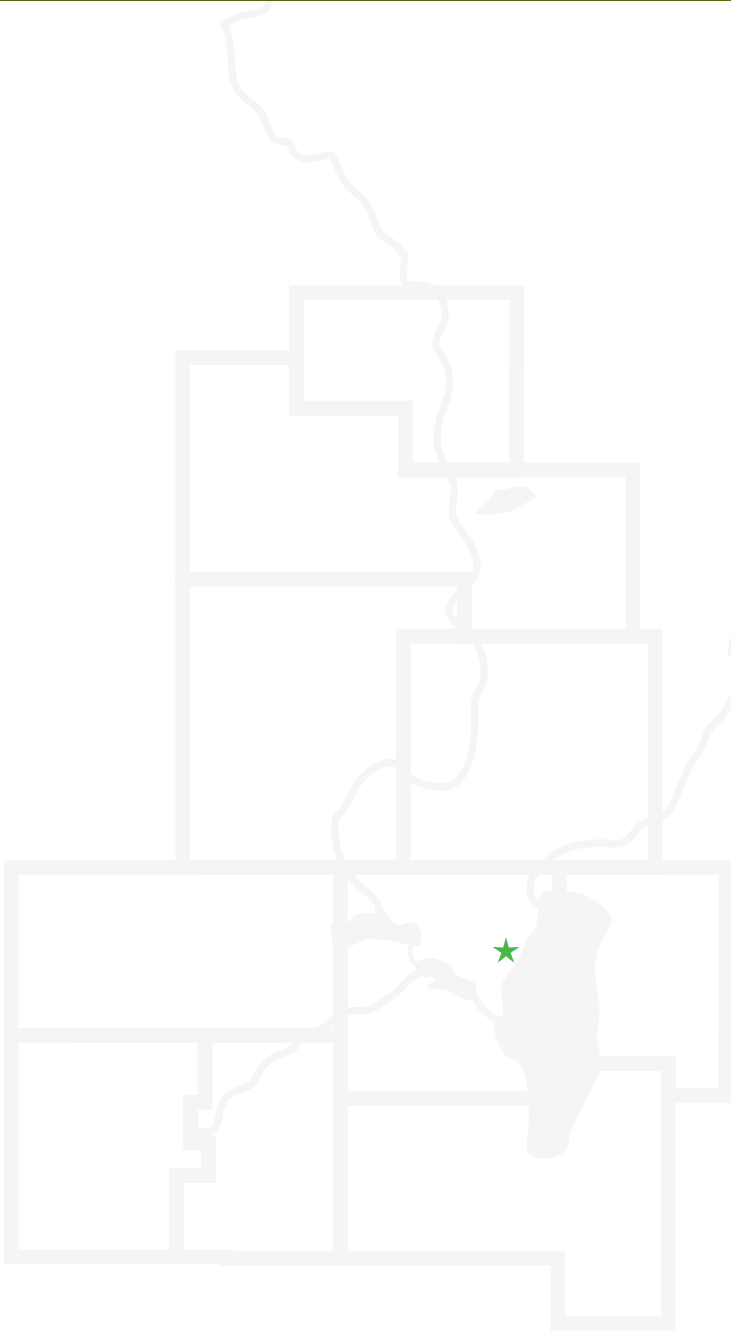


Town of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2016 - 2020



TOWN OF NEENAH

COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020

Adopted

May 23, 2016

Prepared by the

Town of Neenah Park & Trails Commission,

and the

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preparation of the *Town of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan 2016-2020* was formulated by the Neenah Park Commission with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

MISSION

It is the mission of the Town's Parks and Recreation area *"to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a park and recreation system which enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, while preserving open space for future generations."*

PARK COMMISSION

The Commission is composed of seven citizen members and meets approximately once a month. The Commission works on planning park improvements and on park and recreation maintenance issues.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: Town of Neenah
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020

CONTACT(s): Trish Nau, ECWRPC Principal Planner
Ellen Skerke, Town of Neenah Clerk/Treasurer

AUTHOR: Trish Nau, ECWRPC Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Town of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan, (CORP) 5-Year update

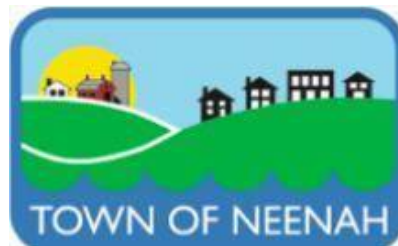
DATE: May 23, 2016

PLANNING AGENCY: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

SOURCE OF COPIES: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100
Neenah, WI 54952
(920) 751-4770
www.ecwrpc.org

The 2016-2020 version of the Town of Neenah's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the town's natural environment and at the same time allow residents and visitors alike to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with it. In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, the adopted plan will enable the town to once again compete for matching funds available through the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program if available. Funding components of this program, targets monies for parkland acquisition and development projects as well as for numerous other projects and activities that preserve, protect and enhance important land and water-based natural assets. Collectively, other grants are available through the WDNR Stewardship Program and have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and other public recreational facilities.

