



**2023
Town of Bristol
Park and Recreation Plan**

**April 1999 Bristol Township Park & Greenspace Plan Revised by
2023 Parks and Recreation Committee:**

**Ben Grove
Mark Jurovic
Kim Moermond
Tamara Sondgeroth
Scott Manke
Lindsay Earhart**

Description of Township (taken from current town website)

The Town of Bristol, Dane County, is located just north of the City of Sun Prairie and 15 miles northeast of Madison. Bristol is primarily an agricultural town, one of the most productive in Dane County. In addition to agricultural land, there is an area of rural residential subdivisions located in the southwest corner of the Town.

Residents in Bristol have the unique combination of country living with city amenities such as shopping, sporting facilities, and educational and cultural opportunities found only minutes away. The quiet rural setting and excellent quality of life have attracted many new residents to Bristol. Currently, Bristol is home to approximately 4,411 residents.

Town of Bristol Park and Recreation Mission

To create and maintain open spaces where all residents of Bristol can safely congregate, play, and relax during all seasons of the year.

Park & Recreation Goals

- Maintain a system of parks and open spaces which meet the recreational needs of the town community.
- Pursue the development to link bike trails in the City of Sun Prairie and Dane County with the Town of Bristol as opportunities arise.
- Provide a variety of recreational areas available to all town residents during all seasons of the year.
- Provide neighborhood parks that are easily accessible by children without having to cross high traffic roadways, drainage areas, and spillways.
- Update playground facilities on a regular basis to maintain safe play areas that are ADA compliant.
- Ensure community-wide facilities are accessible by pedestrians and disabled.
- Accommodate vehicle and bicycle access to parks and allow for minimal parking.
- Maintain and enhance current shelters and fields.
- Evaluate and prioritize field use and reservation systems.

Parks and Recreation Committee

- The Town Park Committee was established to provide recommendations to the Town of Bristol Board related to parks and recreation concerning development and maintenance.
- The Town Park Committee shall establish park development priorities, with input from the Town of Bristol residents.
- Maintain and fund a seven-member Park Committee with support to accomplish parks goals and maintenance in this plan.
- Meet on a regular basis to review requests, organize and oversee park projects, and provide updates to the Town Board.
- Coordinate the Town Land Division Ordinances within the plan. Where there exists any discrepancy the Town Board will rectify it.
- The Parks Committee meets at least every other month at the Town of Bristol Town Hall.
- The Parks Committee consists of a Town of Bristol Board Member, and 6 community members who reside in the Town of Bristol.

- The Parks Committee should elect a chairperson(s) to set agendas, run meetings, and file approved notes.
- The Parks Committee will review any proposed donations to the park. These could be private donations, neighborhood contributions, or grant opportunities. The Parks Committee will draft a recommendation which will go for approval from the Town Board.

Neighborhood Reps

- The Parks Committee will facilitate volunteers as Park Neighborhood Reps for each of the Town of Bristol parks. The purpose of this position is to be the liaison between the neighborhood and the parks committee. Report any information to the committee and share committee progress with the neighborhood. Gather neighborhood feedback that impacts the park they represent.

Budget

The Town of Bristol will fund regular, ongoing maintenance of the parks in our town. The following is a list of normal maintenance and the Park Committee involvement.

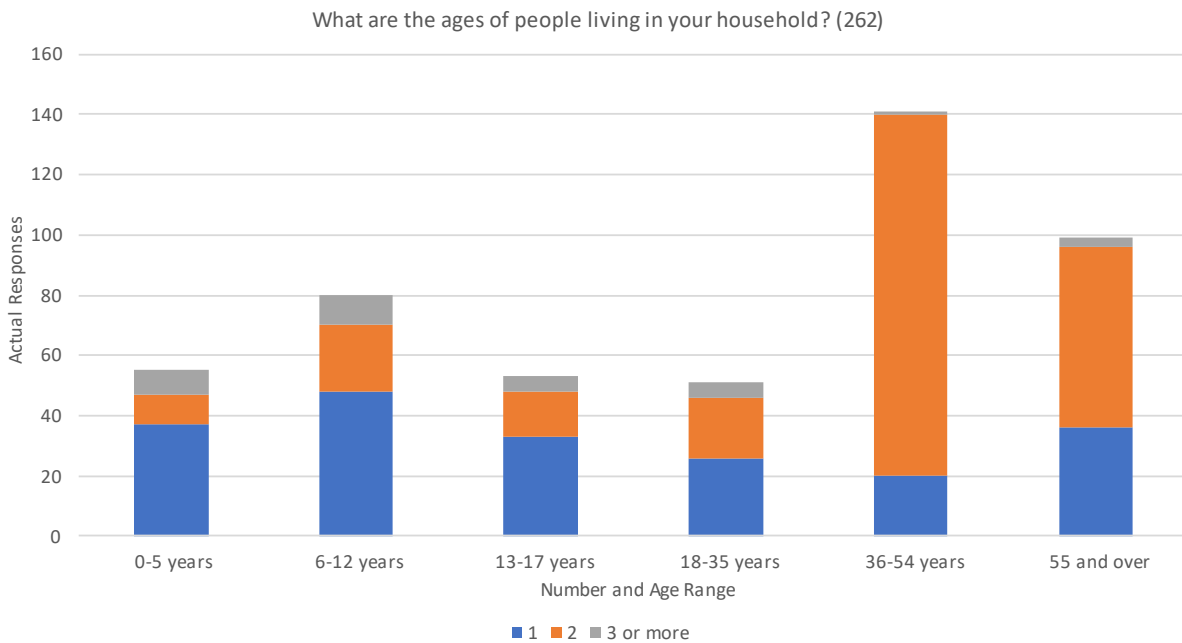
- Mowing – The Town of Bristol will pay for normal mowing of grass and nature trails. The Committee will help to review bids semi-annually for the mowing contract and make recommendations to the Board.
- Mulch – Each year the Town of Bristol will purchase and deliver mulch to each playground to top off current mulched areas. The Committee will organize park clean up days when residents will be encouraged to help spread the mulch and pull weeds.
- Playground equipment – On an annual basis Town of Bristol employees will inspect every piece of playground equipment for safety and operability. The employees will complete any routine maintenance, including replacing or tightening brackets and greasing moving parts. The committee will seek input from the users of the parks and share any concerns to the town employees. It should be noted that the expected lifespan of playground equipment is 20-25 years.
- Ice Rink – The Town employees will annually pick up the boards at Starcrest Park and store them during the summer. The employees will also return them to the park in late fall. The committee will inquire with local residents to find volunteers to care for the ice rink during the winter season. Residents will also put the boards up and disassemble them.
- Trees – On an annual basis the Town Board may be asked to purchase trees and pay for the installation of the trees. The committee will work with park representatives to place the trees around local parks, in natural placement settings. The Town Board will also need to appropriate funds to prune trees and cut down trees that are at the end of their life. The committee will work with town employees to list trees that need to be serviced.
- Volleyball nets – On an annual basis the Town employees will install the nets in April or May and remove them in late fall. Upon recommendation of the committee the Town of Bristol will purchase and deliver sand to replenish the volleyball courts.

