

Town of Caledonia

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2022 – 2026



June, 2022

Prepared by the Town of Caledonia Task Force and Martenson & Eisele, Inc.
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2022 – 2026 Town of Caledonia Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was updated by the Caledonia Task Force with the assistance of Martenson & Eisele, Inc.

VISION

“To create places to play, be healthy and build community, with opportunities to grow, while retaining the Township’s rural character.”

CORP TASK FORCE

The Task Force is composed of eleven citizen members and met approximately once a month for the purpose of updating the 2017-2022 CORP.

2022 TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Abba, Town Chairperson
Carol Dobija, Supervisor
Vance Knuth, Supervisor
Emily A Miller, Clerk
Karen Kipitzke, Treasurer

2022 TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Helen - Chair
Carol Dobija - Town board representative
Gloria Bigalke - 4H and youth representative
Dale Diley-MCD Lions representative
Natalie Snyder- Friends of Readfield Park representative
Lorie Stoltz- Friends of Readfield Park representative
Tammy McCartney- Friends of Readfield Park representative
Susan Gruetzmacher- Resident
Pat Hull- retired town of Menasha park employee
Dick Gamble- Park 2 neighbor
Jason West- Park 2 neighbor

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Town of Caledonia, is a small community that wishes to provide recreational opportunities for its residents. In providing a strong basis for future land use planning, the town's comprehensive plan recognizes the importance of maintaining the overall semblance of rural living and the accompanying high quality of life its residents enjoy.



As the town creates its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), it is focused on preserving its natural resource base and other important open space areas so that future generations can enjoy its rural flavor. Accommodations that promote opportunities for safe bicycling and walking, both for recreation and transportation, have also become highly prized quality of life amenities for town residents. A key challenge of the CORP Task Force, therefore, is to provide town residents with safe and convenient access to a broad range of recreational opportunities.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of Caledonia's population according to the 2021 Census is 1,726. It is located in the southeast corner of Waupaca County, Wisconsin. The unincorporated communities of Readfield and North Readfield are within its boundaries. Dale Township is located to the east, with Mukwa to the north, Weyauwega-Fremont and the Village of Fremont to the west and Wolf River to the south. Caledonia is a mix of wooded, agricultural, and residential property with some light industrial enterprises. Geographical features include a distinct ridge near the center of the town and the Wolf River in the northwest corner. The town's terrain is relatively flat to gently rolling. Scattered wooded areas, totaling 7,304.9 acres and 5666.9 acres of agricultural land make up the town's 28 square mile land mass. Much of the Wolf River shoreline is wooded and also includes Wisconsin DNR owned lands. The Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area and the REM Wolf River

Colic Slough as well as State Habitat Areas are public open lands. Southwest of USH 10, and north of the county line, a 44 acre parcel (Klemp Property) was recently purchased through the Stewardship Program to be part of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area. (See Map 4)

Of the town's 17,921.92 acres, 11.62% of the land is developed (2082.84 acres). Single family residential makes up 11.8% of the developed acreage (245.83 acres). Commercial development, industrial areas, and institutional uses such as parks and public facilities each comprise less than 7 percent of the developed land (119.38 Acres). The main uses in the remaining acreage are woodlands, with 40.78% of the town's total acreage, croplands at 31.91% and vacant and/or undeveloped land, with 12.93%.

Information for the CORP relative to the community must be gathered to determine areas that would benefit from outdoor recreation development to meet the goals of the people within the Township. This information includes demographics, land use, parks, usage, open space, trails, and environmentally sensitive areas as well as recommendations identified by the Task Force and a 5-year action plan to implement some of the identified needs within the Township. Data in this document follows the state guidelines to ensure that any projects identified may be eligible for grant funding.

HISTORY OF RECREATION PLANNING

The *Town of Caledonia Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 2022-2026* provides guidance for future parks and open space development and acquisition which are intended to improve the quality of life for town residents. Parks, trails, and open space including wetlands, woodlands, stream corridors, and other natural resources provide opportunities for recreating, preserving and enhancing the environment, and shaping the character of a community. Implementation of this plan, over time, will provide the town with a park and open space system which is designed to meet the needs of its citizens both in types of facilities and distribution of those facilities.

Future needs are based upon the identified goals and strategies and consideration of public survey findings completed in November 2021. Recommendations for amenity improvements, future parks, and development are given. Costs and funding options are explored. This plan sets forth priorities for implementation for the 2022 to 2026 planning period, and provides eligibility for various state-funded recreational programs. One area of emphasis for this plan update will be to concentrate on the 46.8-acre land area located in S. 2 T.21N. R.14E. between Meartz Road and Bean City Road for the development of a new town park. The land was donated in 2021 by Ivan and Jeanette Gruetzmacher for the purpose of developing a second park in the Township with unique attractions for the Town residents. Additional considerations will be given to address the issue of connecting the subdivisions east of Readfield to the school property by a trail system and connecting the County identified biking trail routes to additional roadways to extend the biking opportunity and provide destination areas along the routes.

This plan is an extension of *The Town of Caledonia Year 2040 Comprehensive Plan, (adopted May 11, 2021)* that provides a community wide vision through the year 2040. This plan addresses park and open space needs for the community and provides a broad vision of the town's recreational system for the 20-year span. It evaluates the current park, open spaces, and the need for additional facilities. The current park and open space amenities within the system

are reviewed for improvements. Future parks and open space needs are determined through analysis of projected 2040 population figures and forecasts to anticipate additional lands or facilities which are needed to serve 2040 population levels and population concentrations.

The Town Board and Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) are responsible for carrying out the action plan. Implementation will be achieved through land dedication, recreational grant funds, fees, and budgetary allotments. Decisions for funding are made through the budget process, and are based on available funds and consideration of a variety of activities and projects needing town financial resources. This plan was prepared by the Town of Caledonia CORP Park Task Force with assistance from Martenson & Eisele, Inc. and should not be considered a budgetary document, but rather an advisory guide for future outdoor recreation opportunities within the Town.

PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The purpose of this plan is to develop a five-year and long-range action program that can continue to guide the growth of the town's park system as the population within the community expands and the desire for diverse outdoor recreational activities change. Before creating the action program, the plan inventories existing parks and facilities, determines deficiencies and surpluses within the system, and identifies future recreational goals as developed by the Town's CORP Task Force. These serve as the cornerstone for formulating general and site-specific recommendations, which provide the basis for all projects included in the action program. As mentioned earlier, a second purpose of the plan is to satisfy the requirements identified in many of the available local, state and federal funding programs. To be eligible for funding the Town of Caledonia CORP must identify potential projects and rationale as to why the projects will be beneficial for the community as a whole. Once the CORP is approved, the town will be eligible for state administered funding programs, if available, and cost sharing during the interval of 2022 - 2026.

The success of any type of local planning effort is often dependent on the involvement, support, and active participation of community residents in the plan's preparation. To ensure that a diverse spectrum of citizen viewpoints and concerns contributed to the plan's development, input was solicited from individuals representing a variety of interests through an online survey. The survey data has been included as an appendix to the CORP 2022-2026. The survey was posted on the town website for anyone interested in completing the questions and submitting the completed survey for tabulation. this plan was approved and adopted by the Town of Caledonia Board.

FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Review of Existing Plans

Each of the plans and standards below helped shape the development of the park and open space plan. These plans and standards reflect a body of research conducted by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), the Town of Caledonia, and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

Town of Caledonia 2040 Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Caledonia 2040 Comprehensive Plan (completed by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - ECWRPC), recommends preserving the quality of outdoor recreational pursuits as the need arises with residential development utilizing a subdivision ordinance. It also recommends the implementation of the 2050 East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission long-range transportation/land use plans for the Fox Cities and Oshkosh Urbanized Area 2020.

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities and Oshkosh - Urban Areas

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its long-range transportation/land use plans for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urbanized Areas (adopted in October 2020), identifies a level of service standard for parks.

CORP Task Force Recommendations for Community Center and Park Improvements

This plan, finalized on May 11, 2022, documents the Task Force's suggestions to upgrade items located within the Readfield Park and develop the planning components for the New Park 2. Staffing, funding, and need were looked at to address the possibilities in the future. A slow and steady growth of the population is projected into 2040. Main recommendations include to maintain and improve current facilities and to review again in 3-5 years. The Plan states the willingness of the Town Board to accommodate resident requests as well as to be proactive with the commitment for improvements and implementation as noted in the survey data collected in November, 2021.

Task Force Recommendations for Recreational Facilities at "New Park 2"

The recommendations include driveway access, a 50 parking stalls parking lot, a security system, privacy screening areas, pavilion, pedestrian and bicycling trail systems, ADA accessible trail, wetland restoration, prairie establishment, playground, recreation areas, tennis/pickleball courts, sledding hill, and a cell tower. Additional improvements to be considered in the future include a mountain biking trail and adult fitness area

National Parks and Recreation Association Standards (NRPA)

The National Parks and Recreation Association, has a level of service standards for parks and open space.

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

The SCORP gives guidelines in completing a community's CORP document. It also provides park classifications and level of service standards in guidance with the NRPA.



CHAPTER 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

On January 19, 2022, The Town of Caledonia Park Task Force identified the following S.M.A.R.T.¹ goals and strategies that correlate with the recommendations made herein. These are intended to serve as a guide for the type of park and recreation system residents of the town would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Seven areas of interest/objectives were examined and rated on a scale of 1-3 with #1 being the most important and of highest priority:

Table 1: Core Objectives and Topics

Topic	Health & Fitness	Variety of Activities	Conservation	Accessibility and Design	Partnerships	Financial and Cost Effectiveness	Quality of Life
Score	#1	#1	#3	#2	#1	#1	#1

Objectives specify in greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. Together, the goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing town policy regarding the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities.

- Goals represent common community ideals that are brought about by a course of action, rather than a physical end product.
- Objectives are specific courses of action that can be used by local government, private enterprise, institutions, groups, or individual citizens to accomplish the stated goal.

GOAL 1: TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMMUNITY-WIDE SYSTEM OF PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT WILL PROVIDE ALL RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA WITH ADEQUATE FACILITIES



Objectives – VARIETY, HEALTH, ACCESSIBILITY, QUALITY OF LIFE, PARTNERSHIPS

- **Improve Readfield Park by upgrading older playground equipment, adding trees and picnic areas, and establishing pollinator plantings along the existing trail. Rationale: Liability concerns with playground equipment not being safe could arise, and insurance may cover some but not all risks. The additional and replacement trees will provide shade to the newly established picnic areas. The pollinator plants will add color and beauty to the park.**

¹ SMART goals - S=Specific, M=Measurable, A=Agreed Upon, R=Realistic, and T=Time-Based

- Provide park, trail, and recreation facilities that serve and appeal to the entire community. Rationale: Nathan’s Creek, Whispering Hills, and Woodland Hills are developing with families, the number of building permits, and school enrollment numbers are increasing. Develop newly acquired New Park 2 with various unique features that provide year-round recreational opportunities and connect the park with Waupaca County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan routes.
- Ensure that newly developed residential areas, are provided with adequate and accessible park, trail, and recreation facilities, i.e., review subdivision ordinances and zoning ordinances to accommodate park space within. Rationale: As new subdivisions are created; park space should be planned with developer to accommodate families.
- Provide a wide variety of recreational activities that will serve the residents of the Town of Caledonia on a year-round basis. (multi-use trails, recreational areas, educational and interpretative areas etc.) Rationale: Diverse recreational activities which promote health and quality of life for the residents and gives them options in their own town, versus having to go other places. Through residents’ support, the lives of all community members are enriched.
- Promote the benefits of parks and recreation to town residents through public meetings, surveys, and involvement opportunities. Rationale: Involving more groups and younger citizens gives better input on future recreational needs.

**GOAL 2: TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND BEAUTIFY
OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE TOWN
AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY**



Objective – CONSERVATION, QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH

- Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area are considered when planning for park and recreation development. Preserve and maintain the natural resource areas in the town and, where possible, utilize these areas for appropriate recreational development. Rationale: The Town is rural-based and that character should be preserved. Create recreational opportunities within the Town of Caledonia.

**GOAL 3: TO ENSURE THAT OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL
RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY
AND HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS**



Objectives – ACCESSIBILITY, QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH

- Encourage park and recreational feedback from all residents, particularly those

who are elderly and handicapped. Rationale: Input from residents gives the governing board a different perspective provided by the individuals who are actually using the facilities. Design accessible active and passive recreational areas and park facilities which can be utilized by all ages including the young, elderly, and handicapped citizens. Rationale: Some town facilities are deficient in meeting ADA standards to ensure accessibility of facilities.

GOAL 4: TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH WAUPACA COUNTY, THE NEW LONDON SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Objectives – PARTNERSHIPS

- Encourage involvement by individual citizens, interest groups, and institutional entities in developing new parks, facilities and spaces. Encourage regional efforts to provide connecting pedestrian and cycling trails. Identify and preserve sensitive and significant environmentally unique natural areas. Rationale: Work with the New London School District, Waupaca County Parks and Recreation Department and Readfield Elementary School to share spaces and programming of activities. A “Friends of the Park” group was created to assist in fundraising. Non-profits 501c3 groups have more access to granting opportunities than the Town alone.

VISION - To create a vision for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), Park Task Force members gave input for the existing park and design of New Park 2. The recommendations include:



Readfield Park Recommendations:

- Replace older playground equipment to eliminate the threat of injuries and liability.
- Add landscaping and shade areas to keep the park aesthetically pleasing. Particular emphasis should be given to establishing additional shade trees around the playground area, along the walking trail, and as needed for beautification of the park.
- Develop pollinator plantings.
- Create an ADA accessible trail from parking lot to the playground for people with disabilities.
- Create a picnic area between the restrooms and ball diamond, with picnic tables and garbage containers.
- Add a permanent grill for large events with an area



for individuals and smaller groups to also use it.

- Relocate the horseshoe pits.
- A multi-use field should be considered to promote other recreational opportunities.
- Add bleachers to the second ball diamond if the need exists



New Park 2 Recommendations:

- Identify New Park 2 property boundaries and place park boundary signs.
- Create an entrance and parking lot and ensure all environmental issues are identified and address before and after construction.
- Install a park identification sign and usage rules sign.
- Restore a wetland area.
- Provide berms with live screening plantings to protect the privacy for adjacent landowners.
- Install a security system and security lighting.
- Create prairie areas and open recreational spaces.
- Create a trail system for walking/hiking, and snow shoeing depending on the season.
- Create a bicycle trail with entry from Bean City Road, utilizing park space, and the easement on Meartz Road.
- Create an accessible trail from the parking lot to the playground for people with disabilities.
- Trail systems will be located away from park boundaries and include buffer areas where appropriate.
- Build a covered/roofed pavilion with lights and desired options of – a concrete base with picnic tables, outside outlets, multi-stall flush toilets, basic plumbing, electricity, running water, kitchen area, a concession window, and structure that is enclosable and expandable in the future.
- Create a playground area. Consider an adult fitness area as an add-on to the playground.
- Consider adding pickleball/tennis courts.

- Consider adding a disc golf area.
- Build a maintenance equipment shed.
- Plan for mowed areas for multi-use including overflow parking,
- Consider adding a mountain bicycle trail in the pine tree area
- Consider a sledding hill for winter.

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CHAPTER 3: RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

PARKS AND FACILITIES

The Town of Caledonia maintains one park site, encompassing 4.72 acres, which is located next to the Town Hall off of State Highway 96 (Table 2 and Map 1). The community center occupies an additional 1.18 acres on the site. Just over 7 acres of open play area is also available for recreational use at the adjacent Readfield Elementary School.

The Town is developing a long-range plan for the “New Park 2” which encompasses 46.8 acres. The New Park 2 is located on Bean City Road and is in the planning stages for key component layout and desired features as identified by the Public Participation Parks and Trails Survey November 2021 and the CORP Task Force 5-year action plan. Funding sources will need to be identified and secured to enable the Town to develop the New Park 2.

Table 2: Existing Park, Recreation, and Open Space Acreage*

Recreation Area	Town Parks	Town Owned Land	State Owned Land	School Grounds
Readfield Park	4.72			
New Park 2	46.8			
Caledonia Community Center	1.18			
Vacant Open Space		2.0		
Town Cemetery		.335		
Klemp Land Acquisition (Lower Wolf River Bottomlands SNA)			44.55	
Other Wisconsin DNR Owned Land			347.16	
Readfield Elementary School				7.3
School Forest				80.0
TOTALS:	52.7	2.335	391.71	87.3

* Source of acreages: Waupaca County 2016 parcel data.
 SNA = State Natural Area

Readfield Park and Caledonia Community Center

The 4.72 acres Readfield Park was the only park site, but a generous land donation in 2021 allowed the Town to develop a second park “New Park 2” with 46.8 acres located on Bean City Road. Readfield Park is located in the east central portion of the town (Map 2) and the New Park 2 is located in the north east portion of the Town. Access to Readfield Park is provided by State Highway 96. Readfield Park and Caledonia Community Center are designed to serve all the current neighborhoods in the town. There is a playground, sandbox, horseshoe pits, a pavilion/shelter building, an unlighted unfenced ball diamond, and open green space.

Other support facilities include an equipment shed with shared space for MDR baseball, Friends of Readfield Park, the 4H, and Town of Caledonia items. There is also a ball diamond, bleachers,

and bench dugouts. There is a parking area with several security lights. There are seasonal restrooms with flush toilets and running water. Additionally, there is a limestone chipped trail system and a live streaming security system has been installed for added security. Future plans call for an upgraded playground, shade trees, picnic areas and a permanent BBQ grill.

Events at the Readfield Park include Caledonia Fest, Food Truck Rally, MDR Lions Chicken BBQ, and Community Fitness Classes; and the Readfield Elementary School utilizes part of the site for its physical education classes. Shared use of the space benefits the school as well as residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Town of Caledonia currently had only 8.235 acres of parks and open space areas within the Town and with the additions of the New Park 2 the area is now 55.035 acres. The preservation and management of these resources is important in sustaining economic uses of the land, providing quality recreational opportunities for the general public as well as maintaining the quality of life enjoyed by the town residents. Among the most important environmental resources in the Town of Caledonia are topography and bedrock, soils, floodplains, and wetlands. Although development in wetlands and floodplains is strictly regulated, it is also advantageous to discourage development of woodland areas, steep slopes, areas of high bedrock and poor soils, and other sensitive areas, which provide important environmental benefits to the community and are more costly to develop. The conversion of agricultural land to other uses also has long-term environmental effects as well as economic implications.

State Natural Areas (SNAs)

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations, and archeological sites. Encompassing over 406,000 acres, Wisconsin's 700 natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity and for providing benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide some of the refuges for rare plants and animals. There are a few DNR owned lands located in the northwest corner of the town near Weiland Landing along the shores of the Wolf River and some recently acquired property south of US Highway 10.

Floodplains

About 1,378 acres of land is designated as floodplain or floodway in the Town of Caledonia. Based on the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map for the unincorporated portions of Waupaca County, this acreage includes lands along the Wolf River and the nearby marshland. Since these areas are susceptible to flooding, they are considered unsuitable for development due to potential health risks and property damage. Further protection of these lands is provided by Waupaca County's floodplain zoning ordinance, Chapter 36¹, which requires certain land use controls in designated flood hazard areas.

¹ *Waupaca County Floodplain Ordinance*,
<https://cms1files.revize.com/waupacacowi/Planning%20&%20Zoning/Ordinances/Floodplain%20Ordinance%20%20Ch%2036.pdf>

Wetlands

Wetlands occupy large areas of land in the Town of Caledonia, approximately 16 percent of the land base (4,016 acres). They include lowland wetlands areas along the river bottomland, which may be large in land area as well as depressional wetland sites and excavated ponds smaller than five acres.

Wetlands are important environmental features that provide many important functions and values to the ecosystem and drainage patterns in the Town of Caledonia. They provide valuable wildlife habitat, scenic open spaces, flood water retention, and groundwater discharge areas. Wetlands also act as a natural filter for nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and provide buffer zones for adjacent shorelines and stream banks. Protection of wetlands is especially critical in the Town of Caledonia because the generally flat topography magnifies their importance for storm water management purposes and surface water infiltration.

