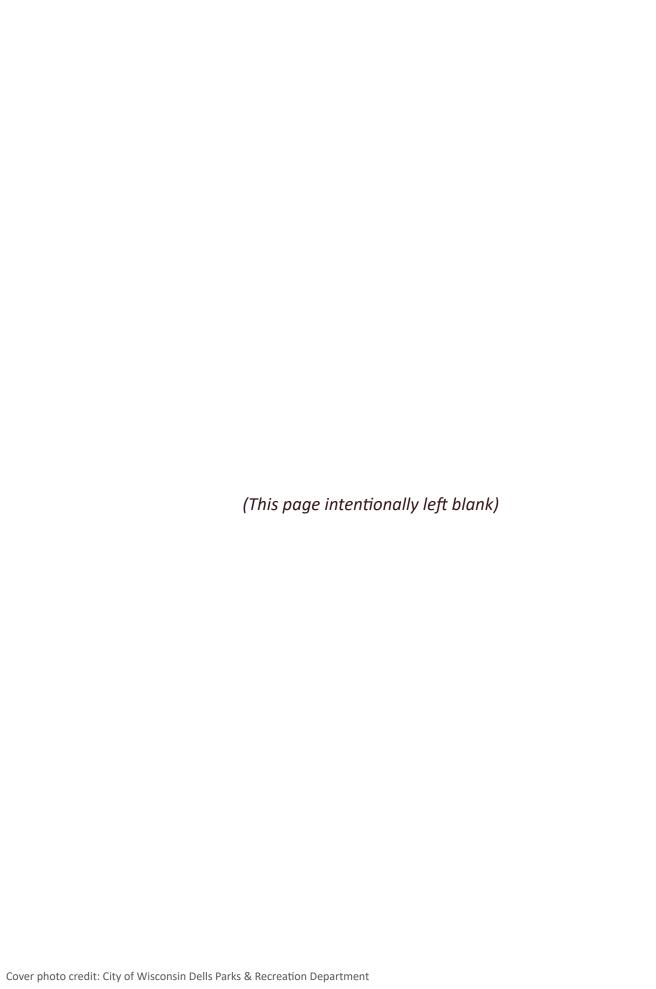
# WISCONSIN DELLS

# **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2028**









# CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS RESOLUTION NO. 5414

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City of Wisconsin Dells, Columbia, Sauk, Adams and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin, based upon the recommendation of the Parks, Recreation & Waterway Committee from their October 11, 2022 meeting;

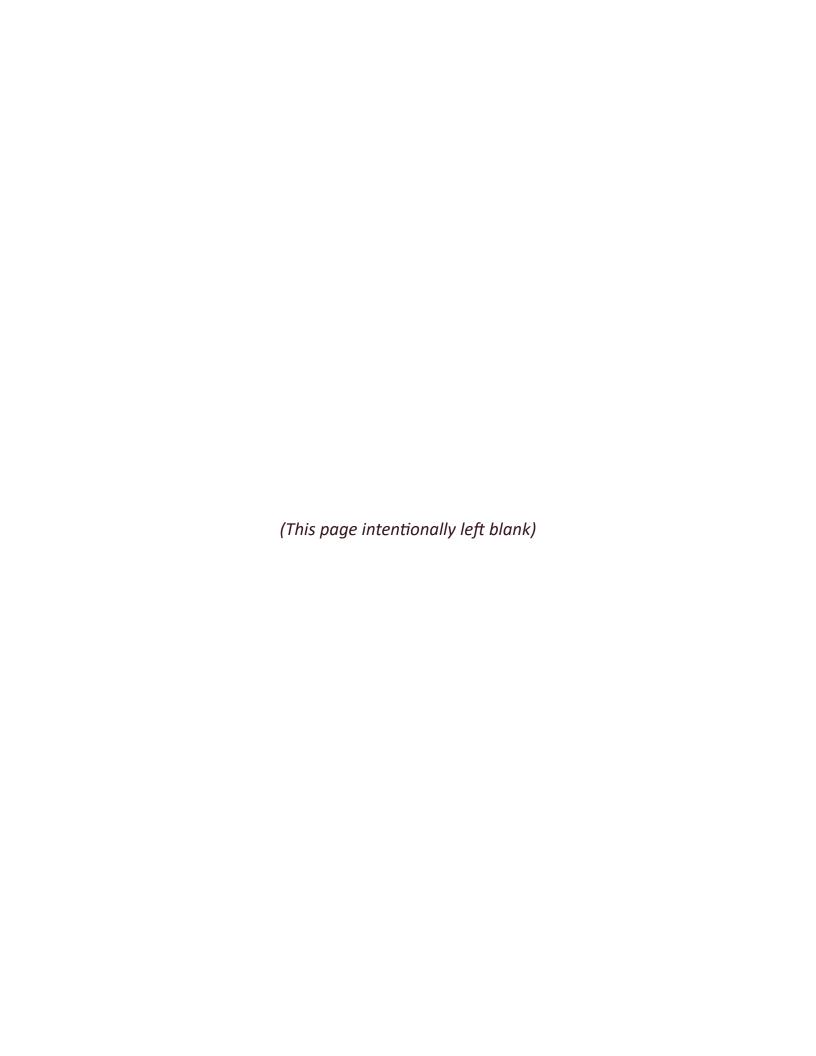
IT APPROVES the Wisconsin Dells Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for 2023-2027.

Edward E Wojnicz, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah L Brown, City Clerk/Treasurer

Vote: <u>6</u> ayes <u>0</u> nays <u>0</u> abst. Date Introduced: October 17, 2022 Date Passed: October 17, 2022 Date Published: October 27, 2022



# Wisconsin Dells, WI Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2028

#### ED WOJNICZ- MAYOR

#### CITY COUNCIL

Jesse DeFosse, First District Wards, 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 & 11
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Thad Meister, Secretary
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#### WITH ASSISTANCE FROM:

Thad Meister, Parks, Recreation & Waterway Director

#### PREPARED BY:

MSA Professional Services, Inc., Project #:85108

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Plan Purpose
- 1.2 Planning Process
- 1.3 The Role of City Parks

#### 1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

The City of Wisconsin Dells realizes the importance and benefits its parks and open space system has on the City's character and quality of life and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of its current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the city's park and open space system and to maintain the city's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants. This plan envisions a connected system of parks and open spaces throughout the community, related to the city's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

The plan is also intended to be a support document of the City of Wisconsin Dells Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan along with the City's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to implement the City's parks and recreation program.

Specifically, this plan provides:

- Information regarding demographic trends and natural resource concerns,
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,
- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,
- General policy direction regarding park and open space planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for improving existing park facilities,
- Recommendations for park and open space acquisition and (re)development projects.
- Implementation strategies

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

#### 1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation planning has been an essential component of long-range community planning in Wisconsin Dells. In 2015, the city contracted with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to assist with an update to the city's 2007 CORP. While this document has served the community well, another update to this plan is needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next five years.

Preparation and adoption of this 2023-2028 plan occurred over an nine month period. Oversight for the project was provided by the Parks, Recreation, and Waterways Director and Committee. The Committee met three times with the planning consultant to provide policy recommendations and to review draft documents. Early in the planning process the consultant also facilitated a public open house and an online community survey to gather citizen feedback on desired public park and recreational facilities (refer to Appendix A).

It's the city's intention to update this plan every five years, in-part to remain eligible for park and recreation grants (see side bar on the following page), and as best practice to ensure that the plan remains relevant to the community's needs. This plan was developed following the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor



Recreation Plans (Appendix 10) of the 2019-2023 Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The plan content and format have been tailored to fit the needs of the community.

#### 1.3 THE ROLE OF CITY PARKS

The benefits of parks go far beyond simply being spaces where people can recreate. Parks contribute to the physical and mental health of individuals and provide public safety, environmental, economic and social equity benefits to our communities. Recently, parks have come to the forefront of public health discussions due to COVID-19. The pandemic has put parks in the spotlight as more people seek opportunities to be outdoors to socially distance themselves. It is important to remember the benefits parks provide to the communities they serve, which include:

#### **CORP and GRANT FUNDING**

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship) in 1989. Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981), the purpose of the program is to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

The Stewardship grant program is the most widely used recreational grant program in the state. Eligibility for the program requires that a community maintain a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP), updated every five years, and that the project for which grant funding is sought is described in the CORP. Many other similar state and federal recreational grant programs have similar requirements or have shown a tendency to favor those grant applications which are supported through previous community planning efforts.

**Belonging** – Public parks are a unique amenity because they have the potential to be accessible to anyone in the community, regardless of age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity. Though we often find that disparities exist in the distribution and quality of parks and recreation amenities, many parks and recreation departments across the U.S. are now rethinking how to engage and provide benefits to residents who do not currently have access to parks. If parks can be more inclusive, they have the potential

#### **PROJECT MILESTONES**

Feb. 9, 2022	Parks, Recreation & Waterways Committee Meeting #1 (Project Kick-Oπ)
Mar. 15, 2022	Public Input Meeting (Feedback on Parks & Recreation Improvements)
Aug. 15, 2022	Parks, Recreation & Waterways Committee Meeting #2 (Preliminary Recommendations)
Sept. 13,2022	Parks, Recreation & Waterways Committee Meeting #3 (Plan Recommendation)
Oct. 17, 2022	Common Council Adoption

to function as a nucleus of neighborhood activity. They can be places where residents gather for social events, recreational activities, and meetings about local issues, increasing social interaction and creating an overall sense of community.

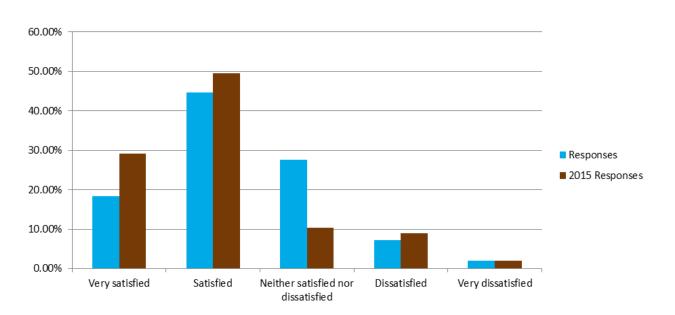
Community Health — According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), when individuals use green spaces, they have fewer health issues, improved blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and reduced stress—which leads to a lower incidence of depression and a greater ability to face problems. According to a report by the NRPA titled "The Economic Impact of Parks," "diabetic individuals taking 30-minute walks in a green space experienced lower blood glucose levels than spending the same amount of time doing physical activity in other settings. Thirty minutes of walking in nature resulted in larger drops in blood glucose than three (3) hours of cycling indoors."

**Ecological Health** — While parks, forests, and trails provide opportunities to improve the health of residents, they also contribute to the greater ecological health of the City. Parks are often tied together with

environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands which can include trails. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife and natural stormwater retention. Individual parks can provide important "rooms" of natural resource activity; however, they become even more functional when they can be linked together by environmental corridors, or "hallways." Wildlife, plants, and water all depend on the ability to move freely within the environment from room to room.

**Economic Prosperity** – Leisure time is an important component of everyone's lifestyle and increasingly people are choosing locations to live based on quality-of-life factors such as recreational amenities. According to the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA's) Engagement with Parks Report, four out of five adults in the US seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the City. For this reason, having a great park, recreation, and trail systems contributes directly to economic development.

Figure 1.1, Community Survey Results: How would you rate your overall satisfaction with recreational programs offered in Wisconsin Dells?



According to a study completed by NRPA and George Mason University, 72% of the 70 communities studied use parks and recreation images in their economic development materials. The study notes that parks and recreation contribute to economic development through business attraction, business retention and expansion and talent attraction. If a park system is designed with connections to regional destinations, it can also serve to bring in additional visitors. This additional tourism can be a significant benefit to local businesses. The City's plan aligns with regional and state plans to promote outdoor recreation in the greater area.

**Connections** — Well-connected trail systems can provide an important alternate means of traveling for those who prefer to bike for health or environmental reasons and for those who lack other means of transportation due to age, income or disability. Shared-use paths also provide important connections to public transit. According to the National Household Travel Survey conducted by the Federal Highway Administration, 85% of transit trips begin and end with walking and nearly one in six walking trips is made for the purpose of accessing public transit.

*Impact of COVID-19* — With COVID-19, we have seen increased usage of trails and parks. This increase in usage coupled with new ways parks are being used (e.g. wifi hot spots) has resulted in new design challenges and opportunities. It is likely these shifts will impact parks into the future. We also anticipate the way in which parks are funded is going to shift—there will likely be a more diverse set of funding sources.

## **CHAPTER 2**

## DESCRIPTION OF WISCONSIN DELLS

- 2.1 Local & Regional Context
- 2.2 Transportation Circulation
- 2.3 Demographics
- 2.4 Physical Character & Environmental Resources
- 2.5 Existing Land Use
- 2.6 Future Land Use
- 2.7 Downtown Plan

The following chapter details community history, demographic data and some of the important natural resources in the Wisconsin Dells area and Adams, Columbia, Juneau, and Sauk Counties. The information comes from a variety of resources including the US Census, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the 2015 Wisconsin Dells CORP, and the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

#### 2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Wisconsin Dells (pop. 2,942) is located in, Adams, Columbia, Juneau, and Sauk Counties, and is approximately 54 miles north of the City of Madison. The City is located along the picturesque Wisconsin River.

Native Americans have contributed significantly to the history and development of Wisconsin Dells. The Ho-Chunk (also known as the Winnebago) hunted buffalo and raised crops. The Menominee trapped furs in local waters and sold them across Europe. French explorers in the 17th century used the area as a reference point on early maps of the western Great Lake Regions, the "Dalles" of the Wisconsin River. In later years the River played a leading role in the lumber industry, becoming notorious for being unpredictable amongst those rafting through narrow, confined, and high rocky banks of the Dells.

Historical settlement in the Dells began a couple of miles from the current City of Wisconsin Dells. The settlement was known as the "Lost City of Newport," following a railroad bypass in 1856 across the river to the north, the new settlement of Kilbourn City was established. The City was established in 1857 when the railroad arrived. Residents and visitors' fondly



Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

reference the area as the "Dells," and in 1931 the name stuck and was officially changed to Wisconsin Dells to promote tourism. The Wisconsin Dell's roots in the tourism industry have been a significant part of the local economy since the 1880's. Native Americans have also placed their mark on local tourism; Ho-Chunk Nation established, owns and operates a hotel and casino and is the largest employer in the Dells area.

The Wisconsin Dells are best known for its family friendly natural beauty, campgrounds, resorts, amusement, and water parks. This tradition of amusement ranks as one of the oldest resort communities in the State with first accounts dating back to 1856.

"We conclude that the wild, romantic scenery of the Dells will always make them a place for resort for seekers of pleasure." - Alanson Holly, WI Mirror Editor, 1856

Army surplus land and water vehicles, or "Ducks" were first brought into Lake Delton in 1946 and continue to give passengers rides through wooded trails, uphills and splash into the Lower Dells through canyons and into Lake Delton. Tourism was further changed by the addition of water ski shows in the 1950s, primarily the Tommy Bartlett Show. The Show highlights fast-paced trick skiing, bare footing, jumps, flips and boat maneuvers.

The Wisconsin Dells - Lake Delton region is home to America's largest waterpark, Noah's Ark, and Wisconsin's largest indoor waterpark resort, Kalahari Waterpark, along with dozens of other waterparks, motels, hotels and resorts. There is no wonder why Wisconsin Dells is known as "The Waterpark Capital of the World."

#### 2.2 Transportation Circulation

Interstate 90/94 passes around Wisconsin Dells to the city's western edge. The primary travel corridors in the city are: State Highway 12 (Wisconsin Dells Parkway), State Highway 16 (from the southeast into the downtown), State Highway 13/23 (Broadway) that bisects the downtown.

For non-motorized travel, downtown Wisconsin Dells is considered a desirable walkable community, however the rest of the City is highly auto-dependent. Other than sidewalks located along city streets there are few off-road pedestrian or bicycle facilities within the City.

Snowmobile trails expand the range of seasonal recreational opportunities in the City, providing attractions in winter promoting year-round tourism. There currently is only one County trail connecting snowmobilers from Gultch Road south towards State Route 13/23/16.

The City of Wisconsin Dells does not currently have a local transit system but partner with tourist attraction entrepreneurs and private companies to extend bus, van and taxi services.



Table 2.1. Population History & Projections

#### 2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section describes some of the historic demographic trends for the City of Wisconsin Dells as it pertains to population, age composition, housing, and school enrollment. Wisconsin Dells falls within four counties; Adams, Columbia, Juneau, and Sauk. Wisconsin Dells, the Village of Lake Delton and Towns of Springville, Newport, New Haven, Dell Prairie, Delton, and Dellona are included in the Wisconsin Dells "Community Service Area." We chose this community service area because it represents the communities served by the Dells-Delton Recreation Department.

#### **POPULATION**

The most recent population estimate for the city is 2,942 from the 2020 decennial census. From 2000 to 2020, the population for Wisconsin Dells grew by 21.7%. This is between the 30.9% growth rate of the State and the 9.8% growth rate of the Service Area in the same timeframe. According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration's population projections, the city is expected to reach a population of 3,159 by 2040. The City of Wisconsin Dells population projections for 2040 are similar to the projections for the Community Service Area and lower than the State.

#### **AGE COMPOSITION**

Age composition is an important consideration in park and recreational planning as needs and desires of individuals will vary based on their interests and physical abilities. The table on the right summarizes the age composition of the city population from the 2020 US Census. Approximately 21.2% of the population are youth (<20 years old) and approximately 30% of the population is considered at retirement age (>60 years old). Both of these figures have changed since the 2010 Census, when 24.4% of the population was under 20 years old and 19.9% was over 60 years old. The median age of the city has increased slightly from 40.3 in 2010 to 42.3 in 2020, remaining consistently above the State median (39.9).

#### **HOUSING**

As of 2020, there were 1,340 households in the city, 29.3% of which include at least one child under 18 years old. The total number of households increased by 192 since year 2010, as well as the number of households

	,				
	City of Wisconsin Dells	Community Service Area	Wisconsin		
1970	2,401	6,767	4,417,821		
1980	2,521	8,429	4,705,642		
1990	2,398	9,125	4,891,769		
2000	2,418	11,463	5,363,715		
2010	2,678	13,684	5,686,986		
2020	2,942	15,000	5,893,718		
	Pro	ojections			
2025	3,066	16,094	6,088,802		
2030	3,164	16,192	6,257,671		
2035	3,180	16,208	6,356,170		
2040	3,159	16,187	6,371,250		
	(	Change			
2000-2020	524	3,537	530,003		
2020-2040	217	1,187	477,532		
	Perc	ent Growth			
2000-2020	21.7%	30.9%	9.9%		
2020-2040	7.4%	7.9%	8.1%		

Table 2.2, Age Composition, 2020

Age	Total	Percentage		
0-9	375	12.7%		
10-19	250	8.5%		
20-29	330	11.2%		
30-39	381	13.0%		
40-49	265	9.0%		
50-59	357	12.1%		
60-69	490	16.7%		
70-79	257	8.7%		
80+	136	4.6%		
Median	42.3			

Table 2.3, Housing Statistics

Wisconsin Dells Housing Statistics										
Households										
2010 1,148										
2020 1,340										
Average Household Size										
2010 2.26										
2020	2.11									
% of Households with individuals under 18										
2010 25.0%										
2020 29.3%										

with at least one child under 18 years old increasing from 25% of all households in year 2010. The average household size is 2.11 individuals, down from 2.26 in year 2010. These trends are consistent with national trends over the past several decades and can be attributed to smaller family sizes, lower birth rates, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single parent households.

In total there are 1,512 housing units in the city in year 2020, 1,264 occupied households plus an additional 248 vacant units. Of the occupied units, 65.3% are owner occupied with the remaining 34.7% renter occupied. Placement of future park and recreational facilities should consider where multi-family buildings are located or planned as these types of housing units generally lack access to green space and play equipment as compared to single-family lots.

#### **SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

The City is part of the Wisconsin Dells School District. The Wisconsin Dells High School and Wisconsin Dells Middle School are both located in the City along with one elementary school, Spring Hill. Lake Delton Elementary is located in the Village of Lake Delton. Neenah Creek Elementary, which closed in July of 2021, was located in Briggsville, WI. The 2021-2022 enrollment for the entire district was over 1,800 students, up from 1,728 students in 2018-2019.

# 2.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Water Resources- The Wisconsin River shoreline forms the western border of the city. The Dells are home to unique geological and biological river corridor features stretching over 5 miles. Natural sandstone cliffs along the shoreline rise over 100 feet above the water, except in the downtown area where a break in the bluffs allows easy access to the water. The city's average elevation above sea level is 909 feet.

The Dells are located within the Lower Wisconsin Water Management Unit and have two watersheds. The Dell Creek watershed, that lies within Sauk and Juneau counties to the west of the Wisconsin River and

Duck and Plainville Watershed that lies within Adams and Columbia Counties on the eastern side of the Wisconsin River.

The Wisconsin River provides the area with unique riparian ecology and aquatic related recreation opportunities but also presents a potential flood hazard. The floodplain within the City is relatively undeveloped, with the exception of the potential for Crandall's Bay Area off River Road. Crandall Bay connects to the Wisconsin River north of downtown and is the current home of the Illinois Avenue Docks and Indiana Avenue Boat Launch. The bay then connects to Lake Lee, a small lake to the northeast.