Town Ordinances, Policies & Procedures

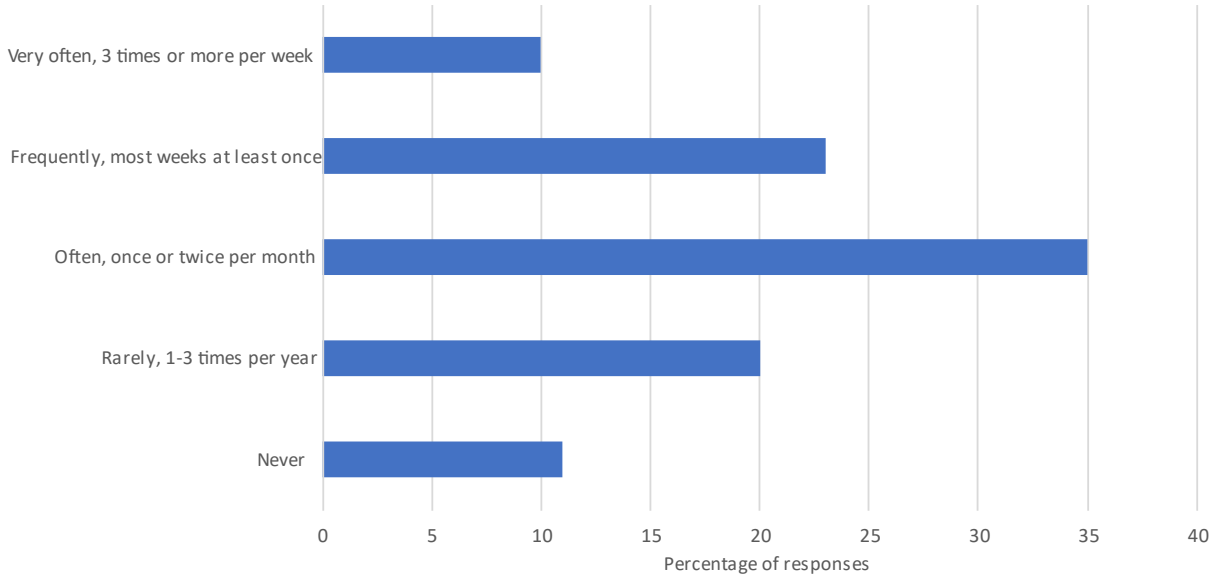
Currently, park shelters and Town Hall can be rented through the Bristol township website. This system seems to be sufficient. There is a need to make sure that town residents are aware of the procedure to rent these facilities. The committee would like to explore the idea of an expanded reservation system in 2023. Any improvements to the system would be submitted to the Town Board for approval and funding.

The soccer field at Scottish Highlands is primarily used by the Sun Prairie Youth Soccer program. They schedule their own games and practices on the field. In return they provide field maintenance, soccer goals, and a seasonal port-a-potty. Currently there is no formal rental agreement with the organization. There has been some concern over the amount of traffic at the park and that usage is limited for local residents. At this time, the parks committee recommends a formalized usage agreement. We also suggest that a reasonable rental fee should be in place for any organization that wants to use the field on a regular basis. These fees could be used to offset the costs of park upgrades. The committee will make suggestions to the Town Board before spring 2024.

2022 Needs Survey

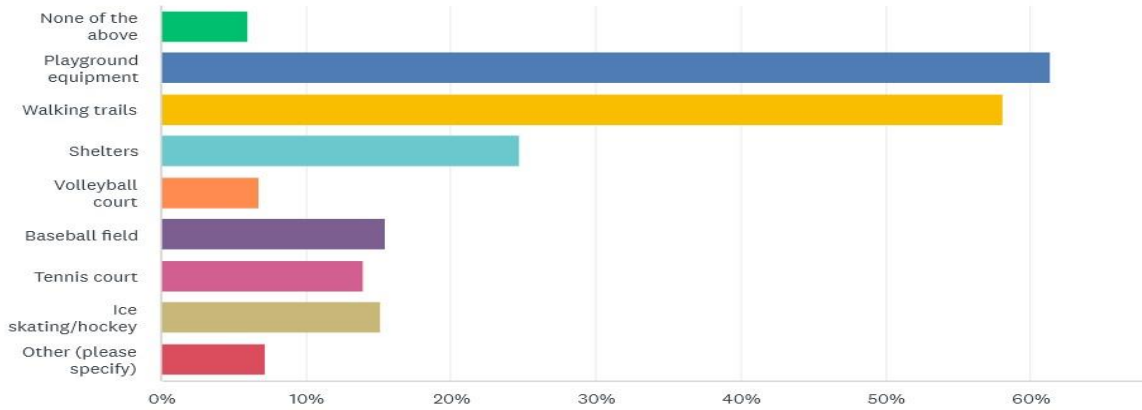


How often do you utilize the parks in the town of Bristol? (262)