Local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands. Waupaca County's Shoreland Protection Ordinance Chapter 32², regulates shoreland use and development within 300 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of navigable streams, rivers or to "the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater" and shoreland use and development within 1,000 feet of lakes, ponds or flowages. Section 3.3 of the county's zoning ordinance describes permitted uses of shoreland-wetland district, some of which include development of public and private parks and the cultivation of agricultural crops. WDNR regulates the placement of structures and other alterations below the ordinary high-water mark of navigable streams and lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has authority over the placement of fill materials in virtually all wetlands under Section 10 of the Rives and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Prior to placing fill or altering wetland resources, the appropriate agencies must be contacted for authorization.

Setting aside wetlands and floodplains, which often co-exist, for public open space preserves areas with important environmental values for passive recreational opportunities. It also has minimal effect on the town's potential tax base, because it is removing from the tax roll land with greatly restricted development potential. In fact, studies have shown that increases in the value of lands adjacent to these protected areas often more than offset the value of the land set aside for open space.

Wolf River

The Wolf River, with over 211 acres of surface water, is the water resource in the town and one of its most valuable recreational resources. The river provides nearly unlimited boating opportunities and access to Partridge Crop Lake south to the Upper Pool lakes, the Upper Fox, and Lake Winnebago. The fish resource is quite diverse. Walleye, perch, sauger and white bass are the most popular sport fish present. The annual sturgeon spearing season in February provides a unique experience for anglers from across the state. Lake Winnebago and the other pool lakes are also major waterfowl nesting and resting areas.

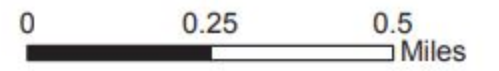
*2Waupaca County Shoreland Protection Ordinance,
<https://cms1files.revize.com/waupacacowi/Planning%20&%20Zoning/Ordinances/Shoreland%20Protection%20Ordinance%20Ch%2032.pdf>*

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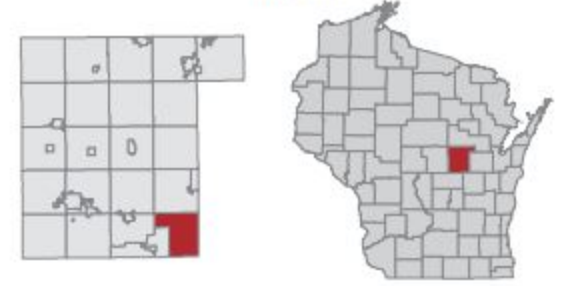
Map 1 Town of Caledonia Recreational Areas

Legend

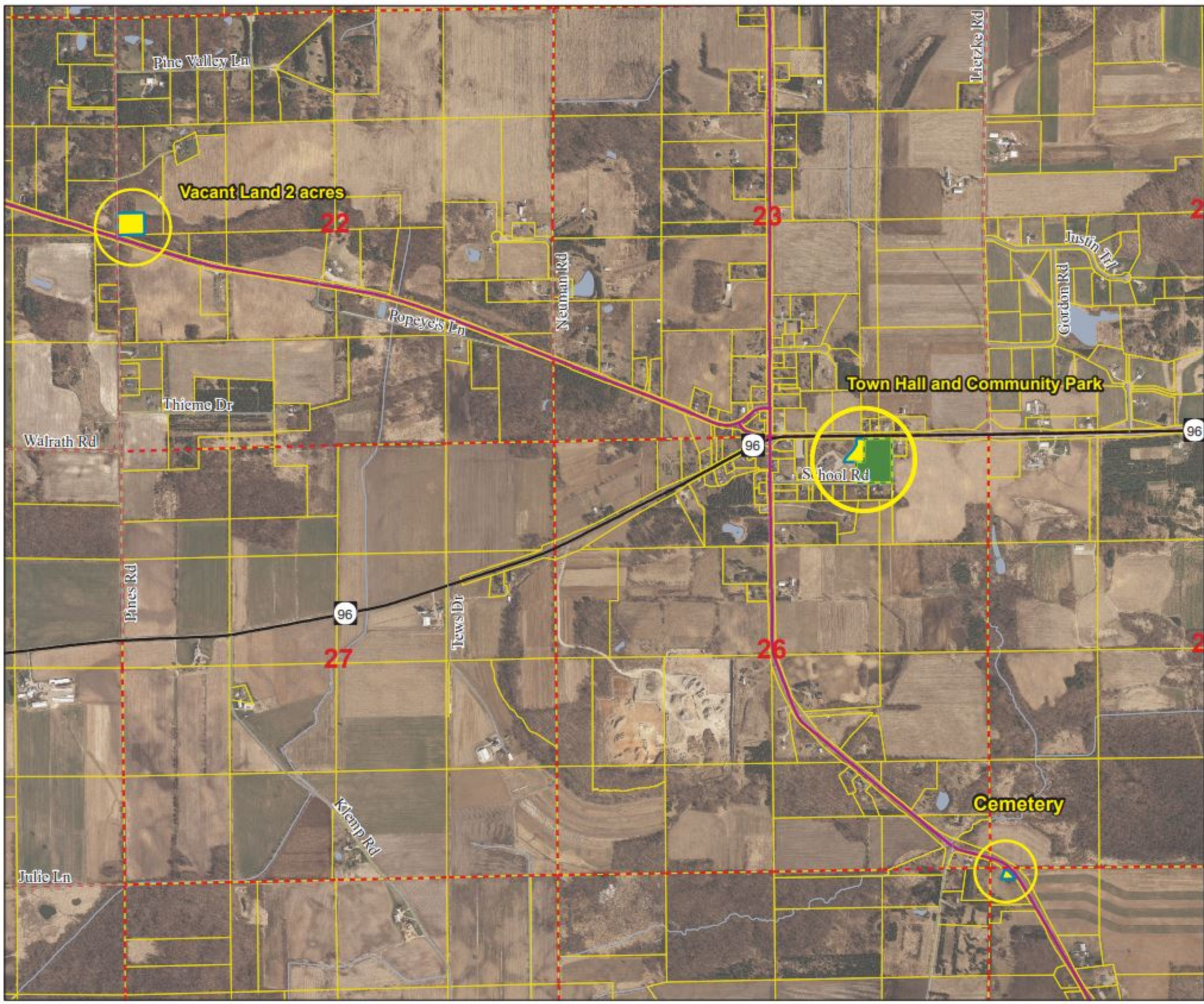
-  USH
-  STH
-  CTH
-  Local Road
-  Section Line
-  County Boundary
-  Town Boundary
-  Recreational Parks
-  Town Owned Parcels
-  Parcels
-  Water Features
-  Streams



Source: Waupaca County Base, Parks, and Trails information, 2015, GIS data.



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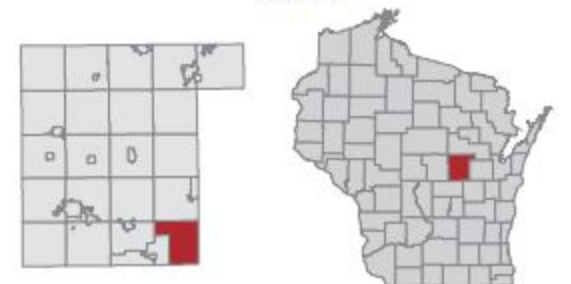
Map 2 Town of Caledonia Environmental Resources

Legend

- Wetlands Less Than 5 Acres
- ▬ County Boundary
- ▬ Town Boundary
- ▬ USH
- ▬ STH
- ▬ CTH
- ▬ Local Road
- - - Section Line
- ▨ Floodplain
- ▨ Floodway
- ▨ Wetland
- ▨ Klemp DNR Land Aquisition
- ▨ DNR Owned Lands
- ▨ Recreational Parks
- ▨ Town Owned Parcels
- ▨ Parcels
- ▨ Water Features
- ▬ Streams

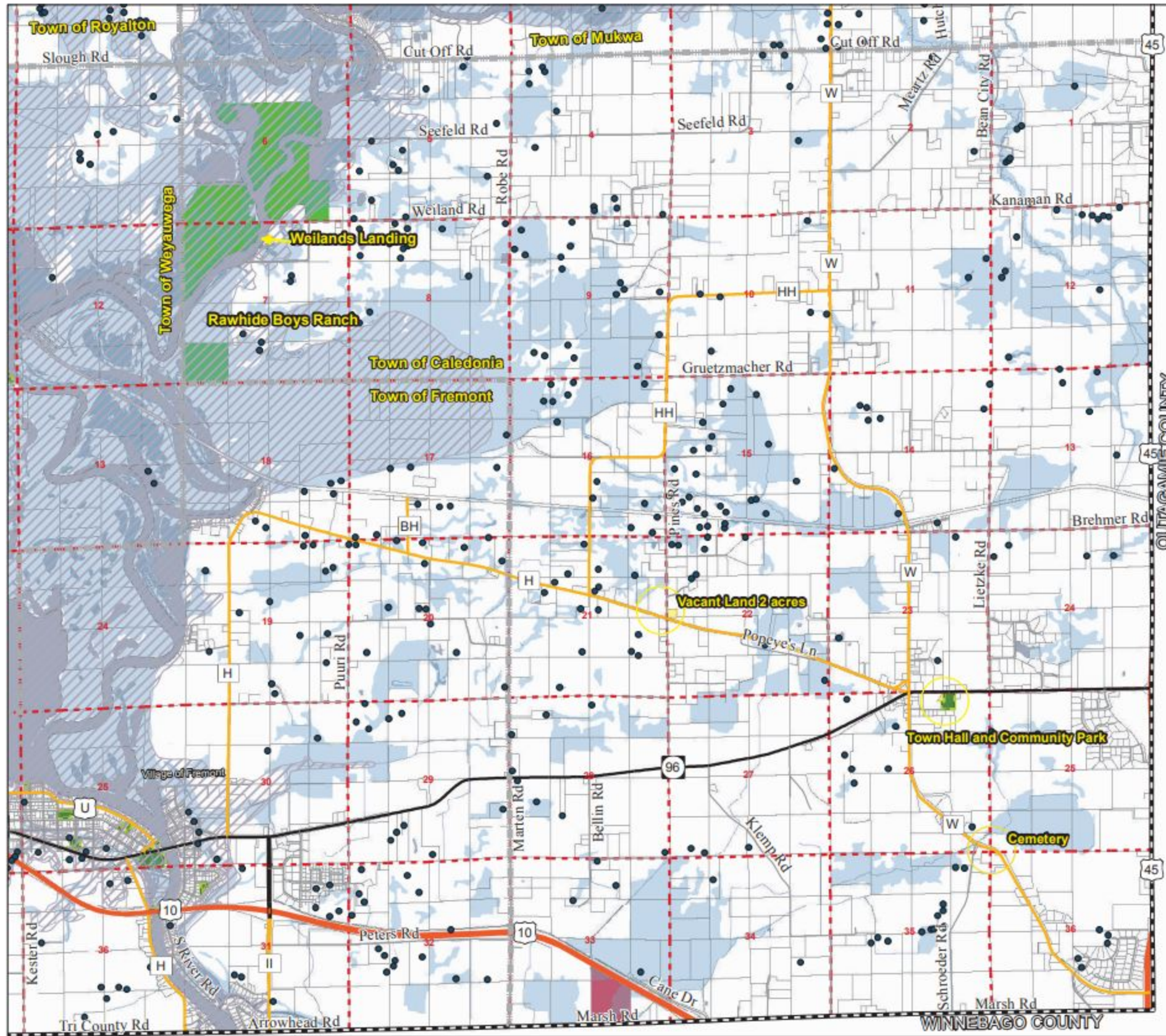


Source: Waupaca County Base, Parks, and Trails information, 2015, GIS data.



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PREPARED DECEMBER 2016 BY: ECWRPC



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CHAPTER 4: RECREATIONAL NEEDS

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

As a policy, park and recreation programs should have a five-year cycle update for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (CORP). This will make the town eligible to compete for WDNR Stewardship funding and other available grants if so needed. The CORP is not a requirement by state statute but is a requirement to be eligible to apply for WDNR grants, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program and WDNR Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

Park and recreation needs may include the demand for additional park land to accommodate new facilities, requirements for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, recreation standards are used to identify these necessities. However, in communities the size of the Town of Caledonia, citizen input is equally useful when identifying park and recreation desires. The Town of Caledonia feels that public input is critical for the development of a quality CORP so a Public Parks and Trails Survey was conducted in November of 2021 to gather information related to the development of the New Park 2. The Town Board appointed a task force to update the town’s 2016-2021 CORP. The CORP Task Force included representation from the MDR Lions, Friends of the Readfield Park, 4H, a town board member, a representative from the Plan Commission, and residents with interests in promoting recreation. At each meeting, there was a public forum for community input into updating the CORP. Additionally, three meetings were held with New Park 2 neighbors to obtain their input and insights.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The Town of Caledonia had a population of 1,726 (Source: HomeTownLocator, 2021) with the biggest growth boom taking place from 2000-2010 (11%). Based on Department of Administration (DOA) estimates, the town is home currently to 1,695 residents with slow and declining growth to continue in the future. Projections indicate that its population will increase by about 2% from current levels, reaching just over 2,025 people by 2040. During this timeframe, both the State of Wisconsin and Waupaca County are expected to experience modest population gains, (Table 6).

**Table 3: Population and Projections Change, 1970-2040*
 Town of Caledonia**

Year	Population	Number Change	% Change
1970	882	--	--
1980	1,040	158	17.91%
1990	1,177	137	13.17%
2000	1,466	289	24.55%
2010	1,627	161	10.98%
2020	1,785	90	5.31%
Today 2021	1,726	-59	-1%

2025*	1,895	110	6.16%
2030*	1,985	90	4.75%
2035*	2,025	40	2.01%
2040*	2,025	0	0.00%

Sources: Wisconsin HomeTownLocator and Caledonia-Com-Plan-Update-2040-Web-Version.pdf

LAND NEED

Land demand standards of 10 acres of publicly owned open space for every 1,000 residents (1,726 currently in Town of Caledonia/1000 x 10 acres = 17.26 acres desired) provides a useful barometer for determining whether a community has adequate parkland to meet the recreational needs of its residents. Looking solely at the total recreational acreage currently owned by the town, the acreage is adequate today (Readfield Park - 4.72 acres + New Park 2 = 46.8 = 51.51 acres total). Maintaining the current parks system, should be a top priority of the town in accommodating its tax paying residents. This issue has been brought to the Town board and an annual maintenance schedule has been identified with associated cost of \$10,000 annually with the addition of the New Park 2. The Town is planning on designating these costs for 2023 and into the future to ensure the parks are maintained to provide enjoyment and safe environment for anyone who uses the Town parks.

Based on this standard, the park and open space acreage is adequate with additional space of 31.26 acres as projected for the 2040 population projections Table 4. Looking solely at population and recreational land needs, the town will have an adequate land base with the addition of the New Park 2 in the future, as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Town of Caledonia Outdoor Recreation Demand, 2000-2040
 Public Population Demand Projection**

Year	Acres Under Town Ownership*	Population Projection	Demand Projection (10 acres/1,000 pop.)	Deficiency / Surplus (in acres)
2000	8.24	1,466	14.66	-6.42
2010	8.24	1,627	16.27	-8.03
2015	8.24	1,695	16.95	-8.71
2020	8.24	1,785	17.85	-9.61
2021**	51.51	1,726	17.26	+34.25
2025	51.51	1,895	18.95	+32.56
2030	51.51	1,985	19.85	+31.66
2035	51.51	2,025	20.25	+31.26
2040	51.51	2,025	20.25	+31.26

* Includes recreational and open space areas within the corporate limits that are owned and maintained by the town.

**Land donation of 46.8 acres from Ivan and Jeanette Gruetzmacher changed to town ownership in 2021

FACILITY NEEDS

The composition of a community's population can provide insight into the need for emphasizing specific types of recreational opportunities. Caledonia's population distribution by age group is older than the median age (44.1) of Waupaca County (Table 6). Most of the residents living within the municipal boundaries are between the ages of 45-54 at 26% (48.8 median age) which relates to middle age and older based trends. Recreational facilities should be planned with this in mind to accommodate this age group. Approximately 13% of the population is under the age of 14, while 14% of the population is over the age of 65. (Table 5)

Table 5: Population Demographics

	Under 5 years	5 – 24 years	25- 44 years	45 – 54 years	55 – 64 years	Over 65 years
Town of Caledonia	4%	21%	18%	26%	18%	14%

Table 6: Population Distribution by Age Group (2010 Profile Data)

Age	Town of Caledonia		Waupaca Co.		State of Wis.	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	53	3.6	2,768	5.3	358,443	6.3
5-14	146	9.9	6,469	12.4	744,544	13.1
15-24	162	11	5,820	11.1	785,761	13.8
25-44	264	17.9	11,644	22.3	1,447,360	25.4
45-54	388	26.4	8,315	15.9	873,753	15.4
55-64	259	17.6	3,548	14.3	699,811	12.3
65+	199	13.5	9,749	18.7	777,314	13.8
TOTAL:	1,471	100	52,212	100	5,686,986	100

Source: ACS Demographic Profile Data by Age and Sex, 2010

COMPARISON OF STANDARDS

Jurisdictional Standards

While immediate land needs show the town as adequate, there are also jurisdictional standards of what the state, county, surrounding communities and private sector are required to provide in terms of recreation.

- Recreational Lands Provided by the State----- 70 acres/1,000
- Recreational Lands Provided by the County----- 15 acres/1,000
- Recreational Lands Provided by the Local Community- 10 acres/1,000
- Recreational Lands Provided by the Private Sector----- 5 acres/1,000
-

Local communities should provide between 9.25 and 14.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

The Town of Caledonia currently provides 51.51 total acres/1.726 =29.8 acres of parks and recreation per 1,000 residents when looking at all park types as a system. Table 7 below breaks down the different categories to assist the town in planning for future types of parks needed.

National Standards

To determine the land required to meet community need for parks and open spaces, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed a level of service standard. The prevailing national standard for neighborhood and community parks ranges from 9.25-14.5 acres per 1,000 people, which will be used as the criteria to evaluate level of service standards for parks and open space.

As the town’s population grows, resulting in higher densities, it is important to explore ways to preserve or attain additional property in order to meet the desired level of service standard. Table 7 indicates the national standard ranges for community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks and open space.

Table 7: NRPA Standards for Parks and Open Spaces

Type	Acres per 1,000 persons
Community Park	8.0-10.0
Neighborhood Park	1.0-2.0
Mini-Park	0.25-0.50
Open Space	1-2
Total:	9.25-14.5

Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Standards

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its *Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urban Areas* (October 2020), has identified a level of service standard for parks, which is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents. ECWRPC created residential standards based on density for various services such as sanitary sewer, water supply, street network, and parks. Their high-density category is defined as three or more residential units per acre.

As part of the update to the Comprehensive Plan, the town identifies low density as three-five units per acre, medium density as six-ten units per acre, and high density as twelve or more units per acre. Therefore, the town would be encouraged by ECWRPC to apply the low-density standard for the specified services, such as parks, since it is classified as a rural town. If the Town of Caledonia applies this level of service standard, then it addresses the needed services as development is proposed or as population growth occurs.

Therefore, the ECWRPC level of service standard used for this analysis is 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Each park provides a half mile to 1 mile service area. In the Town of Caledonia this is only true for the Readfield Park that is present. New Park 2 is only in the planning stages during this update to the CORP.

REGIONAL GREENSPACE COMPARISON

Neighboring communities were researched for actual populations and green spaces. These parks and facilities also provide a level of service to the town’s population base and are usually located out of the one half mile walking distance for residents but give alternate opportunities for residents. Most visitors to parks don’t realize where one jurisdiction ends and the other begins. There are other area parks in the surrounding communities utilized by town residents.