Hulburt Creek is a tributary that empties into the Wisconsin River and is considered a trout water for 4 miles of its length, with 2.8 miles reaching a Class I trout stream and exceptional resource water (ERW) designation by the DNR. The Hulburt Creek Fishery Area is located west of Interstate 90 and slightly southwest of the Dells Wisconsin River Natural Area.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified the Wisconsin River as a State Natural Area. The DNR has also identified the Wisconsin River as a 303(d) low priority, impaired waterway for contaminated fish tissue.

Natural Vegetation- The historic natural vegetation patterns of the area are concentrated in the river corridor, that consist typically of densely wooded ravines. The residential neighborhoods downtown have a variety of street trees planted in the terraces, the more suburban residential neighborhoods do not have terraces but established neighborhoods typically are planted with a range of privately managed deciduous and coniferous trees. The land surrounding the city is mostly wooded with some wetland pockets and agricultural lands throughout.

Wetlands within the city are mainly within the creek corridors and are forested. There are Emergent/Wet Meadow wetlands in a variety of locations, larger areas are located just south of downtown ranging from the eastern banks of the Wisconsin River northeast across

State Highway 16. The largest wetland in the Dells is located to the west of State Highway 12 and begins south of State Highway 13 and extends south just past Trout Road. A third larger wetland area spans along Hulburt Creeks river corridor.

**Wildlife-** Wildlife in the City generally is concentrated along the River and creek corridors and wetlands. The DNR identifies a series of plant communities, plants, mussels, insects, fish, birds and reptiles that are within the area that are threatened or endangered. A comprehensive list can be found through the DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory Data.

**Physical Resources**- The physical resources of the city are many and varied and provide an attractive character to the city and also the potential for varied recreation opportunities. Perhaps the greatest recreation potential for these environmental corridors will be as linear parks and trail corridors linking the city's recreation, employment, commercial and school sites.



**Downtown Wisconsin Dells** 

Photo Credit: http://www.dells.com/



Wisconsin Dells

Photo Credit: http://3.bp.blogspot.com

#### 2.5 EXISTING LAND USE

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 8.18 square miles, of which, 7.84 square miles is land and .34 square miles is water. In 2020, the population density was 375.3 inhabitants per square mile.

Residential development is most dense around the north and south sides of the downtown near the intersection of WI 12/16 and WI 13. These areas should be well serviced by mini parks and neighborhood parks.

Land annexation and growth of the community since 2007 includes the annexation of St. Vincent DePaul; DIG property; Tonne, Kokomo Property; Steak-n-stein, Buckminster Property; Sherwood Forest; Chula Easy; City Property between HWY 13 and 9th Avenue; Dells Vet; Rental house at 463 Trout Rd.; Campground at 211 Vine; and 200 Windy Hill.

Commercial land uses are scattered throughout the area, and are especially dominate in the western portion of the City. Downtown business and city services are in a compact area along Broadway and River Road while the remaining large scale, tourism related commercial areas may be found along State Highway 16 and State Highway 13.

There are three industrial areas within the City, one along the rail road tracks off of Commercial Avenue and Fitzgerald Road, the second is along the eastern bank of the Wisconsin River and the third, on the far eastern side of the City off State Highway 23.

The cumulative effect of the existing land use patterns and circulation system divides the community into geographic neighborhoods and limits access to recreation facilities. The primary barriers in Wisconsin Dells include the Wisconsin River and associated tributaries, the state and county highways mentioned, the rail corridor running north west to south east. Refer to the City's Zoning Map on the next page.

#### 2.6 FUTURE LAND USE

The future growth of the city is guided by the city's 2003 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Future Land Use Map (Figure 2.3, page 12) sets forth the desired development pattern for the city. The planned land use map is designed to accommodate projected population, household, and employment growth; the infrastructure and institutions required to serve residential, commercial, and industrial uses in the city, and the city's agricultural and natural resource base.

The planned land use map identifies most of the area surrounding the existing city limits to the west and north for future multi-family residential is planned along Interstate 90/94 and Highway 13 and single family is planned southeast of Downtown. Commercial expansion is planned along the major transportation corridors, State Highway 13/23 and State Highway 12/16 and through downtown along Broadway and River Road. Recreation lands and the future parks and recreation needs of planned residential areas should be considered as these areas develop, including linkages to existing city neighborhoods, parks, and businesses via bicycle and recreational trails.

In addition, the comprehensive plan is currently due for an update. When this occurs more details regarding the need for additional city parks may emerge with changes to the Planned Land Use Map. Given the map does not include areas which have been annexed since 2003 it may be more appropriate to refer to the City's Zoning Map when considering locations planned for residential and conservancy uses.

Figure 2.2, Wisconsin Dells Zoning Map

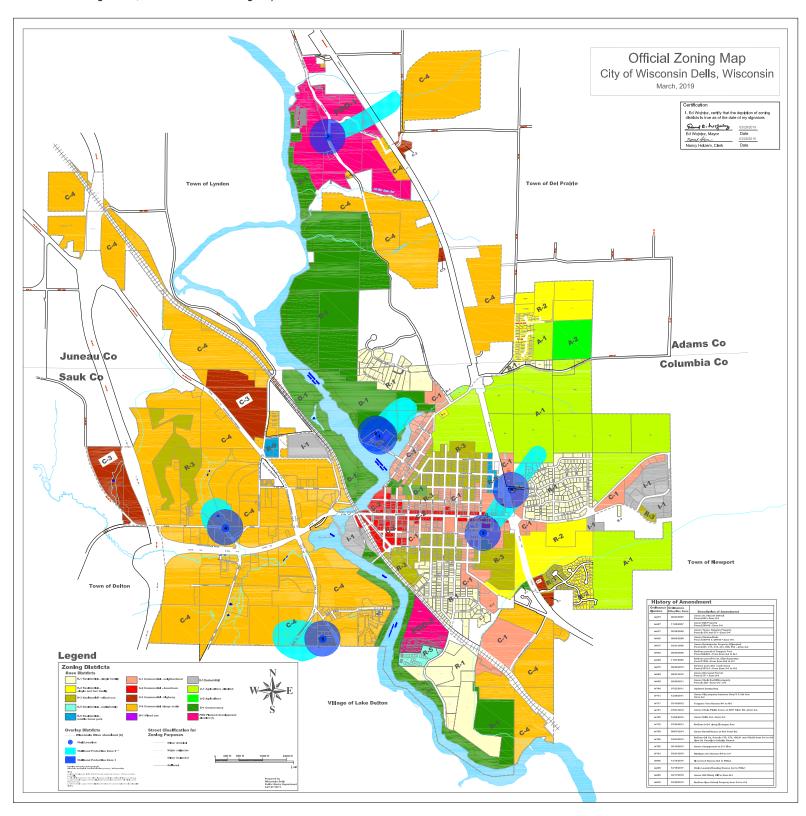
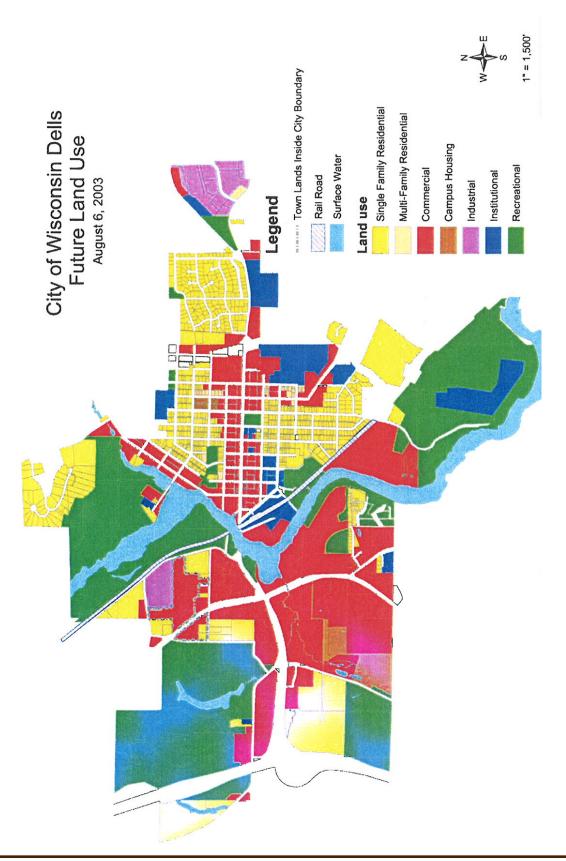


Figure 2.3, Planned Land Uses



## **CHAPTER 3**

# PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION INVENTORY

3.1 City Facilities
3.2 School Facilities

3.3 Church Facilities

3.4 Private Facilities3.5 County Facilities

3.6 Regional Facilities

The following chapter documents existing park and recreational facilities both within the City of Wisconsin Dells and the surrounding region.

# 3.1 CITY FACILITIES & EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Parks and Recreation Department manages the city's 14 park facilities totaling 39.92 acres. The system is represented by six types of parks: mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, special use parks, nature preserves, and undeveloped parks.

Table 3.1 (page 14) lists each city park, park acreage, and park amenities. The location of each park is shown on Map 1: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities in Appendix C.

#### **Mini-Parks**

Mini parks, or pocket parks, are small outdoor spaces, usually no more than 1 acre or less. They are typically on small and/or irregular shaped sites, or vacant properties. Mini-parks are generally limited to passive uses such as gardens, benches, gazebos, fountains, or other small social gathering facilities.

- Jenkins Memorial Lookout
- Deerwood Glen Park

#### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are parks with a desirable size of 3 to 10 acres. These parks generally include playground equipment, athletic fields/courts, and restroom facilities.

- Bowman Park
- Weber Park

#### **Community Parks**

Community parks are areas of diverse environmental quality and may include areas suited for recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. The intent of community parks is they meet a wide variety of recreational needs and are draw for people from across the community. Typically these parks include all of the improvements found in a neighborhood park. They can also encompass natural areas and be significantly larger in size. Desirable size is at least 10 acres.

- Rotary Park
- Veterans Memorial Park

#### **Special Use Parks**

Special Use Parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, boat launches, nature centers, and skate parks. Desirable size depends on function.

- Municipal Pool
- Public Library
- Rec. Center
- Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue)
- Municipal Boat Docks (Illinois Avenue)
- Public Tennis Courts
- Wisconsin Dells Riverwalk

#### **Nature Preserves**

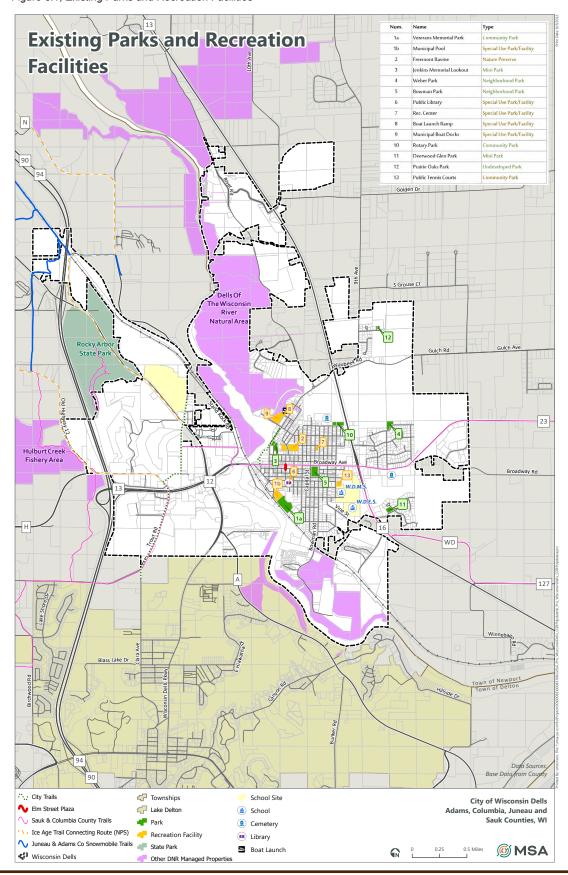
Nature Preserves conserve forest lands, prairies, floodplains, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Amenities typically support passive recreation and can include trails, parking lot, and restroom. Desirable size depends on function.

• Freemont Ravine Woods

Table 3.1, City Parks & Amenities Inventory

Prairie Oaks Park	Undeveloped	Fremont Ravine	Nature Preserves	Recreation Center	Public Tennis Courts	Public Library	Municipal Pool	Municipal Boat Docks	Boat Launch Ramp	Special Use Parks	Veteran's Park		Community Parks	Weber Park	Deerwood Glen Park	Bowman Park	Neighborhood Parks	Jenkins Memorial Lookout	Mini Parks	Park/Facility
Prairie Oak Drive				Michigan Avenue	Race Street	Elm Street	Veterans Drive	River Road and Illinois Avenue	River Road and Indiana Avenue		Veterans Drive	Race Street and Indiana Avenue		Webter Avenue	Highway 16	Broadway		River Road		Location
0.4791		5.7119		0.6927	1.4096	2.8191	3.4848	4.3042	0.7235		7.5839	2.2631		2.1778	1.9342	3.6327		2.1035		Acres
_		9		7	6	_	8	2	5		9 x	1 ×		8 ×	2 ×	7 ×		5		Play Equipment
											ì	_		Ê	_	Ê				Sand Volleyball
											×	×								Batting Cage
											×	×								Baseball/Softball
																				Soccer
					×															Tennis
																×				Basketball
							×													Swimming
							_				×			×		×				Picnicking/Tables
					×						×			Ê		×		×		Benches
					Ĥ		$\vdash$				Ĺ			-		×				Band Shell
											×					×				Grills
							$\vdash$				×	×		-	×	×				Shelters or Gazebos
					-		$\vdash$					×				×				Drinking Fountain
					-		×		P		×	×				×				Restrooms
				H	$\vdash$		Ė		Ť					$\vdash$		×				Community Event Space
					$\vdash$		$\vdash$		$\vdash$		×	×		$\vdash$		H				Concessions
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		×			-		$\vdash$							-		-				Hard Trails
		_			-		×		-											Wading Pool
							×		×		×	×								Off-Street Parking

Figure 3.1, Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities



#### Undeveloped

Undeveloped Parks may be open space that a community intends to develop into a future park.

• Prairie Oaks Park

The following is a more in-depth description of the city's most valued park facilities.

#### **Jenkins Memorial Lookout**

This park provides several benches that overlook the scenic Wisconsin River. Other site amenities include picnic tables and a historic concrete shelter. The park was willed to the City, requesting it be preserved for passive recreation use.

#### **Deerwood Glen Park**

Deerwood Glen is a passive park consisting of public open space, a park shelter and playground equipment. The park is underdeveloped at this time due to the lack of adjacent development.

#### **Weber Park**

Weber Park includes playground equipment, picnic tables, and open space.

#### **Bowman Park**

Bowman Park includes a playground, basketball court, picnic tables, benches, grills, a shelter, a band shell, restroom facilities, and open space.

#### **Rotary Park**

This park features two youth baseball fields set up by the Little League International Field, a playground and provides spectators with a picnic shelter and restrooms.

#### **Public Tennis Courts**

Four fenced in tennis courts are located north of the Middle School, and are open for community use.

#### **Veteran's Park**

Amenities at Veterans Park include playground equipment, a fitness course, picnic tables, shelter, restrooms and grills. This park also has two baseball/ softball fields that were renovated with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau and the City of Wisconsin Dells.

#### **Municipal Pool**

Located in Veteran's Park pool facilities include a wading pool, restrooms and showers.

#### **Kilbourn Public Library**

The library is located on Elm Street next to the relocated, old building, which is now used for offices. The library has unprogrammed open space available for recreational use.

#### **Recreation Center**

Located on Michigan Avenue, the Parks & Recreation Department shares a building with Emergency Services.

#### **Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch)**

The City of Wisconsin Dells provides access to the Wisconsin River via the Municipal Docks with daily launch fees and season passes. Off-street parking is available.

#### Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)

Boat slip rentals are available for dock access and are private to renters.

#### **Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve**

A nature preserve highlights a heavily wooded, deep ravine at the west end of Michigan Avenue and ends short of the Wisconsin River. A passive park for the most part, a banked sledding hill is located on the east side of the ravine.

#### **Prairie Oaks Park**

An undeveloped open space in the Prairie Oaks, a platted but vacant subdivision.

#### **Programming**

The city offers a traditional package of recreational and leisure programs to the community. It is appropriately viewed as a component of a much wider array of providers within the Wisconsin Dells area. The Dells/Delton Parks and Recreation Department produces two biannual brochures and several flyers to advertise seasonal activities and classes. A typical rotation of activities that are offered for all ages is: soccer, flag football, youth baseball, basketball, girls youth softball, swimming lessons, aqua zumba, swim team, martial



**Jenkins Memorial Lookout** 



**Bowman Park** 



**Deerwood Glen Park** 



**Rotary Park** 



**Weber Park** 



**Public Tennis Courts** 



Veteran's Park, Municipal Pool



**Recreation Center** 



**Prairie Oaks Park (undeveloped)** 



Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch) Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)



**Kilbourn Public Library** 



**Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve** 

arts, tennis, parent tot activities, special events, family activities, enrichment programs, senior events, adult sports and library events. The brochure are partially funded with advertisements by local businesses.

Beyond the regularly scheduled programs there are special annual events sponsored by the city, local civic groups and clubs.

Afew other regular programs within the city are privately operated. The Dells Area Youth Soccer Association (DAYSA) offers a variety of youth soccer programs for ages 8-16. The Dells Delton Area Hockey Association (DDAHA) provides hockey leagues, public skating and hockey at the Poppy Waterman Ice Arena(Lake Delton).



Woodside Sports Field Complex

#### 3.2 Privately-Owned Facilities

The City of Wisconsin Dells has several private recreational facilities. The Woodside Sports Field Complex has 6 synthetic turf multi-purpose fields, 4 synthetic turf baseball/softball diamonds, 6 batting cages, a full concession stand/retail area, 2 meeting rooms and VIP viewing area with plans of adding 2 grass soccer/multi-purpose fields.

The Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center Dome provides an indoor venue for sporting events, including 16 volleyball courts, 10 basketball courts, up to 32 wrestling mats or a full turf softball, soccer, lacrosse or football field. The facility boost 90,000 columnless square feet and 70 foot ceilings. The facility is also open for trade shows and conventions and is home to the Woodside Baseball Academy.

JustAGame Fieldhouse is located on LaCrosse Street and offers 6 full length basketball courts, 10 full length volleyball courts, 4 locker rooms, concessions and sporting goods store. The facility has 94 foot ceilings and can support seating for 1,700 plus, including balcony seating.

The Wisconsin Dells Center located on River Road is a 90,000 square foot, column free, multi-purpose center. The building can accommodate up to 12 basketball courts, 16 volleyball courts, two softball fields or one full soccer field.



JustAGame Field House



Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center Dome

Other private recreational facilities in the City include various amusement parks and waterparks, hotels and resorts providing a variety of activities including swimming, zipline rides, skateboarding, horseback riding, golfing, watercraft rentals (motorized, canoe, kayak, paddle boat etc.) and other activities.

Private facilities also offer a variety of winter recreation opportunities including tubing, skiing and snowboarding. Ice hockey and ice skating facilities are provided in nearby Lake Delton via the Poppy Waterman Arena.

A number of golf courses are located in the area including Trappers Turn Golf Club, Wild Rock Golf Club, Springbrook Golf Course, Coldwater Canyon Golf Course and Christmas Mountain Golf course.

A private association operates the youth soccer program and another group of high school staff runs the youth football program. These groups have agreements with the school district and the city to use their facilities. Both groups work closely with city staff to form a unified approach to their success. The private recreation groups provide an invaluable structure and organization to these youth programs.

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center is located on County Road N west of Interstate 90/94 and provides outdoor learning and educational opportunities to youth, youth leaders and adults through programs



Wisconsin Dells Elementary and Middle Schools

focused on environmental and leadership education. The center is located on 310 acres of forested land, including a 210 acre island called "Blackhawk Island."

#### 3.3 SCHOOL FACILITIES

The city coordinates with the Wisconsin Dells School District to provide a broader range of park facilities and services to area residents. The city and the school district have an agreement that allows the city to use the schools' facilities when they are not being used by the school district. The school district also allows other groups to use their facilities, but the city has first priority after the district. The school district is also welcome to use any of the park lands. This reciprocal arrangement works very well and the city/district relationship is very strong. While each entity maintains their own facilities, users show respect for the other property.

**Wisconsin Dells High School** - Located at 1501 Brew Farm Road in the northwest portion of the City, the High School has a football field, a ball diamond with a practice field, and tennis courts.

Wisconsin Dells Middle School & Spring Hill Elementary School - The schools are located off Iowa Avenue south of downtown. The school district owns and maintains the adjacent football field, track, tennis courts and baseball diamond.

**Lake Delton Elementary School** - This school site is located on Delevan Street in Lake Delton. Those school grounds include a basketball court and play equipment.

**School Forest** - The school district owns a 50 acre parcel on the east side of WIS 16 across from the Wisconsin Dells schools. Access to the property is limited to an underpass from the right field corner of the middle school ball diamond.