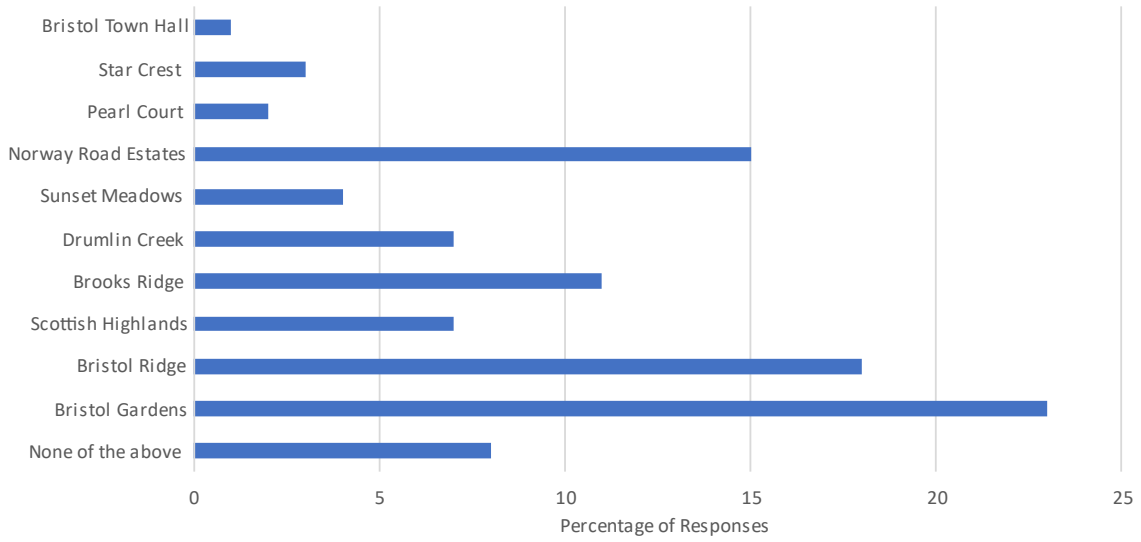


What amenities do you use the most at the parks?

Answered: 251 Skipped: 12

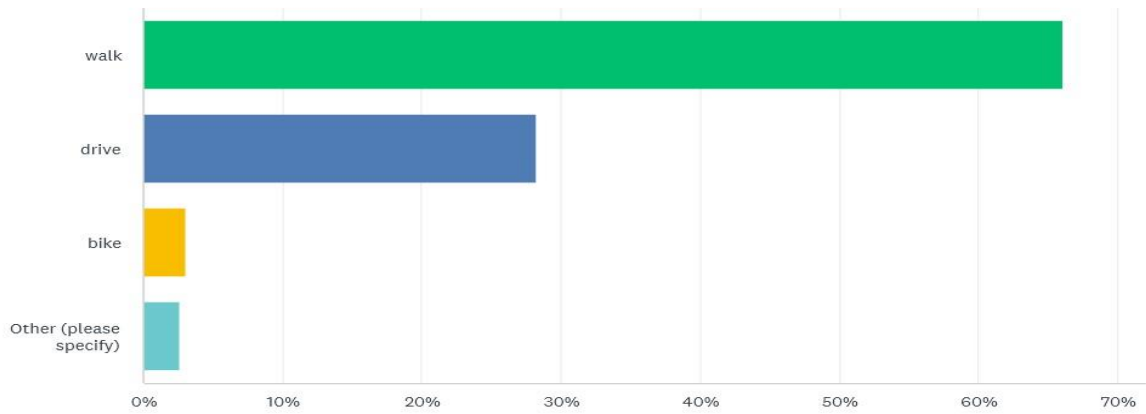


Which park do you utilize the most? (249)



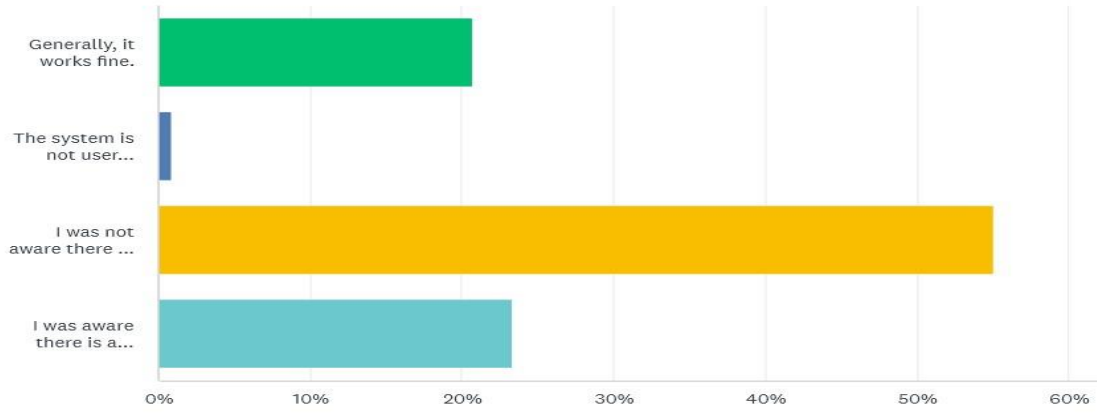
How do you get the parks you visit?

Answered: 227 Skipped: 36



Does the current reservation system work for shelters?