Figure 1: Active Park Acres Comparisons

Community	2019 Population	Total Park Acreage	Acres Per 1,000 Population Needed Avg. 9.25-14.5 A Std.* per 1,000 Capita
City of Appleton	74,139	781	10.53
City of Neenah	25,967	367	14.13
Village of Little Chute	11,484	80	6.97
City of Two Rivers	11,154	256	21.94
Town of Greenville	12,264	211	17.20
Village of Kimberly	6,770	239.3	35.35
City of Menasha	17,771	226	12.98
City of Chilton	3,831	56.24	14.68
City of	16,070	720	44.80

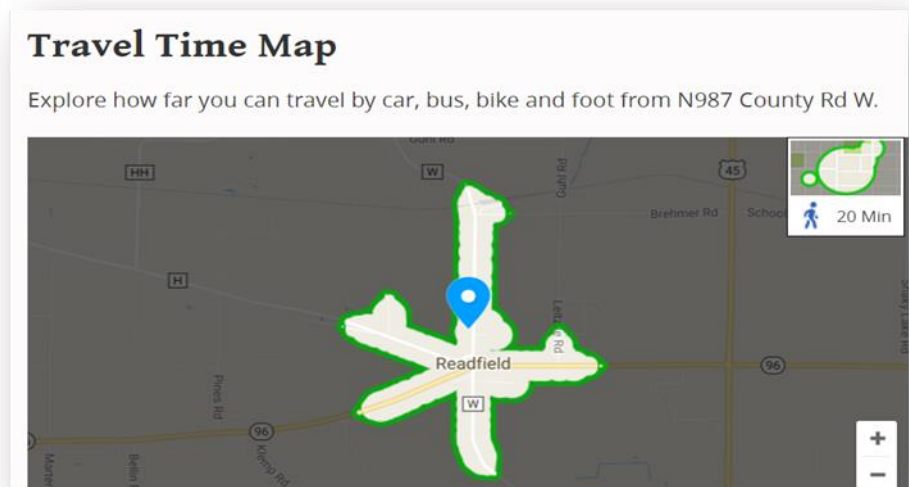
Kaukauna			
City of Fond du Lac	44,678	715.45	16.01
Town of Menasha	18,002	283	15.72
Town of Caledonia	1,726	51.51	29.84
Town of Neenah	3,496	49.2	14.07
Town of Grand Chute	23,163	134.9	5.82
City of Oshkosh	66,773	415	6.22
Regional Avg.	17.75 Acres per 1,000 residents		

As compared to other communities its size and being a rural-based township, Caledonia falls above adequate parameters for acres of recreation for its growing population at 29.84 acres per 1,000 capita. Intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships could assist the town on providing more opportunities within its boundaries. The recent land donation of 46.8 acres in 2021 for the New Park 2 allowed the town to gain significant outdoor recreational area. The number of parks acres provided is above the regional average at 17.75 per 1,000 capita.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

It is desirable that recreational opportunities be within convenient walking distance of each of a community's residents. Within Caledonia's rural based development pattern and distribution of existing facilities and schools, town residents' ability to walk to an existing recreation facility is almost non-existent. With the addition of New Park 2 and the Readfield Park, a small portion of Town residents can access facilities by walking. A one-half mile level of service is ideal as a walking distance. When residents are separated from the nearest park or school by natural barriers such as streams or man-made barriers such as busy Town, County and State roads, they are considered to be less adequately served because these features hinder a direct or safe walk. This is a particular concern for children and disabled or elderly residents to get to their destination. In the Town of Caledonia, the majority of the population is scattered throughout the township. As new development encroaches upon

Figure 2: Travel Time from Readfield Park



agricultural land, more parks will need to be made available to serve growing subdivisions as well as to support the current population in the surrounding area. When looking at places to recreate, we use the Walk Score® website to analyze how walkable a community is. The Readfield Park area has an overall score of 9 on a scale of 1-100, with 100 being a walker's paradise. Almost all errands require a car to arrive at a destination that relates to restaurants, groceries, and entertainment.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTIONS

The following classifications are derived from *the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023*, and the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Guidelines – A project of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration*. They have been modified to fit local conditions. These classifications can be used as a guideline for understanding what services are typically provided as well as the area that each park typically serves.

Active Community Parks

These parks serve several neighborhoods within a one-two mile radius. Typically, these parks are twenty-five acres or more. Active community parks address broad base community-wide needs. For example, community parks provide athletic fields while preserving areas for passive recreational uses. Amenities typically include:

- Athletic Courts, Fields, or Playfields
- Boat Launches
- Ice Rinks
- Landscaped/Natural Areas with Trails
- Parking
- Pavilion/Shelter with Kitchen
- Picnic Tables/Grills
- Playground Equipment
- Restrooms
- Sledding Hills/Tobogganing Runs
- Swimming Pools Accessibility should be by vehicle, biking, and on foot. These parks should be linked to the public transportation system, existing and future trail network.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve residential areas within a half mile walking distance. The minimum desirable size varies from two – twenty acres. Neighborhood parks have a mix of active and passive uses. Usually, 50 percent of the area of a neighborhood park is used for active recreation and fifty percent is passive recreation, such as undeveloped natural areas. This limits problems such as noise, overuse, and congestion. Development and amenities typically include:

- Playground Equipment
- Play Fields/Open Space
- Picnic Tables

- Landscaping
- Sport Field/Court
- Pedestrian Path/Trails
- Parking

Access by foot should be made possible, especially since these parks are designed for children and portions of the trail system should be ADA compliant for the disabled. One should not have to cross a collector or arterial roadway to access the park. Ideally, trails, sidewalks, or low volume minor streets should be used as a linkage from the residential area to the neighborhood park.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are those that service a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. They have a quarter mile or a smaller service area, and are usually less than an acre in size. These parks are generally situated in neighborhoods, apartment complexes, townhouse developments/subdivisions, or senior housing complexes.

Development and amenities typically include:

- Playground Equipment
- Landscaped Sitting Areas
- Picnic Tables

Access to those parks should be located centrally within a neighborhood or housing development to provide easy access.

Open Space / Greenspace

Open spaces are parcels of land or areas that are reserved for the preservation of unique land, water, vegetative, historic, and other aesthetic features in their natural state. Open spaces should then be addressed separately from park settings. These areas may be publicly or privately owned.

Open spaces may serve certain portions or the entire community. The size and level of service of open space areas varies with the type of use. The normal standard is one-two acres per 1,000 persons and two-five mile radius. Access is important since these areas provide a visual and psychological relief from urban development. Public access points should be identified to ensure private properties are not infringed upon.

Often, these areas take advantage of streams and other natural features, which then help preserve areas for wildlife and other environmental assets of a community. Urban green spaces can be used for linking open spaces/parks, public facilities, preserving natural resources/wildlife, preserving areas not suitable for development, and addressing the lack of open space in an area. These areas can be used as a less expensive means of addressing stormwater management. Open green space areas may or may not have to be improved but some amenities or characteristics may include: Walking/Hiking Trails (Abandoned Railroad Lines, Right-Of-Ways)

- Environmental Corridors or Linear Parkways
- Creeks/Streams/Wetlands/Drainageways/Rivers/Ponds/Lakes/Floodplains
- Ravines
- Areas of High Groundwater
- Woodlands
- Steep Sloped Areas (12% or Greater)
- Minimal Landscaping Areas

When looking at the level of service (LOS) area of Readfield Park, analysis was performed at a 2-mile radius and joined to current population data. The LOS boundary shifts eastward and services residents in the Town of Dale in Outagamie County. Today (2021), 723 people are serviced by the park. The more important figure is the number of town taxpayers who are outside of the park service area which exceeds that distance of the 2-mile boundary. Today, over 1000 are not serviced by the park and are outside of the 2-mile area, and will continue to increase by 2025 if another park is not added.

Year	Park LOS	Voids
2010	659	1051
2016	701	1120
2021	723	1003
2023	925	886
2025	935	960

The town has added a New Park 2 in the northeast portion of the Township totaling 46.8 acres in size. Once the park is established, it will serve a majority of the population base and developments in this area.

Table 9: Population in Service Area by Year

TRENDS

To effectively provide the right type of recreational activities and facilities, the town needs to better understand broader recreational trends. The following tables from the *2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* identify trends in outdoor recreational preferences. Below is a table that represents the trends and activities for the state as a whole:

Table 10: Wisconsin Recreation Trends

On County Park properties:		REGION								STATE
		Great Northwest	Northwoods	Upper Lake MI Coastal	Lake Winnebago Waters	Western Sands	Miss. River Corridor	Southern Gateways	Lower Lake MI Coastal	
Strong increase	↑↑↑									
Moderate increase	↑↑									
Slight increase	↑									
About constant	↔									
Slight decrease	↓									
Moderate decrease	↓↓									
Few or no opportunities	*									
Activity										
Bicycling - winter/fat tire biking	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	
Camping - RV/pop-up	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑↑	
Bicycling - mountain biking	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	
Riding ATVs or UTVs	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	*	↑↑↑	
Canoeing/kayaking	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	
Bicycling - recreational/rail-trail biking	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	
Use of picnic areas/day use areas/beach areas	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	
Paddle boarding	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	
Dog walking on trails	↔	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑	
Hiking/walking/running on trails	↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑	
Fishing	↑	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑	
Motor boating (including pontoon boats)	↑	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↑	
Snowshoeing	↔	↑↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↑	
Target firearm shooting at designated ranges	↑↑	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑↑	*	*	↑	
Target archery at designated ranges	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↔	*	↑↑	↑	
Bird/wildlife watching	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑	
Nature photography	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑	↑	
Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers	↑	↔	↑	↑↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑	↑	
Cross-country skiing - on groomed trails	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↔	↑	↑	*	↓	↑	
Driving 4WD vehicles	↔	↔	↑	*	↑	↑	*	*	↔	
Horseback riding	↑	↑↑	↑	↔	↑	↑	*	↓↓	↔	
Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑	↔	↔	
Hunting - turkey	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔	
Camping - tent	↑	↔	↓↓	↑	↓	↓	↑↑↑	↑	↔	
Hunting - small game	↔	↔	↓	↓	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔	
Hunting - migratory birds	↔	↔	↑	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	
Riding dual-sport motorcycles	↑	↑	↔	*	↓	↓	*	*	↔	
Hunting - big game	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔	
Cross-country skiing - on ungroomed trails	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↓↓	↓↓	↓	
Trapping	↔	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔	↓↓	↓↓	↓	
Snowmobiling	↔	↑	↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	

Source: 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Map 4 Town of Caledonia Residential Areas and Level of Service Areas

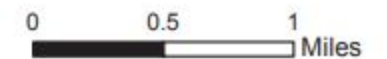
Legend

- Highway Barriers
- Section Line
- County Boundary
- Town Boundary
- DNR Owned Lands
- Community Park 2 Mile Service Area
- Recreational Parks
- Residential Areas
- Town Owned Parcels
- Parcels
- Water Features
- Streams
- Underserved Park Areas

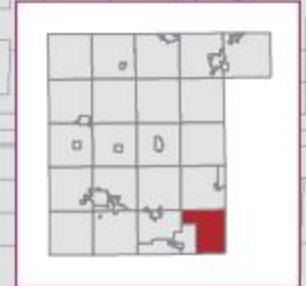
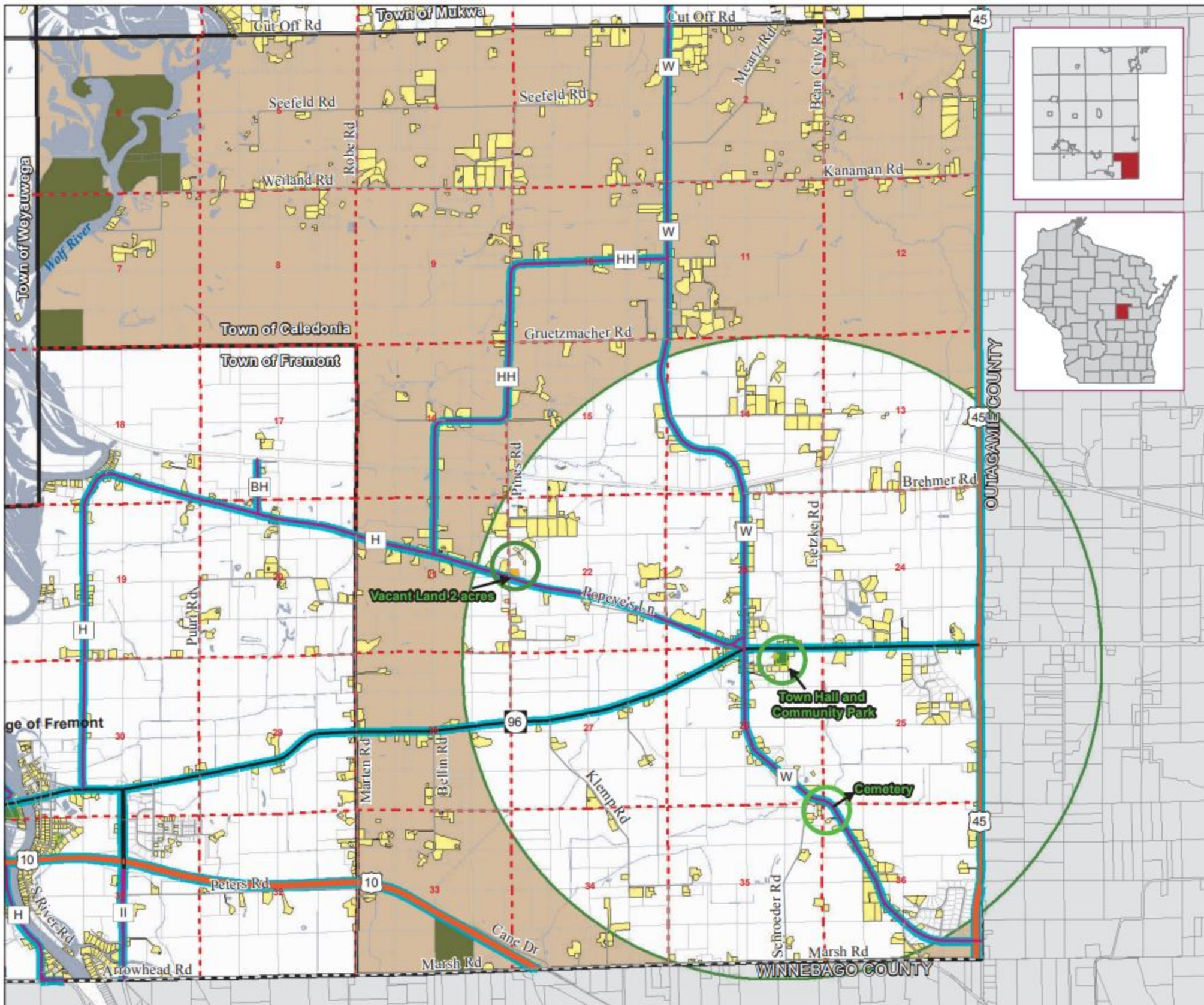
Population Densities

	659	1051
2010	659	1051
2016	701	1120
2021	723	1157

Source: Waupaca County Base, Parks, and Trails information, 2016, GIS data. 2010 ECRPC Land Use Data.



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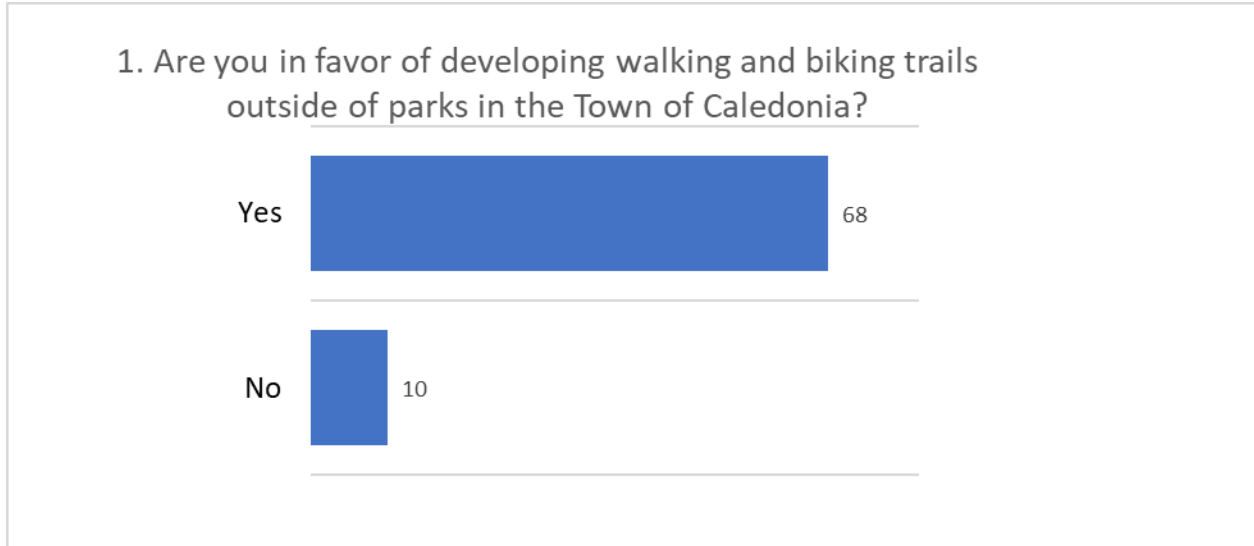
Back of Map 4

PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

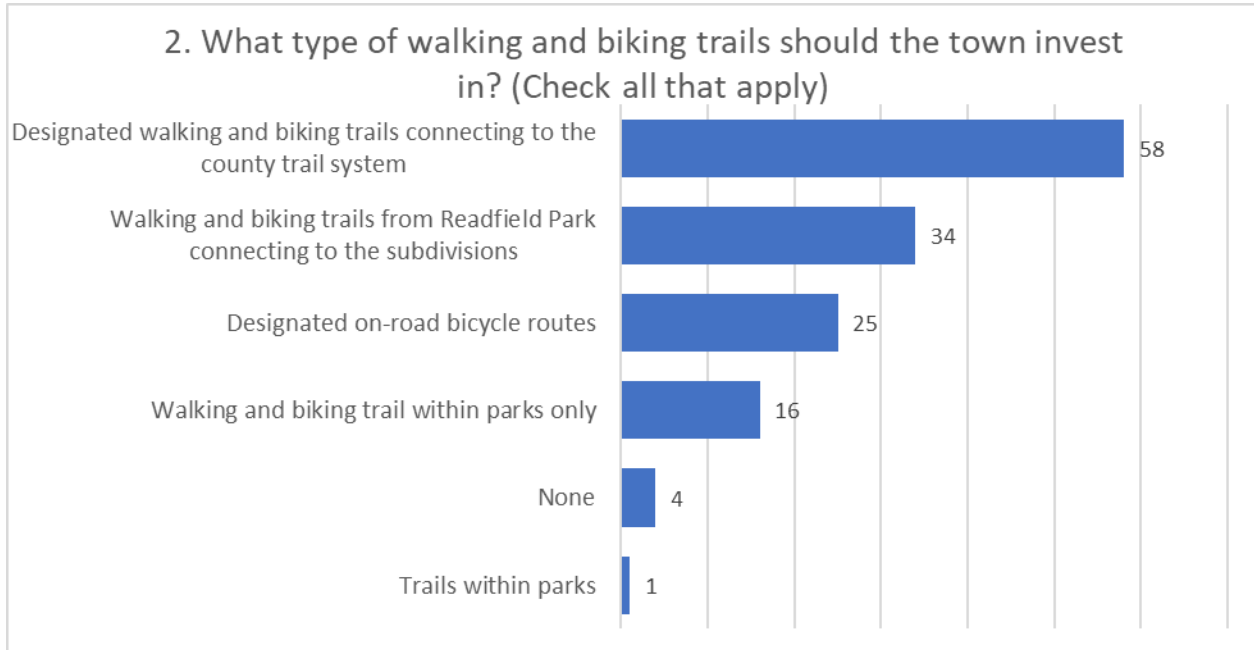
Parks and Trails Survey Results for the Town of Caledonia