#### 3.3 LAKE DELTON AND COUNTY FACILITIES

Lake Delton has many facilities likely used by Wisconsin Dells residents including: Captain Bob's Park, Kaminski Park, Lake Delton Sk8park, Lake Delton Public Boat Launch, Ralph Hines Memorial Park, Lake Delton Public Beach and Newport Park. Lake Delton also has many multi-use paths throughout the community.

None of the four counties that Wisconsin Dells reside in (Adams, Columbia, Juneau or Sauk) owns or manages any park or recreational facilities within the city limits. The nearest County parks in Juneau county are located 20-30 miles northwest of Wisconsin Dells and include Bass Hollow, Riverview and Two Rivers.

# 3.4 REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Wisconsin Dells is in the southeastern portion of the WDNR's West Central District and is well served by regional parks and open spaces. There are variety of other park and recreational facilities within close proximity to the City of Wisconsin Dells in public and private ownership. The following list provides the most significant facilities within the Wisconsin Dells region that residents most likely would use. It is not an exhaustive list, but provides a variety of recreational activities. For more information, contact the representative websites.

Several Wisconsin State Parks are located near Wisconsin Dells and include *Rocky Arbor State Park*, located 1.5 miles from Wisconsin Dells offering wooded campsites, hiking trails, picnic area and playground nestled in pine trees and sandstone bluffs.

**Dell Creek State Wildlife Area**, located in Sauk County 7 miles north of Reedsburg and 7.5 miles West of Wisconsin Dells on Highway H. This 2,557 acres property includes opportunities for birding, cross country skiing, trout fishing, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, trapping, wild edibles gathering and wildlife viewing.

*Mirror Lake State Park*, located in Baraboo is 2,200 acres and includes several picnic areas, wooded campsites and cabins in a beautiful lake setting.

**Devil's Lake State Park** is located 3 miles from Baraboo and offers lakeshore picnic areas, 29 miles of hiking trails, camping and variety of other amenities. In addition to Park amenities, Devil's Lake State Park is one of the State Parks along the *Ice Age Trail*. The trail winds for more than 1,000 miles following the edge of the last continental glacier in Wisconsin.

**The Dells of The Wisconsin River** - The Dells are a 5-mile long natural area along the Wisconsin River Corridor and showcase the natural beauty of the area with highlights that include a gorge, cliffs tributary canyons and rock formations carved into the Cambrian Sandstone.

Snowmobile Trails - There are many snowmobile trails within each of the counties Wisconsin Dells is situated in. Adams and Sauk Counties each have approximately 200 miles of snowmobile trails. Currently only one trail enters the City from the northwest along CTH LL to a gas station on WIS 33. The trail is managed by the Snow Runners Trail Club.

The regional facilities provide the residents of Wisconsin Dells with the opportunity to participate in activities that may require resources of a greater magnitude than may be reasonably expected from the city. Some examples of this wide array of activities are: archery, camping, canoeing, cross county skiing, disc golf, fishing, hiking, skating and swimming. The city is well positioned to provide sites that provide day to day active recreation and small natural areas to escape from the daily routine.

Many existing, private facilities already mentioned within and nearby the Wisconsin Dells act as regional facilities drawing in residents and visitors from around Wisconsin, the Mid-west and tourists from around the world.

# **CHAPTER 4**

# ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND DEMANDS

4.1 Quantitative Analysis

4.4 Regional & State Trends

4.2 Geographic Analysis

4.3 Qualitative Analysis

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the city's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the city's existing park and recreation system are evaluated using the following methods:

- Quantitative Analysis a comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational facility service standards, including a review of the types and amount of parkland available to City residents.
- Geographic Analysis an analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park facilities in the city.
- Qualitative Analysis a summary of public input regarding city parks and recreational facilities gathered through the on-line community survey.
- Regional & State Trends a summary of the demand or trends in recreational amenities at the county and state level.

#### 4.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of the residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of the space, or land, devoted to recreational use.

Currently the City is providing approximately 39 acres of parkland, not counting school facilities, county facilities, or private facilities. This translates to .014 acres of parkland per person, or 14.1 acres per 1,000 residents.

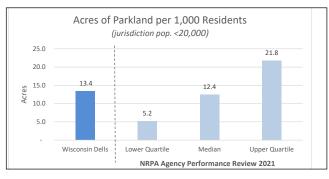
Table 4.1 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total parkland acreage based on city population. For the purpose of calculating anticipated parkland demand, a level of service of 12 acres per 1,000 residents was assumed. Using a level of service standard of 12 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents the City currently has surplus of 4.0 acres. Assuming the population projections are correct, and the City does not add additional parkland, the total surplus will shrink to 1.4 acres by year 2040.

Although the total acreage of community park and recreation lands is an easy indicator of the presence of parks and recreation space, it is not the only indicator of whether a community is able to meet the park and recreation needs of its residents. The National Recreation and Park Association advocates that the location of parkland, and the types of recreational facilities offered on that land, are just as important as the total acres of parkland. A community with a lot

Table 4.1, City Park Acreage Existing and Projected Surplus/Deficit

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)											
Year 2020 2025 2030 2035 2											
Population	2,942	3,066	3,164	3,180	3,159						
Total Supply (acres)	39	39	39	39	39						
Demand (12 acres/1,000)	35.3	36.8	38.0	38.2	37.9						
Surplus (12 acres/1,000)	4.0	2.5	1.4	1.2	1.4						

Figure 4.1, Wisconsin Dells Park Service Area Peer Community Comparison



of parkland, but few recreational facilities, is less likely to meet the needs of its residents than a community which has a lesser amount of parkland, but has a larger variety of recreational opportunities. Fortunately for Wisconsin Dells residents they have access to a wide range of recreational facilities as summarized in Chapter 3. Section 4.3 provides additional analysis on the location of city parks.

#### 4.2 GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location of park and open space facilities in relation to the city's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. The National Recreation and Park Association, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Urban Land Institute promotes the 10-Minute Walk Campaign (https://10minutewalk.org/) which advocates that "there's a great park within a 10-minute walk of every person, in every neighborhood, in every city across America."

The map indicates the following deficiencies in the location of parkland:

- The multi-family apartments at the intersection of Broadway Rd and Business Park Rd do not have access to a City Park within a 1/2 mile radius (approximately a 10-Minute walk).
- The single-family residences at Trappers Turn Golf Club and Mobile Park located on Commercial Avenue are underserved by City Parks.
- The residential-zoned land off of Bowman Road, south of Riverwood Senior Living in the southern portion of the city is underserved by City Parks.
- Single family residences along S. Grouse Lane, west of River Rd are underserved by City Parks.

#### 4.3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

#### Survey

As part of the update to this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department administered an on-line community survey to poll resident's opinion regarding city park facilities and recreational programs. The survey was available online and in hard copy format February 21 through March 18, 2022. In total there were 323 responses to the survey. The following is a summary of responses to key questions. A complete copy of the survey results

#### **General Satisfaction**

- 64% of respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with city park and recreational facilities (parkland and equipment).
- 63% of respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with park and recreation programs (e.g. recreational classes). This decreased from 2015 responses, however 28% of respondents had no opinion, which increased from 2015.

#### Safety and Accessibility

- 89% of respondents indicated they feel safe when visiting a city park.
- For those who had concerns, common themes were concerns over the homeless population, tourists, and perceived illegal activity at Bowman Park.

#### **General Use - Facilities**

When asked to rate the top six most commonly used activities or facilities, 67% of respondents indicated they most commonly used playground equipment, followed by walking (54%), picnic facilities (grills, shelters, etc.) (46%), basketball courts (33%), ball diamonds (29%) and athletic fields (25%).

#### General Use - Parks

Respondents' most frequently used city park and recreational facilities include, in order:

- Bowman Park (57%)
- Municipal Pool (10%)
- Veterans Park (7%)
- Rotary Park (6%)
- Illinois Avenue Boat Docks (5%)

• 60% of respondents drive outside of the city at least once per month to use specific recreational facilities. Common location and facilities respondents travel to include: Mirror Lake State Park for kayaking and the beach, splash pads, dog parks, hiking at State Parks and State Trails, outdoor and indoor pools, and Madison or Reedsburg soccer fields.

#### Bike/Pedestrian

- 71% of respondents walk or run for exercise at least once per week and 23% bike for exercise at least once per week. The majority of survey respondents (70-90%) rarely or never bike or walk for transportation.
- 60% of respondents reported "too much automobile traffic" as a barrier to biking. 46% reported the same barrier to walking. Other barriers reported include (in order): condition or lack of bicycle lanes or offroad trails (54%), condition or lack of sidewalk (54%), and condition of roads/ease of travel (30%).

#### **General Demand**

• When asked respondents to choose up to six parks and recreation amenities that should be added in the City. Respondents indicated (in order): dog park (39%), off-road walking/biking trails (32%), splash pad (31%), community/recreation center (23%), outdoor pool (21%), sledding hill (20%). Refer to Figure 4.2

#### **Funding**

- 82% of respondents support the City allocating funding for a new outdoor municipal pool. 18% do not. Top amenities respondents would like at a municipal pool include, in order:
  - Recreation pool (lap swim, open swim)
  - Shade structures
  - Slides
  - Concessions stand
  - Zero-depth entry
- 86% of respondents support the City allocating funding for a recreation/community center. 14%

do not. Top spaces respondents would like at a recreation/community center include, in order:

- Gym (e.g. open gym, basketball, volleyball, etc.)
- Multi-purpose rooms (e.g. community classrooms, room rentals)
- Studio space (e.g. fitness classes, dance)
- Weight room/exercise equipment
- Locker rooms
- Respondents were asked what park and recreation spending categories should receive additional funding allocations. The top three categories that were indicated were as follows:
  - Sidewalk Facilities/Pedestrian Enhancements
  - Recreational Activities or Programs
  - Installing New Park Facilities/Equipment
- Over 50% of respondents indicated the city should allocate additional respondents to youth sports and after school and summer programming.

#### **Public Open House**

In addition to survey responses, we received input at a public open house event held March 15, 2022 at the park shelter at Bowman Park. In total there were approximately nine people who attended. When asked what improvements attendees desired in Wisconsin Dells' parks and trails, the following were suggested:

- Parks and recreation funding priorities should be a new pool and recreation center
- Collaborate with Riverwood Senior Living on programming and facilities
- Need a dog park
- Need parks west of River
- Need a trail connection between Old 12 and the New High School down Stand Rock Road
- Need trail connection to Rocky Arbor State Park, possibly to Edge O'Dells
- Bring Kidz Club back to Lake Delton Elementary for after-school care
- Move main bike route to the north or south of Broadway Ave

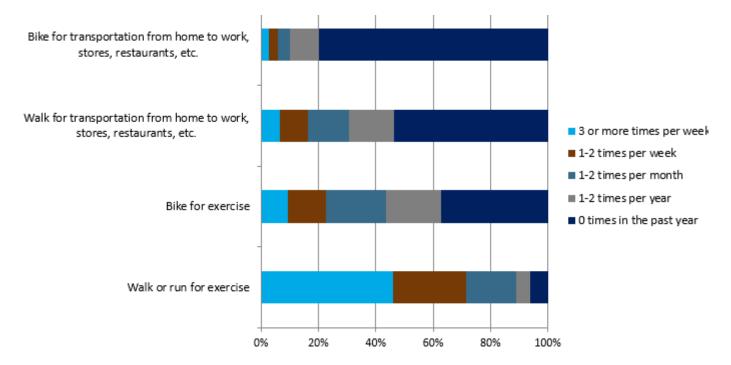


Figure 4.2, Survey Responses Indicating Frequency of Walking and Biking for Exercise and Transportation:

#### 4.4 REGIONAL & STATE TRENDS

Insights from the Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2019-2023.

The goals listed below are recommended by the Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to help provide Wisconsinites better access/awareness to outdoor recreation opportunities and to help improve public health and wellness:

- 1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation
  - Increase Wisconsin residents' participation and frequency of participation in outdoor recreation.
- 2. Grow partnerships
  - Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships across the spectrum of agencies, organizations, and businesses with vested interest in outdoor recreation.
- 3. Provide high-quality experiences
  - Provide opportunities and settings across the full range of public and private recreation lands - that, collectively, meet the state's recreational needs.

- 4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits
  - On an ongoing basis, gather, analyze, and distribute data on recreation participation in Wisconsin and associated economic, health, and social benefits.
- 5. Enhance funding and financial stability
  - Broaden and strengthen the funding sources for developing and managing outdoor recreation facilities and lands.

According to the SCORP, Wisconsin Dells is divided between the Western Sands Region and the Southern Gateways Region of the State. Overlap in recreational needs between these two regions include:

- Bicycling bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- · Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

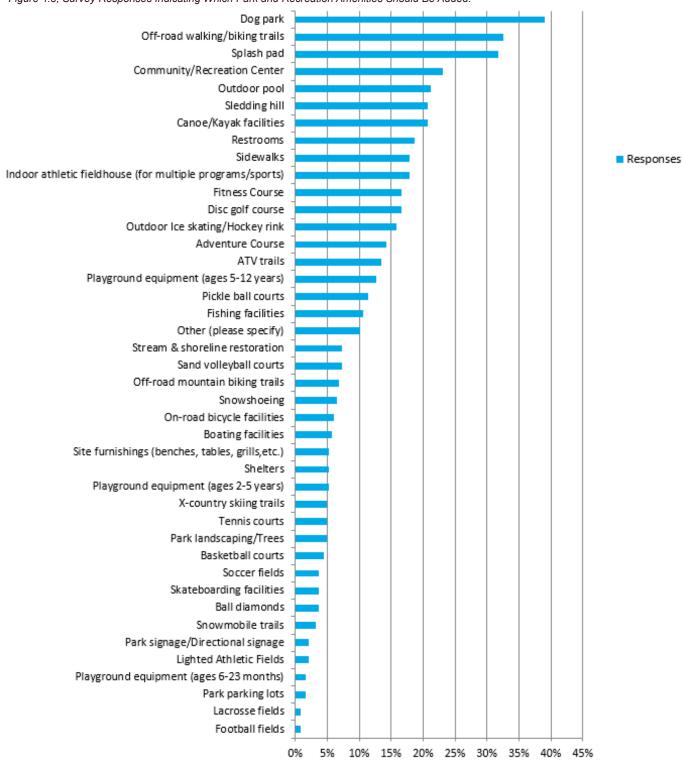


Figure 4.3, Survey Responses Indicating Which Park and Recreation Amenities Should Be Added:

**Park Service Areas** 

Figure 4.4, Park Service Area - 1/2 Mile Walk Radii Around City Parks

City of Wisconsin Dells Adams, Columbia, Juneau and Sauk Counties, WI

## **CHAPTER 5**

# GOALS OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

5.1 Mission Statement & Long Range Vision

5.2 Long Range Vision

5.3 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

This chapter describes the Mission Statement of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Long Range Vision for the City's park and open space system. The long range vision describes the city's park and open space system as we wish it to be in 2027, or sooner. The mission statement and long range vision are the foundation of this plan – the goals, objectives, and policies that follow are all intended to help realize the City's mission and vision. This CORP includes four over-arching goals:

**Goal 1: Complete Park and Open Space System.** To plan and provide a complete system of parks, facilities and open spaces to allow the entire resident population the opportunity to participate in a wide range of both active and passive, indoor and outdoor, recreational activities.

**Goal 2: Natural Resource Protection.** To preserve environmental corridors for the protection of the vegetation, drainage and wildlife resources they provide and for enhancing the social, economic, recreational, and environmental quality of the City.

Goal 3: Cost Effective Implementation. Rising development costs and budget challenges will directly affect the success of this plan. Therefore the City must consider a variety of funding options (e.g. grants, donations, endowments, taxes, fees, fundraising, etc.) in order to implement recommended improvements.

Goal 4: Public Involvement in Park Planning, Design, Development, & Use. Parks and recreational facilities are a resource for all residents and visitors of the City to enjoy.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Wisconsin Dells and Village of Lake Delton Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide area residents with a diverse selection of leisure service programs for all. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the community through the development and maintenance of new and existing parkland in addition to providing a variety of quality recreational programs.

#### LONG RANGE VISION

The Wisconsin Dells park and open space system serves every neighborhood within the city with either a fully developed park within a 10-minute walk or less. Community parks and special purpose parks provide opportunities for special events activities and unique recreational facilities, including those that support tourism and attract new businesses and residents to the community. Environmental corridors, including woodlands, creeks, ravines, and drainage ways provide opportunities for passive recreational use and the City provides opportunities for public uses along the Wisconsin River. All neighborhoods have safe travel and connectivity for pedestrians. A combination of on-and off-road bicycle trails links the city's parks to adjacent neighborhoods, the downtown, and the Riverwalk. The city provides a variety of park facilities and recreational programs to meet the varied needs of existing and future residents. The city provides an aquatic facility and recreational/community center for use by all residents.

Goal 1, Objective 1: Develop new parks and recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by existing parks.

Policy 1: All residents should be within a 10-minute walk from a public park and the City strives to maintain a minimum of 12 acres of public park and recreational land per 1,000 residents.

Policy 2: The City's subdivision ordinance requires that residential developments dedicate parkland or provide recreational facilities as part of the approval of new developments (e.g. dedicating 5% of the total plat area for usable recreation purposes). In such special cases that this is not possible, the City may require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication equal to 5% of the market value of the total plat prior to subdivision for the purpose of the purchase or development of land to be used for public recreational uses serving the neighborhood. Refer to Section 21.07(10) of the City's Code of Ordinances.

Policy 3: The City encourages "special purpose" parks, plazas, and open spaces within commercial and industrial areas, particularly in the Downtown, that provide outdoor gathering places and aesthetic enhancements in otherwise developed environments.

Policy 4: The City may use its Official Mapping powers to dedicate future park areas or recreational trails in advance of development in order to prevent the loss of lands to other uses.

Policy 5: The City may explore alternative means of acquiring lands required for parks and open space to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. state and federal grants, non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).

Goal 1, Objective 2: Improve interconnectivity, awareness, and use of City parks and open spaces throughout the community.

Policy 6: New park and recreational facilities should be centrally located within the neighborhoods that they are intended to serve and shall be of adequate size to accommodate the demand put on the park.

Policy 7: The provision of safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities should be emphasized in ongoing City planning and acquisition efforts.

Policy 8: Sidewalks, or multi-use paths, should be provided on at least one side of all residential streets and a complete system of on- and off-road bicycle trails should connect existing and new neighborhoods to existing and future City parks, commercial districts, and regional recreational amenities.

Goal 1, Objective 3: Provide a diversity of multiseasonal and multi-use recreation facilities and programs.

Policy 9: The City's park and recreation system provides a variety of recreational facilities and programs to serve the year round diverse needs of residents of all ages. Recreational facilities shall be made available to each household in the City.

Policy 10: The City coordinates municipal recreational programming with the Village of Lake Delton, private recreation providers, the school district, and volunteer sports organizations to provide programming to meet youth and adult recreation needs and to avoid duplication of services or facilities.

Policy 11: The City coordinates park and open space planning and improvements with neighboring communities, counties, and the State to enhance regional recreational opportunities.

Policy 12: As new parks are created, expanded, or altered the City will consider the development of new recreational facilities not already found within the same neighborhood or within the community in order to diversify the types of recreational facilities found throughout the entire City.

# Goal 2, Objective 4: Preserve environmental corridors as permanent open space areas.

Policy 13: The City should preserve areas for park and open space uses where development is difficult due to unstable soils, steep slopes, surface waters, poor drainage conditions, flooding, or other similar conditions.

Policy 14: The City should make every effort to purchase property, or portions thereof, that becomes available along the Wisconsin River, or elsewhere in the City, which is deemed a high value site for recreation or natural resource protection in order to promote greater public access and use of the Wisconsin River.

Policy 15: The City encourages using environmental corridors and open space areas to link community parks, including allowing the development of compatible recreational uses and facilities (e.g. trails, shelters, etc.) within environmental corridors.

Policy 16: The City practices the use of native landscaping within City park and open space areas and encourages the removal of invasive species from park lands and habitat restoration along the Wisconsin River.

Policy 17: The City will design parks and facilities to minimize the environmental impact and control access to the resources so that the very thing being preserved does not deteriorate due to over use or misuse.

Goal 2, Objective 5: Use park and recreational lands as a means to promote environmental education and community history.

Policy 18: The City encourages public awareness of environmental and cultural resources by installing interpretative signage or historical markers within City parks. The City encourages the use of park facilities for outdoor environmental education.

Policy 19: The City encourages the restoration and maintenance of historic places or structures as unique enhancements to the community's recreational resources.

## Goal 3, Objective 6: Maintain existing park and recreational facilities.

Policy 20: The City will maintain a capital improvements plan to replace worn or damaged recreational equipment and facilities.

Policy 21: The City will keep all foliage well-groomed in City parks, including trimming of trees and shrubs, disposal of unwanted plants, and mowing grass. Maintenance of vegetation, removal of trash, and cleaning of facilities will occur on a regular and timely basis as determined by City staff.

Policy 22: The City will make every effort to repair or replace all playground equipment that becomes broken or otherwise becomes a safety hazard within a reasonable time period given budget or staffing constraints.

Policy 23: The City will develop bi-annual inspections and inventory of existing parks facilities to maintain an active log of facilities improvements.

# Goal 4, Objective 7: Provide safe park and recreational facilities with access for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.

