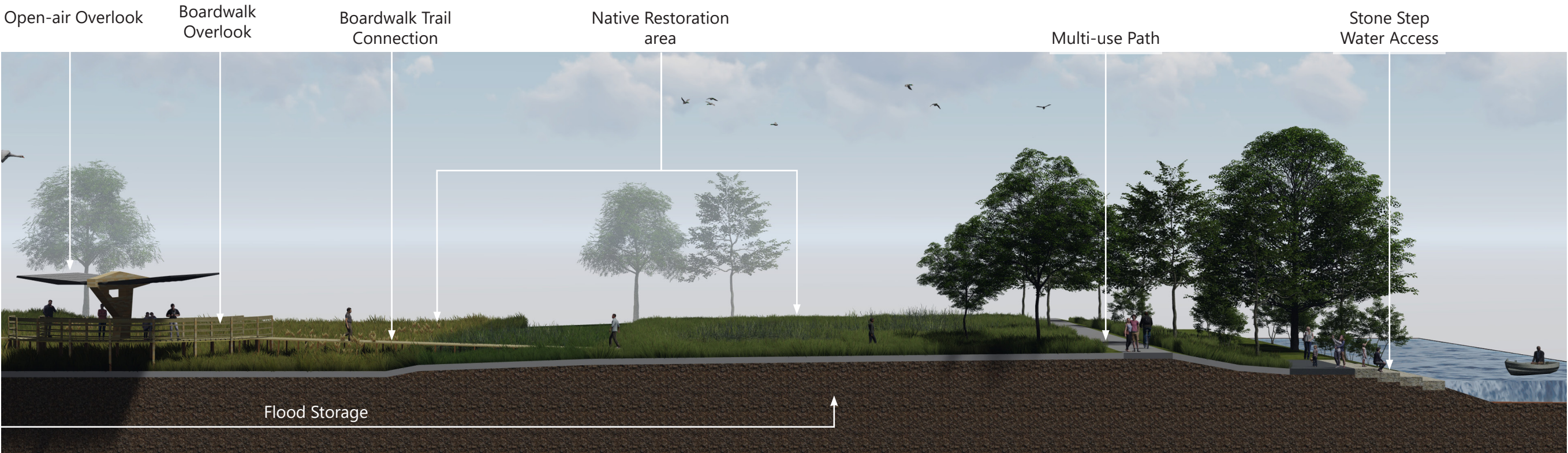
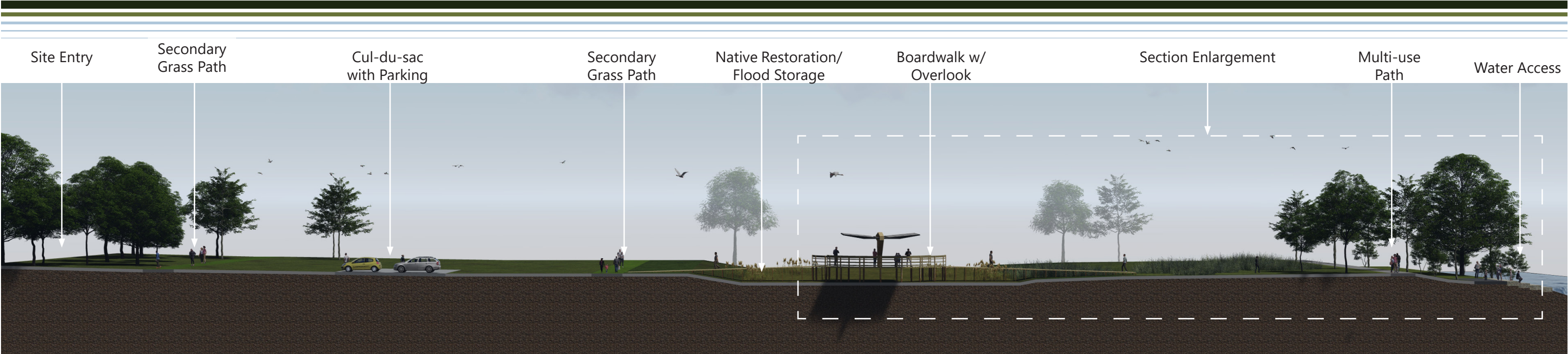
Plan View



GREEN BAY

East River Flood Mitigation

East River Emilie Park





Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # E.8

Consideration with possible action on the purchase of (1) New 2026 International MV607 Chassis from International Motors, LLC for a total cost of \$96,763.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

I. 20250402165949844

International Motors, LLC is pleased to provide you with this proposal compliant with all terms of the Sourcwell Vehicles and Chassis Contract #032824-NVS awarded formerly to Navistar, Inc now International Motors, LLC for new International truck(s). If you have any questions regarding enrollment in Sourcwell or detailed contract terms and conditions, please see your local International Dealer sales representative.