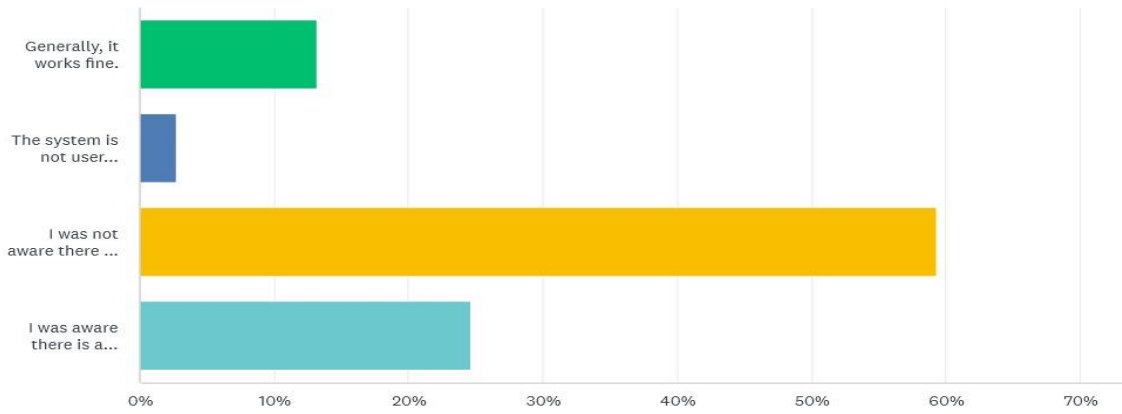
Answered: 227 Skipped: 36



Town of Bristol park survey

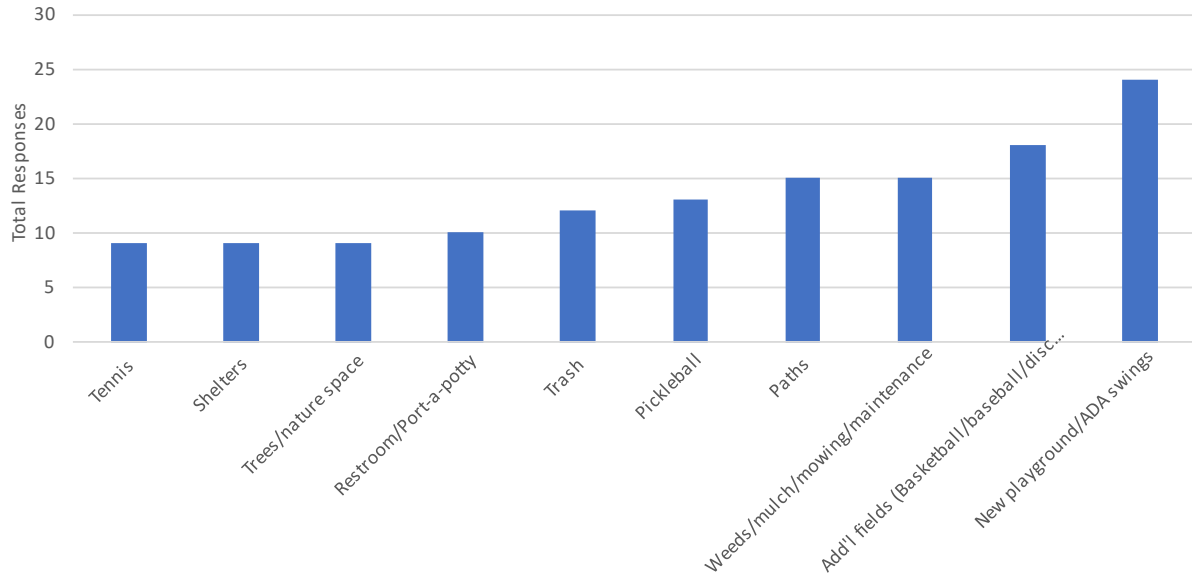
Does the current reservation system work for the baseball field, soccer fields, and the ice rink?

Answered: 219 Skipped: 44



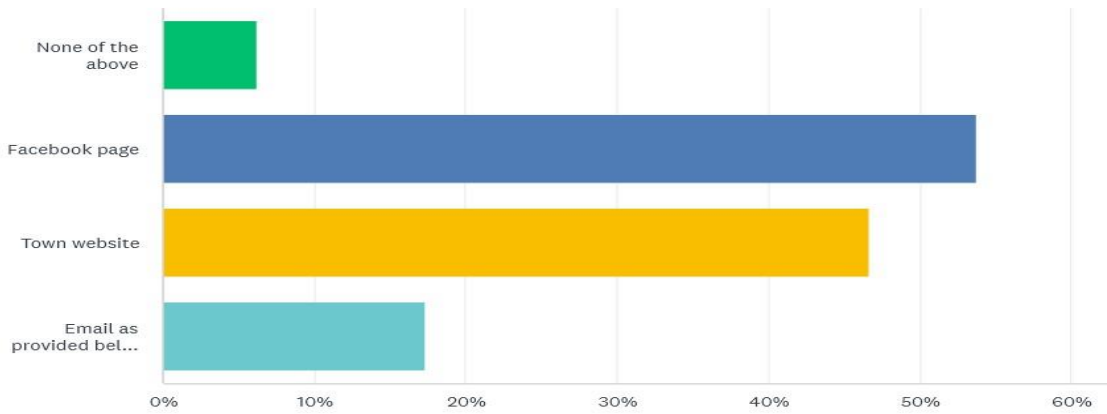
Town of Bristol park survey

2022 Bristol Park Survey Future Desires (134)



How would you like to get future information from the park committee?