Policy 24: Facility development and installation must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation including applicable Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, or American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Policy 25: To the extent possible improvements/ maintenance to existing facilities will be designed to meet the requirements of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA). Any new park facilities should be designed to meet ADA standards unless environmental limitations are present or similar ADA compliant facilities are present within an existing park (i.e. duplicate facilities).

Policy 26: The City discourages land uses adjacent to existing or planned park and recreational areas that will pose a public safety or access hazard for residents using the park or recreational facility unless mitigation efforts can be installed to address potential safety and access hazards.

Goal 4, Objective 8: Coordinate future improvements to park and recreational facilities with residents, property owners, civic groups, School District, City departments, and other agencies.

Policy 27: Where feasible and otherwise consistent with City park needs, locate neighborhood parks adjacent to or in coordination with school properties to prevent duplication of facilities where such duplication is not necessary to meet the recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhood and school.

Policy 28: The City encourages volunteerism and public/ private partnerships in maintaining and developing future park and recreational facilities. Citizen involvement in all levels of planning and design of park and open space areas is encouraged.

Policy 29: The City will review and update this Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.

Policy 30: Establish new methods for maintaining funding such as non-lapsing park funds, or Foundation funding to be used as a match.

Policy 31: Coordinate park planning efforts with surrounding communities and partner to provide park and recreation amenities that benefit all involved.

# COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS W/ DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

# **CHAPTER 6**

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK AND REC. PLANNING

6.1 Existing Park Facilities6.3 Recreational Trails6.2 New Park Facilities6.4 Other Recommendations

The quantitative, qualitative, and geographic analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities, as well as, the acquisition and development of new sites for future recreational use. It should be noted that some of the recommendations may require considerable cooperation with others, including the citizens of Wisconsin Dells, local civic and business associations, neighboring municipalities, county and state agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into four major sections: (1) recommendations for existing park facilities; (2) recommendations for new park facilities; (3) recommendations for recreational trails; and (4) other recommendations. Many of the specific recommendations discussed in each section are identified on the Potential Parks and Recreation Facilities Map<sup>1</sup>. Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof.

The time line for completion of the recommendations are within the next five years, or the life of this plan. Due to budgetary constraints it is unlikely that all of the recommendations within this chapter will be implemented in the next five years. Maintenance and improvement projects will be prioritized on an annual basis by the Parks & Recreation Director in conjunction with the City's Parks, Recreation & Waterways

Committee and the City Council as part of the city's annual budget. Many of the recommendations regarding locating new park facilities will be coordinated with the annexation or approval of development proposals; therefore, the timing is much more variable.

### **6.1 EXISTING PARK FACILITIES**

While adding new park facilities is important to enhancing the City's park system, the City maintains a commitment to maintaining existing parks in satisfactory condition and providing sufficient funding for operations. Such maintenance and operations include providing sufficient budget for the following:

- Maintaining and replacing existing facilities and equipment, as needed,
- Maintaining the landscape at existing parks in good condition,
- Providing sufficient resources in support of recreational programs,
- Maintaining a safe and accessible environment at all City parks.

As new lands are added to the park system, the City will need to budget additional funds for maintenance and operations.

Some of the recommendations identified within this section are remnants from the 2016 CORP. These recommendations have been highlighted (\*) where they occur.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This map indicates approximate or preferred locations for new park and recreational facilities. More detailed planning and analysis may reveal other opportunities.

#### **Jenkins Memorial Lookout**

- Complete repair of erosion near lookout point (currently in progress).
- Clarify primary access to park with wayfinding signage.
- When the opportunity presents, reroute overhead utility structures on River Rd to underneath River Rd bridge to create an unobstructed, up-river view.
- Maintain current vegetation profile.

#### **Deerwood Glen Park**

- Add ADA path from road to playset and shelter.
- Develop potential vegetation screen (trees) along pond to create a visual barrier from commercially zoned parcel to the west.
- Plant trees to develop some shade structure for the park area.

#### **Weber Park**

- Add ADA path from street to play area and from pad to picnic tables.
- Add new park sign (update to current version).
- Manage/remove oak wilt as needed.

#### **Bowman Park**

- Complete sidewalk on Bowman park.
- Add ADA path from street to enclosed pavilion, playground, and restrooms.
- Add park signs at other points of entry.
- Remove pipe/sign and pad from SW corner of park near off street.
- Design and Install more ADA accessible paths throughout the park.\*
- Design and Install an ADA playground.\*
- Install security lighting.\*
- Re-establish lawn areas.\*
- Install swings.
- Consider replacement of small playground structure (20-25 years old) with a newer 0-5 year old age user appropriate structure.
- Install signage for indoor drinking fountain.
- Install an ADA wheelchair swing.

## **Rotary Park**

- Finish paving parking lot.
- Add additional ADA stalls to parking lot.
- Add ADA paths from parking lot to fields and play equipment.
- Evaluate options for additional parking, design, and installation.\*
- Install a drinking fountain.\*
- Add swing set.
- Install scoreboards.
- Consider converting "gravel" area to a covered pavilion to serve as a staging/waiting area for ball teams on-deck between games.
- Develop sanitation collection area.

#### **Public Tennis Courts**

- Install new benches.
- Resurface all courts.\*
- Consider installing lighting.
- Adapt courts to accommodate pickle ball.
- Repair asphalt path around courts.
- Add benches for spectators.\*
- Add a drinking fountain.\*
- Evaluate need for future use as tennis. Potentially convert 1/2 of courts to pickle ball.
- Add shade trees

#### Veteran's Park

- Add ADA path from parking lot to bleachers, playground, and corn hole.
- Extend path to 2nd ball field.
- Extend fence to separate 2nd ball field from train tracks.
- Install additional amenities, such as a shade structure over the bleachers and additional picnic tables.\*
- Study the feasibility of an additional on-site equipment storage facility.\*
- Evaluate additional parking options, design, and installation.\*
- Screen dumpster area.\*
- Add a drinking fountain.\*
- Upgrade/fix field lighting.

### **Municipal Pool**

- Study the feasibility of a new indoor pool facility in the place of the existing outdoor pool.\*
- Add more furniture and a shade structure.
- Address water loss issue/plumbing.
- Move forward with planning for the replacement/ rebuild of outdoor pool and bath/pool utility building.
- Design plan for pool/bath house with potential site reorientation of facility.

## **Kilbourn Public Library**

- Evaluate the best use of the open space.\*
- Maintain as open mowed grassy area for soccertype use.

#### **Recreation Center**

 Consider remodeling and converting existing recreation center to a public works/maintenance garage and study the feasibility of a new recreation center.\*

# Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch) and Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)

- Upgrade all dock facilities and provide adequate ADA access.\*
- Evaluate alternatives for additional parking.\*

### **Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve**

- Install park signage.
- Improve and clarify site access.
- Develop more formalized walking and trails in Freemont Ravine, including associated trail head amenities.\*

#### **Prairie Oaks Park**

 No action needed until home development reaches at least 75% completion.

### **6.2 New Park Facilities**

The city should develop new park and recreational facilities in areas that are underserved by existing facilities (see section 4.2), where future city expansion is expected to occur, or where the acquisition of park

and open space will advance the goals and policies of this plan or the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Based on the results of the survey and data analysis in Chapter 4, this plan recommends the following potential acquisition or parkland development projects. Parks that were proposed in the 2016 CORP are noted.

- <u>Proposed Park A:</u> Develop a mini or neighborhood park to serve residences off of Grouse Lane which are currently outside of existing park service areas. Park amenities could include playground equipment, small picnic shelter, and benches. If trail 'k' on the proposed parks map is developed, this park could be located adjacent to support trail users.
- <u>Proposed Park B:</u> Develop a community park in the undeveloped areas east of Cynthia Lane and north of WIS 23. As the city continues to expand to the east, the need for community park amenities will increase overall and east of WIS 13 in particular. This location may also serve as an area to develop a new indoor recreation center.
- <u>Proposed Park C:</u> Develop a neighborhood park to serve Stoney Acres apartment and any other residential expansion planned to occur here. There are currently no city owned parks in this area, west of the Wisconsin River. Park amenities could include playground equipment, athletic fields/ courts, and restroom facilities.
- <u>Proposed Park D:</u> Develop Prairie Oaks Park as a larger neighborhood park to provide a wider variety of recreation amenities for this planned neighborhood. Park amenities could include playground equipment, athletic courts (tennis, pickleball, volleyball, or basketball), and restroom facilities.
- Proposed Park E: Two parcels (# 1540.001 and 1540.002) at the northeast corner of WIS 16 and Deerwood Trail comprise a 3.5 acre undeveloped site which could potential serve as a location for an indoor recreation center. Although not as centrally

located within the city as the existing recreation center site, this location does have several advantages, including being located on WIS 16. In addition, the location is close to the elementary and middle schools and children could safely access the site via the existing underpass on WIS 16 connecting the school grounds to the School Forest. The site is located adjacent to Deerwood Glen Park which could provide additional space for outdoor recreational activities. Developing a recreation center at this location could also provide land for a trail head to serve the School Forest. However, there is currently no existing hard surface trail from the school parking lot to the underpass, and the distance from the nearest parking lot to the underpass is a quarter mile. Use and enjoyment of theses activities will continue to be limited unless adequate access and parking can be provided to allow users accessible access to the property.

 <u>Proposed Park F:</u> Develop a neighborhood or small community park to serve residences off of Bowman Rd, including the nearby Riverwood Eagle's Nest Senior Retirement Community. A new park in this area should provide access to the Wisconsin River and other support amenities including playground equipment, exercise equipment, walking path, small picnic shelter, and restrooms.

Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof. Timing of the completion of these projects is difficult to estimate since new park development generally coincides with the construction of adjacent residential development. Most projects have been given a medium to long time frame; however park development should occur as opportunities present themselves, preferably before or at the time new neighborhoods are platted.

### **6.3 RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

The city should develop a trail system to connect residences to city parks, schools, library and commercial districts utilizing off-road multi-use trails when possible, otherwise on-road bike lanes and sidewalks.

The city should brand the network of bicycle routes through a unified system of route markers and route maps within parks, and brochures available through the city's website.

Based on the feedback and analysis in Chapter 4, the following bicycle and pedestrian improvements are recommended:

- Off-road multi-use path on Commercial Avenue from CTH A to Stand Rock Road. Reconstruction of Commercial Avenue planned for 2023-2024 construction season.
- b. Off-road multi-use path on Stand Rock Road. Construction planned to begin in 2025.
- Enhanced bike/ped crossing at intersection of USH 12 and Fitzgerald Road for kids who are walking or biking to school.
- d. Off-road multi-use path on Wisconsin Dells Pkwy/ USH 12.
- e. Enhanced bike/ped crossing at intersection of USH 12 and USH 13.
- f. Create a protected bicycle/pedestrian lane across bridge.
- g. Sidewalk and on-street bike lane along Race Street from WIS 23 to Rotary Park; along Indiana Avenue to Church Street; along Church Street (existing sidewalk) to Illinois Avenue; along Illinois Avenue (existing sidewalk until Elm Street) to Riverwalk.
- h. Off-road multi-use path from Veterans Park to the Riverwood Senior Living Units and Riverwood Condominiums. This would require coordination with the railroad to develop a trail along the rail corridor.
- Off-road multi-use path from Boat Launch Ramp to Prairie Oaks neighborhood and Woodside Dells Sports Complex.

- Off-road multi-use path along River Road from Illinois Avenue to Chapel Gorge Trail and Chula Vista Resort.
- k. Work with DNR on feasibility of a multi-use path through the Dells of the Wisconsin River Natural Area from the end of Illinois Avenue to River Road/ Chapel Gorge Trail.

## **6.4 TREE SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS**

The City recently received a grant to plant new trees, many of which will be located in parks. Trees should be selected from the list below:

### **Larger Trees:**

- Ohio buckeye Aesculus glabra 'Homestead,' 'Autumn Splendor'
- Horsechestnut Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii', possibly other
- Hackberry Celtis occidentalis
- Ginkgo Ginkgo biloba male cultivars only
- Kentucky coffeetree Gynmocladus dioicus male cultivars only
- Honeylocust Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis thornless cultivars only
- Sycamore/Planetree Platanus Anthracnose resistant cultivars

### • Oaks - Quercus:

- White oak Q. alba
- Swamp White oak Q. bicolor
- Shingle oak Q. imbricaria
- Bur oak Q. macrocarpa
- Chinquapin oak Q. muehlenbergii
- English oak Q. robur
- Red oak Q. rubra
- Plus various oak crosses
- Baldcypress Taxodium distichum
- European linden Tilia cordata 'Glenleven', possibly

straight species, never 'Greenspire'

#### **Smaller Trees:**

- Serviceberry Amelanchier spp. single stem
- Blue beech Carpinus
- Cornelian dogwood Cornus mas
- Hawthorne or thornapple Crataegus spp.
- Dwarf Ginkgo Ginkgo biloba
- Crabapple Malus spp. Cultivars resistant to scab/rust
- Ironwood/American Hophornbeam Ostrya virginiana

## **6.5 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Other non-specific locational recommendations include (\* denotes a recommendation carried forward from 2016 plan):

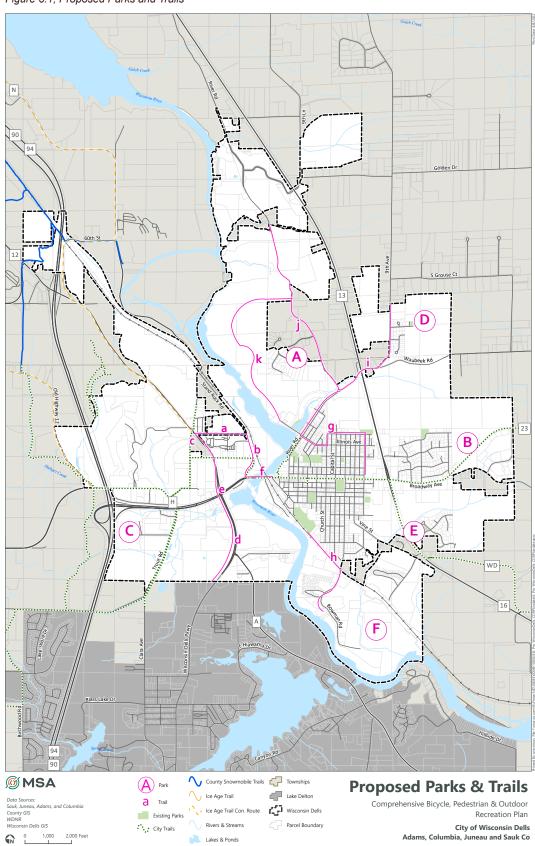
- Create more recreational programs and opportunities for children with disabilities/special needs.
- Create more adult recreational programming opportunities, both sports oriented and nonsports oriented (crafts, cooking, art classes, etc.)
- Reinstate Kidz Club after school program at Lake Delton Elementary School.
- Construct a new indoor recreation center, with a place for recreation offices and equipment storage and maintenance.\*
- Add a dog park to the City's park system.\*
- Install sand volleyball courts. \*
- Install youth soccer/football fields (general purpose athletic fields). \*
- Complete an ADA study of all city parks to identify barriers to accessibility and a transition plan to address any corrective measures.\*

- Review Sec. 21.07(10) of the City's Code of Ordinances concerning dedication of public sites and open space to determine if any amendments are necessary to meet the longterm needs of the City, including establishing impact fees for construction of equipment in parks.\*
- Continue to improve access and use to the Wisconsin River, including strategic land acquisitions.\*
- Develop more formalized walking, hiking, and cross country skiing and mountain bike trails in the School Forest, including associated trail head facilities, in coordination with the School District.\*
- Add a splash pad to the City's park system.
- Replace existing outdoor pool.



Wisconsin Dells Municipal Docks

Figure 6.1, Proposed Parks and Trails



# **CHAPTER 7**

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

7.1 Tools and Mechanisms to Fund Implementation

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the city can use to fund implementation of the park and open space recommendations discussed in Chapter 6. It also provides a summary of average facility cost estimates.

# 7.1 TOOLS AND MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance and operational expenses for Wisconsin Dells' parks are generally funded through property taxes and user fees. As the park system grows,

Table 7.1, Park and Recreation Grant Funding Programs

the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

### **Public Grant Programs**

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Table 7.1 provides a summary of common state and federal

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program			
The Stewardship Program was established in 1989 to preserve Wisconsin's most significant land and water resources for future generations and to provide the land base and recreational facilities needed for quality outdoor experiences.  These goals are achieved by acquiring land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, developing and improving recreational facilities, and restoring wildlife habitat.		1-May	DNR
This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:			
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)			
<ul> <li>Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposed (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities).</li> </ul>			
Urban Green Space (UGS)			
<ul> <li>Helps to buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non- commercial gardening.</li> </ul>			
Urban Rivers (UR)			
<ul> <li>Helps to buy land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation.</li> </ul>			
Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)			
<ul> <li>Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.</li> </ul>			

# Implementation

Table 7.1, Cont.

Table 7.1, Cont.		Annillandian	Curantin a
Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
	Awaru	Due Date	Agency
<ul> <li>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)</li> <li>This fund is used to implement projects that are identified by both the local and the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.</li> </ul>	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
<ul> <li>In general, land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible LWCF projects. LWCF does not include the "nature-based outdoor recreation" restriction that the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs do.</li> </ul>			
Recreational Trails Program Grant			
<ul> <li>Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails.</li> <li>May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON.</li> <li>Urban Forestry</li> </ul>	the total project costs of a recreational	1-May	DNR
Provides technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include:	50% local match required.	1-Oct	DNR
<ol> <li>Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan;</li> <li>Communities needing worker training; and</li> </ol>	Grants range from \$1,000 to		
Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory.	\$25,000.		
Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for Village tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance			
Lake Protection and Classification Grants			
<ul> <li>Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include:</li> </ul>	25% local match required.	1-May	DNR
Purchase of property or a conservation easement	\$200,000 maximum per project.		
Restoration of wetlands	project.		
Development of local regulations or ordinances			
<ul> <li>Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000).</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Lake protection projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, or any other projects that will protect or improve lakes.</li> </ul>			
Recreational Boating Facilities Grant			
<ul> <li>Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities.</li> </ul>	50% local match required	Established quarterly	DNR
Also includes purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil.			
Sport Fish Restoration Funding	2E0/ E00/ local	1 Oct	DND
<ul> <li>Sport Fish Restoration - Fishing Pier (SFR-FP) grants may be used to construct fishing piers that are primarily designed to provide public access for shore fishing.</li> </ul>	25%-50% local match required	1-Oct	DNR
<ul> <li>Sport Fish Restoration - Boat Access (SFR-BA) grants may be used to construct motorboat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting, and restroom facilities.</li> </ul>		1-Feb	

park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by jurisdictions to supplement acquisition and development of park and recreation areas. The National Recreation and Park Association also maintains a list of grant opportunities available nationwide. This list can be found at: https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/. Information regarding funding details shown in Table 6.1 should be verified prior to seeking grant funding.

### **Community Fundraising & Volunteer Groups**

Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with costs, programming, and upkeep. "Friends of (name of park)" organizations can support specific parks on an ongoing basis. They may also be able to organize volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation, maintenance, or playground installations.

Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgment on a plaque or sign at the site.

### 501(c)3 Foundation

The City can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund is a self-sustaining account in which assets are invested. The annual disbursement amount of the fund is a set percent of assets, generally smaller than the accrued interest amount, which allows the value of the fund and assets to grow over time. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to provide ongoing donations to the City's park system with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are tax deductible under federal and state law.

### **Room Tax**

State statutes allow municipalities to charge a room tax of up to 8%. A room tax is a special sales tax charged when people rent lodging. At least 70% of the amount

collected needs to be spent on tourism promotion and development. Use of the remaining funds is up to the discretion of the municipality. This is something other communities in Wisconsin are doing, and the City could consider.

### Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

As part of a broader plan to redevelop an area, the city can use tax increment financing to assist with parkland acquisition and development. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TIF district can be used to pay for, generally the costs of constructing public buildings can not be funded with TIF.

The city currently has three active TIF Districts. TID #2, which was created in 2001 and includes many of the commercial properties on the west side of the Wisconsin River, along State Highway 13 and west of State Highway 12. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 11-20-2031.

TID #3, includes a large number of parcels stretching across the community and includes existing parks of Veteran's Memorial and Bowman. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 5-17-2045.

TID #4, includes areas to the north, east and south of Rocky Arbor State Park. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 7-31-2026.

Parkland acquisition or trail development projects must be an approved project expenditure within an already existing TIF district or amended as an approved project expenditures. In addition, under state statute 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as the use of the funds supports and benefits the TID. Regional bike trails that run through and beyond a TIF district are one example of a park and recreation project that could be funded with the use of tax increment both within the district's boundaries and within a 0.5-mile radius.

#### **Parkland Dedication**

Continue to use the regulations contained in the City's Code of Ordinances, Section 21.07(10),

concerning parkland dedication requirements. The City's subdivision ordinance requires that residential developments dedicate parkland or provide recreational facilities as part of the approval of new developments (e.g. dedicating 5% of the total plat area for usable recreation purposes). In such special cases that this is not possible, the City may require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication equal to 5% of the market value of the total plat prior to subdivision for the purpose of the purchase or development of land to be used for public recreational uses serving the neighborhood.