PROPOSAL PREPARED FOR:		PROPOSAL PREPARED BY:
Sourcwell Member:	City of Green Bay Parks	PCI
Contact:	Troy VanHandel	Mark Winkler
Address:	100 North Jefferson Street	1695 E Green Bay St
City/State/Zip:	Green Bay, WI 54301	Shawano, WI 54166
Phone:	920-448-3005	715-524-3171
Email:	troy.vanhandel@greenbaywi.gov	mwinkler@pcitrucks.com

Proposal Number	14153
Date	3/26/2025
Quantity of this Specification	1
Single Sourcwell Transaction Total Volume	1

Chassis	
New 2026 International MV607 Chassis	\$ 139,039.78
Base Chassis List	\$ 113,929.00
Options List	\$ 25,110.78
Sourcwell Contract Discount 30.3%	\$ (42,155.67)
Volume Incentive	\$ -
Material Price Increases	\$ -
Net Sourcwell Chassis Price	\$ 96,884.11
Sourcwell Partner Body	
	\$ -
Handling Fee 4.00%	\$ -
Non-Sourcwell Dealer Supplied Body	
	\$ -
Handling Fee 5.00%	\$ -
Additional Post Build Work	
Battery switch	\$ 1,095.00
rustproofing	\$ 1,000.00
Handling Fee 5.00%	\$ 104.75
Service Contracts	
frame	\$ 690.00
	\$ -
	\$ -
Additional Freight	
	\$ -
	\$ -
Additional Floorplan	
Floor plan	\$ 725.00
	\$ -
Additional Fees & Taxes	
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
Final Sourcwell Per Vehicle Price FOB Shawano	\$ 96,763.00
Final Sourcwell Total Vehicle(s) Price	\$ 96,763.00
Additional Sourcwell Qualified Content	
Silver Package Award	\$1,200

Terms:

Stock unit in dealer's inventory, dealer will accept a final purchase order using the current Sourcwell pricing quoted above.

Dealer placing a new orders for the Sourcwell Member, the purchase order cannot be firmed up until the unit is slotted to build with a firm build date or lineset.

Once a firm build date has been established, dealer will provide the Sourcwell Member approved pricing and a final purchase order can be accepted with firm pricing.

Dealer cannot guarantee bodies and/or equipment pricing added to the chassis for a turnkey sale until chassis is lineset.



Report to the
Parks Committee
of the City of Green Bay

MEETING DATE

April 9, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # F.I

Director's Report on updates and recent activities of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Director's Report 04.09

**PARKS COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025**

PARK DIVISION

- With winter beginning to leave us we have wrapped up our ice making operation for the season. This year was one of our better years for ice making.
- Park staff have been out in the parks picking litter, cleaning up brush, and emptying garbages on a daily basis.
- The Park shelter rental season begins on April 5th. Park staff have been cleaning and sprucing up the shelters in anticipation of the rental season.
- Staff have begun preparations for the NFL draft within our parks. Planning has begun for the necessary prep work for the large concert events at Leicht Park. We are also cleaning all of the parks and picking garbage in the roundabouts.
- Crews are in the process of painting the main entry way and locker rooms inside of the Resch Aquatic Center.
- Park crews have been at Bay Beach working on the grounds in anticipation of the upcoming 2025 season. This includes improving a few planting beds and mulching of the tree rings and landscape beds.
- Staff are in the process of going through the picnic tables, repairing broken boards and giving the tables a fresh coat of paint.
- Park carpenters continue to work on smaller shelter renovations at the Marquette shelter including tiling the floors and painting the bathrooms. Renovations at the Ft. Howard shelter bathrooms and Colburn 9th bathrooms have been completed.
- Park Carpenters have been working at the Woodland building to renovate the staff bathroom.
- Park supervisors continue to have interviews for summer seasonal positions. Staff are reaching out to previous summer employees to see if they are interested in working for us again in 2025.