November 2021

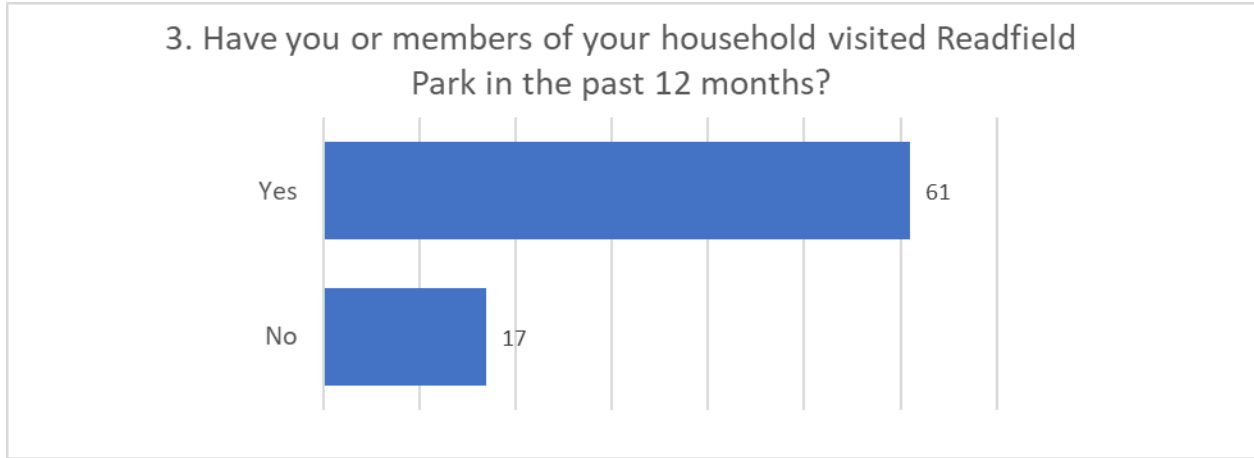
78 Responses



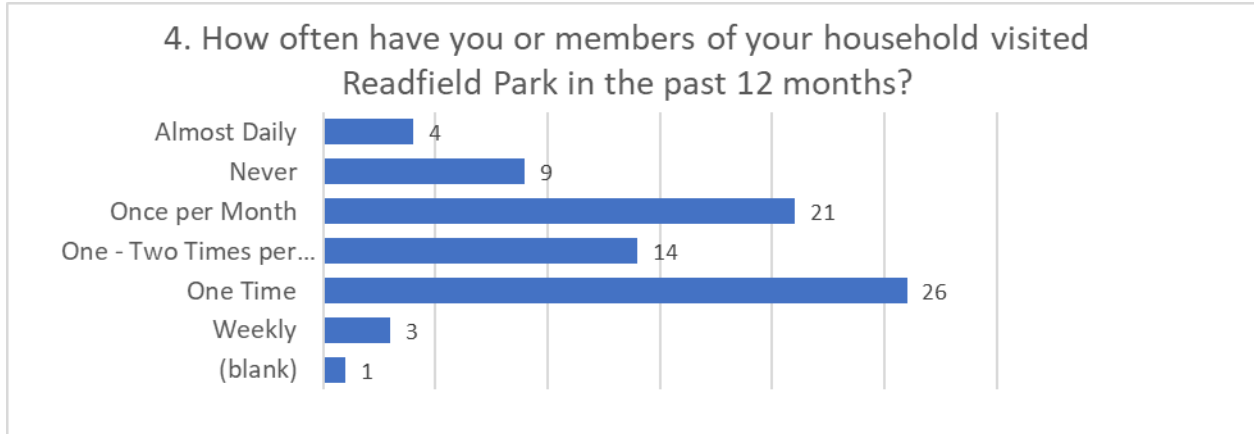
	Yes	No
Those who live in the Town of Caledonia	47	7
Those who do not live in the Town of Caledonia	12	1
Those who live adjacent to the new park	9	1
Unknown		1



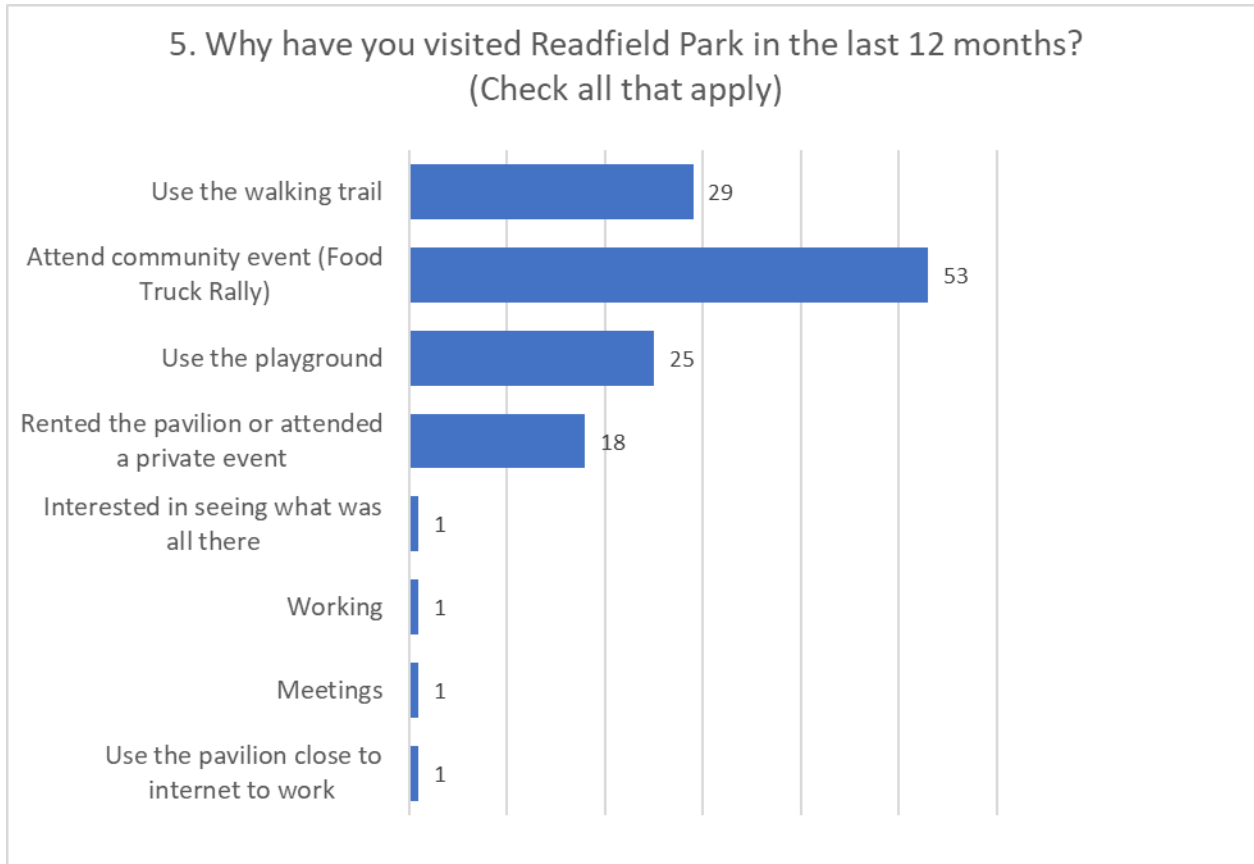
	Live in the Town	Live Outside of Town	Unknown
Designated walking and biking trails connecting to the county trail system	48	10	
Walking and biking trails from Readfield Park connecting to the subdivisions	26	8	
Designated on-road bicycle routes	20	4	1
Walking and biking trail within parks only	15	1	
None	3	1	
Trails within parks	1		

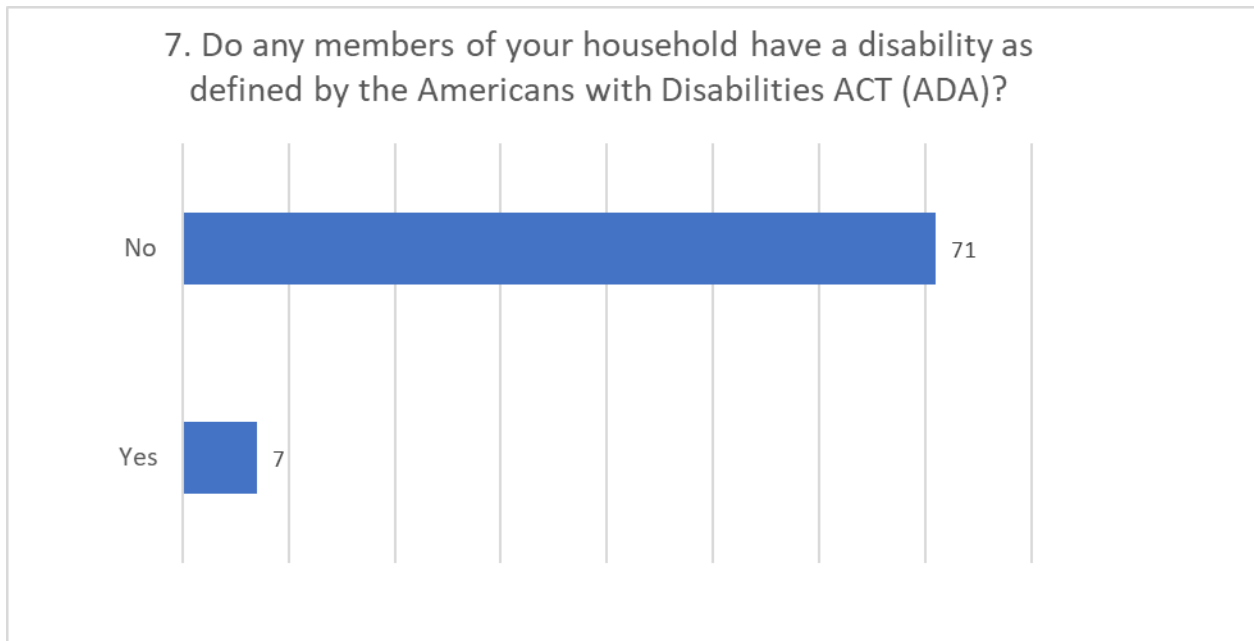
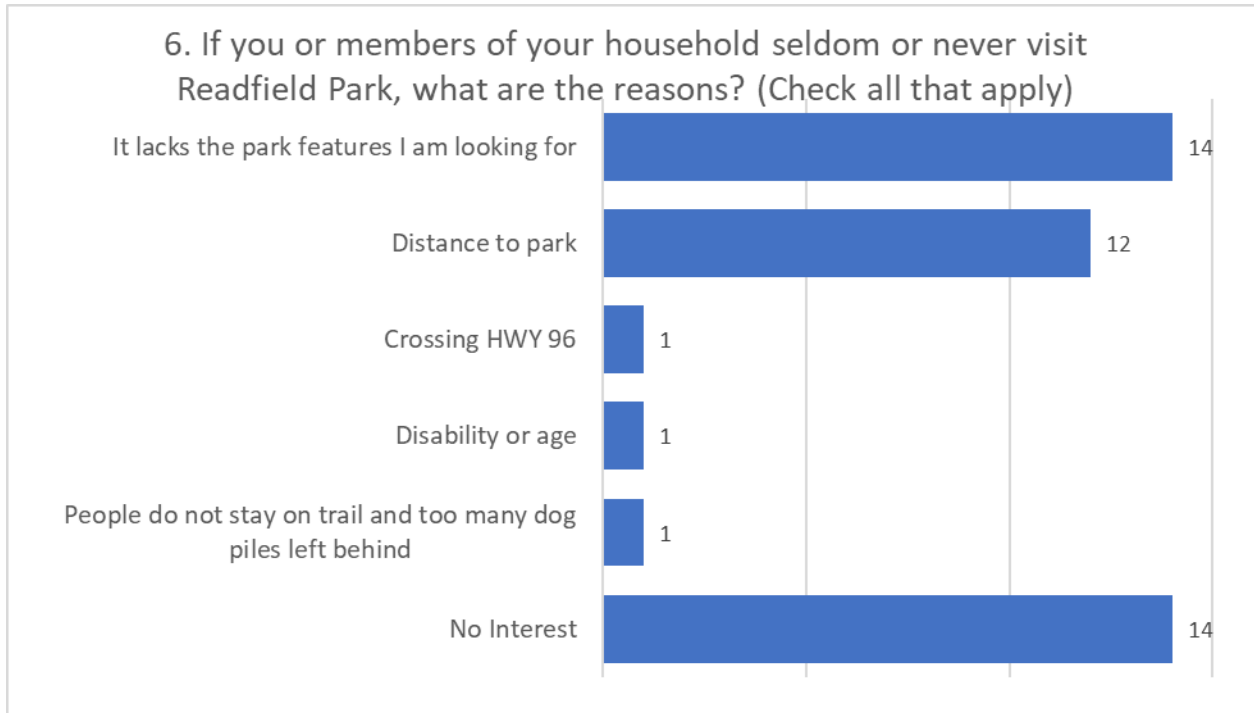


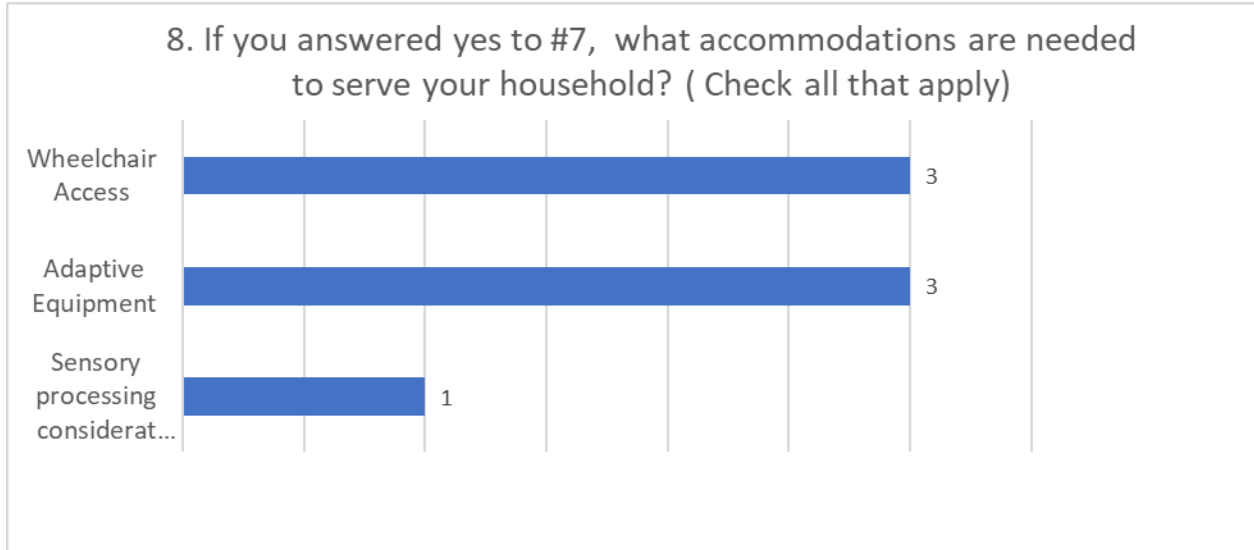
	Yes	No
Live In the Town of Caledonia	42	12
Live adjacent to the new park	8	2
Live outside the Town of Caledonia	11	2
Unknown		1



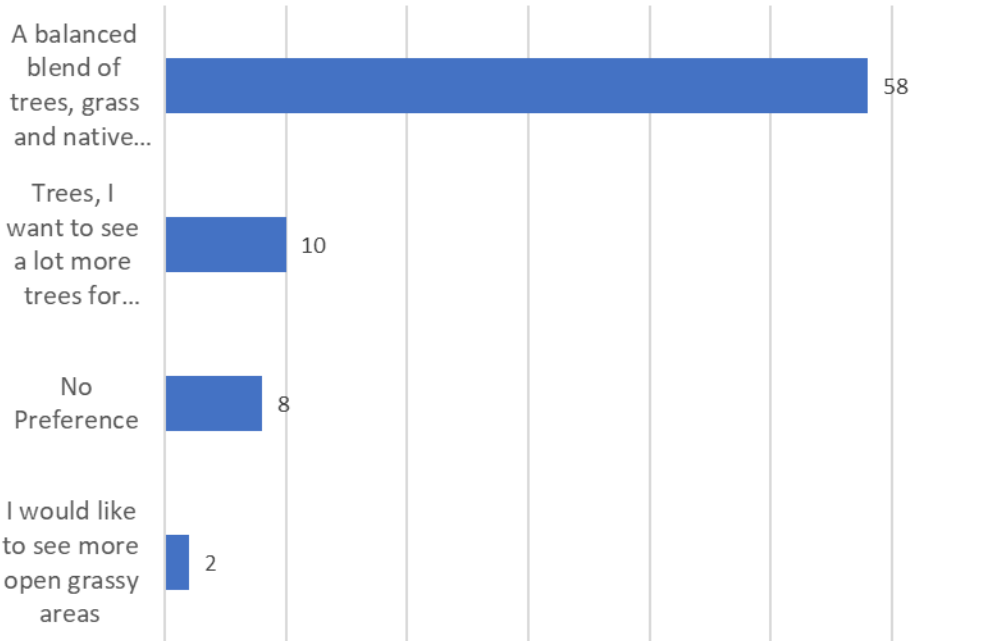
	Lives in Town of Caledonia	Lives Adjacent to new Park	Lives Outside of Town of Caledonia	Unknown
Never	5	2	1	1
One Time	16	3	7	
Once Per Month	14	3	4	
One - Two Times per Month	12	1	1	
Weekly	2	1		
Almost Daily	4			
Blank	1			