### **Park Impact Fee**

While the parkland dedication or fees in lieu ensure sufficient parkland available to meet the needs of new residents, park impact fees fund park amenities for new residents. Communities choose to charge park impact fees because the cost to develop new parks is relatively high - roughly \$700,000 for a typical neighborhood park. State statutes allow park impact fees to be collected based on maintaining, not increasing current park service levels. The City does not currently charge a park impact fee but should consider charging one to offset the cost of improving new parkland. For comparison, the City of Baraboo currently changes a park impact fee of \$807 per single family dwelling unit and \$475 per additional multifamily dwelling unit.

#### 7.2 PLAN ADOPTION & AMENDMENTS

This plan is adopted as a complement to the City's Comprehensive Plan. As such, procedures for adoption of this plan, and future amendments, shall follow similar Committee/Common Council approvals highlighted below:

# Parks, Recreation & Waterway Committee Recommendation

The Committee shall meet to review the plan and pass a motion to recommend approval of the plan or plan amendment.

#### **Public Hearing**

Prior to adopting this plan, or plan amendment, the City could hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed plan or plan amendment; however this is not required since the plan is not being adopted as a component of the City Comprehensive Plan. The meeting notice should provide a method for submitting written comments, and those comments should be read or summarized at the public hearing. The public hearing may be held by either the Parks, Recreation & Waterway Committee or Common Council.

#### **Plan Adoption**

This plan and any future amendments become official City policy when the Common Council passes, by a majority vote of all elected members, an adoption ordinance. The Council may choose to revise the plan after it has been recommended by the Parks, Recreation & Waterway Committee, and after the public hearing (optional).

### Plan Amendment vs. Plan Update

Amendments can be made at any time, but the City should not amend the plan more than once per year. A common recommended approach is to establish a consistent annual schedule for consideration of minor plan amendments. This plan should be updated every five years in order to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Funding. Unlike an amendment, a plan update should revisit the entirety of the plan content and include more robust opportunities for public participation.

#### 7.3 PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks, Recreation & Waterway Committee has prioritized the recommendations for each existing park in the Wisconsin Dells. Table 7.2 lists these improvements along with estimated costs to be used for budgeting purposes.

From this list, the City's Parks, Recreation, & Waterway Committee identified the following top four priorities for the City:

- Add a dog park to the City's park system. The following locations are under consideration at this time:
  - The Wisconsin Dells Business Park
  - City Property north of Woodside
  - Finnegan Ave Property
- Resurface Middle School tennis courts with up to 4 pickle ball courts.

- Evaluate and plan for the development of a new outdoor pool area.
- Evaluate and plan for the development of a new recreation/community center. The City is seeking a location between 3.5 - 5.0 acres in size, and possibly near the Wisconsin Dells Elementary and Middle Schools.

Table 7.2, Prioritized Recommendations for Existing Parks

	Cost (in 2022 \$)	Priority
Jenkins Memorial		
Complete repair of erosion near lookout point (in progress).		High
Clarify primary access to park with wayfinding signage.	\$2,000	High
When the opportunity presents, reroute overhead utility structures on River Rd to underneath River Rd bridge to create an unobstructed up river view.	\$1,000,000	Low
Maintain current vegetation profile.	Maintenance	High
Deerwood Glen Park		
Add ADA path from road to playset and shelter.	\$12,000	Medium
Develop potential vegetation screen (trees) along pond to create a visual barrier from commercially zoned parcel to the west.	\$6,000 - \$12,000	Medium
Plant trees to develop some shade structure for the park area.	\$500 ea.	Medium
Weber Park		
Add ADA path from street to play area and from pad to picnic tables.	\$7,200	Low
Add new park sign (update to current version).	\$5,000	High
Manage/remove oak wilt as needed.	\$2,000 ea.	Medium

Table 7.1, Cont.

	Cost (in 2022 \$)	Priority
Bowman Park		
Complete sidewalk on Bowman Park.	\$35,000	Low
Add ADA path from street to enclosed pavilion,	\$12,000	High
playground, and restrooms.	\$12,000	nign
Add park signs at other points of entry.	\$5,000 ea.	Medium
Remove pipe/sign and pad from SW corner of	\$500	High
park near off street.	\$300	nigii
Design and Install more ADA accessible paths	\$40/LF	Low
throughout the park.	340/LF	Low
Design and Install an ADA playground.	\$120,000-\$200,000	Low
Install security lighting.	\$7,500 ea.	Medium
Re-establish lawn areas.		Medium
Install swings.	\$8,000 - \$10,000	Low
Consider replacement of small playground		
structure (20-25 years old) with a newer 0-5 year	\$60,000	Low
old age user appropriate structure.		
Install signage for indoor drinking fountain.	\$500	High
Install an ADA wheelchair swing.	\$8,000	Medium
Rotary Park		
Finish paving parking lot.	\$30,000	Medium
Add additional ADA stalls to parking lot.	\$1,000 ea.	Medium
Add ADA paths from parking lot to fields and play	\$24,000	Medium
equipment.		
Evaluate options for additional parking, design,	\$25,000 - \$50,000	Low
and installation.	¢0.000	LUIS
Install a drinking fountain.	\$8,000	High
Add swing set.	\$8,000 - \$10,000	Medium
Install scoreboards.	\$10,000 ea.	Medium
Consider converting "gravel" area to a covered		
pavilion to serve as a staging/waiting area for ball	\$15,000 - \$40,000	Low
teams on-deck between games.		
Develop sanitation collection area.	\$5,000 - \$10,000	High

	Cost (in 2022 \$)	Priority
Public Tennis Courts		
Install new benches.	\$5,000 - \$7,500 ea.	Medium
Resurface all courts.	\$60,000 - \$80,000	Medium
Consider installing lighting.	\$100,000 +	Low
Adapt courts to accommodate pickle ball.	\$4,000 ea.	High
Repair asphalt path around courts.	\$5,000	Medium
Add benches for spectators.	\$1,500 ea.	Low
Add a drinking fountain.	\$8,000	Medium
Evaluate need for future use as tennis.	ψο/σσο	
Potentially convert 1/2 of courts to pickle ball.	\$10,000	High
Add shade trees	\$500 ea.	Low
Veteran's Park		
Add ADA path from parking lot to bleachers,	¢0.000	A 4 1'
playground, and corn hole.	\$8,000	Medium
E0tend path to 2nd ball field.	\$22,000	Medium
E0tend fence to separate 2nd ball field from train	¢15,000, ¢30,000	1
tracks.	\$15,000 - \$20,000	Low
Install additional amenities, such as a shade	¢1 000 mantable / abada	
structure over the bleachers and additional picnic tables.	\$1,000 per table / shade \$40,000-\$60,000	Low
Study the feasibility of an additional on-site	\$5,000 study / \$150,000 -	
equipment storage facility.	\$300,000 structure	Low
Evaluate additional parking options, design, and		
installation.	\$25,000 - \$50,000	Medium
Screen dumpster area.	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Medium
Add a drinking fountain.	\$8,000	Medium
Upgrade/fix field lighting.	\$120,000 - \$180,000	Medium
Municipal Pool		
Study the feasibility of a new indoor pool facility		
in the place of the existing outdoor pool.	\$40,000 - \$60,000	Medium
Add more furniture and a shade structure.	\$20,000 - \$40,000	Medium
Address water loss issue/plumbing.	TBD	High
Move forward with planning for the		
replacement/rebuild of outdoor pool and	\$6 mil \$12 mil.	High
bath/pool utility building.		
Design plan for pool/bath house with potential	62 mil - 62 F il	Hieb
site reorientation of facility.	\$2 mil \$2.5 mil.	High
Kilbourn Public Library		
Evaluate the best use of the open space.	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Medium
Maintain as open mowed grassy area for soccer-	Maintonana	Llich
type use.	Maintenance	High

# Implementation

Table 7.1, Cont.

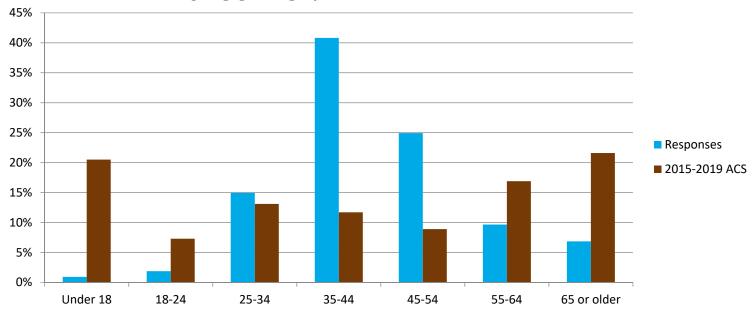
	Cost (in 2022 \$)	Priority
Recreation Center		
Creation of a new recreation center.	\$10,000,000 - \$15,000,00	High
Indiana Ave Boat Launch and Municipal Docks		
Upgrade all the dock facilities and provide adequate ADA access.	\$60,000 - \$80,000	Medium
Evaluate alternatives for additional parking.	\$25,000 - \$50,000	Medium
Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve		
Install park signage.	\$5,000	Medium
Improve and clarify site access.	\$5,000 - \$50,000	Medium
Develop more formalized walking and trails in Freemont Ravine, including associated trail head amenities.	\$24/LF	Low
Prairie Oaks Park		
No action needs until home development reaches at least 75% completed.	\$10,000 - \$20,000 Master Plan	Low

# **APPENDIX A**

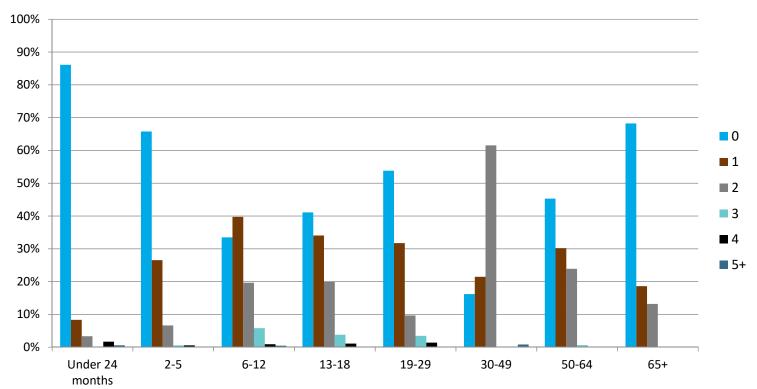
# SURVEY RESULTS

# WISCONSIN DELLS COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN SURVEY SUMMARY

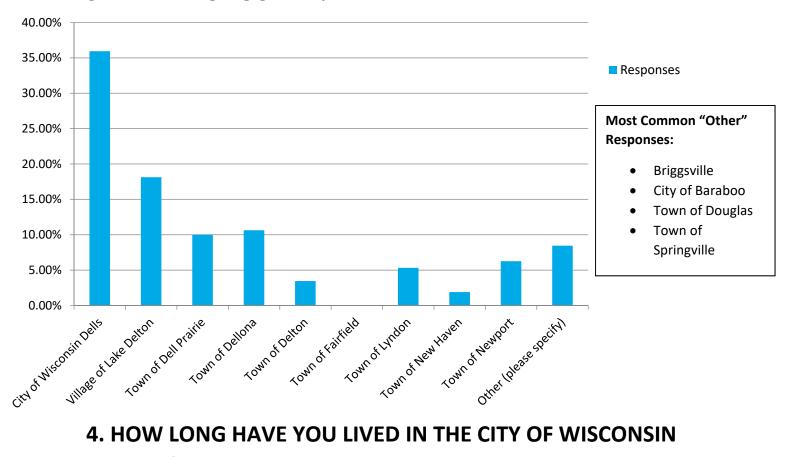
1. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



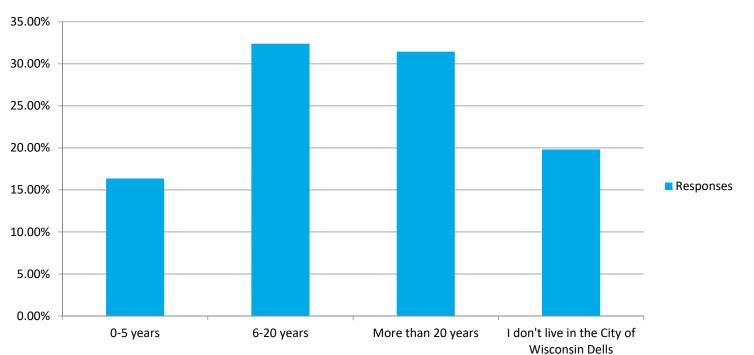
2. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD, INCLUDING YOURSELF, WHO FALL WITHIN THE FOLLOWING AGE RANGES:



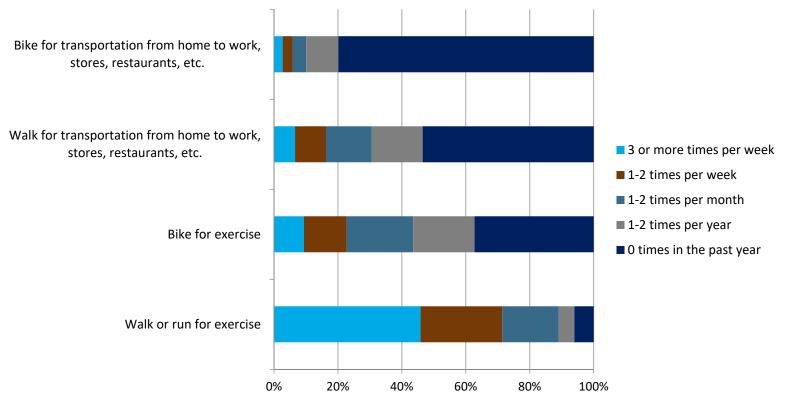
## 3. WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



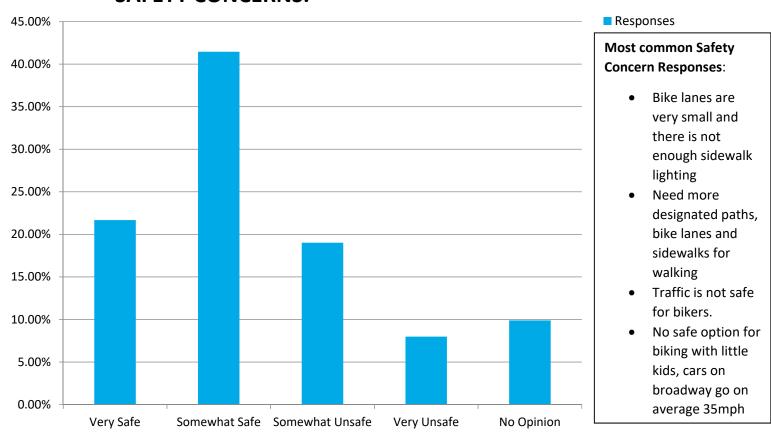
# 4. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE CITY OF WISCONSIN **DELLS?**



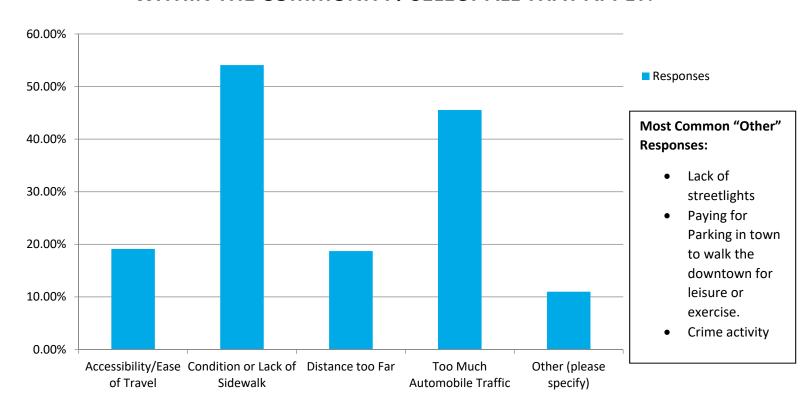
## 5. HOW OFTEN DO YOU....



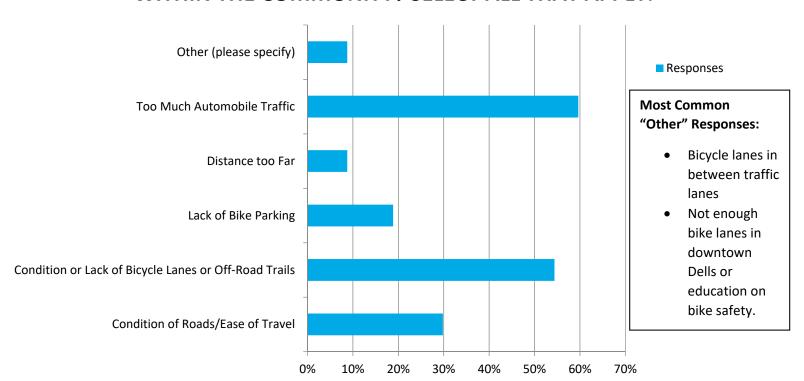
# 6. HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL WALKING OR BIKING IN THE CITY? PLEASE USE THE COMMENT BOX TO DESCRIBE ANY SAFETY CONCERNS.



# 7. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS BARRIERS TO WALKING MORE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



# 8. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS BARRIERS TO BIKING MORE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

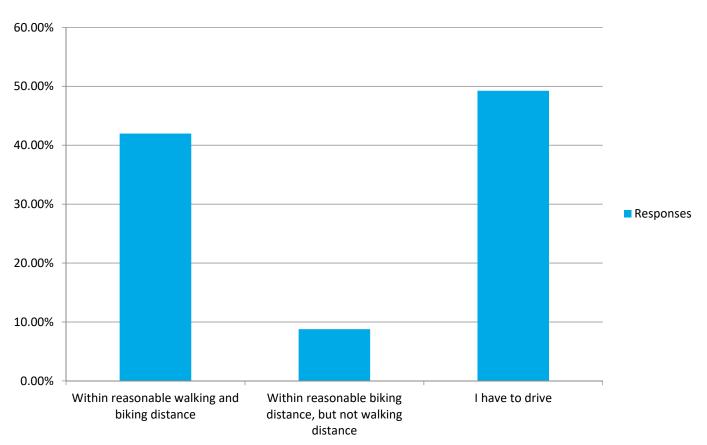


# 9. IS THERE A SPECIFIC LOCATION IN THE CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS THAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED FOR BIKERS/PEDESTRIANS TO SAFELY TRAVEL THROUGH THE CITY?

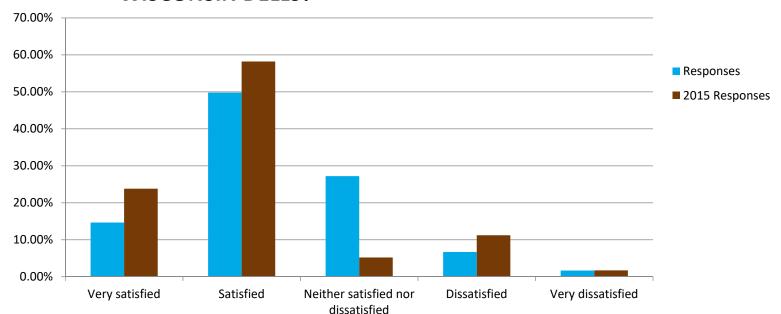
### **Most Common Responses:**

- -Downtown on Broadway and Wisconsin dells parkway
- -River Road from boat landing to Meadowbrook.
- -Intersection by Kalahari area needs more pedestrian zone to walk through and sidewalks at mall-kalahari area
- -Travel from bridge to new high school.
- -Would be nice to have a path/track/sidewalk that goes from North side of Race and follows a track back to Rotary and then West all the way down to the Riverwalk which can then connect around.
- -HWY 12
- -More lights on Washington by Bowman Park

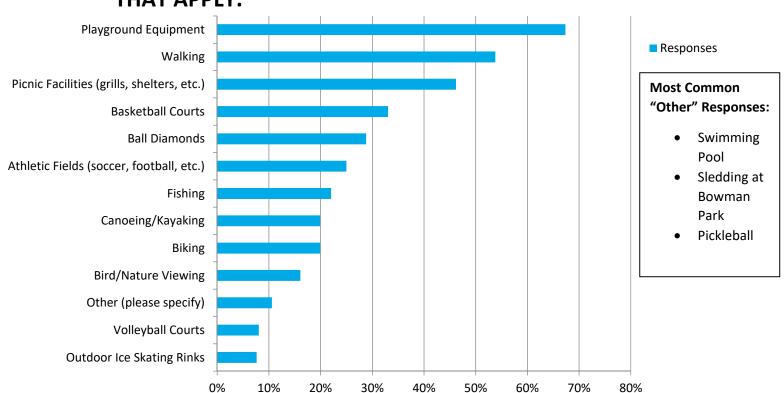
# 10. HOW CLOSE IS THE NEAREST PARK OR TRAIL TO YOUR HOME?