FORESTRY DIVISION

- Crews are working on cycle pruning on the east side, near the HS Baird neighborhood. Typical cycle pruning includes raising tree limbs for clearance, deadwood pruning and structure pruning to help reduce the chances of breakage during storms. Dormant oak pruning has been suspended until October throughout the city, per the oak wilt pruning ban. The ban for pruning oaks extends until October 15th.
- Forestry staff continue to work with IT staff on transferring our tree inventory to a GIS format.
- The tree removal operation is currently on the far west side of the city. This includes the Fritsch Park and Beaver Dam Park neighborhoods.
- Staff are busy coordinating and planning for spring tree planting, Emerald Ash Borer treatments, Arbor Day events, Earth Day events, and coordinating with DPW and Water Utility for the upcoming construction season.

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- Staff reviewed the final set of bid documents for the HVAC upgrades for the Bay Beach Amusement Park pavilion. After the consultant makes the final changes, the project will be put out to bid for fall construction.
- The Friends of Bay Beach have hired a contractor for the construction of the West End Train expansion and proposed restroom. Construction is well underway.
- Staff are working with a consultant to complete the wildlife viewing platform and shoreline walk construction plans for Bay Beach Amusement Park.
- Shipyard Phase II design work has begun. The consultant is in the process of finalizing the master plan and developing rough cost estimates for construction.
- Planning continues for the Joliet Park Area of Concern habitat restoration project. A community input meeting to review the final design is being planned.
- Staff are working with the Department of Public Works on planning for the wetland project at East River Van Beaver Park.
- Staff have submitted final bid document review comments to the consultant for the Main Street East River Trail project.
- Construction of the Seymour Park west stormwater development continues.
- Construction of the JBS Park/Boulevard continues.
- The consultant has been selected for the Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Renard Island Nearshore Area. Design work will begin soon.
- The consultant is actively working on the redesign of the Leicht Park shelter project.
- The ballfield lighting is being installed at Perkins Park.
- One bid was received for the snow groomer storage building at Triangle Hill Sports Area. The bid was significantly over the allocated budget. Staff is reviewing options.

GREEN BAY CONSERVATION CORPS

- The Community Corps staff have continued to hold stakeholder meetings to plan and design the new AmeriCorps program.
- Staff and members attended “AmeriCorps Day at the Capital,” where they met with various elected officials on Wednesday, March 19th.
- Four new members started on March 17th. Staff have started actively recruiting for the summer positions and have begun interviewing.
- Members continue to maintain the plants in the greenhouse. An estimated 4,000+ plants have begun sprouting. These plants will be installed at Farlin Park around the art sculptures.
- Members continue to cut and remove invasive woody species, such as buckthorn, from the Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS).
- Members have begun efforts to deter geese from nesting at Shipyard and Leicht Park in preparation for the NFL Draft.
- Staff and members installed live stacks throughout the WLS in areas of invasive removal to encourage native shrub cover. Members also spread native seeds in these areas.

- Members burned the woody invasive debris at the WLS to create biochar for tree plantings this spring.
- Staff trained members on proper trailer operations and safety protocols.
- Staff received a grant from Wild One's to purchase more plants for the Farlin Park planting.
- Members have started training for the spring frog and toad surveys, which will begin in late April/early May.
- Staff and members have begun planning for Earth Day. This year, there will be two Earth Day events hosted by the Green Bay Conservation Corps – a volunteer day on April 22nd and an Environmental Fair on April 26th. More details will be released soon.
- Members continue to complete Disaster Response training through Serve Wisconsin.
- Staff received a grant award to fund a large-scale volunteer effort for the NFL Draft. This will result in additional trail work, restoration, and beautification projects. Planning has begun for these events.
- In preparation for volunteer events during the Draft, members have started completing quality assessments on the park system to ensure post-Draft conditions are equal or better than pre-Draft conditions.

RECREATION DIVISION

- We will be offering Men's Slow-pitch, Co-Ed Slow-pitch and Men's Modified softball leagues at Beaver Dam Park. The season is scheduled to begin the week of May 5th.
- Registration is currently taking place for our recreation summer day camps at the WLS. The camps will run for 8 weeks, Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and is scheduled to begin the week of June 16th. Field trips will take place on Thursdays. Classes are limited to 15 participants.
- We are accepting job applications for Camp Instructors, Softball Umpires, and Site Supervisors.
- Youth Soccer Skills registration is ongoing, and the program will begin April 14th at Edison Middle School.
- Interviews for Playground leaders have started. Playgrounds is looking for 13 summer staff.
- Interviews for our Playground Assistant Manager position have started.
- Summer Dance class registration started April 1st, we will be offering 5 classes throughout the summer, 2 of those 5 being brand new offerings (Intro to Theatre & Summer Poms Clinic).
- Recreation Staff has been working very closely with On Broadway and other City staff to plan for the City sponsored Draft events.
 - Field Fest at East High City Stadium – April 23
 - WPS Foundation Draft Kickoff Concert Event – April 23, 4:00pm-11:00pm.
 - Eighth Round Downtown Concert Event – April 26, 5:00pm-Midnight.
 - Bay Beach Amusement Park – April 23-April 26, Noon – 6:30pm.