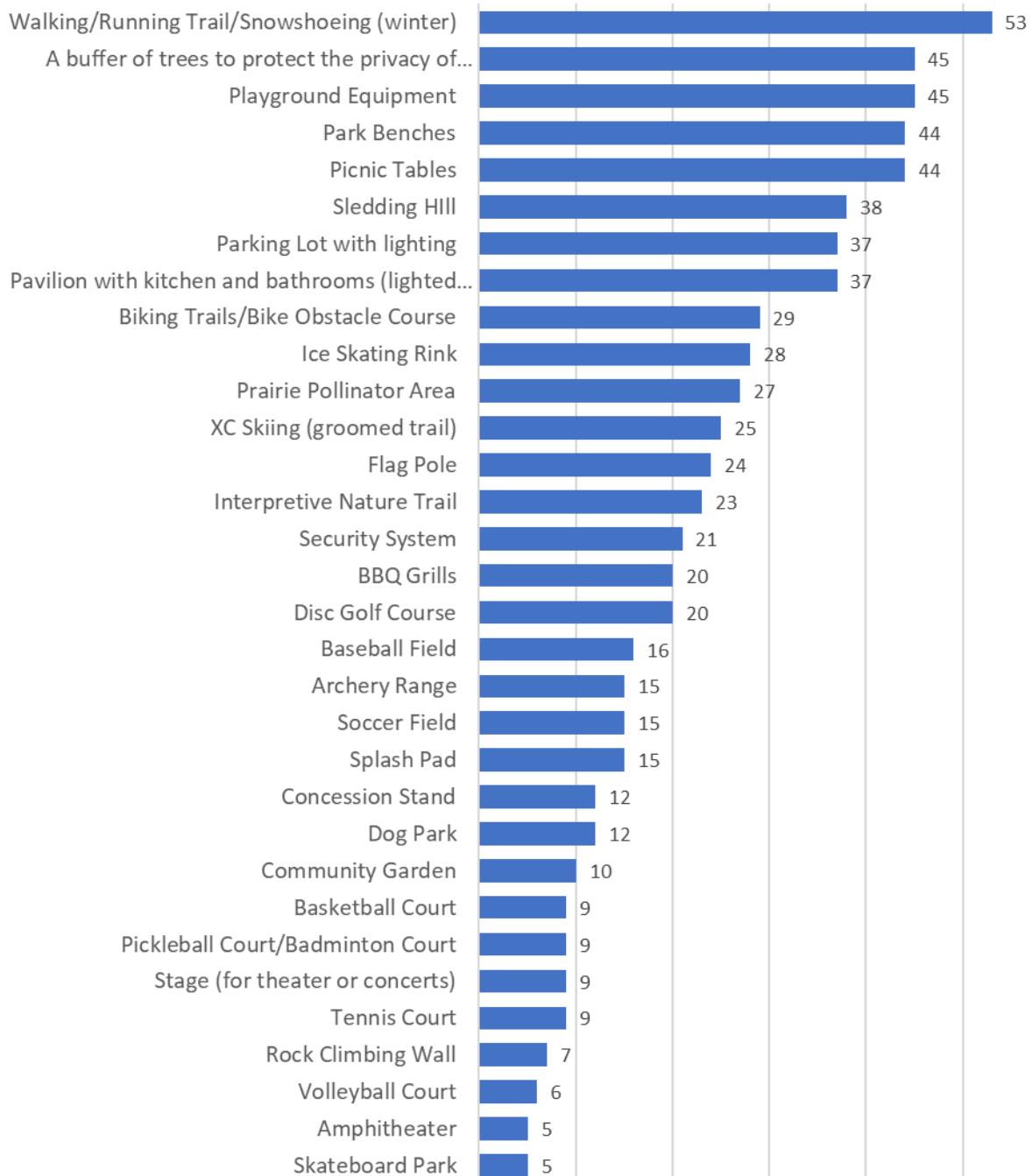




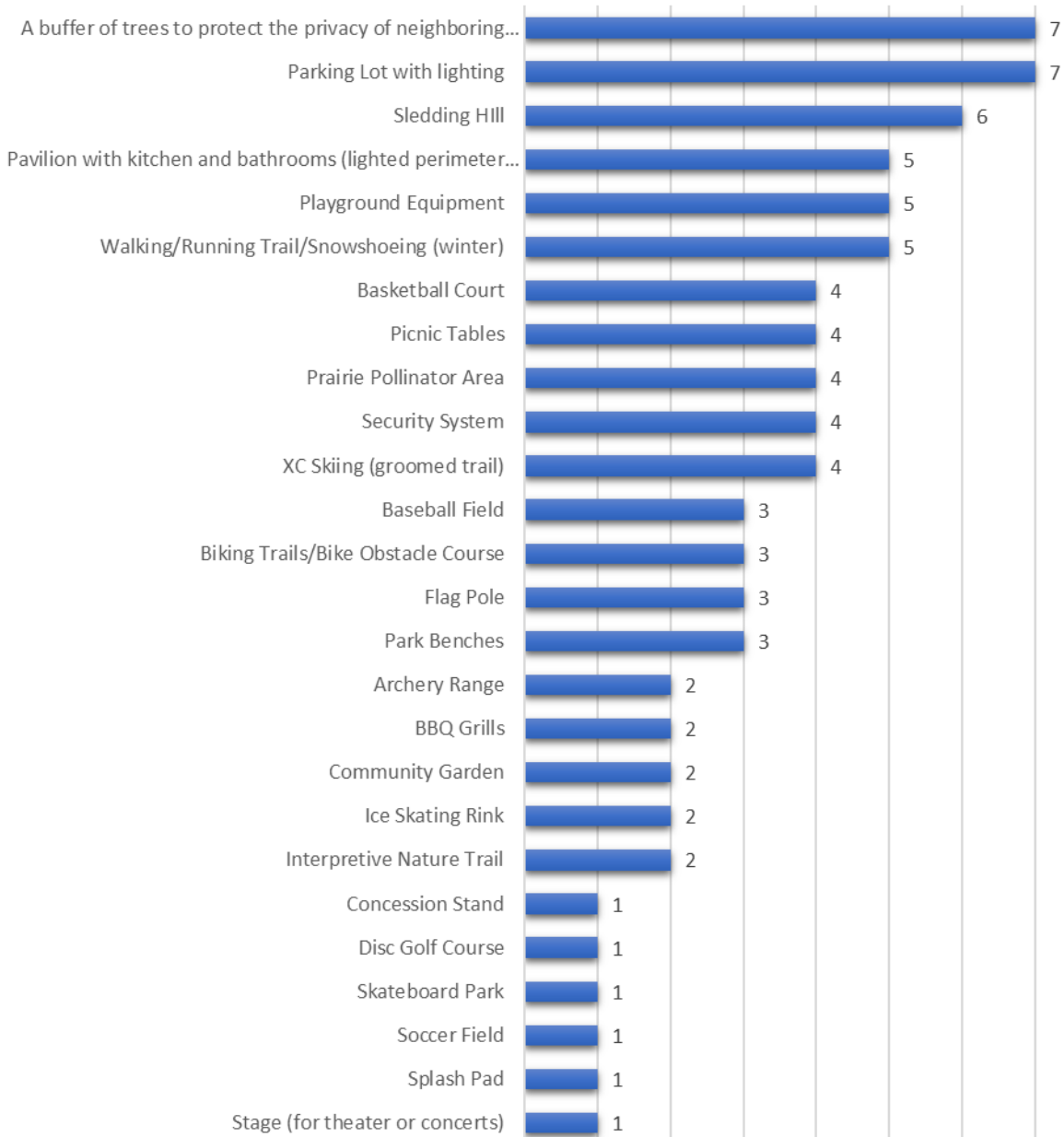
9. Parks are often referred to as "Green Space". The future park is currently farm land with a perimeter of trees. What type of "Green Space" would you like to see? (Check One)



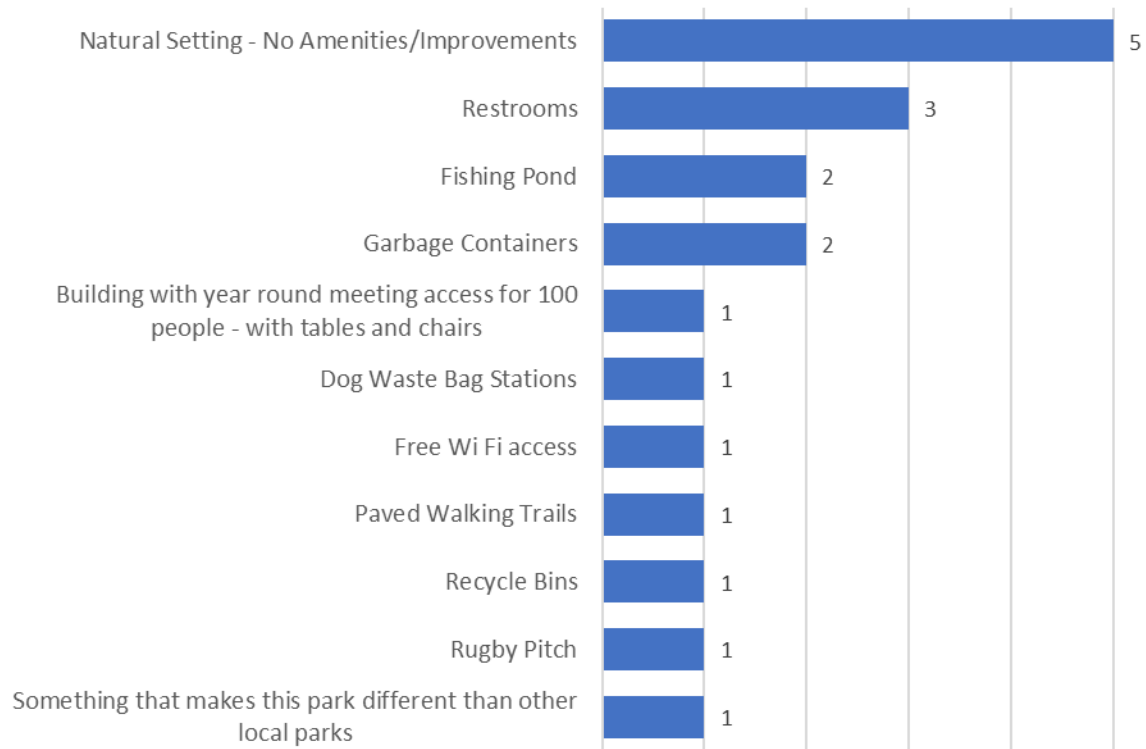
10. What do you want in the new park? (Check all that apply)



What do the 10 survey respondents who live adjacent to the new park want to see in the park?



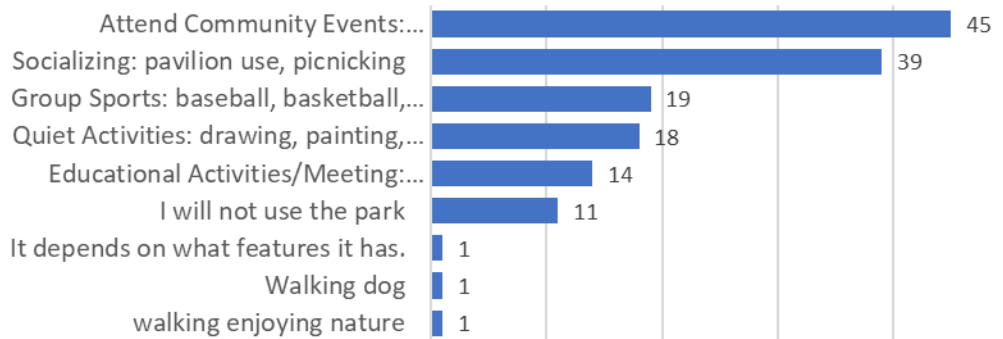
11. Other than options listed above in question 10, what else would you like to see in the new park?

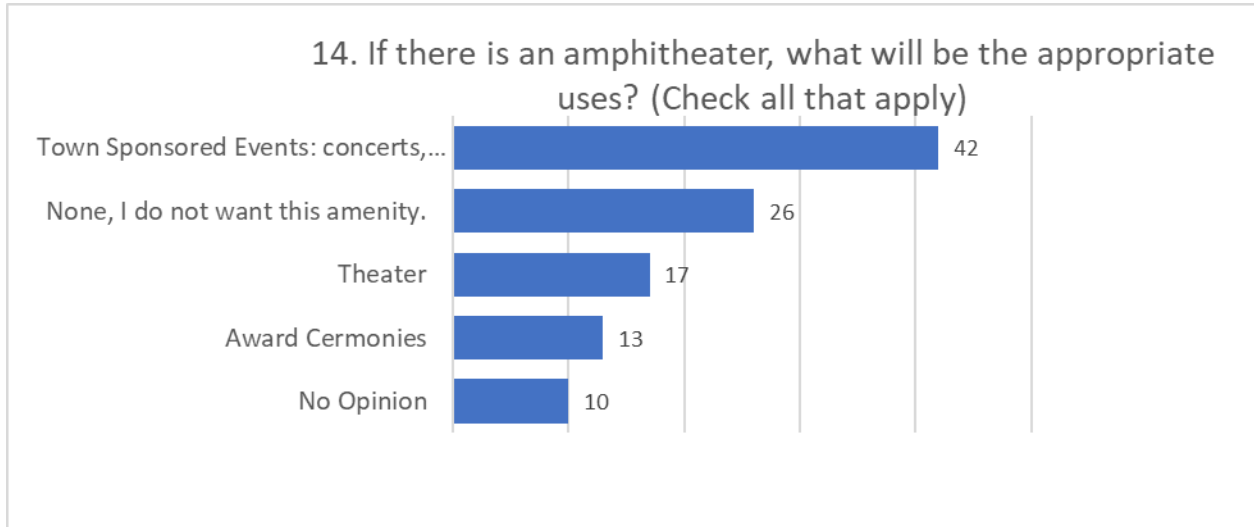


12. How would YOU use a Pavilion? (Check all that apply)



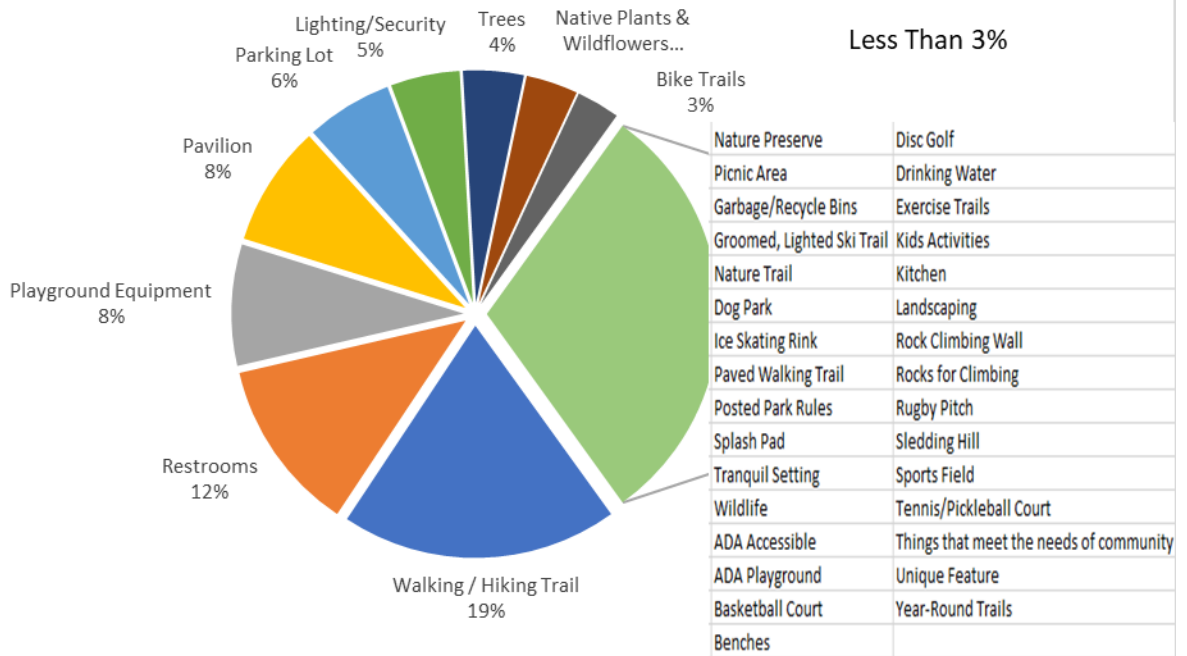
13. How will YOU use the park? (Check all that apply)



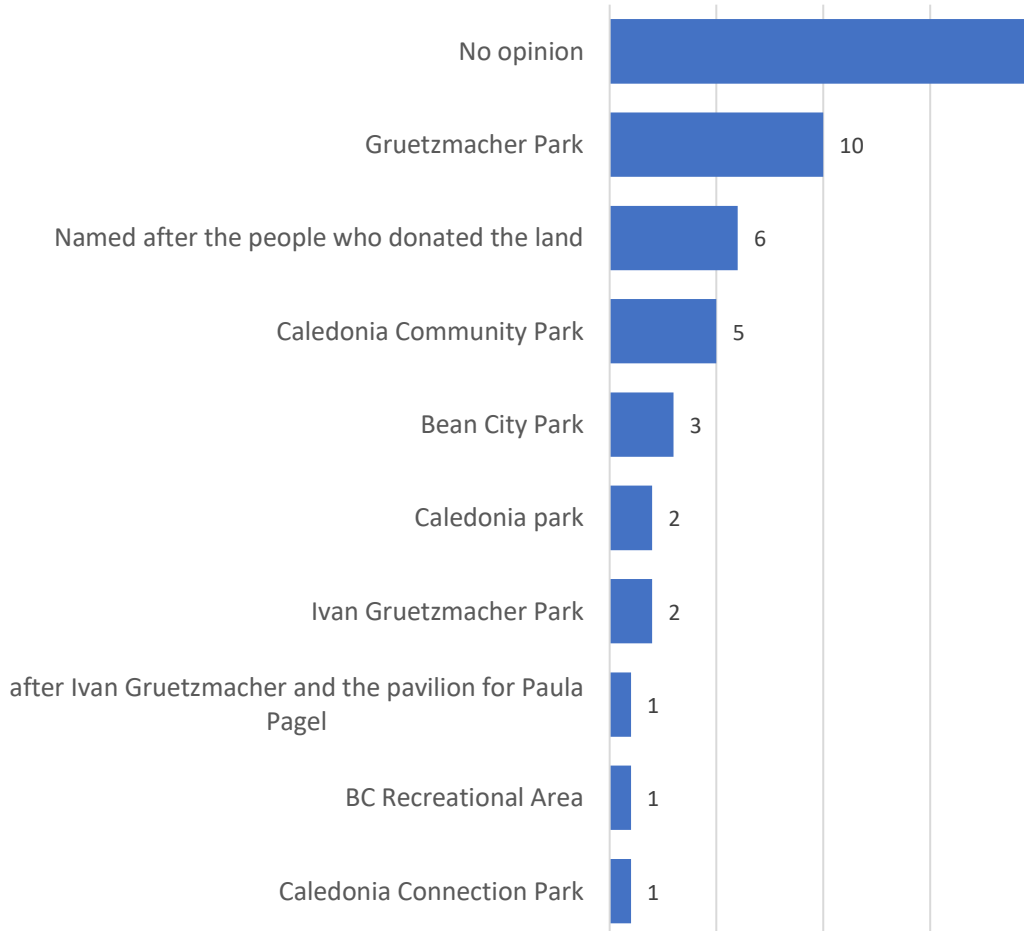


	Live in the Town	Live adjacent to the new park	Live outside of Town	Unknown
Town Sponsored Events	31	2	9	
Theater	13		4	
Award Ceremonies	8		5	
No Opinion	9		1	
None, I don't want the amenity.	14	8	3	1

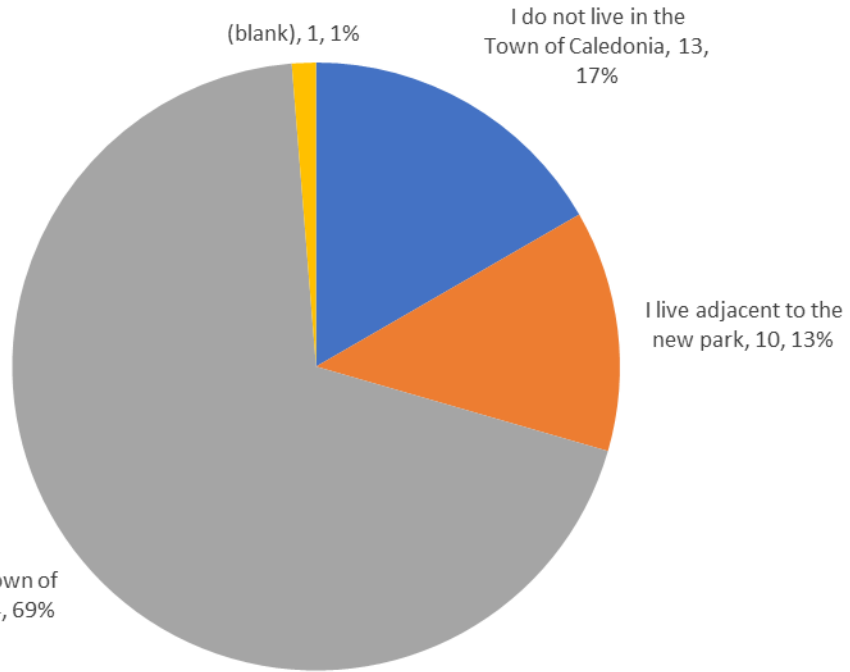
15. What are the three most important items you want in the park when it opens?