Town of Neenah
1600 Breezewood Lane
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 725-0916
Email: tneenah@tds.net
Web: townofneenah.com



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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The Town of Neenah, located in the southwestern portion of the ever-expanding Fox Cities urban area, has a long history of providing recreational opportunities for its residents. In providing a strong basis for future land use planning, the town's comprehensive plan recognizes the importance of maintaining the overall semblance of rural living and the accompanying high quality of life its residents enjoy.

As the town updates its comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP), preserving its natural resource base and other important open space areas so that future generations can enjoy its rural flavor is receiving increased emphasis. Accommodations that promote opportunities for safe bicycling and walking, both for recreation and transportation, have also become highly prized quality of life amenities for town residents. A key challenge of the park board, therefore, is to provide town residents with safe and convenient access to a broad range of recreational opportunities, while taking steps to ensure that measures which protect the open space character they value so highly are implemented.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of Neenah is located in the northeastern portion of Winnebago County adjacent to and generally west and south of the City of Neenah. Interstate 41 and the adjacent Canadian National Railroad tracks combine with the city to bisect the town. A major feature is the town's four miles of frontage on Lake Winnebago.

The town's terrain is relatively flat to gently rolling. Scattered wooded areas, totaling about 220 acres, are found primarily in the area west of Interstate 41. Much of the Lake Winnebago shoreline is also wooded; for the most part, however, these areas have extensive residential development.

Of the town's 5,118 acres, less than 35 percent is developed. The principal uses in the remaining acreage are cropland, with 52 percent of the town's total acreage, and vacant and/or undeveloped land, with 13 percent. The dominant land use in the developed portion of the town is single family residential, with 57 percent of the developed acreage, followed by industrial, with 28 percent. Commercial development and institutional uses such as parks and public facilities each comprise less than 10 percent of the developed land. CORP for the town, information relative to the community must be gathered. This information includes demographics, land use, parks, usage, open space, trails, and environmentally sensitive areas as well as recommendations and a 5-year action plan. Data in this document follows the state guidelines for eligibility of grants.

HISTORY OF RECREATION PLANNING

The Town of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2016-2020 provides guidance for future parks and open space development and acquisition which are intended to improve the quality of life for town residents. Parks, trails, and open space including wetlands, woodlands, stream corridors, and other natural resources provide opportunities for recreating, aesthetics, preserving and enhancing the environment, and shaping the character of a community. Proper implementation of this plan, over time, will provide the town with a park and open space system which is designed to meet the needs of its citizens both in types of facilities and distribution of those facilities.

Last adopted in 2009, from the previous 2004 version, this plan carries on a 10 year+ history of park and open space planning for Town residents. This plan constitutes the third edition and carries on the Town of Neenah's continued efforts to plan and promote recreational opportunities for its residents.

This plan is also an extension of *The Town of Neenah 2009-2029 Comprehensive Plan* that provides a community wide vision through to the year 2030. This plan addresses park and open space needs for the community and on providing a broad vision of the town's parks and open space system for the 30 year span. It evaluates current parks, open spaces, and trails and the need for additional facilities. Current parks and open space amenities within the system are reviewed for improvements. Future parks and open space needs are determined through analysis of projected 2030 population figures and forecasts to anticipate additional lands or facilities which are needed to serve 2030 population levels and distribution. Future needs are based upon the identified goals and strategies and consideration of public survey findings completed in September 2010. Recommendations for amenity improvements and future parks and open space acquisition and development are given. Costs and funding and acquisition options are explored. This plan sets forth priorities for implementation for the 2016 to 2020 planning period, and provides eligibility for various state-funded recreational programs.

This plan was prepared by the Town of Neenah Park Board with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The Park and Town Board are responsible for carrying out the action plan. Implementation will be achieved through land dedication, recreational grant funds, fees, and budgetary allotments. Decisions for funding are made through the budget process, and are based on available funds and consideration of a variety of activities and projects needing town financial resources. This plan should not be considered a budgetary document, but as an advisory document and guide for the future.

PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The purpose of this plan is to develop an updated five-year and long-range action program that can continue to guide the growth of the town's park system as the community expands and needs change. As a prelude for deriving the action program, the plan inventories existing parks and facilities, determines deficiencies and surpluses within the system, and identifies future



recreational needs. These serve as the cornerstone for formulating general and site-specific recommendations, which provide the basis for all projects included in the action program. As mentioned earlier, a second purpose of the plan is to satisfy the mandates of available funding programs. Among these mandates are requirements that all funded projects must be clearly identified and justified in current plans to qualify. Once approved, the town will once again be eligible for state-administered funding programs, if available, and cost sharing during the interval of 2016-2020.

The success of any type of local planning effort is often dependent on the involvement, support, and active participation of community residents in the plan's preparation. To ensure that a diverse spectrum of citizen viewpoints and concerns contributed to the plan's development, a broad base of citizen support and input was solicited from individuals representing a variety of interests through an online survey. Among the groups contacted were Senior Citizens, youth, and physically handicapped. Persons representing the business community and educational systems were also involved in the plan's preparation. Within the municipal government, this plan was prepared, approved, & adopted by the Town of Neenah Board.

Town of Neenah Parks & Trails Committee Mission and Vision Statements

Our Mission

"To acquire, develop, operate, and maintain a park and recreation system which enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, while preserving open space for future generations."

Our Vision

"The Town of Neenah pledges to foster the needs of our citizens for recreational pursuits and respond to the changing trends through grants, friends groups, donations and sponsorships."

FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Review of Existing Plans

Each of the plans and standards below helped shape the development of the Park and Open Space Plan. These plans and standards reflect a body of research conducted by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), the Town of Neenah, and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

Town of Neenah 2029 Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Neenah 2029 Comprehensive Plan (adopted May 2009) recommends the adding more parks, trails, and recreational facilities as the need arises with residential development. It also recommends the implementation of the 2030 *East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plans for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac* level for service standards of parks.

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

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its *Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plans for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urbanized Areas* (adopted in October 2015), identifies a level of service standard for parks.

National Parks and Recreation Association Standards (NRPA)

The National Parks and Recreation Association, also has level of service standards for parks. Unlike ECWRPC, the NRPA has level of service standards for open space as well.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

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



CHAPTER 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CHAPTER 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town of Neenah Park Board has identified the following goals and objectives, which are intended to serve as a guide for the type of park and recreation system residents of the town would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Objectives specify in greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. Together, the goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing town policy regarding the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities.

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

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

Objectives:

- Use Town of Neenah official mapping powers, subdivision ordinances, and zoning ordinance to preserve and add areas designated for future parks and recreation use.
- Provide park, trail, and recreation facilities that are convenient to areas of concentrated residential development.
- Ensure that newly developed residential areas are provided with adequate and accessible park, trail and recreation facilities.
- Provide a wide variety of recreational activities that will serve the residents of Town of Neenah on a year-round basis.
- Improve existing park, trail and recreation facilities to meet community standards and needs.
- To the extent possible, provide safe and adequate access to all community park, trail and recreation areas.
- Locate neighborhood parks within walking distance (approximately ¼ to a ½ mile) of the subdivision these parks are intended to serve.

- Promote the benefits of parks and recreation to Town residents through public meetings, surveys, and involvement opportunities.

GOAL 2: TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND BEAUTIFY OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE TOWN AND SURROUNDING ENVIRONS.

Objectives:

- Ensure that environmental and aesthetic qualities of the area are considered when planning for park and recreation development.
- Preserve and maintain natural drainageways and other natural resource areas in and around the town and, where possible, utilize these areas for appropriate recreational development.
- Maintain and improve the quality of water resources in the town.

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

Objectives:

- Encourage involvement by individual citizens as well as special interest groups in developing the open space and recreation plan.
- Encourage participation by all residents, particularly those who are elderly and handicapped, at Park Board meetings.
- Design accessible active and passive recreational areas and park facilities which can be utilized by elderly and handicapped citizens.

GOAL 4: TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES, THE NEENAH SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MAXIMIZE THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVIDING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Objectives:

- Work jointly to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities and seek equitable ways of sharing the burden for acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks and other recreational facilities.
- Encourage cooperative community/school projects to improve and expand indoor and outdoor recreational facilities at existing and future school sites.
- Solicit the support of community groups and service organizations as a way of funding improvements benefiting residents of the town.
- Encourage regional efforts to provide for joint parks for regional use such as sports and dog parks, as well as the preservation of sensitive and significant natural areas.