Answered: 225 Skipped: 38



Summary

- Good age distribution giving perspectives of the overall population
- Most respondents use the parks
- Playgrounds and walking trails were most used amenities
- Bristol Gardens was the most frequently used park, Town Hall the least
- Most people walk to the park, but driving was common

Summary

- The reservation systems for pavilions and fields needs to be better communicated
- Future plans should consider updating playground areas and making them ADA compliant
- Future communication should be through a Facebook page or the town website

Parks Inventory

Park	Baseball Field	Tennis & Basketball Courts	Benches	Grills	Hiking or Biking Trails	Ice Rink (Seasonal)	Picnic Tables	Playground	Portable Restroom	Shelter/Gazebo	Soccer Field	Volleyball Court
Bristol Gardens	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		
Bristol Ridge	X		X				X	X		X		
Brooks Ridge			X		X		X	X		X		X
Drumlin Creek				X	X		X	X		X		
Norway Road Estates					X		X	X		X		
Pearl Court							X	X				
Scottish Highlands			X				X	X	X		X	
Starcrest						X	X					
Sunset Meadow	X				X		X			X		
Town Hall				X			X	X				X

Park Master Plans and Maps

Bristol Gardens – 3121 Lyman’s Run





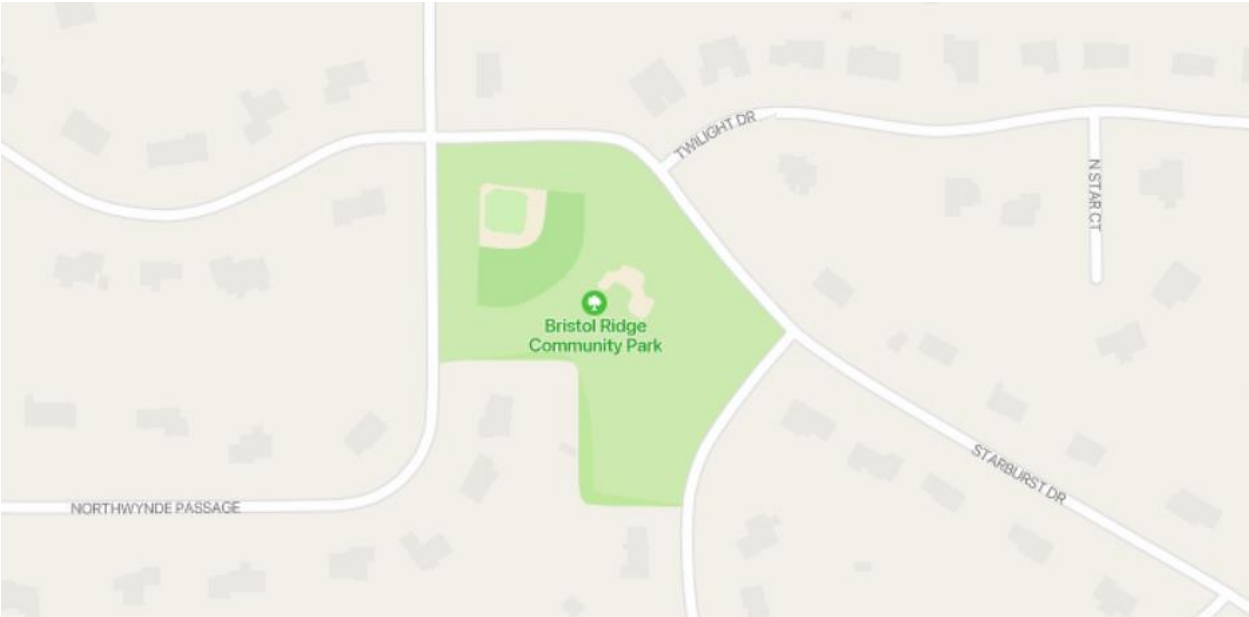
Bristol Gardens has a baseball field that is scheduled by local residents through a Facebook page. It is currently heavily used by the Sun Prairie Youth Baseball teams.

There is a tennis court with basketball hoops on the sides. There is no schedule for the use of the court, but that has not been an issue. There are cracks in the asphalt in the court. It was repaired a few years ago but the repair has not lasted. There is reason to believe that the base is not sufficient. The court is usable but has visible flaws. The parks committee recommends no action on the court at this time. If the flaws begin to affect its usefulness, then a professional assessment is needed to ascertain the best fix and estimate costs.

The pavilion is available to reserve through the Clerk at Bristol Town Hall for a nominal fee. The town also pays for the portable restroom and electricity for the lights in the pavilion and parking lot.

The playground facility is the newer and should not need replacement in the next 10 years. The façade on the decorative walls is deteriorating. This is an aesthetic issue. This is not something that impedes park use or function. Therefore, it is recommended that the loose brick pieces be picked up during a park clean-up day. There is no plan to replace this in the next 10 years.