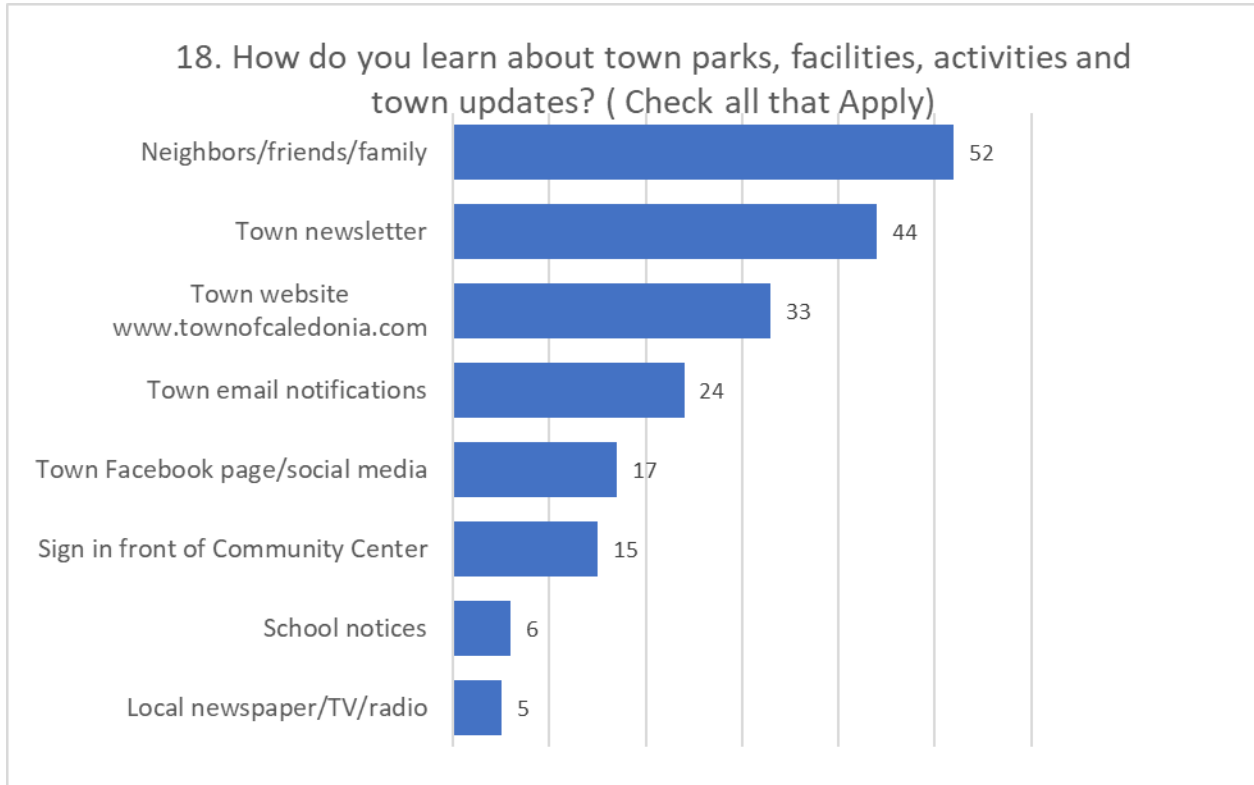


16. What should we name



17. How close do you live to the new park on Bean City Road? (Check One)





CHAPTER 5: HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2021 COUNTY HEALTH COMPONENTS AND STATISTICS

With obesity rates on the rise, the Town of Caledonia's need to promote active communities should be one of its top priorities. From the 2021 Waupaca County Health Rankings*, (with 1 being the best), Waupaca County is rated 44 overall out of 72 in the state for healthy outcomes and 28 out of 72 for health factors. The Health Ranking statistic is down from the 2016 rating where the county was 50 in health outcomes and the Health Factor is up from 24 to 28th. When compared to the other counties in the state, these County Health Rankings illustrate what we know when it comes to what's making people sick or healthy, but understanding the Town of Caledonia through the Waupaca County's rankings is only one component of improving the community's health. The "Roadmaps to Health" Action Center provides tools to help groups work together to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play.

Improving community health requires people from multiple fields to work collaboratively to create an ongoing cycle of activities. Communities may be at different points in this process. Still within the recommendations for active living, ECWRPC has developed a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan to help guide this process. A plan of this nature will help fill in those voided connections residents are asking for while still planning for future active communities.



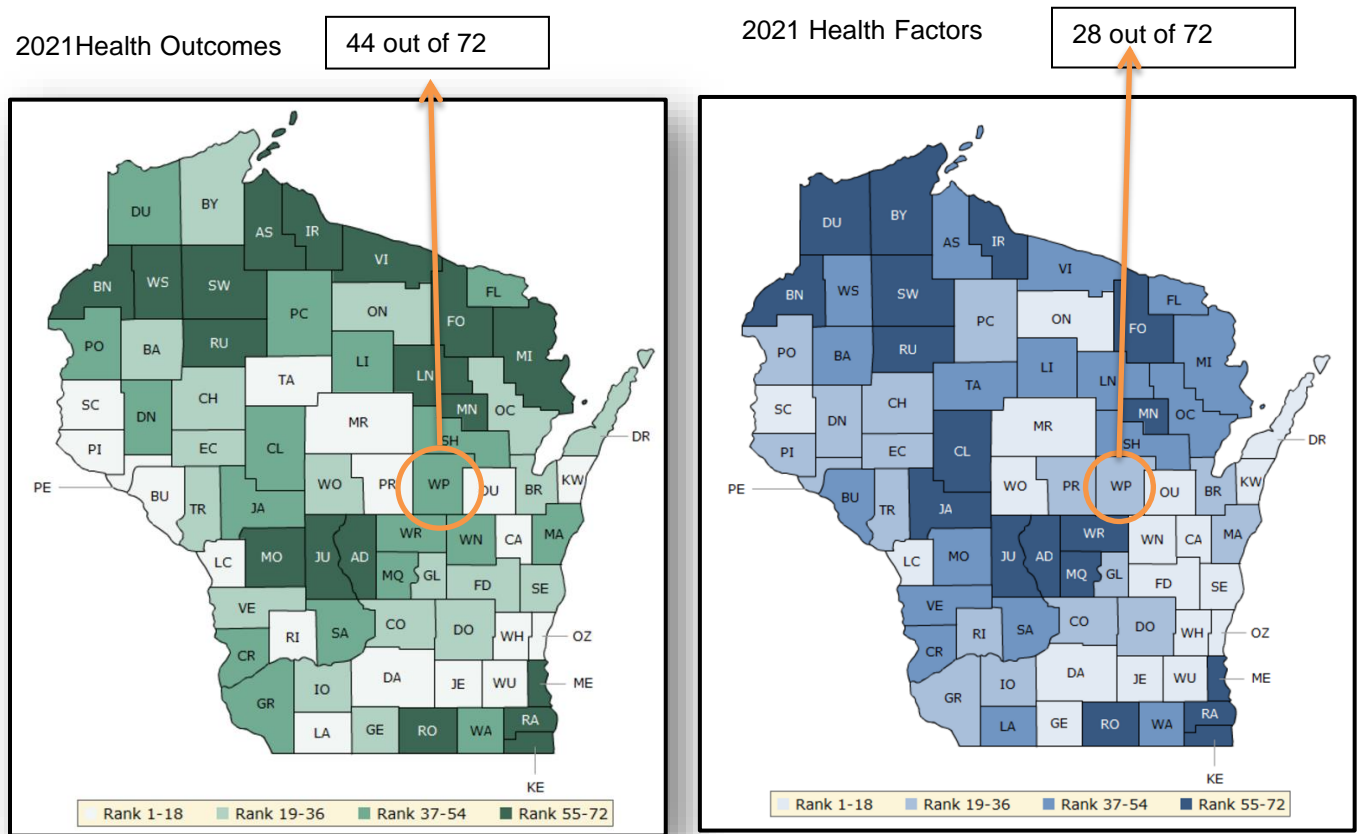
To enable and encourage the citizens of the Town of Caledonia to be more physically active, strengthening of the support and funding for the town's parks and recreation facilities and recreational programming should be reviewed. Improvements that would positively benefit public health and recreation are maintaining and adding more amenities to the existing Readfield Park and unique recreational opportunities at the New Park 2 to support its growing population base. Also adding more multi-use trail connections in general would help promote a healthy lifestyle and active living. Careful attention should be given to geographic areas of people with lesser means to access recreational opportunities, so they have at least an equal level of opportunity for physical activity. This goes back to the Goal 3 of making the facilities ADA accessible and designed for those needs.

Continued support with community partnerships such as the DMR Baseball, organizations, non-profits, citizen groups, local businesses, Friends of Readfield Park, Lions Club, Waupaca County and other interested parties to develop, fund and operate recreation programs, leagues, and events are key. These partnerships are invaluable to help provide the opportunities for people to be physically active.

Parks, playgrounds, and open spaces provide opportunities for physical activity. However, the presence of facilities is not enough to make sure they are being used for the greatest benefit of all. Factors such as location, accessibility, programming, connectivity, safety and aesthetics all play a role in the use of public facilities. Investing in consistent/uniform signage that aids people in identifying trails, hours of operation, places to be active, and other recreational opportunities,

should be considered. Promoting and marketing concepts should be developed along with the funding resources identified such as studies done through the Transform Wisconsin grant program.

Below are 2 maps that demonstrate where the county stands in the state as compared to the other 72 counties with 1 being the healthiest. Factors such as smoking, obesity rates, drinking excessively, STD's and motor vehicle crashes make up the first map, while outcomes such as premature death, poor to fair health, poor physical days, low birth weight, and poor mental days are shown on the second map. The rankings comparing the rest of the state are as follows:



Multi-modal transportation such as walking, biking, and ATV and UTV transportation can also help enhance the health and overall physical activity of all residents, by improving air quality and the environment, and reducing overall traffic congestion. Numerous Town of Caledonia residents would choose to walk and bike as a primary means of transportation due to cost of vehicle ownership and maintenance, environmental choice, healthy lifestyle choice, etc. if trails and other recreational facilities were developed. These types of initiatives are recognized at the state, national, and international-level to create safe, convenient, affordable, and fun opportunities for residents to walk and bike as a primary means of transportation. Health and safety should be a priority concern to the citizens of the Town of Caledonia. Safe Routes to School programs and grants can assist communities and encourage children to walk and bike to school as long as connections are in place and barriers are crossed.

Lastly, according to a publication from the Trust for Public Land, there are eight ways that parks can improve your overall health:

1. Parks increase exercise. People who live closer to parks are shown to exercise more as the opportunity is there and people who regularly use parks get more exercise than people who don't.
2. Most moderate exercise takes place in parks. Parks are where people get the kind of exercise their bodies need most.
3. Parks reduce stress and clear the mind. Outdoor areas boost focus and promote relaxation as the term being one with nature implies.
4. A park makeover with aesthetically pleasing spaces encourages use and promotes public health habits.
5. A variety of amenities can attract different users, i.e. skate parks, basketball and tennis courts, baseball, paths, and therefore encourage fun activities.
6. Dedicated fitness zone exercise areas encourage exercise and increase park use. The Village of Fox Crossing just put in workout benches at Fritsch Park where parents can get in reps while watching their kids play on the playground. Body fitness stations are becoming popular to encourage adults to workout.
7. Supervised activities and programming maximize a park's public health benefit. Getting people out and moving in a fun active setting is the best medicine.
8. Exercise is one of the cheapest ways to stay healthy. By promoting healthy habits, parks can help reduce health care costs.

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CHAPTER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

As identified in Goal 1, the CORP's recommendations are intended to upgrade the Town of Caledonia's recreation system by increasing the diversity of facilities available and by upgrading and expanding existing facilities. and the addition of New Park 2. Some of the recommendations may not be feasible in the near future, but they represent courses of action that are desired if the opportunity arises. Recommendations that are feasible for implementation within the next few years are included in the town's five-year action program while other long-range projects are also identified. Plan recommendations should be reviewed annually based on public input to respond to changing needs of the community or take advantage of unforeseen opportunities.

Based on the Town of Caledonia's population, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Standards of 10 acres per 1000 people, the Town should have 17.6 acres of recreational space. With the addition of the New Park 2 (46.8 acres), the Town has 51.52 acres of recreational space. As a result, the Town currently has ample areas for recreational use. With the projects that have been completed from the last CORP, the Town has made it a priority to reach the goals that were identified for enhancement and updating existing facilities. The Town sees the need to establish a community-wide recreation system that provides a wide variety of accessible recreational activities to all segments of the town. The following improvements are recommended for the Readfield Park and the New Park 2 sites:

READFIELD PARK

With the completion of the walking trail, the addition of park benches, and the construction of flush restroom facilities, larger groups can be accommodated. More diverse activities/functions can now be held at the park. As the park's landscaping matures, the park can be expected to become an increasingly attractive destination for recreationalists. The following recommendations are proposed to upgrade Readfield Park:

1. Replace older playground equipment to eliminate the threat of injuries and liability.
2. Add landscaping and shade areas to keep the park aesthetically pleasing. Particular emphasis should be given to establishing additional shade trees around the playground area, along the walking trail, and as needed for beautification of the park.
3. Develop pollinator plantings.
4. Create an ADA accessible trail from parking lot to the playground for people with disabilities.
5. Create a picnic area between the restrooms and ball diamond, with tables and garbage containers.



6. Add a permanent grill for large events with an area for individuals and smaller groups to also use it.
7. Relocate the horseshoe pits.
8. A multi-use field should be considered to promote other recreational opportunities.
9. Add bleachers to the second ball diamond if the need exists.



NEW PARK 2

New Park 2, which is approximately 5 miles north from Readfield Park is a 46.8-acre land area located between Meartz Road and Bean City Road for the development of a new town park. The land was donated in 2021 by Ivan and Jeanette Gruetzmacher for the purpose of developing a second park in the Township with unique attractions for the Town residents

1. Identify New Park 2 property boundaries and place park boundary signs.
2. Create an entrance and parking lot and ensure all environmental issues are identified and address before and after construction.
3. Install a park identification sign and usage rules sign.
4. Restore a wetland area.
5. Provide berms with live screening plantings to protect the privacy for adjacent landowners.
6. Install a security system and security lighting.
7. Create prairie areas and open recreational spaces.
8. Create a trail system for walking/hiking, and snow shoeing depending on the season.
9. Create a bicycle trail with entry from Bean City Road, utilizing park space, and the easement on Meartz Road.
10. Create an accessible trail from the parking lot to the playground for people with disabilities.
11. Trail systems will be located away from park boundaries and include buffer areas where appropriate.



12. Build a covered/roofed pavilion with lights and desired options of – a concrete base with picnic tables, outside outlets, multi-stall flush toilets, basic plumbing, electricity, running water, kitchen area, a concession window, and structure that is enclosable and expandable in the future.
13. Create a playground area. Consider an adult fitness area as an add-on to the playground.
14. Build a maintenance equipment shed.
15. Consider adding pickleball/tennis courts.
16. Consider adding a disc golf area.
17. Plan for mowed areas for multi-use including overflow parking,
18. Consider adding a mountain bicycle trail in the pine tree area
19. Consider a sledding hill for winter.



TRAIL SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore connecting the three subdivisions east of Readfield via a trail system to the Community Center Area and Readfield School. Coordinate with the Waupaca County Greenway Commission. Roadways have been identified as the best connecting routes to the Readfield Park due to land acquisition options not currently available
2. Plan with the Waupaca County Highway Department and the Greenway Commission to add a bicycle lane during the rebuilding of any Waupaca County roads in the Town of Caledonia including: County Road W north between Readfield and New London, County H and HH.
3. Plan for a bicycle trail connecting New Park 2 to Meartz Road for eventual connection to the County Road W bicycle lane to New London.
4. Consider creating trail connections to link neighborhoods to the park system.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations for specific parks, there are other actions the Town of Caledonia should pursue to ensure that the recreational needs of its residents continue to be met in the future while protecting natural resources.

1. The town should continue to identify projects that would be eligible for grants.
2. The Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) should continue to review projects in an advisory role.

3. Continue the donation process and procedures to accept, record, and acknowledge donations and memorials.
4. The Town should continue to work closely with established groups such as the MDR Lion's Club, DMR Baseball, 4-H, Readfield Gun Club, Friends of Readfield Park.
5. Establish partnerships with surrounding communities such as Fremont, Dale, and New London to include New London Parks and Rec, New London School District, and Dale Fire Department. Shared-use agreements should be formalized if not already in place.
6. The Town should encourage the continuation of the DMR softball.
7. The town should take steps to ensure that convenient recreational facilities are provided in new areas of concentrated residential development.
8. As major town roads are upgraded, paved shoulders should be provided and striped to promote and encourage bicycling and walking. The town should also encourage Waupaca County to provide these accommodations along county roads.
9. Consider a Recreational Program Coordinator who could be a main point of contact and organize community events.

MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR REVIEW

The Town should consider developing its own *Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility* plan in the future. Such a plan should consider local levels of service for trail provisions; recommend areas of first priority for development and also acquisition. Currently there are only trails within the town as part of the county-wide designated network. Waupaca County has an adopted bicycle and pedestrian plan written by ECWRPC in 2018. This plan should be reviewed for additional connections in the town.

The vision of the Waupaca County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan is "an interconnected network of intra- and inter-community linkages developed; ultimately enabling bicyclists and pedestrians to travel safely and conveniently to destinations within and beyond Waupaca County."

Multimodal accommodations in a community must serve various user groups, such as bicyclists, in-line skaters, wheelchair users, and pedestrians. This makes it necessary to look at the corridors from a variety of user points of view.

The recommendations in this plan are based on several widely recognized publications. The main publications used include the following:

- *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*
- *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities 2012 – Fourth Addition, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)*
- *Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.*

- *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*
- *Wisconsin Bicycle Planning Guidance, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Communities in Planning and Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21.*
- *Wisconsin Pedestrian Planning Guidance, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Communities in Planning and Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21.*

Pedestrian Facilities

Walkways are areas set aside for people traveling on foot. The best walkways are those that will make people feel safe, have good access, are aesthetically pleasing and attract pedestrians.

- **Sidewalks or Walkway:** Sidewalks and walkways are “Pedestrian Lanes” that provide people with space to travel within the public right-of-way that is separated from roadway vehicles.
- **Curb Ramps:** Curb ramps or Wheelchair ramps provide access between the sidewalk and roadway for people using wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, crutches, handcarts, bicycles, and also for pedestrians with mobility impairments who have trouble stepping up and down high curbs.
- **Marked Crosswalks and Enhancements:** Marked Crosswalks indicate optimal or preferred locations for pedestrians to cross as well as show areas where vehicles must yield to pedestrians.
- **Roadway Lighting Improvements:** Quality lighting and adequate placement can add dramatically to the comfort and safety of pedestrians. Without sufficient lighting motorists may not be able to see the pedestrians in adjacent walkways.
- **Street Furniture and Walking Environments:** Sidewalks should be a continuous system that has access to various goods, services, transit, and homes. Well developed and well used walking environments are enhanced by the use of street furniture such as benches, shelters, trash receptacles, and water fountains.

Bicycle Routes

The goal of a bicycle route system is to provide bicyclists with good mobility and access within the major transportation corridors. Mobility is the ability to move from one place to another in the most direct route and with the fewest interruptions. Access is the ability to get where you want to go once you have reached the general area of your destination.

To meet these goals, various criteria have been used to determine route placement and what facilities will be used on these routes. Three general approaches are usually used to place routes:

- Space bicycle routes ¼ to ½ mile apart throughout the area. This method has the advantage of consistency but does not lend itself well to areas that have a large number of barriers to transportation like lakes, rivers, hills, or highways. Transportation barriers force a deviation in the grid and may leave key areas unserved (Wisconsin Translink-21, 19-20).

- Ensure that important trip generators and destinations are connected by bicycle routes. This has the advantage of serving the most bicyclists, but again it may leave some areas unserved.
- Attempt to provide all arterial streets with wide curb lanes or bicycle lanes. This approach addresses the observation that bicyclists tend to have the same desired destinations as motorists and tend to use the same transportation corridors. However, because of right-of-way and other limitations this may not always be possible. Any new street should follow the “Complete Streets” policy which the town should consider adopting.

Other factors to be considered include safety (actual and perceived); cost, and how well the route system will integrate with other modes of transportation. Because of the unique characteristics of the Town of Caledonia, a combined approach which employs components from all of the above approaches should be used to best serve bicyclists.