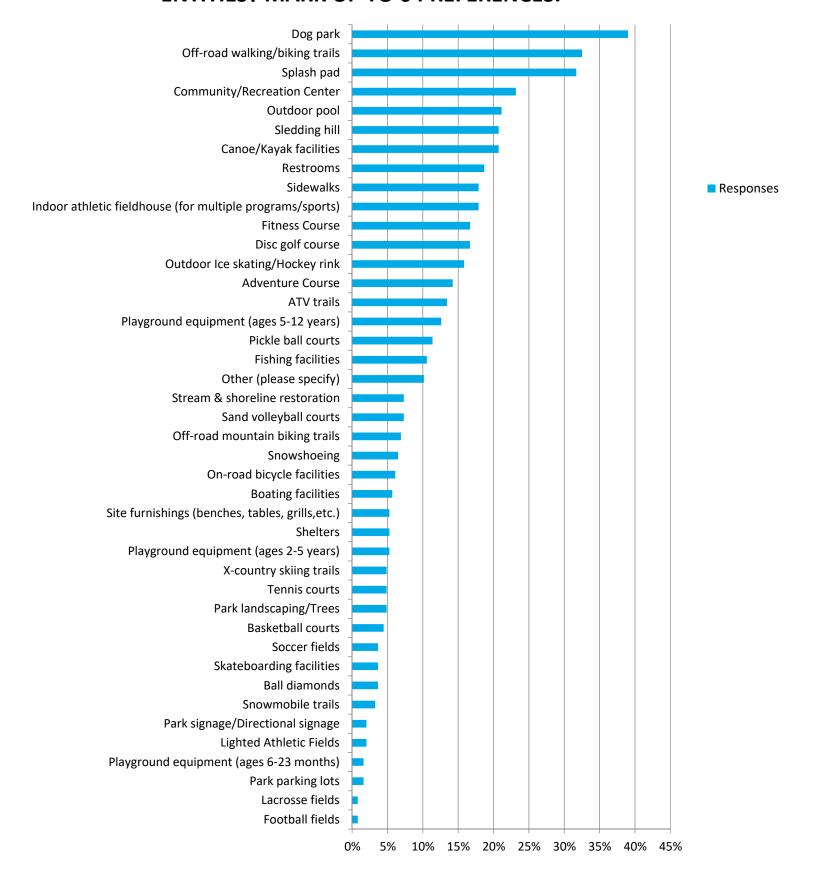
# 11. HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (E.G. PARKLAND AND PLAY EQUIPMENT) IN WISCONSIN DELLS?



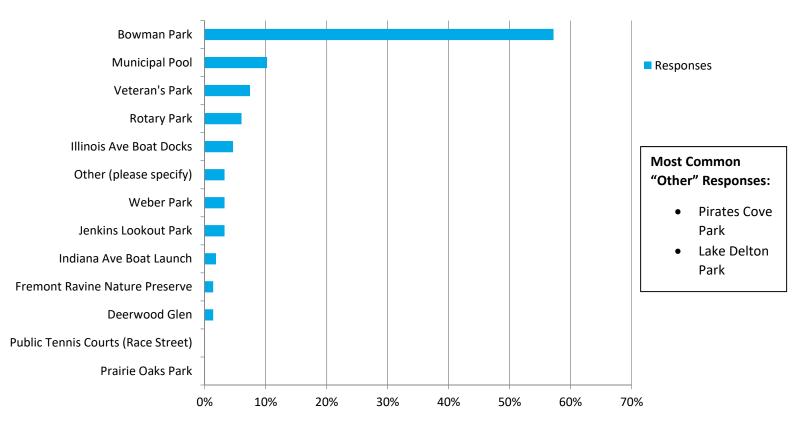
# 12. WHEN VISITING CITY PARKS, WHICH ACTIVITIES OR FACILITIES DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD MOST COMMONLY PARTICIPATE IN OR USE? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.



# 13. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED EITHER BY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES? MARK UP TO 6 PREFERENCES.



# 14. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PARK TO VISIT IN THE CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS?

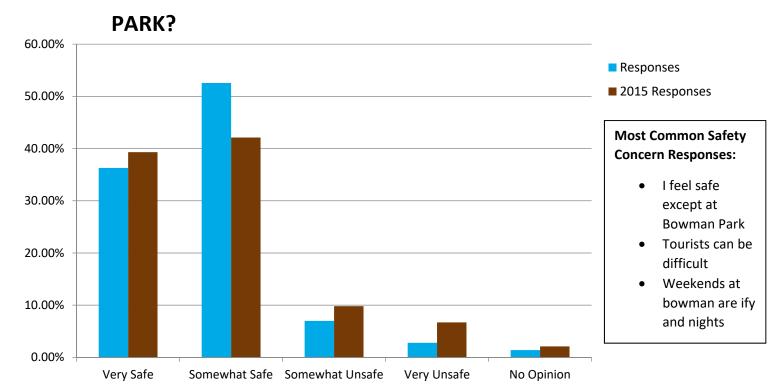


# 15. WHY IS THIS PARK YOUR FAVORITE PARK TO VISIT IN THE CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS?

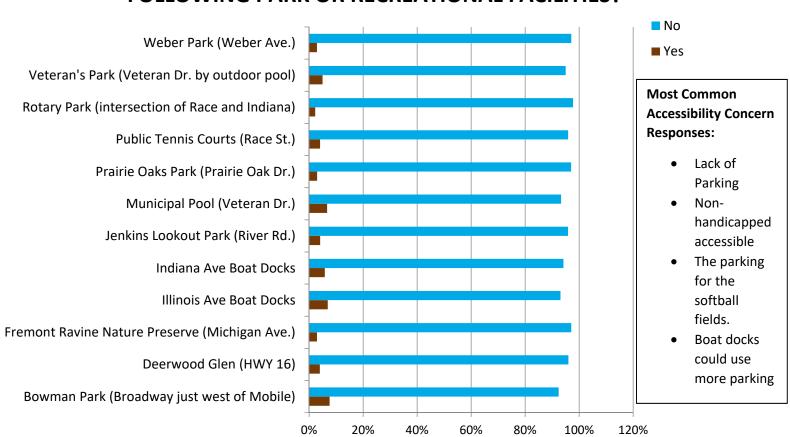
## **Most Common Responses:**

- -Basketball courts, play ground equipment, city building to use
- -Baseball/softball fields
- -Easy access, free parking, lots to offer for all ages. Close to food and drinks.
- -Close to our residence.
- -Everything is one spot playground equipment, picnic shelter, restrooms, open area to run, and basketball courts.
- -Lots to do for the kids and a nice picnic area.
- -We like to swim
- -It is large and has lots of space for the kids.
- -Nice restroom facilities, park trees, and bandstand. I love when there are concerts there.

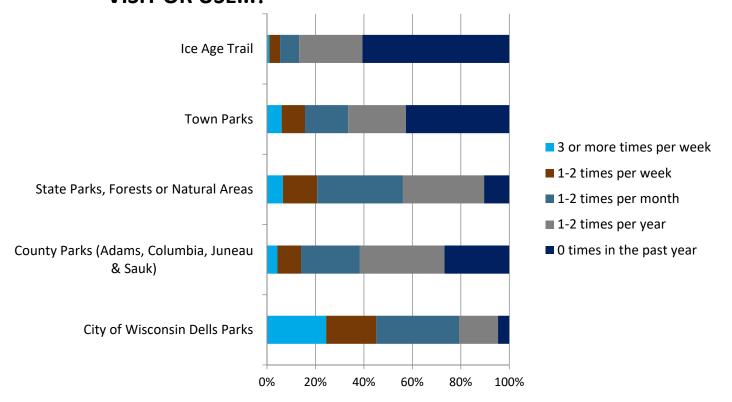
## 16. HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL WHEN VISITING A CITY



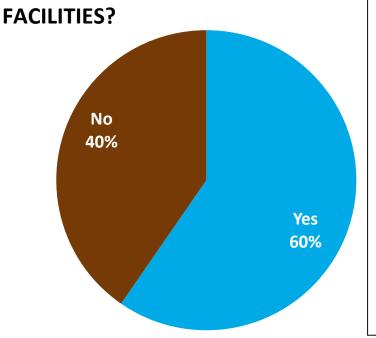
# 17. DO YOU, OR ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD, HAVE ANY ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS WITHIN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PARK OR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES?



# 18. EXCLUDING WINTER MONTHS, ON AVERAGE HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD VISIT OR USE...?



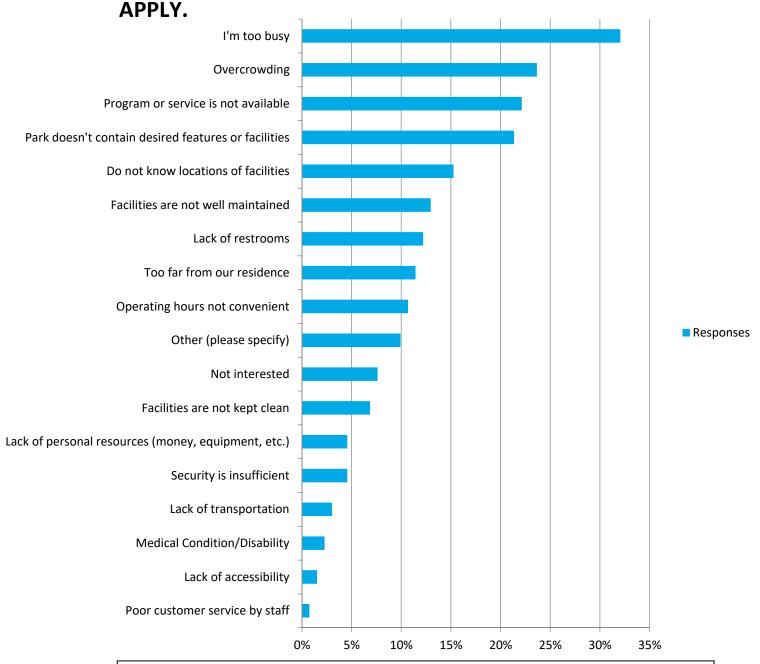
# 19. DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD COMMONLY (AN AVERAGE OF AT LEAST ONCE PER MONTH) DRIVE SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS TO USE SPECIFIC RECREATIONAL



# Most Common Location and Activity/Facility Responses:

- Mirror Lake State Park to kayak or use the beach.
- Free splash pads
- Dog park in Baraboo
- Devils Lake for hiking.
- Reedsburg 400 Bike Trail
- Riverwalk in Baraboo. Haskins Park. Lower Oschner.
- Madison/Reedsburg area soccer fields
- Gym for gymnastics.
- Indoor pool.
- Lake Delton Kaminski Park and walking trail

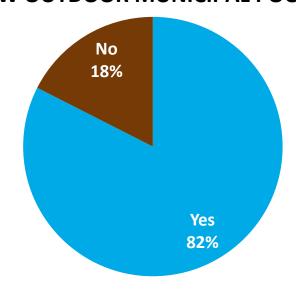
# 20. ARE THERE ANY REASONS THAT YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES? IF YES, CHECK ALL THAT



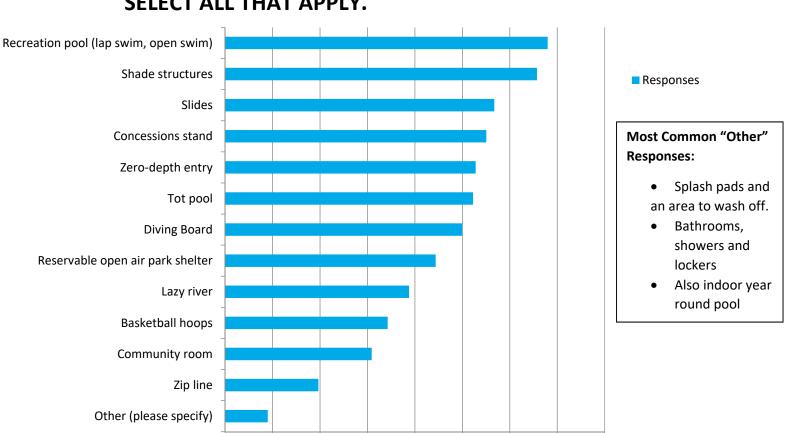
## Most Common "Other" Responses:

- There needs to be more activities that are FREE offered to the seniors since COVID cancellations, nothing has been returned like pot lucks, free offerings
- No common place to go for all activities; need to have an actual Recreation Center so the majority of activities are under 1 roof instead of spread all over the community
- Not enough programs
- I'm not fully aware of what exactly exists

# 21. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CITY ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR A NEW OUTDOOR MUNICIPAL POOL?



# 22. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE CITY TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO A NEW OUTDOOR MUNICIPAL POOL, WHAT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE POOL? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



0%

10%

20%

30%

40%

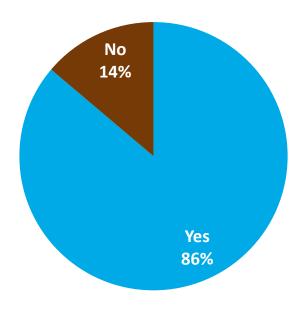
50%

70%

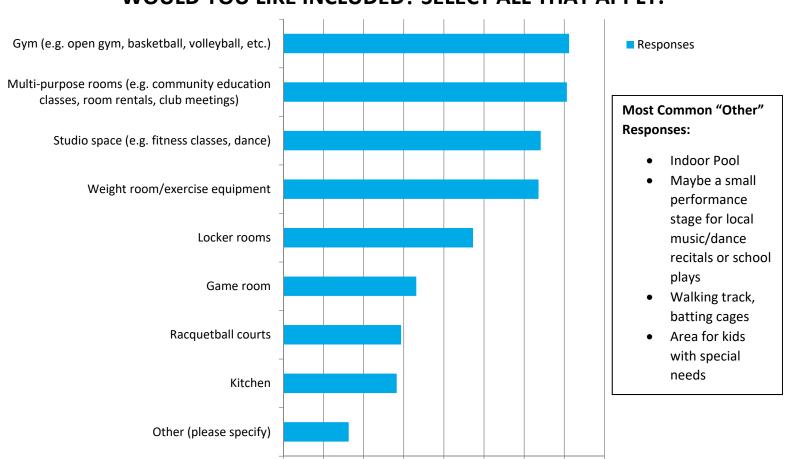
80%

60%

# 23. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CITY ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR A RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER?



# 24. IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE CITY TO ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR A RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER, WHAT SPACES WOULD YOU LIKE INCLUDED? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



20%

30%

40%

50%

60%

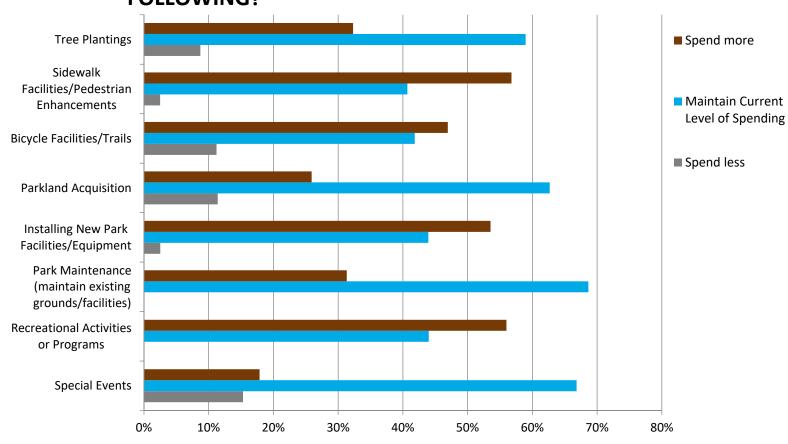
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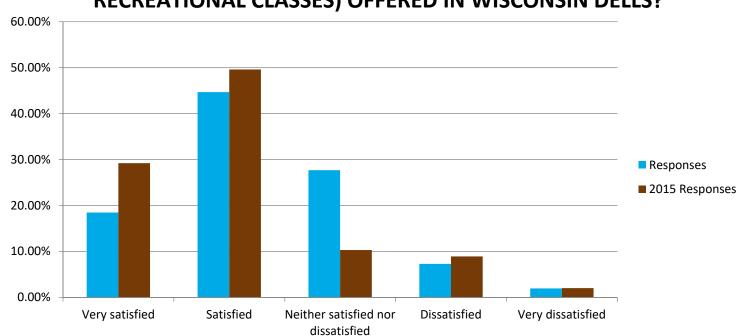
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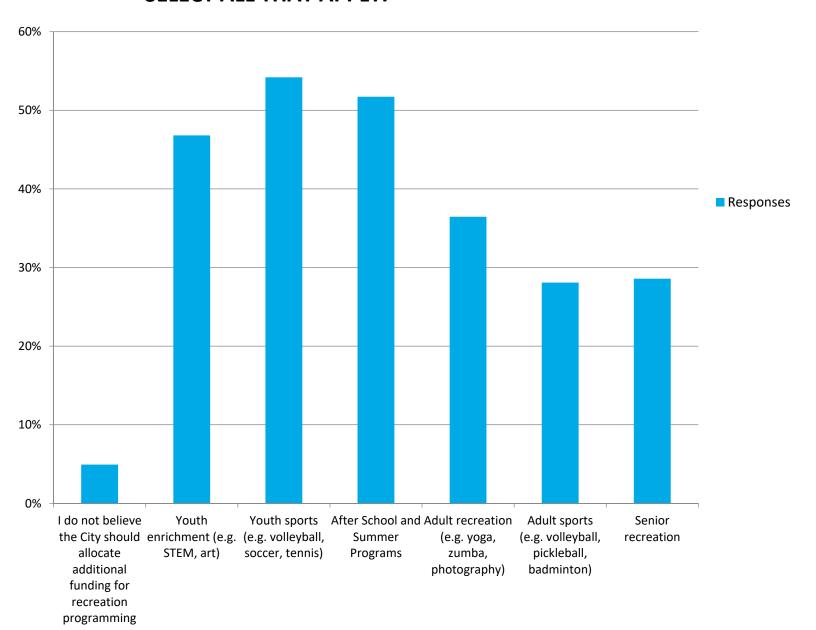
# 25. DO YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD SPEND LESS, MORE, OR MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVELS OF SPENDING FOR THE FOLLOWING?



# 26. HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS (E.G. RECREATIONAL CLASSES) OFFERED IN WISCONSIN DELLS?



# 27. WHICH RECREATION PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE THE CITY TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.



# 28. PLEASE USE THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW TO IDENTIFY A TYPE OF NEW RECREATION PROGRAM OR SERVICE THAT THE CITY SHOULD CONSIDER OFFERING.

### **Most Common Responses:**

- -A ninja warrior type facility
- -Art/drawing classes
- -performing arts, axe throwing, guitar lessons, drum lessons, Dj lessons, music technician, kid and adult business, dance, martial arts, marketing, stem, stone and plant study, mechanic engineering, animation, magicians, extreme sports, robotics, juggling
- -Children's museum
- -Disc Golf
- -Youth Fishing and Hunting
- -I think Photography would be great for a lot of ages!
- -Indoor pool offering swimming lessons, lap swim, aquatic classes
- -Yoga in the park

# 29. PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER COMMENTS RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES OR FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS.

### **Most Common Responses:**

- -A bike trail starting from downtown going out to a park area would be great.
- -Bike trails, dog parks, new pool, rec center
- -More access to our beautiful river
- -Recreational program for special needs children
- -Please add swings to rotary park! Please!
- -Would love to see off road hiking and running trails. Also mountain bike trails.
- -Splash Pad
- -We love the parks and hope more land can be devoted to nature, not tourist traps.
- -Lake Delton After School Kidz Club.
- -Improve walking/bike path to new high school from the Wis River bridge.

# OPEN ENDED QUESTION RESPONSES.

## 3. Where do you live?

- Briggsville
- Briggsville
- City of Baraboo
- City of Baraboo
- Douglas Township (Marquette County)
- Grand Marsh
- Hartford
- Jackson
- Lewiston
- Madison, WI
- Mauston
- Oxford
- Portage-Wisconsin Dells School District
- Reedsburg
- Sheboygan
- Springville
- Springville
- Springville
- Springville
- Town of Douglas
- Town of Douglas, Sdwd district
- Town of Jackson
- Town of Jackson
- Town of Springville
- Town of Springville
- Town of Springville
- Village of Lyndon Station

# 6.How safe do you feel walking or biking in the City?

- I live in Madison now
- Bike mostly back roads but have to ride some highways
- Depends on where and what time of day/ night
- Not around Broadway...too many inattentive drivers
- Bike lanes are very small and there is not enough sidewalk lighting
- Tourists not paying attention keep me from allowing my children to bike/walk alone in this community
- Uneven sidewalks, sketchy neighborhoods
- No crosswalks by Kwik Trip on Broadway
- Especially in the summer/tourist months
- Before dark
- Despite the tilted sidewalk, everything is OK!
  - Next to our new Broadway Kwik trip we need a signal light like the one near BLux it's unsafe for the kids to cross there due to the high traffic . County road A could use a side walk as well as a side walk all the way down Broadway at Least to valley view apartments many people walk that and there is no sidewalk.