Bristol Ridge – 6797 Starburst Drive

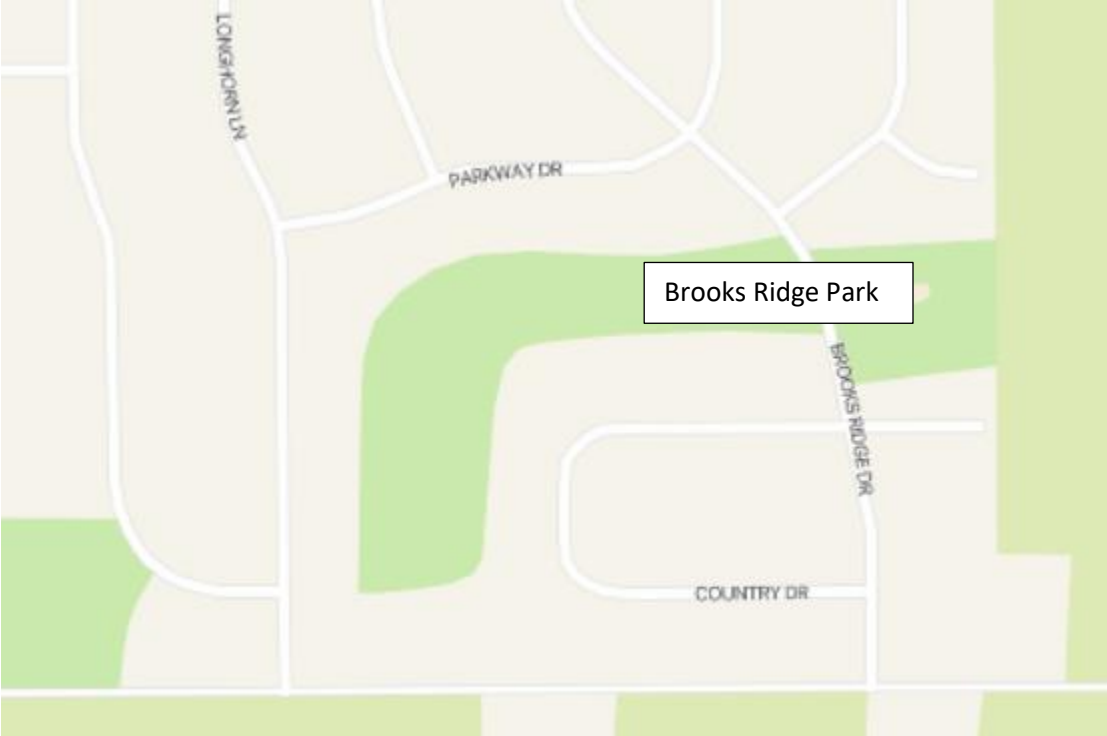


The pavilion and playground were installed in 2023. There is no expected need to update those parts.

The backstop was erected in 1997 and is still in good shape. There is no active reservation system for the baseball field, but that does not appear to be an issue.

This park should require no further updates in the next 10 years.

Brooks Ridge – 2869 Brooks Ridge Drive





Brooks ridge park has multiple components. First there is a nature trail on the west side of Brooks Ridge Dr. There have been multiple encroachments on the area. The parks committee has been working to mark boundaries. The committee recommends adding additional signs to clearly mark property lines. There are 2 access point to the trail which are no longer obvious. The committee notes that a survey could be completed and the land marked with more park signs. There will need to be some trees removed and some type of markers to allow people to use these access areas. At this time, the committee does not suggest doing the survey. The reasoning is:

- The property will remain the property of the Town of Bristol without clearing it or written notice to neighboring property owners,
- Clearing these access points would not, in the opinion of the committee, add value to the park or grant access to additional users,
- Initial cost estimates were over \$1000 which seems extreme for something that does not add anything substantial to the park.

On the east side of Brooks Ridge Dr. there is a playground, pavilion, and volleyball area. The playground was installed in 2004. It is showing signs of wear. The slide broke in 2023 and is to be replaced in July 2023. This playground will need to be replaced in the next 5 years. The volleyball court will need additional sand added in the next 2-3 years.

Drumlin Creek – 1661 Tam O’Shanter Trail



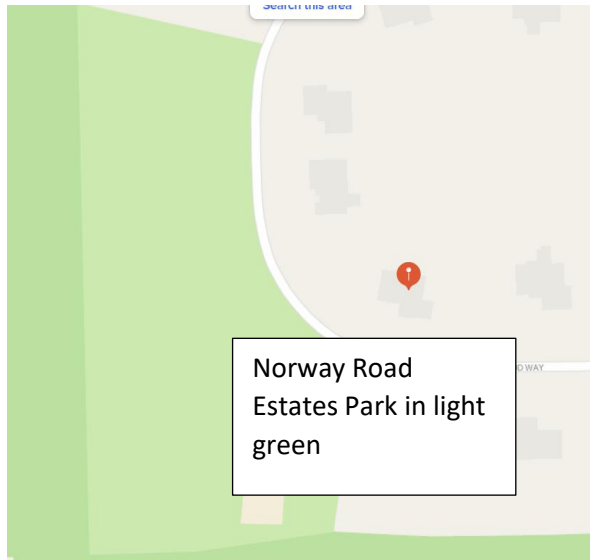


Drumlin Creek park is located just off Tam O'Shanter Trail in North Bristol. The park boasts a playground, walking trails, and a gazebo. The playground was installed in 2007. The walking trails are maintained by the neighbors in the area. The gazebo currently houses a number of boxes of books that serve as a "Little Library."

The gazebo will need paint, screen replacement, and roof repair in the next 2-3 years. The committee recommends that updating the gazebo should be a joint project for the neighbors and the town employees. The neighborhood has been active in caring for this park. There is no reason to believe they will not continue maintaining it.

The playground will need to be replaced in the next 5-10 years. This is the only playground in this part of Bristol. It is the recommendation of the Parks Committee that the Town of Bristol purchase the equipment and pay for installation between 2028 and 2030.

Norway Road Estates – 3017 Wyndwood Way



Norway Road Estates park playground equipment was installed in 2006. The pavilion was installed in 2023. This playground will need replacing in about 10 years. The path that goes through the park does need maintenance. It is the suggestion of the parks committee to put down some type of crushed rock or asphalt which will allow pedestrians, bikes, strollers, and wheel chairs to easily use the path.

The water retention area of this park have been expanding over the years. This will need to be addressed in the next 2 years to prevent the park from becoming overgrown with tall weeds.