Bicycle Facilities

Once you have decided to place a bicycle facility within a corridor, the type of bicycle facility to be used must be selected. The types of facilities typically used are listed below:

- **Route Signs:** All routes, regardless of facility type, should be marked with route signs. This makes it easier for bicyclists to use the system. Routes should also be given names which describe the route (i.e. University Route).
- **Shared Roadway:** Many residential streets are perfectly acceptable for bicycling without any further improvements. On these streets, route signs are used to indicate a preferred route of travel for bicyclists.
- **Paved Shoulders:** Paved shoulders are typically used on roads without curb and gutter. They provide bicyclists with a smooth surface outside of the main travel portion of the road on which to operate. Roads with paved shoulders are also much safer for motor vehicle drivers in that these roads experience far fewer head-on collisions.
- **Wide Curb Lanes:** Wide curb lanes are the minimum treatment for arterial streets. Wide curb lanes allow bicyclists and motorists to share a travel lane without adversely affecting each other. On streets without parking, wide curb lanes are typically 14-15 feet wide. This does not include the curb and gutter section. Wide curb lanes also benefit motor vehicle traffic. In fact, wide curb lanes were originally designed to improve motor vehicle traffic flow.
- **Bicycle Lanes:** Bicycle lanes are a portion of the roadway which has been designated by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. They are usually 4-6 feet wide. Bicycle lanes are perceived by many bicyclists as being safer and thus encourage bicycling on these facilities. (See figure 2.)

- Bicycle Paths:** Bicycle paths are a bicycle facility separated from the roadway by some sort of barrier or space (see figure 2). The recommended minimum widths for bicycle paths are 5-foot for a one-way path and 8-foot for a two-way path. (See figure 3). If the path is to be used by pedestrians as well as bicyclists, the minimum recommended path width is 10'. (See figure 4.)

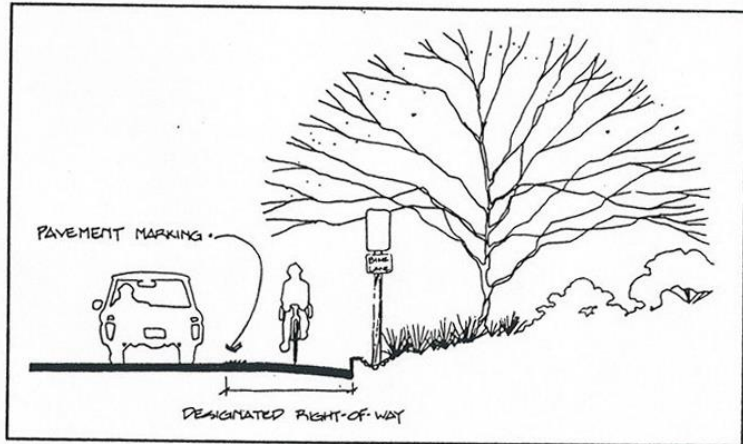


Figure 1 Bicycle lane (Harris et al, 341-3).

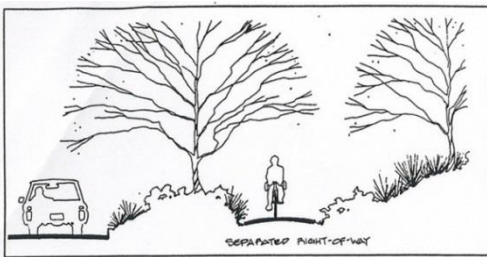


Figure 2: Bicycle Path (Harris et al, 341-3)

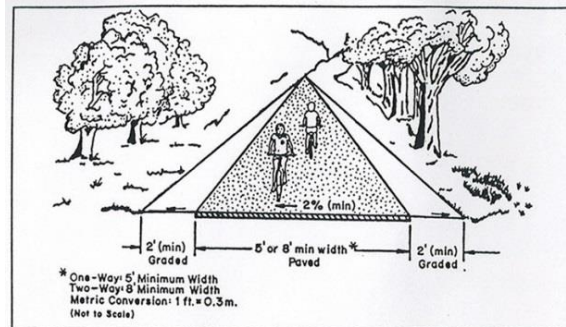


Figure 3: Recommended widths for bicycle paths (AASHTO. 24)

Multi-Modal Accommodations

The following is a list of potential multi-modal corridors. These areas have been chosen based on guidelines described in this study, the town's comprehensive plan update including land use and roadway classification.

A multi-use recreational trail system should be developed in the Town of Caledonia. This trail system would connect residential areas to recreational spaces. A bike and pedestrian facility plan should be developed that establishes a local level of service for trail provision, recommends areas of first priority for development and acquisition, and recommends improvements to existing facilities.

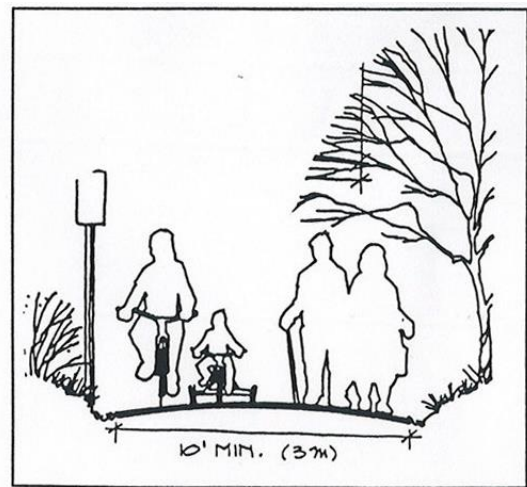


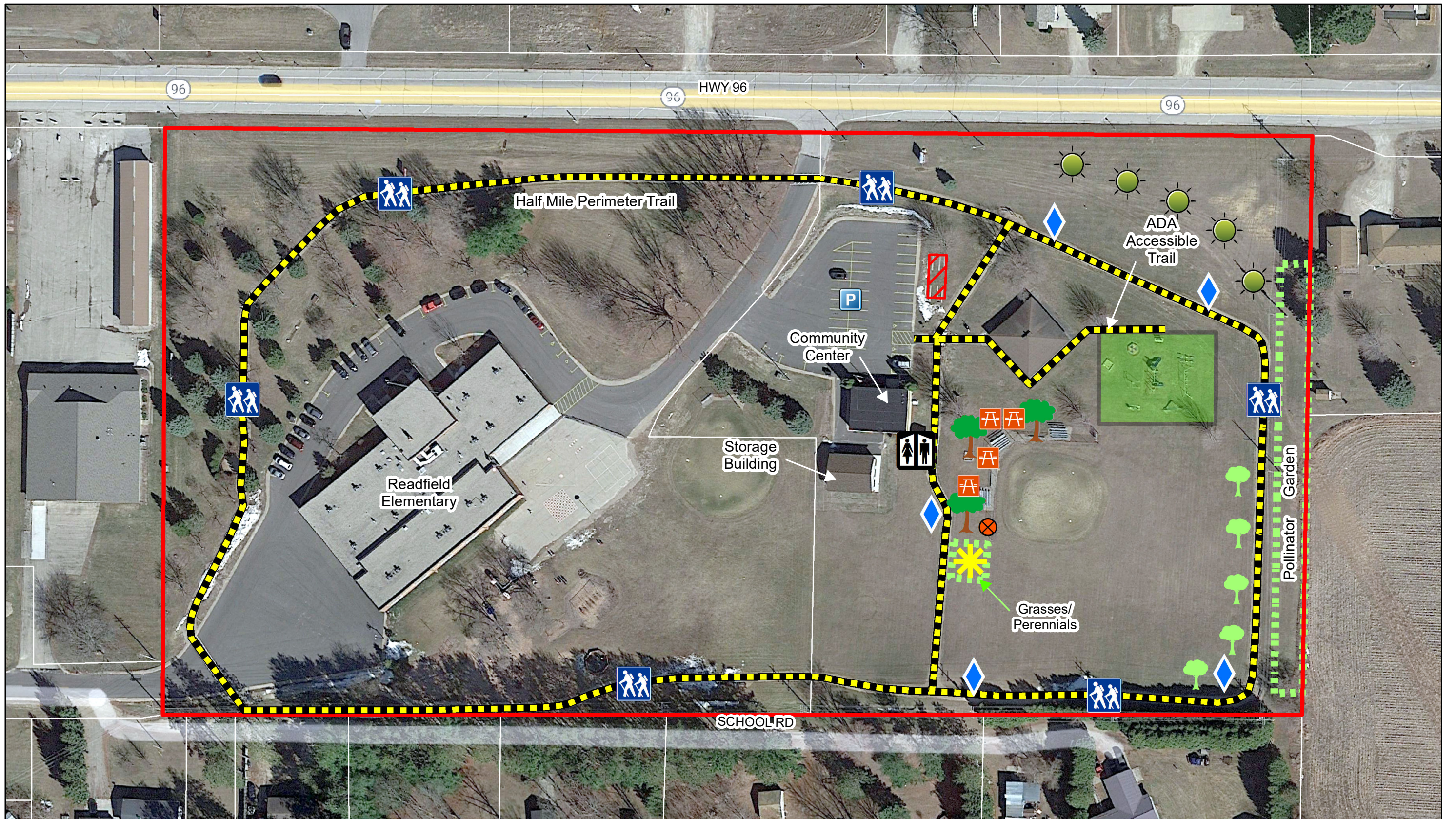
Figure 4 Recommended minimum multi-use path width (Harris et al., 341-6)

Trail Corridors

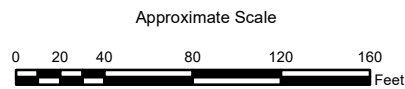
General and Other Trail Connections

These selected corridor routes provide connections to daily trip generators (i.e., parks, schools, business district). Review of specific routes for perceived and actual safety concerns need to be studied on a case-by-case basis. Upon design of these facilities, final determination of the specific “type” of accommodation shall be established by the Town of Caledonia.

- Add signage and make connections to residential areas from existing parks
- Connect Readfield Park to subdivisions north and south of State Highway 96
- New Park 2 connection to Readfield Park (via Hwy 96 to County Road W, then County Road H to County HH, then County W and finally Meartz Road – approximately 5-mile route).
- Work with surrounding municipalities, Waupaca County, and the Greenway Commission to develop more trails.



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This base map information was obtained from the Waupaca County Land Information Office and is intended to be used as a reference. They assume no liability for the accuracy of this map or its use or misuse.

- Park Boundary
- Parcel Lines
- 1 FT Contours

- Parking
- Bench
- Cell Tower

- Restrooms
- Remove
- Playground Area

Legend

- Existing Trail
- Proposed BBQ Grill
- Horseshoe Pits (TBD)

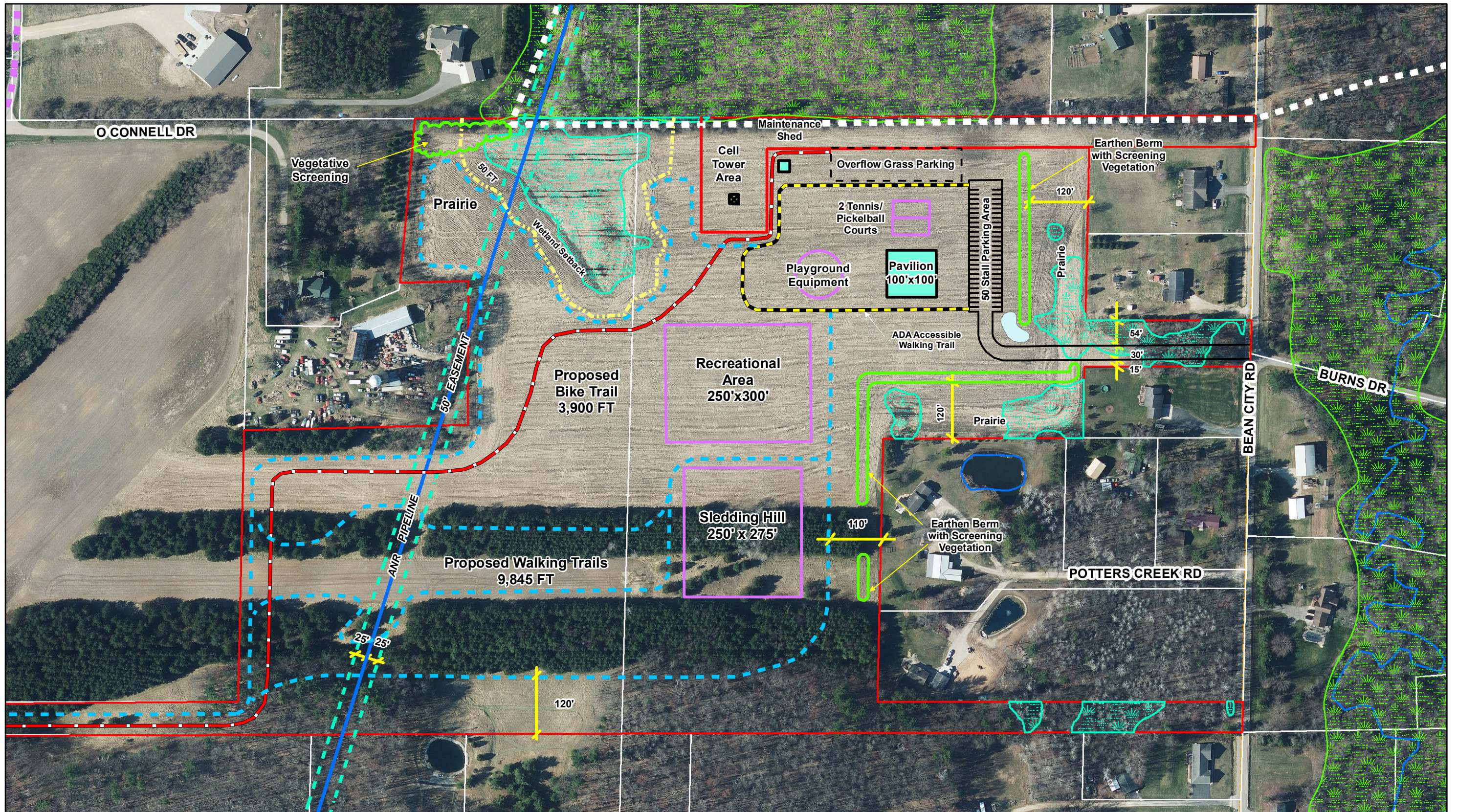
- Natural Gardens
- Proposed Picnic Tables
- Future Trees

- Proposed Large Trees
- Proposed Small Trees

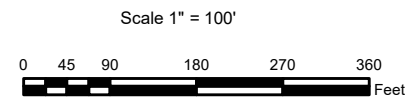


**Town of Caledonia
 Community Park
 Improvements**
 Town of Caledonia
 Waupaca County, Wisconsin

Back of Map 5



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Legend			
	Park Boundary		McMahon Delineated Wetlands
	Parcel Lines		Drain Tiles
	Waterways		Existing County Snowmobile Trail
	1 FT Contours		Stormwater Pond
	DNR Wetlands		Proposed Pavilion
	Proposed County Trail		Proposed Landscaping
	Proposed Recreational Areas		Proposed Town Walking Trail 9,845 FT
	Proposed ADA Walking Trail 1,179 FT		Proposed Town Bike Trail 3,900 FT
	Proposed Adult Fitness Stations (TBD)		Proposed ADA Walking Trail 1,179 FT
			Proposed Disc Golf Course (TBD)

Caledonia Town Park 2
 Town of Caledonia
 Waupaca County, Wisconsin

Back on Map 6

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

Accessible describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as interpreted by the Department of Commerce in the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register for Barrier-Free Design.

Newly designed or newly constructed and altered recreation facilities shall comply with the applicable requirements for accessibility to buildings and facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Americans with disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) 2008.

SPECIAL ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

Town and School Cooperation

School Districts are important entities in the community's open and recreation space. Combined planning is instrumental to secure adequate facilities which are maintained well for use of the entire community. Shared planning efforts may assist in developing the number of active recreation spaces, maintenance responsibilities and costs, as well as cooperation of use and operations of all facilities. Open communication and utilizing all available land and resources will continue to provide the community positive results for active recreational lands.

Town of Caledonia and Private Sector Cooperation

Due to current funding constraints on municipal governments throughout the State of Wisconsin, the private sector and user groups are beginning to assist in park development and ongoing site maintenance. Sponsorships, donations, grants and friends groups are good sources for park development. The town needs to increase its open communication as well as developing on-going agreements which allow user groups to assist in funding or providing "in-kind" funding for the development and maintenance of athletic fields, facilities and areas they are directly using.

Shared-Use Parks

Park development, improvement and maintenance are costly and especially difficult with shrinking budgets. This plan incorporates recommendations for several park developments with neighboring communities. Parks should and do serve everyone and not just the individuals that live within your community. The development of parks with neighboring communities will spread these costs out to two or more communities and provide spaces that serve residents in adjacent communities. Residents are unaware of municipal boundaries and these possibilities should be explored.

Tree City USA Designation

The Tree City USA program provides direction, assistance and national recognition for your community. It's the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in the town. And the benefits are substantial. **Reduce costs for energy, stormwater management, and erosion control.** Trees yield 3–5 times their cost in overall benefits to the city. In order for the Town to be designated, there are some standards that are required such as:

- A Tree Board or Department
 - A Tree Care Ordinance
 - A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 per Capita
 - An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
-

Maintenance

Inspection of park and recreation amenities indicated that town facilities are maintained but could use improvement. Well-maintained park areas not only protect public investment, but insure safety. Town staff should continue to provide services, which adequately operate and maintain the park and recreation areas and facilities. To ensure continued excellence in park maintenance, the following policies should continue to be implemented:

- Provide routine maintenance and cleanliness for all amenities.
- Provide for non-recurring maintenance needs, repairs and replacements.
- Annually inspect all facilities for safety and maintenance needs.
- Allocate appropriate funds to meet the needs for proper maintenance.
- Maintain facilities to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Set standards for mowing heights and frequency.
- Set standards for infield maintenance, weeds, flood control, etc.
- Set standards for removal of a field for use based on safety concerns and field conditions.
- Develop a list of when events should be cancelled and who makes the call.
- A program coordinator should be developed to be the point of contact.
- Complete and document monthly playground inspections. Have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector complete the audit? (CSPI)

CHAPTER 7: ACTION PROGRAM

5 YEAR ACTION PROGRAM, 2022-2026

The projects listed below in Tables 11 and 12, comprise the action program set forth by the CORP Task Force and Town Board for implementation during the next five years and beyond. This action program is based on priority level by year to serve as a guide in planning for future facilities. These were formulated to see where the community should be expending its resources from 2022 – 2026 and beyond. This will also assist service clubs and organizations to select potential park improvement projects if so inclined. As updates and development nears, more costs should be researched to assist in project budgeting and be included within the estimated Capital Improvement Program.

Many of the projects identified in the action program are potential candidates for receiving cost sharing monies available through the WDNR, WisDOT, etc., (Appendix C) while others could be developed through the efforts and/or monetary support of volunteers and community organizations.

This plan works to develop and manage a working system of park and recreational facilities for the Town of Caledonia. It has been prepared to respond to expressed desires from its residents and to conform to the comprehensive plan as accepted standards for provision of facilities. It provides the basic information and direction for future actions but considerable work remains to implement the proposals.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The following section provides a plan for implementing the recommendations over the next five-year period. Cost estimates are provided to assist the town in preparing for funding.

Estimates are based on 2021 costs and do not reflect potential future price increases. The estimates provided are for the total cost of the project, and do not take into account any potential funding assistance, even though some projects may qualify for grant funding but usually a match is required. The capital improvements included in this plan were determined through input from staff and residents through public surveys and meetings. Accompanying cost estimates are based on best available information; more refined estimates should be determined prior to budgeting for specific projects. The Town's Capital Improvement Fund is increased through a fee of \$300 for each new house building permit in the Town, and some of the funds can be used on green space projects. The current balance in the Fund in May 2022 is \$2,400.

Project Priority

Projects that the CORP Task Force would like to see undertake during the next several years are listed on the following two pages. The table emphasizes the provision of additional facilities at Readfield Park and the proposed New Park 2. Many of these projects are eligible to receive matching funds through WDNR's Stewardship Program. Others may qualify for grants through other programs offered by various State agencies and non-profits. For certain projects, however, involvement by individuals and support groups and local organizations will be critical. Ultimately the priority and the dollar amounts spent on each project will be decided by the Town Board and

on a project-by-project basis. Tables 11 & 12 gives a “snapshot” of capital improvements for the next five years at both Town of Caledonia parks.

Table 11: Five – Year Action Plan for Readfield Park

Priorities: Needed Now 2022-23, Short-Term 2024, Long Term 2025+

Recommendations/Goals in Tables 11 & 12 reference Recommendation identified in Chapter 6 and Goals are referenced for Chapter 2 as identified by the CORP Task Force.