- And many guest ask for a good walking path that will show them the beauty of Wisconsin dells we don't have of for them either lol
- Women are always cautious anytime they are outside alone
- Safer walking than biking because of the sidewalks
- Need bike lanes and sidewalks for walking
- Do you see how other people drive its nuts
- I feel safe on my side of Broadway but not so much on the Kwik Trip side.
- Theft is an issue
- Way to busy downtown with tourist traffic
- In the summer is usually when I bike or walk at least 1x a week but I don't do it at night due safety concerns
- Need more side walks to the schools from the not so main roads
- Crossing the River can be unsafe at times due to pedestrian traffic.
- Traffic is not safe for bikers.
- Not enough sidewalks Would love to see bike trails
- I don't feel it's safe for my kids, adults it's fine
- The Dells has a lot of out of town people coming into town and raising the crime rate. Sad

- Bike paths needed in rural areas too
- It would be nice to have a sidewalk going down the hill from top secret to Walgreens. There are so many j-1 students that just use the road.
- There are no sidewalks where we live in Lake Delton.
   We are on Burritt behind LDES
- Between gang activity and drivers not watching where they are going
- We avoid streets/roads without specific bike paths.
- Need more designated paths
- Tourists don't know how to drive are too busy gawking to watch the road
- Not enough lighting
- Immediate neighborhood feels unsafe
- There shouldn't be parking allowed on Broadway at all. We should have safer cross walks YEARROUND THE YELLOW PAINTED SQUARES ARE SLIPPERY WE HAVE BLIND RESINDESNTS AND WE HELP THEM ACROSS THE STREET
- Walking is safe, biking not safe
- Vine street needs a shoulder or walking path to connect st.
   Vinney's to the city as many J1s walk it daily in the summer.
   Someone is going to end up getting hit by a speeding car.
- Traffic
- Tourists; no designated lanes/space

- I have stoped walking in my neighborhood because of the crime
- People not using crosswalks, would be nice to have flashing lights when people are crossing
- No safe option for biking with little kids, cars on broadway go on average 35mph
- I would not feel safe biking on Broadway or Wi Dells Pky

# 7. What do you see as barriers to walking more within the community?

- Crosswalks by Broadway kwik trip and sidewalks from middle school
- It is a bar crawl practically every place offers alcohol
- More space to accommodate summer flow
- No sidewalks on east end of city
- No barriers
- Street lights in residential area downtown
- No barriers. Once again, bike/pedestrian paths would be beneficial.
- Creepy people
- Winter conditions
- Not enough lighting on the streets
- Tourist tend to drive carefree
- It would be great if the river walk actually went further.
- None
- Lighting in areas with low vehicle traffic
- Lack of ambition :)
- Larger sidewalks
- people not obeying traffic lights

- To much parking and disrespectful parkers parking wherever they want
- Paying for Parking in town to walk the downtown for leisure or exercise.
- Need more walking running biking paths.
   Especially up vine street and to connect the HS to rest of city.
- Unsafe at times for female to walk/run
- The people who may harm you, this pertains to more so in early morning, late evening. You just never know who may be out there.
- Illegal u-turns and other hazardous driving, mostly by tourists makes walking anywhere near downtown treacherous.
- Crime activity
- Parking options (I know you don't control this, but a resident parking pass would be great. Let the tourists pay parking but let locals have a break on it!)
- No street lights on the side roads!
- Lack of street lights

# 8. What do you see as barriers to biking more within the community?

- Bicycle lanes in between traffic lanes
- I don't think most people know how to properly share the roads.
- I don't bike
- Broadway is the most dangerous areas for bikes along with county road A
- Bike lanes are great for adults, but for children it is a little

harder, especially with tourist looking around at the sites as they drive. Designated bike/pedestrian paths, for recreational use, would be great for families!

- Theft. It would be nice to have a way to lock up your bike or have a bike parking place with a check in check out
- Tourist traffic is too dangerous especially automation weekends
- I don't bike
- Crossing heavy traffic to get to lanes/trails
- It would be great to have a bike path like other cities have.
- Time
- Rural area bike paths needed
- Expense of bikes
- We do not bike.
- Same as walking
- Larger sidewalk or trail
- None
- We need a bike trail or a loop on side streets. Not the main road. Not enough bike lanes in downtown Dells or education on bike safety.
- No opinion
- Just hate biking

# 9. Is there a specific location in the City of Wisconsin Dells that needs to be improved for bikers/pedestrians to safely travel through the city?

- River road
- I can't think of one.
- Downtown
- N/A
- The stretch back on river road is full of big bumps and potholes
- Downtown
- All along Broadway
- Both towns is a tourist place not a Disney we're 1-3 business be beneficial
- Wisconsin dells parkway and downtown dells
- Downtown. River Road from boat landing to Meadowbrook.
- Travel from bridge to new high school.
- Corner of Broadway and River Rd/Superior St. Need to get rid of the crosswalk entirely on the west side of the intersection to reduce backups on River Rd.

Better enforcement of people walking against the don't walk light while the left turn arrow onto River Rd.... shorten the time between red light and left turn arrow so people don't have time to jump into traffic.

Left turn arrow at Broadway/Eddy St WB or figure out a way to enforce those

- who do turn left there, Same with Broadway WB onto La Crosse St.
- Downtown. Could bike paths be created and bike lanes moved from the main highway?
- Not sure
- Crossing/ biking under the RR bridge
- From the bridge to the downtown!!
   Especially coming up into town!!
- The residential areas have absolutely horrible sidewalks
- A bike lane underneath the railway bridge
- Main drag, a way to get from one side of town to the other.
- Broadway Kwik Trip crosswalks
- Downtown on Broadway and Wisconsin dells parkway. Very unsafe
- no
- There is no access to city unless you live right there, towns around like dellona have to drive
- all of downtown for bikers is risky
- A safe bike route that avoids the main street - a planned route around the heart of the city
- Jay area
- Seems a bit
  dangerous on
  Broadway with all of
  the congestion.
  Would be nice to
  have a
  path/track/sidewalk
  that goes from North
  side of Race and
  follows a track back
  to Rotary and then
  West all the way
  down to the

- Riverwalk which can then connect around.
- The entire Parkway.
- Intersection by Kalahari area needs more pedestrian zone to walk through and sidewalks at mall-kalahari area
- Better crosswalk options. Not necessarily pedestrian crossings like in delton but maybe some flashing lights.
- Nope :)
- Wisconsin Dells Parkway
- HWY 12
- Broadway and county road A . ( our town could use more then this for updates for residents as well like more programs for kids that are not just sports and maybe a whole food store on this side of the bridge and clubs for kids like computer graffics and marketing and business clubs for kids but this is a good start.
- no
- Too much pedestrian traffic for bikes
- Under the bridge, by Showboat.
   Especially coming into town.
- High School needs a sidewalk, kids are walking in the road where the cars go for pick up. Whole north side needs sidewalks.
- Crossing Broadway, city sidewalks and roads throughout town need to be repaired/replaced (too many bumps/holes).
- I don's use so I don't know

- There are a lot of sidewalks in the Downtown area that aren't good.
- There are many roads with no sidewalks
- River road going towards Chula Vista really needs to be redone!
- Downtown
- Broadway and Hwy12
- No
- Bike paths or trails in the main roads and signs
- The not so main roads to school no sidewalk
- Yes by the middle school
- Under the railroad crossing at the end of the bridge.
- NA
- Each traffic light crossing
- County Hwy A
- Downtown on Broadway
- We need a real river path-- long enough to enjoy for an hour: running/walking/sno w shoeing!
- Hey 16 by deer wood Glen subdivision
- All of Broadway.
   Confusing some crosswalks have lights others don't.
   Should be consistent on that entire street.
- Extend the river walk.
- Under the train bridge
  - For biking Broadway, in
    particular the bridge
    across the river much of the city can
    be biked on back
    roads, but bridges
    bottleneck you into
    choosing between

fighting cars or fighting pedestrian traffic, neither or which feels safe. For walking, crossing Broadway at the quieter corners feels less safe than in the busier blocks - people slow down just for a few blocks, then speed the rest of the way through town.

- Don't know
- Downtown and heavily trafficked roads like Broadway, and parkway, as well as the major intersections.
- The down town area needs to be more accessible to bikers especially the J1 student workers.
- Race Street
- The bridge over the river, to the high school.
- Sidewalk on river road (near dnr).
   Pretty much everywhere except broadway downtown
   broadway is good and river walk but other sidewalks leading to need repair, wider.
- From OakLawn to Downtown
- OakLawn Subdivision
- Whole thing
- It would be nice to have a sidewalk going down the hill from top secret to walgreens. There are so many j-1 students that just walk on the road and could get hit.
- Broadway
- Almost entirely south of Minnesota has no sidewalks for walking on.

- Not sure
- Just don't let the city close down any streets with stop lights like they did on Oak Street before.
- All
- Too many places
- bridge
- Added designated bike/walking path would be nice
- River Road
- I would like to see our cross walks more visible like they have in Lake Delton.
- Not really a safe place to bike in Wisconsin Dells on the main roads, maybe side roads but main street through downtown and crossing the bridge terrible.
- From the bridge to myrt and Lucy's we need help.
   The trails behind baseball fields are amazing to walk at rotary now at it took a fire but we love it
   We need a dog park
- No
- intersection of Broadway and River Road, especially during the summer
- So many streets are in rough condition.
- River Road is in bad shape
- When you are coming from Walgreens to the Downtown Dells. There is no bike lane that goes the whole way. You have to fight the on coming traffic by Mexicali Rose and it's very dangerous in the summer and then again the bike trail just quits going

- under the train track bridge.
- vine street to connect st. Vinney's to the rest of the city. Many just walk it daily in the summer. Also, standrock road. We need to have an option for students to walk or ride bikes to and from the HS.
- Pretty much everywhere
- No
- Under the train bridge!
- Bridge over river
- Bowman Road and all alleys.
- Broadway
- Washington Ave by Bowman Park should add more lights at night. When people walking or biking it's really dark in that area and lights will help see others.
- River road would be nice to have a bike lane or trail
- No opinion
- Hwy 16 from east intersection to St. Vincents
- River Road
- River road after the roundabout. Road is in horrible shape ans there are curves with little to no shoulder for pedestrians and bikers
- Broadway
- More dedicated bike routes, no bike line to school
- downtown
- Downtown and around J1 housing. A lot of these kids bike and walk to work.
- Bridge pass
- More lights on Washington by Bowman Park

- 11. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the park and recreational facilities (e.g. parkland and play equipment) in Wisconsin Dells?
  - I like Bowman park a lot.
  - We should have an indoor pool! Money has been raised on and off for numerous years. What has happened to that money?
  - A park or playground on the north side of the City would be awesome. Such as in the empty lot next to the Vue. With swings.
  - Not handicapped accessible
  - What u have is in ok condition problem is u dont have much
  - Not enough money is allocated for this purpose
  - People are polite.
     Some limits of what you can do.
  - Bowman park is vary nice but the park near race street could be updated as well as the other small parks
  - Bowman park is very nice. Would be great to have another park with similar equipment/space.
  - It would be nice if there were paths in park to walk on
  - The main park and recreation building offices are not a good look for Wisconsin Dells.
  - It would be nice to have more than just Bowman Park for play options.

- It would be great to have a ice-skating rink at Bowman Park
- I can't walk anywhere without the worry of being run over. There is too long a distance from my home to a park to walk safely without traffic.
- Dirty, trashed, terrible restrooms
- Always broken and dirty. Gangs hanging out
- Not enough or large enough playgrounds so crowded
- Great
- Don't use
- Drugs and crime in parks
- Needed splash pad
- There are not soccer fields.

## 12. When visiting City parks, which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly participate in or use?

- Boat slips
- Swimming pool
- outdoor pool why wasn't this listed?
- Wisconsin River, Lake Delton
- Dells Pool I know you all do the best you can, but it would be amazing to have a renovation to the pool.
- Would like more little park areas, like developing the open lots across the street from the Kwik Trip on Broadway as a place for residents to sit, eat, watch birds, etc.
- Scooter , skateboard , hoverboard , rollerblade ,

- sledding at Bowman Park, enjoyed with my grandchildren.
- Soccer
- I didn't know we had volleyball courts or outdoor ice skating rinks
- Sledding at Bowman park
- You list ice-skating rinks but you have none
- Swimming, Tennis, Martial Arts, Archery, Etc...
- Yea
- We like pickleball and use the Christmas Mountain tennis courts for it.
- Pickleball
- We don't visit Bowman Park
- bandshell for performances
- Great
- Swimming pool
- Poo
- Hockey Rink in the Village
- Sitting outdoors to read
- A dog park would be nice
- Pool

### 13 Which of the following amenities would you like to be added either by public or private entities?

- Indoor pool, splash pad
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool/year round facilities like House of Wellness has. Affordable for residents.
- I would love the sidewalk that stops at springbrook to be connected to the end of Birchwood, and from Trout to the sidewalk that comes

- out of the back of Mt. Olympus.
- Indoor soccer! For winter
- indoor public pool
- Buy up or have donated empty lots throughout city for mini park area
- Walking/Biking sidewalks would be nice like the ones in Lake Delton. Again, these could wrap around to avoid Broadway and eventually tie into River Walk.
- Indoor Swimming Pool with Classes
- DOG PARK!!
- We need more for the kids here including clubs, music lessons . odd sports like skateboarding and rollerblading, we need whole food store, a place the kids want to go so they arnt roaming the street because they can't afford it. Suicide is high these days let's save our kids and get a kids center that's indoor and year round. Residents have ideas on how this would work . Could charge per age for all day enter fee .
- yMCA something that has more activities for winter time, especially since out winters are so long. Indoor swimming pool, racquetball courts, walking/running track, tennis courts, space for exercise programs, weight room, etc. Much needed!
- More parks

- Indoor pool for local, often we cannot afford the price for tourists at the hotels.
- Grass volleyball court
- Indoor pool
- More hours for ice skating rink and more continuous hours at the outdoor pool. Also need a public indoor pool.
- Autism friendly park
- Safe Area for Kids
   Klub with all access
   to playground
   equipment
- walking routes that could incorporate historic landmarks (not just downtown businesses)
- Indoor pool
- A locals YMCA or gym that can be used in winter time
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool

### 14. What is your favorite park to visit in the City of Wisconsin Dells?

- pirates cove
- Newport Park
- Lake Delton park
- Captain Bobs
- Lake Delton parks
- The park by the ice skating rink, pirates cove park, the play equipment by Noah's ark hotel (there aren't many parks around our walking distance area)
- Pirates Cove park, behind pirates cove, hands down best park area!!

### 15. Why is this park your favorite park to visit in the City of Wisconsin Dells?

- Spacious
- Access to boating and the beautiful river
- Accessability
- Accessible
- Baseball
- Baseball
- Baseball and softball fields in addition to pool and playground.
- baseball batting cages
- Baseball fields
- Basketball
- Basketball and large park
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts, play ground equipment, city building to use
- Basketball courts, sledding and shelter
- Basketball games and open space to picnic, or relax
- Bathrooms, playground equipment, baseball fields. Hidden from main area, so the unsafe people at Bowman are not present
- Bball courts
- Bc it feels safe and has a pool and playground
- Because I lived next to it for years and love that it was dedicated to PEACE - through meditation. Try to get

something like that built today!!!! it wasn't even on your list

- Because the owners of the Sherman House put out the porch swing and its a relaxing place to sit and swing and enjoy the river.
- Best multi use for different children ages.
- Best playground
- Best playground equipment. Sort of secluded, little bit of a hidden gem, less tourists. It's just a great park, best in the Dells.
- Big, and good for kids
- Biggest and closest to events
- Boating
- Bowman is the nicest park for young children in Dells.
   Prefer weekdays especially in summer. Gets too busy and sometimes doesn't feel safe.
- Captain Bobs tball diamonds close by, restrooms, playground equipment

We also like Veterans park because it is less busy

- Central location
- central location, shelter, playground & restrooms
- Centrally located, which makes it a good place to meet up with friends.
- Cleanest
- Close by and not many people when there are no baseball tournaments.
- Close to home
- Close to home, gentle breeze under the trees, it's peaceful even

- though it's off of Broadway, has picnic tables, basketball courts, playground, and it's where we gather for various events (Veteran's Day, WoZhaWa, etc).
- Close to home. And not sure where others are located.
- Close to me
- Close to my home
- Close to my house
- Close to our residence.
- Close to school
- Closer to home
- Closer to home.
- Closest
- Closest
- Closest
- Closest to house but need to clean up basketball gangs and dirtiness of equi
- Convenient
- Convenient
- Easily accessible.
- Easy access
- Easy access
- Easy access
- Easy access, free parking, lots to offer for all ages. Close to food and drinks.
- Easy access, something to do for everyone, centrally located compared to the other parks.
- Equipment, convenience.
- Everything is one spot playground equipment, picnic shelter, restrooms, open area to run, and basketball courts.
- For the hill to ride it during winter and because it's big.

- Good kids play area
- Good location. Good amenities.
- Great memories of kids playing Little League baseball.
- Has the most updated playground equipment.
- I grew up going to this park and like that there are not many changes to it. The few changes made were needed
- I grew up in the neighborhood and played, ice skated and went sledding at Bowman my whole childhood.
- I hate visiting the pool or veterans park because of that circle drive... it gets so congestive and then kids are running everywhere and people park in the wrong spaces. Also don't like captain bob's cuz it gets flooded all the time.
- I like to swim
- I love the location
- I take my niece there to play on the equipment because it's the closest to my home.
- I wouldn't call that a park but I am there frequently for boating and love boating
- It has all the amenities for our family - from playgrounds to picknick areas, to basketball courts.
- It has everything that I enjoy
- It has the most activities
- It is but we have seen crime there
- It is close to my home

- It is large and has lots of space for the kids.
- It is smaller and not many people know about it. Living in the subdivision makes it an easy walk and it is not populated and trashed like the other parks.
- It is where my children's activities take place
- It's closest to my home.
- It's closest to newport. We also visit the park by the pool. I didn't know the others existed. I will check them out.
- It's large and great to take the children out to play and in the heart of Dells.
- It's large, has restrooms, activities for kids, picnic facilities
- It's location but it's always super busy
- It's new and close to my home
- It's peaceful
- It's a great pool!
- It's a well maintained park that has place to cook/picnic, has sledding in the winter, has play ground equipment, a basketball court, quality restrooms, and a place for entertainment.
- It's beautiful!
- It's clean and provides the base for the activities our household has been involved in.
- It's close by the house and perfect for 3 year. But baseball field would be better if we could play on them and practice.
- It's closest to our home.

- It's location
- It's nice
- its quiet and the beautiful view of the river
- It's quiet so the benches are available & I can see all the equipment from the bench. My daughter loves the climbing web & Monkey bars
- It's the closest
- It's usually tourist free
- It's where my daughter plays softball
- Kids can swim and also has play equipment if we need a break from the pool.
- Kids playground
- Kids swim a lot
- Large, shaded
- less people, big space,
- Less tourists
- Locatio
- Location
- Location
- Location & Amenities
- Location and basketball court
- Location away from the congestion of summer, beauty of location
- Location, segregated from the hustle
- Location; and adjacency to other attributes.
- Lots of different things to do. Lots of shade.
- Lots to do for the kids and a nice picnic area.
- Most activities
- Most safe
- Most shaded one in the summer that has

- things for kids in different age groups to do.
- My kids love the playground equipment.
- Near the city, large area. Multiple ages can play, Pavillion near by,
- Near to home.
   Quiet.
- New to the area, only park we've really visited
- Nice park without too much people in a shady area.
- Nice play equipment
- Nice restroom facilities, park trees, and bandstand. I love when there are concerts there. I will miss Mobile being next door.
- Nice shelter, large area, great playground equipment,
- None
- Not a lot of traffic.
- Not apt of people go there
- Only park we have visited since moving to area in 2021
- Only park with a few things to do
- Options of basketball and play equipment.
- Our kids enjoy the equipment and we also appreciate the clean restrooms.
- Picnic shelter and playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- playground equipment
- Playground is nice, has good parking, restrooms.
- Poo
- Pool (even though it's very dated),

- playground equipment and ball fields
- Pool, ball fields, playground equip, and we love it when the train passes by;)
- Proximity
- Proximity
- Proximity
- Proximity
- Proximity to home
- Quiet and beautiful
- Really non.
   Waterpark Capitol of the world and no splash pad.
   Embarrassing
- Rotary is a special group that my husband, Peter, was proud of....
- Safest Park.
   Bowman is
   dangerous with the
   gang activity there!
   Such a shame.
- grounds are beautiful. Love the band shell but wish more live music was played. Movies in the park on a regular basis would be nice too. Maybe with overnite tent camping available.
- Shelters and play equipment plus field to spread out in
- Swimming Lessons
- That is where our boat is.
- The amenities, I include the outdoor pool that needs to upgraded as part of Veterans Park.
- the amphitheater; size; bathrooms; playground
- The equipment and location
- The most options I 1 area besides veterans

- The one I know the best
- The only one I have been to
- The play equipment by Noah's ark isn't our favorite but it is the one we probably visit the most because it is within walking distance. We also visit the pirate cove and the park by the ice skating rink because not a lot of tourists are there and its peaceful.
- The pool area on days that dont have tons of peopke ir baseball games. Its nice and fun for the kids!
- The river views
- The view of the river
- The views
- The whole family loves to swim! However, having earlier and later hours would be beneficial for people that like to exercise during their lunch break and for people that have to work until at least 5:00.
- There are no dogfriendly parks in the city and it would be really nice to have a place to bring my dogs. A dog park or two would be even better!
- To go boating
- Variety of amenities and kids like the playground equipment.
- Very close to my home. Grandkids love it.
- We are a swimming and softball/baseball family.
- We can swim and then do a picnic and then go to the park. It is an all in one stop.