Pearl Court – 2725 Happy Valley Road (same as Starcrest Park address)

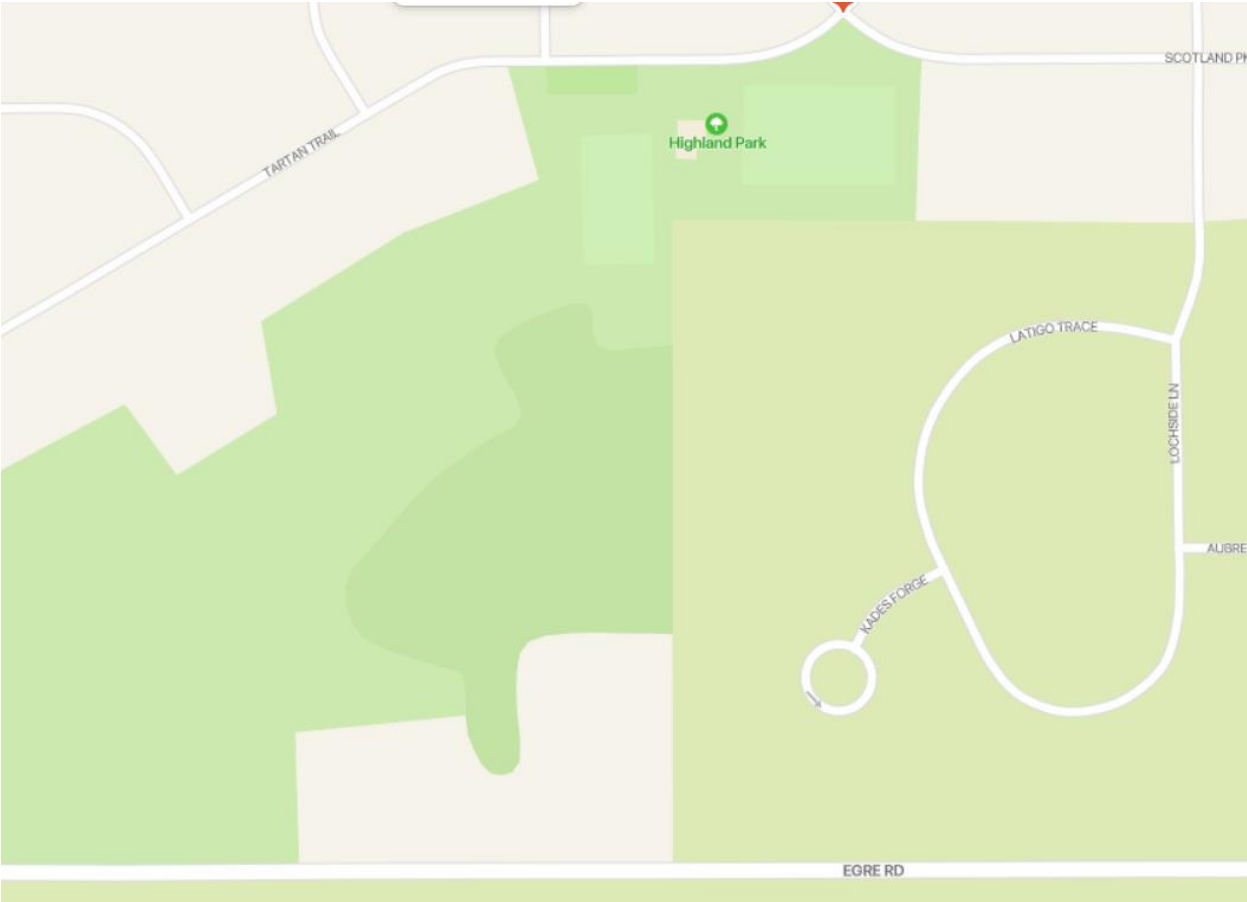




According to our 2022 survey, this park is the least used by residents of Bristol. Many may simply not know that it exists. The signs installed in 2023 should help with awareness. The playground was installed in 2005. The equipment should not be replaced in the next 10 years.

It is the recommendation of the parks committee that this park become more of a nature area. This could include adding trees or wildflower gardens along with a walking path. This nature area should be something that requires little maintenance, other than mowing of a path.