AQUATICS

- Rehire information has been sent out. We also sent out cards to returning staff as a

fun reminder to complete their paperwork and secure their position.

- Staff are continuing to develop a plan for lifeguard recruitment. Along with the cards to returning staff, we sent out "tag a friend" cards as a tool to encourage staff to have their friends apply. Both the staff member and friend applying will put their name on the card and the person applying will bring it to the interview and both people will be entered into a raffle.
- Applications for Facility Attendants and Lifeguards are active; we have begun hiring new staff and interviews will continue.
- Staff are creating an in-house CPR class to train staff yearly in alignment with the recent code update that CPR certification must be completed annually, it was previously done biannually.
- Staff are beginning to plan a dog swim event for the end of summer, more details to come.
- Staff are creating a Facility Attendant training manual.
- Staff are working on developing a plan for private swim lessons and a streamlined registration.
- Group swim lesson registration is to be released on Friday, April 4th.

BAY BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

- The park will open for the NFL Draft on Wednesday, April 23 – April 26. We will then be open for weekends starting on April 3.
- Concessions and Shelters.
 - We are working with vendors to get new products.
 - Areas will get cleaned once the water is turned on.
- Rides.
 - Nebulaz: We are expecting delivery of the parts needed to repair the ride in mid-May. The manufacturer will send a staff member to assist Park mechanics with the repair.
 - Sea Dragon: Staff are working with Hydraulic Solutions on valve replacement.
 - West Train: Park mechanics are nearly completed with the train renovations. The contractor is onsite installing the tracks and stations.
 - Scat: The necessary welding work has been completed.
 - All rides have been put up and we will begin inspections in the next few weeks as the weather cooperates.
- Inclusive Playground.
 - Finalizing the donation plaque should happen this week.
 - On nice days, there are plenty of families utilizing the playground.
- Staffing.
 - Activated accounts: 168 (waiting for 9 more).
 - No paperwork started: 9.
 - Started paperwork: 22.
 - 100% completed: 146.
 - Working with summer intern to create special events for the 2025 season.
 - Interviews.
 - Concessions (positions are full).

- 197 total applicants.
- 152 interviews scheduled or completed.
- Ride Operator (still need to hire 17 employees).
 - 87 total applicants.
 - 53 interviews scheduled.
 - 10 interviews scheduled.

Metro Boat Launch

- The docks have been installed.
- The Pay Station is open, and we are taking payments.
- Annual passes are on sale in the Parks and Recreation Office.

Triangle Sports Area

- We closed on March 3rd as the weather warmed up and the bottom of the hill became very wet.
- Floors in the main chalet were cleaned and prepared for April rentals.

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Program schedules are set for Earth Day on Sunday, April 27th. This is a free family friendly event with staff providing educational programs with live animals in and around our enclosures.
- Upgrades are nearly completed to improved Woodland Building restroom and animal food prep area. New counters were installed in Observation Building food prep area.
- The first orphaned wildlife babies of season are starting to arrive in sanctuary's R-PAWS (rehabilitation) program.
- WLS added a new coyote to the coyote exhibit along with current coyote resident Reina. Staff is having great success with the introduction process.
- New Kestrel, porcupines, and Pacman frog ambassadors added to captive animal collection.
- Thee Corn price increase has been well received overall. The majority of the patron feedback we received have not minded the increase as visiting the park and exhibits continue to remain free.

ADMINISTRATION

- Reservations for shelter rentals are open for 2025, and we are getting a great response.
- Staff are continuing to support special event requests, with an emphasis on the NFL Draft.
- The 2025 hiring season has begun. We have rehired and offered positions to our returning staff, and many have already accepted and done their paperwork. All seasonal positions are now up and accepting 2025 applicants.

- Gift cards are available to purchase by phone, mailed, or in person in our office.
- Metal Detecting Permits are available for purchase online, or in person in our office.
- Pool passes are now available for purchase online, or in person in our office.
- Posted social media events, programs, and information.
- Summer Dance programs are open for registration effective April 1st.
- Annual swim classes are open for registration online, in person, or by calling the Parks and Recreation Office effective April 4th for residents.
- Annual Metro Boat passes are now available in the Parks and Recreation Office for the 2025 season.