- We have a boat so we use it a lot!
- We like to swim
- We live near by and we have lots of family gathering there and the playground is nice:)
- We love getting out on the river.
- We use it the most with our young kids

### 16. How safe do you feel when visiting a City park?

- Bowman park seems to have some shady activity at times
- I don't visit bowman park at night, but have heard there can be some inappropriate activities, especially around the basketball courts.
- Bowman park and basketball area we never ho in the summer! Way too rowdy!
- Sometimes a rough crowd
- More criminals are coming to town and w the low income apartmens by kt and other places its not helping
- Homeless people hang out in the shelters
- Bowman Park isn't the safest between the tourists and some of the J1 students
- Weekends at bowman are ify and nights
- Tourists can be difficult
- I feel safe except at Bowman Park
- To many windows in vehicles getting broke. To many out of towners fighting. Most of the time I go to a different town. I

- will drive the extra miles. All the tourist scum is making town not nice. The tourist no longer know how to behave.
- Daytime is fine, but nighttime in summer worrisome at Bowman. People smoking/selling weed all over.
- Bowman Park
- Safe besides Bowman at night
- in the daytime
- Homeless
- Tourist are crazy
- Bowman Park is a drug ring and everyone knows it
- I would never go to Bowman Park after dark.
- Bowman park makes us (and other families we know) extremely uneasy. The drugs/alcohol/gang activity that occurs by the basketball courts and Pavillion is not something our family wants to be around. It is extremely unsettling listening to their screaming and fighting.
- Lots of times there are kids hanging around and usually not up to good things. Cussing and causing problems.
   Trashing the area.
- Bowman Park is very unsafe in summer with transient basketball players fighting
- The basketball courts bring rude kids and strange people around.

## 17. Do you, or any members of your household, have any accessibility concerns within any of the following park or recreational facilities?

- Sidewalks to all of them for strollers and wheelchairs would be great!
- Bowman Park bandshell used to be used nightly but is not accessible due to the terrain in front of it. Jenkins Park limited parking and hill to get into from River Rd very steep
- It would be nice if this park could be accessed through the school trails on the southwest corner of hwy 23 and 16
- Bowman... seems like lots of fights and illegal things happen around that are
- Parking by the pool in the summer during ball games! Why even have them there?! Its highly annoying!!!
- Lack of Parking
- Never noticed we even had that many parks
- The tennis courts needs help!
- The pool area needs better parking
- Parking
- Boat docks could use more parking
- Marijuana stench in public places
- It is unfortunate that residents need to pay for parking if their child is playing on the ball fields or using the pool.

  However, adding a parking pass to the season pool pass is a nice touch.

- Need to be safe for kids on spectrum who wander off
- Safety on and around the basketball courts, and the tennis courts are a mess
- Veterans park. The parking for the softball fields.
   Softball fields née help.
- I didn't know the complete list of park areas and that the boat dock areas were considered public access
- Non-handicapped accessible
- Not enough parking close to the facility.
- I am unsure about the others. Bowman Park should have a play area that all children can enjoy...including those who use a wheelchair
- Bowman Park- no longer safe to take kids to

## 18. Excluding winter months, on average how often do you or members of your household visit or use...?

- Newport Park my favorite all year around
- State bike trails (a couple times per month)
- I love the winter options at Mirror Lake park

# 19. Do you or members of your household commonly (an average of at least once per month) drive somewhere outside of the City of Wisconsin Dells to use specific recreational facilities?

- We go to Mirror Lake State Park a lot.
- Anvtime
- Devils Lake, for the beauty
- Mirror lake state park- various trails Devils lake state park- trails
- State parks for hiking, Cascade Mountain for skiing, other perks for available baseball fields, dance studio in Baraboo
- Lake Delton
   Kaminski Park and walking trail
- Towns with free splash pads
- Dells center, just a game,
- Devils lake
- Hiking at Devils Lake
- Mirror Lake State
   Park to kayak or use the beach.
- biking Reedsburg bike trail, kayaking -Devils & Mirror Lake State Park
- Riverwalk in Baraboo. Haskins Park. Lower Oschner.
- Splash pad
- Reedsburg pool, Baraboo river walk
- Splash pad sauk!
   Nice parks there and walking trails! A couple tikes a week in summer! Would love to have one here!!
- Mauston splash pad.

- State parks
- State Parks and trails for hiking, biking and Xcountry Skiing.
- Devils Lake and Oshners Park Other parks that have Horseback riding trails
- Devils lake, mountain bike trails any and everywhere, door county parks hiking biking. Madison area soccer
- Mirror Lake, Devils Lake, Castle Rock
- Newport Park
- We go to Lake
   Delton and park by
   River's Edge so we
   can walk up towards
   Wilderness or
   around the Lake.
- Devil's Lake, any city park that has a splash park - Sauk, Madison, Middleton, etc.
- Dog park in Baraboo
- Baraboo and Reedsburg - dog park
- Yes, we drive to access state parks and other hiking areas.
- Soccer games
- Walking trails
- Baraboo's River walk is not as busy as the dells because of the tourists. It would be nice to have a quieter walking path that isn't next to the downtown strip.
- Summer/Fall:
  Reedsburg 400
  Bike Trail
  Baraboo Devil's
  Lake / Mirror Lake Hiking and Biking
  Portage Hiking
  trails
  Various spots for the

- Elroy/Sparta Trail Madison - Bike Trails Winter/Spring (when unable to bike): Baraboo - Devil's Lake / Mirror Lake -Hiking Portage - Hiking trails
- Ice age trails for hiking
- We try to get away from the tourists when possible
- The dog park and river walk trail in Baraboo
- State parks for Kayaking and hiking
- Splash pad, devils lake, state parks to explore.
- Pirates cove and lake Delton parks
- Castle Rock
- Indoor pool and fitness center YMCA1
- Devils lake for hiking a d kayaking
- State Park Hiking trails and beaches.
- Pool for swimming and swim team.
- Devil's Lake for hiking & swimming
- Oschner park and devils lake
- Gym for gymnastics. Indoor pool.
- Portage city parks -Pauquette Park
- Soccer in Reedsburg through a quality soccer club. Madison soccer facilities.
- Mirror Lake, Devil's Lake
- Devils lake in summer months
- Local lakes for bushing and kayaking
- Oxford, Briggsville (old school), Portage
- Hiking at state parks.
- Hiking and birdwatching at county parks and

- national wildlife refuges.
- 400 trail to bike, Devils Lake to hike
- Devils lake to go on hikes.
- Dirt bike trails
- Multiple State parks for hiking trails. Lake Delton for a walk around the lake due to very nice sidewalks and long path to take. River walk is nice here but it is incredible short and we like long walks.
- Indoor pools in Mauston and Baraboo for swim team practice.
- Devils Lake, pauguette park
- All over in multiple destinationssomething to do with the kids.
- Splash pad
- We drive every week to Madison for a boys gymnastics program.
- Splash pad in portage, Oschner park baraboo, Haskins park baraboo (zip line and by a river)
- Reedsburg
- Devils Lake for hiking.
- Aforementioned bike trails.
- Lake Delton for Pickleball. State Park for hikes, Sauk County conservancies for hiking.
- Gymnastics program; has better hours, coaches and availability in Reedsburg
- Any and all state parks I can get to
- Brigsville for fishing
- Devils Lake area

- Mirror lake
- Parks in Adams county. Also Mirror Lake and Devils Lake
- The renovated park in Sauk City has river access and I love the walking trails along the Baraboo River
- Baraboo
- Devil's lake for hiking
- Hiking devils lake
- Baraboo public pool and reedsburg large park by Webb middle school.
- Village. Capt Bobs park
- Oshners park...zoo
- Devil's Lake, Mirror Lake for hiking
- Door County
- Roller skating rink, splash pads, nicer parks in towns near us like the parks near water in Baraboo and Portage. Adventure course. ATV/UTV trails.
- Mirror Lake, Devil's Lake, and Baraboo Dog Park. We don't always feel safe walking our dog in town, especially in the busy season so we use the State Parks and the nearest dog park.
- Golf
- Baraboo for outside ice staking, Baraboo and portage for 3-4 years old sports programs
- Kayak.. Devils lake mirror lake
- Devil's Lake and Mirror Lake
- Hiking
- county and state parks
- We enjoy going to Mirror Lake and Devil's Lake State

- Parks to hike. We also camp at State parks all across WI.
- Biking trails
- Frequently drive to Reedsburg or Baraboo for dog friendly parks and dog parks
- Dog park Baraboo
- Devils lake, swimming
- Pickleball; Lake Delton
- Splash pads in surrounding areas, disc golf in Baraboo, playground in baraboo
- Splash pad
- Sauk splash park
- Baraboo to walk along the river and to kayak
- Indoor Pool, pickleball courts at Baraboo.

# 20. Are there any reasons that you or members of your household do not participate in recreational activities?

- No
- Not enough programs
- There needs to be more activities that are FREE offered to the seniors since COVID cancellations, nothing has been returned like pot lucks, free offerings
- Always the same things offered at high cost.
- Na
- Smoking
- We use a lot of the parks. Would use ice rink and pool a lot

- more if the hours were better.
- Recreational activities it is hard to work and get your kid to town for activities. Transportation for ball etc
- Need to be made safe for kids on the autism spectrum
- Old
- No common place to go for all activities; need to have an actual Recreation Center so the majority of activities are under 1 roof instead of spread all over the community
- not many recreational or public programs designed for folks my age that don't include alcohol and drinking
- I'm not fully aware of what exactly exists

## 22. If you would like the city to allocate funding to a new outdoor municipal pool, what amenities would you like to see at the pool?

- Good, clean changing rooms, restrooms
- Also indoor year round pool
- Splash pad
- Volleyball
- The pool is fine, would like an indoor pool instead of another outdoor pool
- Should be a indoor pool due to 12 months of people paying to use it vs only 5 months of people paying to use it. Winter time people want to swim but we all have been to these pools and just want a indoor

- pool like baraboo middle has
- I think all of these are great but choose those most important.
- It would be great to have an all-in-one community rec center for local residents, which includes a pool area, gym, community rooms, indoor walking track, afterschool activities, summer camp for kids, basketball courts indoors, community activities, plenty of parking, located in-town, reasonable annual fees per household, etc.
- Splash pads and an area to wash off.
   Appleton has several new pools for reference
- Splash pad
- Bathrooms, showers and lockers
- Indoor would be best to allow for year round swim lessons and team
- Hot tub
- Some kind of cover in the winter months
- No B-ball or in pool games. Kids get obnoxious.
- I would like the city to build an indoor pool not outdoor

# 24. If you would like the City to allocate funding for a Recreation/ Community Center, what spaces would you like included?

 Maybe a small performance stage for local music/dance recitals or school plays

- Pool & Hot Tub.
- Indoor pool
- Open more than a few hours a day.
- I think the city should partner with the YMCA organization. They have great facilities and diverse programming.
- Indoor batting cages
- Open space for group exercise classes like Baraboo has
- Pickle Ball
- · Badly needed
- All the above . We need a safe place for kids to express them selves. With clubs and classes that are affordable to every one . I have a kid who wants to learn quitar and can't here as well as skateboard, scooter, computer graphics. animation and robotics and another one who wants to lift weight and try every sport and martial arts and the arts like performing arts. I got a husband who would drive 2 hours to train with a WWE wrestler and pay \$100 per month to train. 1 time a week. We could add so much into a community center the possibility's are only limited to peoples limited ideas . We need this with a passion.
- Pickleball courts
- Indoor swimming pool!!!!
- Include a nice pool area (slides, tot pool, swim lanes, etc), indoor walking track, kids center (after school activities,

- summer camp, etc), and a rock wall climbing. Make sure it's accessible for disabled.
- I grew up in the Dells and a friend and I were just talking about how the Dells needs a rec center for the kids like we had growing up. It was a place where we could go to be social but also you know where kids are at
- Walking track, batting cages, indoor pool
- D
- Fitness/Exercise, Pilates & Martial Arts Classes, Indoor Swimming
- Area for kids with special needs
- Indoor pool
- Indoor tennis courts
- Indoor pool
- Pickleball courts
- Not Racquetball but Pickleball
- Indoor playground area, offices for the Parks and Rec staff
- Silver sneakers programs
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool
- Gymnastics area and equipment
- Pickleball court
- Indoor Soccer Field

26. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with recreational programs (e.g. recreational classes) offered in Wisconsin Dells?

- We love Kidz Club.
- More youth programs with defined schedules.
   It's hard to sign kids

- up for activities when we don't know if there will be a volunteer to coach or when they'll change practice times/days
- Again not enough programs.
   Specifically for cold months. Kids abd teenagers need something to do when everything is close when cold
- I'm not aware of any recreational classes that are offered
- Not enough tax dollars are ever focused on these programs
- My son enjoyed Kids Klub. He was one of the first students
- Previous comments
- There are limited options, wish there were more and especially all offered at one location.
- They do a nice job with current budget
- Could improve
- Poor soccer program
- We can't get kids to them. Not everyone lives around the corner in town. The Rec's are designed for town kids.
- Not enough
- Don't know enough about the programs to answer.
- Old coke plant isn't enough space, and has been taken over by 1 group
- Baraboo has way more programs.

# 28. Please use the space provided below to identify a type of new recreation program or service that the City should consider offering.

- A ninja warrior type facility
- A pool where adults can do water exercise all year long.
- Adult art activities like coloring or rock painting or ?
- Any
- Any classes for adults that aren't based around sports-I remember searching for something like this recently and being unable to find anything
- Art/drawing classes
  - As I previously mentioned . Our kids the kids of the people that smile at kwik trip and tell you to have a good day, the mothers that go to work at the schools the kids learn from can't always afford to pay the price that is listed for programs. But adding a few more adult combo packs could help with that . As well as a low income rate if they are on state assistance .activity's as in ( WWE( pro wrestling ) training ( I know a friend who is looking to starts one here), performing arts, axe throwing, guitar lessons, drum lessons, Dj lessons, music technician, kid and adult business, dance, martial arts, marketing, stem,

stone and plant study, mechanic engineering, animation, magicians, extreme sports, robotics, juggling, (our town is full of people who do these things already . I believe we as a comunity can teach the next generation to help our town thrive and become so much better . Competition and presentations of there creations. If we teach them then they will be what we need for our future

- ATV trails
- Can't think of anything else beyond keeping the kids busy and offering a family location where families can go to exercise, swim/play, etc.
- Children's museum
- Consider viewing the senior center in Niceville, FL. It would be an outstanding model to work from.
- Disc Golf
- Dog park!
- Dog park.
   Nature
   education/outings?
- Fishing lessons
- Fitness for kids, just exercise
- Healthy life style will improve and enhance community. Having a common area that can support young and older generations is crucial.

It's important to promote and provide opportunities to the younger kids keeping them safe and out of trouble

- I am not sure but would love anything that connects people. its good now.
- I think Photography would be great for a lot of ages! Between young kids to elders! I would even be interested in helping out with that program!
- I wish there were more opportunities for adult women to play basketball.
   I also would like to see a tennis program for adults. I haven't played in a long time and would enjoy that.
- Indoor pool offering swimming lessons, lap swim, aquatic classes
- Indoor pool and indoor soccer. Lots of kids interested in these 2 sports they drive out of town to get to play those
- Indoor pool, indoor soccer
- Indoor soccer
- Indoor year round pool
- Lake Delton After School Kidz Club.
- Large, multi purpose recreational building
- more for kids all year round my son is 8
- More outings in town, art classes
- More youth sports and summer camp options for RESIDENTS. Adult fitness-Zumba
- Mountian biking and youth cross country or running club.
- NA
- New Outdoor Pool and Rec Center
- Nitro ball
- Older people seniors, veterans,

- people over 50 need to stay active
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball, watercolor painting, gardening, volunteering, music lessons, kayaking
- Pilates and Other Exercise/Fitness Programs.
   Weight / Fitness Exercise Rooms.
   Self-Defense / Martial Arts Programs.
   Year Round Indoor Swimming Facility.
- Programs for 4k and below!
- public gym/weight room
- Recreational program for SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN
- Roller skating, obstacle courses, adventure courses, UTV routes/space/parking
- sizable dog park
- Something for the over 50 crowd. An exercise class?
   Maybe some sort of club for the ladies. Get the gals out of the house while the men are working. Something social that would benefit the community. Some charity type group. Love the dancing grannies....
- Sports clubs (intended towards youth) (Basketball, Volleyball, etc)
- Sports program for 3-5 years old,
  - Stem... let kids get hands on with stem. I am a software developer and I know this makes a huge impact.
    Give kids something to do so they are less likely to end up doing dumb shit.

- Tennis classes for youth
- Volleyball camps (more than the short basic offering now), youth running club/track and field
- Water aerobics
- We should offer free swimming lessons for all residents of Wisconsin Dells and Lake Delton and for all ages.
- wellness walks vs
  wine walks; empty
  bowls to benefit local
  food pantries;
  program offerings
  posted in English
  and Spanish; yoga in
  Bowman park;
  multicultural music
  concert series (like
  Reedsburg &
  Baraboo) in Bowman
  Park
- Yoga in the park
- Youth Fishing and Hunting
- 29. Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to pedestrian, bicycle, park and recreation services or facilities in the City of Wisconsin Dells.
  - A bike trail starting from downtown going out to a park area would be great.
  - Available walking paths where car traffic isn't interfere.
  - Before anything happens, new programing or new spaces the sidewalks in the residential areas absolutely need to be rehabbed. This should be rhe first priority. Can the city potentially use some

- of the federal covid monies for this? It is promoting wellness by improving them. Just a thought.
- Bike trails, dog parks, new pool, rec center
- Bikes get stolen. I would never leave my bike downtown. Build more parks.
- Biking is so related to those temporary workers. If we have trails and paths for locals new generations can benefit. Just like those that you can find in other communities i.e Madison
- Dog park
- I believe we need a new Fire station, a new Police station and most of all a new building for the Ambulance in the Dells.
- I have always thought it would be nice to see a bike/walking/running path like the one around Lake Mendota in Madison here in Wisconsin Dells.
- I have talked to many dog owners in the area who also travel to Reedsburg and Baraboo to visit the dog park. It would be nice to have one in the Dells
- Improve conditions of sidewalks and streets.
- Improve walking/bike path to new high school from the Wis River bridge.
- Is it is a tourist city we need to have all of the entertainment under one city

- It's just really important for the workers and kids to get to school safely.
- Make a sidewalk getting to the park from both sides so people that bring older family members with can have a steady way to get them without falling
- More access to our beautiful river
- More parks and walking trails
- More walking/biking paths
- N/a
  - Need a new pool and a splash pad! I personally loved the boat area and special entertainment other than the typical people you rotate! We as locals came and were entertained and spent money in the shops and on food every week! Really miss the variety and the spot. Also would love a splash pad and new pool for the kids!! And a community center! People drive from all over to go to the one in Sauk. Maybe make it in Lake Delton over by the ice rink. Or make a outdoor rink over there in that large fields. We really love the River walk! And have really enjoyed the past few winters! We appreciate all of it!! Also appreciate the elf and bunny hunts! Little things like that that are free to begin with make people happy and excited to come out and then they spend

money!

- Need more walking and bike paths
- New, larger pool with parking that doesn't get completely taken over by baseball game attendees. The water park capital of the world should have a nicer pool for its community to enjoy.
- Not enough senior friendly programs, lack of knowledge about senior focused activities, need more health lectures that are free, classes that are free and beneficial to seniors
- Please add swings to rotary park! Please!
- Recreational program for SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN
- Splash Pad
- The area needs a multipurpose bike/walking nature trail. Both Sauk City and Baraboo have an amazing trail system that people use for running, biking, walking, etc. It would be a nice addition to the area when people don't want to walk/bike downtown where all the tourists are located.
- The city of Wisconsin Dells needs to be much more walkable and safe for bikers.
- The main problem I see is that the sidewalks aren't straightened.
- There was supposed to be a walking trail from town up to Chula along the river, what happened to that?
- too many accident, absolutely not regulated by city

- police specifically student crossing routes anywhere, anytime!!!
- Update the little parks so even the side streets look as beautiful as bowman so bowman won't get so crowded plus add basket ball courts to them please ... and 1 skatepark in Wisconsin dells
- We do need a community recreation facility. One with an indoor heated pool. Hot Tub. exercise equipment.
- We live outside of town, and just moved here a year ago. The biggest thing we miss is a rec center,

where we could swim and exercise year-long. Having one in the Dells during the winter would be terrific. Yet to be honest, during the summer we'd never come into town for it because we'd have to fight traffic and crowds and it is easier to just swim and exercise outdoors. On that same note, new facilities and trails that are away from the typical tourist crowds would let us spend more time in town, instead of "Well, it is a summer weekend, may as well go to Portage to avoid

traffic."
We really do like this town, and enjoy the extra businesses available to us being a tourist destination... it just feels overwhelming at times so when we want outdoor, peaceful recreation, we feel like we need to go somewhere else.

- We love the parks and hope more land can be devoted to nature, not tourist traps.
- Would love to see off road hiking and running trails. Also mountain bike trails.

#### **APPENDIX B**

### PARKS & RECREATION MAPS

Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities Existing Park Service Areas Existing Park Facility Distribution Proposed Parks and Trails