Scottish Highlands – Tartan Trail

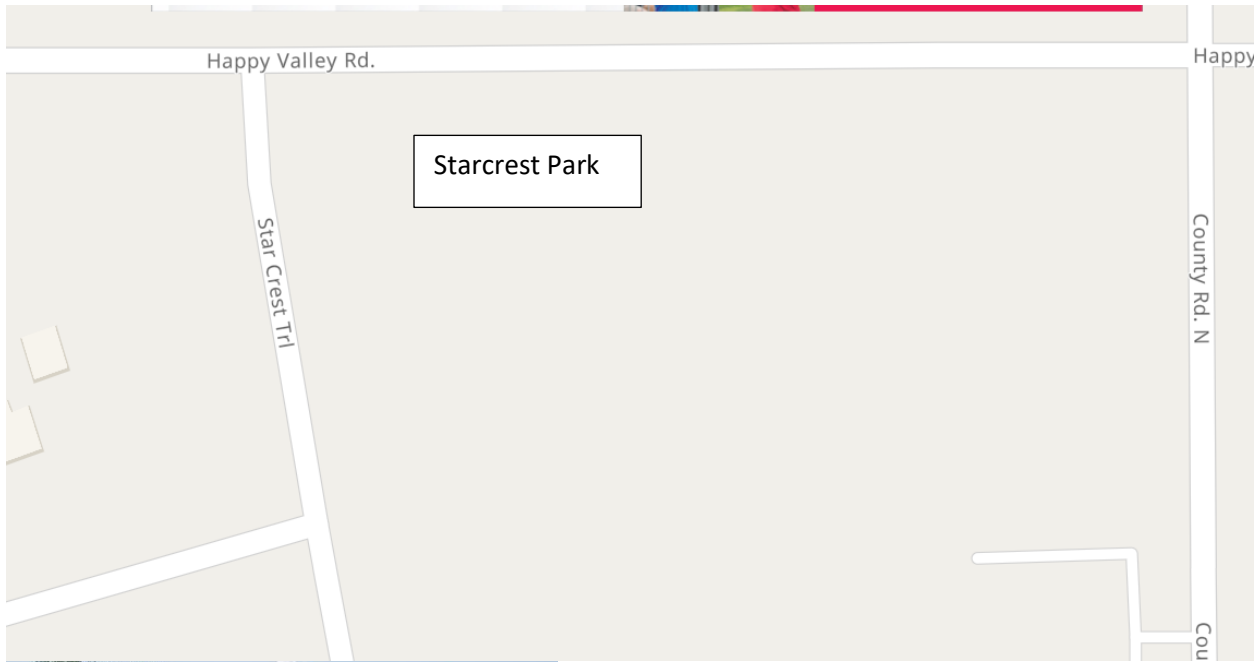


Scottish Highlands Park features two soccer fields. These are utilized primarily by the Sun Prairie Soccer Club. This relationship has been mutually beneficial over the past years. The soccer club mows the fields in addition to the town maintenance. The soccer club also fertilizes and aerates the fields regularly. They provide nets and a portable toilet during soccer season. In exchange, the town of Bristol has granted them the right to use those fields and the parking lot. Going forward, the parks committee recommends a written contract and charging a fee for the use of the fields starting in spring 2024. The fees should be collected and saved for use improving parks or replacing playground equipment in the future.

Scottish Highlands has a playground and parking lot which are maintained by the Town of Bristol. The playground was installed in 2004. It would seem reasonable to ask the soccer club to help

with the cost of the playground replacement. This could be done by charging a fee, as suggested above or just a straight donation of equipment. It is suggested that this playground be replaced in 2027. The parking lot will need gravel and regrading in 2024. The parks committee recommends that we plan for that expense and ask the Town of Bristol employees to grade the lot.

Starcrest- 2725 Happy Valley Road (same as Pearl Court address)



This park started from a land grant in 1998. It was graded and a berm was created to allow for the creation of an outdoor ice rink. Around 2015 a pump was added by the Town of Bristol to help flood the ice rink. The park also has a backstop on the south end.

The major concern for this park is maintaining resident interest to care for the ice rink. It is the recommendation of the parks committee that our park representatives who live nearby keep facilitating families in the area to care for the ice rink. There are no upgrades needed at this time.

Sunset Meadow – 1747 Tam O’Shanter Trail

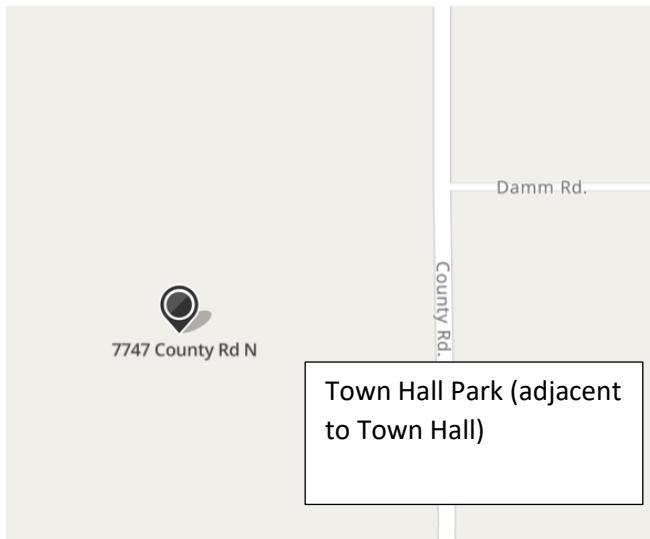




Sunset Meadow park boasts a pavilion and backstop for baseball. There is also a garden area with plants and wild flowers that is maintained by the neighborhood residents. There are many trails around this park and Drumlin Creek park. The trails are also maintained by local residents.

There is no need to make additional improvements at this park in the next 10 years.

Town Hall – 7747 County Rd. N



Town Hall Park is located next to Town Hall. It is used mostly when the building is rented to private parties. The playground has a broken swing. It is the suggestion of the parks committee

that this swing be replaced with new standard swing. ADA swings are not practical at this location at this time.

The volleyball court is not in great shape. The sand is hard and weeds seem to use it more than people. It is the suggestion of the parks committee that the volleyball court be removed.

Future Plans Other

- Trail Development

The Town of Bristol should encourage any future housing developments to include trails for walking or biking. The ultimate goal would be to connect with other trails coming from Dane County. However, the cost of putting in paths without a development, is prohibitive.

When roadways are resurfaced, the parks committee recommends exploring the chance to widen the roadways to allow safer biking routes. Three things should be considered: connections to other paths, use by the biking community, and grant funding.

The committee suggests exploring the possibility of marking existing roadways in the existing neighborhoods as bike lanes. The committee will work with town officials to determine the usefulness and cost associated with marking those lanes in 2023 and 2024.

- Future Home Developments/Subdivisions

The committee recommends that any new developments be required to work with the parks committee to determine the best use of a park space or just charge per lot. The committee strongly suggests that the town not take ownership of any water retention areas. Those areas should be left as part of the neighborhood responsibilities. The comprehensive plan should include a guideline for developments.

The committee recommends that the Town Board should review the monetary requirement for new subdivisions to pay for parks. Currently, this is the only revenue that is for maintaining and updating park equipment. The cost for updating a playground is around \$50,000. There are currently 8 playgrounds in the town, each with a 20-25 year lifespan. This means a playground would need updating every 3 years if all are maintained. Therefore, a substantial increase in those fees would be warranted.

- Donations

The committee should review any donations that are offered to the parks. We have seen that donations of items that are not sustainable can cost money for upkeep and maintenance. The committee will make recommendations to the board for approval or denial to the Town Board.