Readfield Park and Community Center				
Recommendations	Justification	Timeline	Possible Partners	Est. Cost
Replace Playground Equipment	Liability Threat / Safety, Goals 1 & 3	2023	Grants, FORP & CEC	\$67,000
Landscape Program – 20 Shade Trees	Recommendations - Goal 2	2022-2023	American Transmission Company Grant (ATC), Local Businesses, Oberstadt & Donations.	\$10,000
Develop Pollinator plantings	Recommendations Goal 2	2023	CEC, American Transmission Company Grant (ATC), Local Businesses	\$10,000
Permanent Grill	Recommendation - Goal 4	2023	Lions Club, CEC	\$15,000
Horseshoe pit relocation	Recommendation, Goals 1 & 4	2023	Lions, CEC	\$2,000
Picnic Areas – Tables and Garbage Receptacles	Recommendations Goals 1, 3 & 4	2022-2023	4-H, FORP, CEC, Rawhide	\$2,000
Accessible Trails (ADA) – Parking Area to Playground	Recommendations, Goal 3	2025	Grants, Local Businesses	\$3,500
Improvement Totals:			\$21,900 per year over 5 years	\$109,500



Justification for a new park is based on the needs assessment and population base standards in Chapter 4. The town is currently at 51.51 acres of park space available for public use if the “New Park 2” area is developed in to a fully functional park. The area currently is approximately 45% wooded area and 55% cropland. Based on the 10 acre per 1,000 capita rule the Town of Caledonia would need approximately 17.26 acres. The addition of the New Park 2 will provide adequate park space for the Township for many years to come once the park is fully developed for recreational use. Table 12 shows the approximate cost for specific desirable components that were identified during: CORP Task Force meetings, Parks and Trails Survey for the Town of Caledonia - November 2021, and public input throughout the development of the 2022-2026 CORP.

Table 12: Five – Year Action Plan for New Park 2

Priorities: Needed Now 2022-23, Short-Term 2024, Long Term 2025+

New Park 2				
Recommendations	Justification	Timeline	Possible Partners	Est. Cost
Engineering, topo and design fees	County & State Requirements - Goals 1, 2, & 3	2023	Grants, FORP & CEC	\$100,000
Entrance and parking area	Recommendations – Goals 1 & 3	2022-2023	Grants, FORP, CEC, Town Board	\$32,000
Park Identification Sign	Recommendation - Goals 1 & 4	2023	Lions Club, CEC, Rawhide	\$3,000
Create wetland area and prairies	Recommendations - Goals 1 & 2	2023	Pheasants Forever, Waupaca County, Grants, FORP, CEC	\$5,000
Construct berms and screening plantings	Recommendations - Goals 1, 2 & 3	2023-2024	Grants, Waupaca County, FORP, CEC, Donations	\$10,000
Install security system and lighting	Recommendations - Goals 1, 3 & 4	2024	Grants, Waupaca County, Town Board	\$15,000
Create trail system – walking/hiking and snowshoeing	Recommendations - Goals 1, 2 & 3	2024-2026	Grants, FORP, CEC, 4-H, Rawhide	\$25,000
Create ADA accessible trail	Recommendations Goal 3	2024-2026	Grants, FORP, CEC, Town Board	\$10,000
Covered pavilion with amenities	Recommendation, Goals 1,3 & 4	2023	Grants, Lions Club, Donations	\$400,000

Playground equipment	Recommendation, Goals 1, 3 & 4	2024	Grants, FORP, CEC	\$80,000
Storage shed	Recommendations Goal 1	2024	Grants, FORP, CEC, Lions Club	\$35,000
Tennis/pickle ball courts	Recommendation, Goals 1 & 4	2025	Grants, Donations, FORP	\$50,000
Sledding hill	Recommendations, Goals 1 & 4	2025	Grants, Local Businesses, Donations, Waupaca County	\$100,000
Adult Fitness Area	Recommendation, Goals 1 & 4	2026	Grants, FORP, CEC	\$30,000
Mountain Biking Trail	Recommendation, Goals 1,3, & 4	2026	Grants, CEC	\$25,000
Improvement Totals:				
			\$184,000 per year over 5 years	\$920,000

NOTES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The year five plan should be planned out to 2026 and then look at the next five-year CORP for completion of the goals as identified to finalize New Park 2 for capital improvements and budgeting due to cost restraints.

The year five total plan starting in 2022 should be phased out beyond to 2026 looking at a five-year approach and incorporated into the next five capital improvement budgets. All projects not completed within the next five-years should be extended into the next five-year planning cycle.

With the development of the New Park 2, the vision of the Task Force is to develop the park in stages using grants and donations to finance park elements. The plan takes into consideration park neighbor concerns, wise land-use management and a thorough planning process to ensure that no conflicts arise while development occurs. One of the planning goals is that the area be used to its fullest potential to create a unique park that will showcase the pride of the Town of Caledonia. A list of design principles for New Park 2 were developed by the Town Board and guided the work of the Task Force. The Design Principles for New Park 2 are included in the Appendix.

RESOLUTION 2022-07-01, July 18, 2022
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2022-2026 CORP PLAN
TOWN OF CALEDONIA, WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the Town of Caledonia Board of Supervisors has worked for a number of years to improve recreational opportunities within the community and has sought to fund these efforts through donations and grants. In order to access grant funding and have an efficient plan for implementing projects, the Town must have a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The previous CORP plan expired at the end of 2021 and a new five year plan must now be created, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Supervisors created a CORP Task Force of community representatives in 2021 and hired Martenson and Eisele to assist in the facilitation of the team's planning activities. Wider resident input was also sought. The CORP Task Force has been working over the past year and presented the draft 2022-2026 CORP plan to the Town Board for approval on June 22, 2022, and;

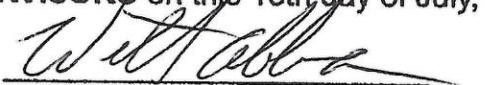
WHEREAS, the Town Board of Supervisors has been actively involved in the process to create the new CORP Plan and has provided guidance on the direction and content of the plan, and;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Supervisors has had opportunity to discuss and question elements and recommendations in the plan, and;

WHEREAS, the new 2022-2026 Town of Caledonia CORP will be a critical part of the Town's recreational planning and funding program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the 2022-2026 Town of Caledonia CORP Plan as presented by the CORP Task Force has been reviewed and accepted as the official plan for recreational development in the Town for the next five year period and that the Town Board of Supervisors will make every effort to implement the plan as presented.

RESPECTFULLY ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS on this 18th day of July, 2022.


William Abba – Town Chairperson


Vance Knuth – Supervisor 2


Carol Dobija - Supervisor 1


Attest – Emily Miller - Clerk

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Appendix A

S.W.O.T. Analysis Worksheet

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Town of Caledonia Park Planning Taskforce Meeting –
January 19, 2022 Please review and bring to meeting for
discussion

S.W.O.T. Analysis Worksheet

Strengths

What unique recreational resources does the Town have?
What do others see as your Town's recreational strengths?

- Comprehensive Planning is utilized and updated to ensure the Township is able to comply with grant application requirements.
- Family Farming Community
- Local, County and State Road Networks
- Diverse Natural Resources
- Water – near Wolf River recreation
- River Entrance Weiland Landing RV Park Campground
- Snowmobile Trails
- Readfield Park
 - Playground access for general public and Readfield School
 - Easy Access off of STH 96
 - Adjacent to Readfield Elementary School (4K through 4th grade)
 - Caledonia Community Center and Readfield Park Shelter with ADA accessibility
 - Clean and well-maintained park
 - Walking trail shared with Readfield Elementary School
 - Baseball diamond
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Parking lot adjacent to Caledonia Community Center
 - Little Free Library adjacent to parking lot
 - Updated security system at Readfield Park and proposed security system at the new park is being considered.
- Strong organizations: Lions Club, 4-H Groups & Scouts
- Readfield Gun Club
- Friends of Readfield Park
- Organized community events: Caledonia Days, Food Truck Rallies, Chicken BBQ, card tournaments
- Conservation Ordinances – Waupaca County Ordinances

Weaknesses

What could the Town improve related to its' parks and recreational facilities, etc.?
The Town's ability to provide recreational opportunities throughout the Township.
What are residents likely to see as recreational weaknesses?

- Lack of unique identity and sense of place
- No recreational trail system with connections to other Townships and throughout the County
Recreational system
- Lack of connecting routes for safe biking
- No connections from the existing park and proposed park to higher populated areas such as subdivisions.
- Limited opportunities for younger kids, teens, adults
- Funding sources for future improvements, upgrades and maintenance
- Lack of winter recreational activities within the Township
- No unique resources to draw people here
- Lack of shade trees/shelter access, not aesthetically pleasing – rest areas/benches would be beneficial
- No staff to help maintain the park space if landscaping goes in – volunteers would have to come in. (master-gardeners /other volunteers would be needed)
- Size of the shelter – not big enough to compete with other shelters e.g. Dale
- Lack of effective multiple ways to communicate with residents/public
- Extended hour/safety lighting for the park

Opportunities

What recreational opportunities does the Town promote?
What recreational trends could you take advantage of?
How can you turn your rec strengths into opportunities?

- Newly acquired 47 acres to develop into a park with various multi use athletic fields
- Expand walking Trails inside and outside parks
- Winter activities – offer new things to do, ice skating, ski, tubing, sledding hill
- Safe Biking areas along rural roadways and provided bike lanes on roadways when resurfacing is conducted.
- Add Nathan Creek Subdivision & Whispering Winds Subdivision to a trail system
- Park system and trail linkages could be possible with easements, conduct landowner contacts to pursue potential easements.
- DNR Public Space Owned Land Marsh Road, New London FFA School Forest
- More adult fitness equipment, Frisbee golf course
- More Health based programs
- Nature based recreation area/play equipment
- Learning –self-guided nature trail, prairie establishment

Threats

What threats are harming the Town's recreational areas?

Why are the neighboring communities able to provide more opportunities i.e. Town/Village of Fremont, City of Waupaca, City of New London, City of Weyauwega, etc. in their parks?

- No programming coordinator and limited paid staff and maintenance personnel
- Uncertain Revenue/Funding coming in for upgrading existing facilities for recreational purposes
- Vandalism – consider more lighting and security options
- Haphazard housing development and land use challenges/conflicts such as quarries and agricultural
- Rural Township without firm sense of identity
- Increased traffic volume on Town roads near Park 2 may cause issues

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Appendix B

Funding Opportunities

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Martenson & Eisele, Inc.

Plan It. Design It. Build It.®

Planning - Environmental - Surveying - Engineering - Architecture

Funding Opportunities

Abbreviations: Principal Forgiveness (PF), Stormwater (SW), Sanitary (San.)

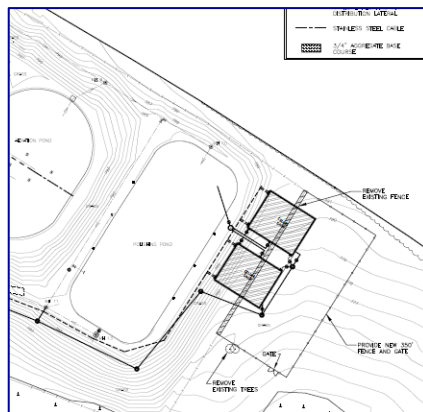
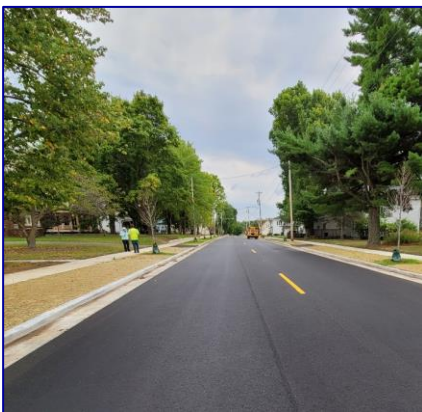
In the Deadlines column, “Even” means even-numbered years (2022, 2024, etc.), “Odd” means odd-numbered years (2021, 2023, etc.), “All” means offered annually, “Irregular” means not always funded, and “Continuous” means there’s no set deadline. Note deadlines, match percentages and maximum awards may vary slightly from year to year. **Click on the program name for a link to the application website for more information.**

Project	Name	Type	Deadlines	Description
Community Facilities (Health care, town halls, fire/police equipment, etc.)	<u>USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program</u>	Grant / Loan	Continuous	Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care facilities • Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, street improvements • Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, transitional housing • Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment • Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools • Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment • Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens Loan / grant rates vary. Rural communities <10,000 people.
Conservation / Recreation	<u>WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants</u>	Grant	May 1, All	Grants support a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects throughout the state. Common projects funded through these grant programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition for parks & trails, including riverfront property • Construction of hiking trails and bike paths • Construction of canoe/kayak launches, including those that provide universal accessibility • Construction of riverfront park amenities • Construction of park shelters and restroom facilities Offers 50% funding. Requires a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for eligibility.
Conserv. / Recreation	<u>WDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program</u>	Grant	May 1, All	This is a federal program administered in all states that encourages the creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities, administered through the WDNR. Offers 50% funding. Requires a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for eligibility.



Project	Name	Type	Deadlines	Description
Conservation	<u>WDNR Landowner Incentive Program</u>	Grant	Irregular	The goal of the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is to help private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations on private lands. Offers up to 75% funding. Must partner with private landowner.
Parks / Playgrounds	<u>NRPA Meet Me at the Park</u>	Grant	Irregular	The Meet Me at the Park program is a collaboration between the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company. Disney funds grants that NRPA awards to park and recreation agencies that submit the best ideas to help make outdoor play accessible to children and families in underserved communities. Grant rates vary.
<u>Public Facilities</u> (Roads, Utilities, Parks, etc.)	<u>DOA/DEHCR Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities</u>	Grant	Income Survey due Feb. 15; Application due May 13, All	Public Facilities funds help support infrastructure and facility projects for communities. Examples of eligible projects include improvements, repairs, or expansions of streets, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, sidewalks, and community centers. Offers 2/3rds funding. Must meet low-to-moderate income (≥ 51%) or limited clientele National Objectives.
Roads	<u>Local Roads Improvement Discretionary Program (LRIP-D)</u>	Grant	Set by Counties (Approx. Oct. 1, Odd)	Established in 1991, the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) assists local governments in improving seriously deteriorating county highways, town roads, and city and village streets. Discretionary (competitive) funding for projects are available for Towns (TRID) and Villages/Cities (MSID). Offers up to 50% funding. Maximum project cost
SW	<u>WDNR Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grant Program</u>	Grant	Plng. April 15, Odd; Construction Even	The Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water (UNPS&SW) Management Grant Program offers competitive grants to local governments for the control of pollution from diffuse urban sources that is carried by storm water runoff. Grants from the UNPS&SW Program reimburse costs of planning or construction projects controlling urban nonpoint source and storm water runoff pollution. Offers 50% funding.
SW	<u>WDNR Municipal Flood Control Grant Program</u>	Grant	March 15, Even	To help local governments minimize flooding and flood-related damages by acquiring property, floodproofing structures, creating open-space flood storage areas, constructing flood control structures and restoring the flood-carrying capacity and natural and beneficial functions of watercourses. Offers 50% funding.

Project	Name	Type	Deadlines	Description
SW / San.	<u>WDNR Clean Water State Revolving Fund</u>	PF / Loan	Sept. 30, Even for Principal Forgiveness; Loans Continuous; (Fiscal Year July 1 st – June 30 th)	Using a combination of federal and state funds, state CWSRF programs provide loans to eligible recipients to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> construct municipal wastewater facilities, control nonpoint sources of pollution, build decentralized wastewater treatment systems, create green infrastructure projects, protect estuaries, and fund other water quality projects. Principal forgiveness available. Loan rates vary.
SW / San. / Water	<u>USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program</u>	Grant / Loan	Continuous	Funds may be used for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas with populations of 10,000 or less. Loan / grant rates vary.
Trails	<u>WDNR Recreational Trails Program (RTP)</u>	Grant	May 1, All	Funds may be used for reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Offers up to 50% funding. Requires a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for eligibility. May be combined with other WDNR recreation grants.
Trails / Sidewalk	<u>Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)</u>	Grant	Jan. 24, Even	Funds may cover the construction planning and design of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on-road or off-road trail facilities; infrastructure-related projects and systems which provide safe routes for non-drivers; community improvement activities for outdoor advertising, preservation; other projects / environmental mitigation for pedestrian / bicyclist projects Offers up to 80% funding. Minimum project cost of \$300,000 including any design work.
Water	<u>WDNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Program</u>	PF / Loan	Sept. 30, Even for Principal Forgiveness; Loans Continuous; (Fiscal Year July 1 st – June 30 th)	The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) provides financial assistance to municipalities for drinking water infrastructure projects. Principal forgiveness available. Loan rates vary.



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Appendix C

Design Principles for Park 2

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Town of Caledonia

Design Principles for Park 2

- 1. Create a park that is attractive to all age groups with diverse interests. The park should provide ample areas for: Relaxation, Exercise and Socialization with a focus on safety.**
 - No motorized vehicles are permitted on park grounds (except maintenance). Vehicles are limited to the driveway and parking lot, except in Town Board approved circumstances.
 - Develop a plan for overflow parking to prevent vehicles parking on Bean City Road; this plan should include No Parking Signs on Bean City Road.
 - Create a comprehensive plan for security and safety.
 - Protect/shelter neighboring properties through signage and buffers.
 - Establish Hours of Operation.

- 2. The design of the park should complement and resemble the rural character of the Town of Caledonia.**
 - Be silent sports focused.
 - Respect the rural setting and culture.
 - Consider nearby residents' desire for maintaining their privacy and rural setting.

- 3. Create a realistic and flexible overall design that relies financially on obtaining grants and fundraising efforts.**
 - Expect full development of the park to take approximately 20 years to create.
 - Develop a phased approach.
 - Keep the long-term vision of the future park vague to prevent conflict with current design work.
 - As Caledonia develops over the years ahead, future CORP plans will adjust to changing desires for facilities at the site. Expect a desire for change in the future with park features and amenities offered and adjust the CORP accordingly to prevent underuse of the park.
 - The availability of resources will determine how quickly the park develops.
 - Maximizing grant funding is essential so we plan to use professional grant writers to improve the quality of our grant requests and increase the odds of success.
 - The Town expects to apply for a "Mega Grant" 2023/2024 in addition to several smaller focused grants for specific projects.
 - Donations will be another critical element to executing the plan - donations of cash, labor, materials, and services. There is a need to find sponsoring groups to help support the park plan and provide resources for development of the park overall or of specific parts like wetland development and athletic fields.

Town of Caledonia

Design Principles for Park 2

4. Create a park that requires minimal taxpayer funds to maintain.

- The Town has limited resources and needs to keep ongoing spending within its ability to pay. Spending can increase over time as revenues increase.
- Target \$10,000 annual maintenance spending initially for Park 2
 - Snow Plowing - \$800
 - Pavilion Cleaning, Closing and Opening, Septic, Utilities - \$1,000
 - Garbage pick-up - \$200
 - Driveway Parking Lot Maintenance - \$1,500
 - Trail and Sports Field Maintenance (not mowing) - \$1,000
 - Mowing - \$2,500
 - Security System - \$1,000
 - Misc. Repairs - \$1,000 (drain tile, equipment, table and benches)
 - Misc. Supplies - \$1,000 (paper products, cleaning, signs, etc.)
- Keep roads short, structures with easy maintenance designs, limited mowing, durable structures.
- The Town will limit the use of tax revenues to the annual maintenance expense and a few projects related to maintaining the site and getting it ready to develop, i.e., repairing the existing drain tile, cleaning out/moving drainage ditches, improving access to the site.

5. The park should bring pride to our community and all those involved with its creation and preservation.

- The CORP Task Force will be ambassadors for developing the park; not only will they help design it, but help drive it to completion by selling the plan.
- Remember, there is no single, perfect design plan for the park. Focus on the best balance option for now, while thinking of the future.