CHAPTER 3

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 3: RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

PARKS AND FACILITIES

The Town of Neenah maintains four park sites, encompassing 49.2 acres, which are distributed within the town’s boundaries (Table 1 and Map 1). A common characteristic of these sites are that they are located in or near the town's nodes of residential development. About six acres of open play area is also available for recreational use at the 8.5-acre Lakeview School site. In addition to, there is the shoreline Fresh Air Park, and several other park sites maintained by the City of Neenah which are convenient to many town residents.

Table 1: EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION ACREAGE

Recreation Area	Town Parks	City Parks	School Grounds
Mahler Park	25.8		
Keating Park	6.3		
Franzoi Park	8.1		
Herziger Conservancy	9.0		
Lakeview School			6.0*
Fresh Air Park		1.7	
TOTAL	49.2	1.7	6.0

* Area available for recreational use, recently annexed into the City of Neenah.

Community Parks

Mahler Park

Mahler Park, at 25.8 acres the largest park site in the Town of Neenah, is located in the southeastern portion of the town (Map 2). Access to the park is provided by South Park Avenue. Mahler Park is designed to serve community park needs. Since the town adopted its last Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), five tournament-quality soccer fields, a new pavilion/restroom building, and two volleyball courts have been constructed.

Other facilities include an unlighted fenced softball/youth baseball field, an unlighted fenced baseball field, four half basketball courts, play apparatus, sandbox, and picnic facilities. A man-made sledding hill in the eastern portion of the park provides winter recreational opportunities. A loop drive through the park has been upgraded and expanded to provide



parking for nearly 200 vehicles. The area is now defined by large boulders, replacing the deteriorated horizontal power poles that previously had lined the parking area. Other support facilities include a well, a storage building, and several security lights. Future plans call for the expansion and upgrade of play equipment and picnic facilities.



Neighborhood Parks

Keating Park

Located in the southwestern portion of the town, the 6.3-acre Keating Park primarily provides neighborhood recreational opportunities. Vehicular access to the park's new asphalt 23-car parking lot is available from Klompen Court while an asphalt pathway on an easement between the park and Woodside Court provides pedestrian access to residents in the developed area north of the park. The site's southern portion is heavily wooded with several mature hardwood specimens interspersed among the second growth timber. A trail with scattered picnic sites weaves through the wooded area. Other development includes a fenced little league ball diamond, play apparatus, sandbox, volleyball court, well, storage building, security lights, and a port-a-toilet available during summer months.



Franzoi Park

Franzoi Park is an 8.1-acre facility which primarily serves residents in the northwestern portion of the Town of Neenah (Map 4). The site is located south of Oakridge Road, with direct access from Radcliff Road. Unlike the Town's other two park sites, which are located in areas that are relatively flat, a feature of Franzoi Park is the presence of subtle topographic changes. The park's development is concentrated in the northwestern part of the site. Facilities include a ball field with backstop and sideline fencing, play apparatus, sandbox, volleyball court, shelter with storage, and a well. A mowed trail generally follows the edge of the park and provides access to those portions of the park maintained in their natural condition. Adequate parking is available on the streets adjacent to the park. A port-a-toilet is available during summer months.



Table 2: PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND COMMUNITY FACILITY SYSTEM

	Acres	Ball Diamonds	Basketball Courts	Bike Racks	Concessions	Horseshoes	Ice Skating	Landscaping	Open Space	Parking	Playground Area	Picnic Area	Prairie Area	Port-a-Potty	Restrooms	Shelter (open)	Shelter (kitchen)	Sledding Hill	Soccer	Swimming	Tennis	Trails	Volleyball
	Mini-Parks																						
None	--																						
Neighborhood Parks																							
Franzoi Park	8.1	X		X				X	X	X	X			X			X						X
Keating Park	6.3			X					X	X	X											X	
Total Acres:	14.4																						
Community Parks																							
Mahler Park	25.8	X	X	X															X				
Special Facility																							
Herzinger Conservancy	9.0			X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			X	
<i>Total town park acres:</i>	40.2																						
Schools																							
Lakeview School	6.0	X	X	X					X	X	X								X				
Other Park Facilities																							
Fresh Air Park (city)	1.7									X		X		X									

Special Facility

Herziger Conservancy Park

This newly developed 9.0 acre site is located on the corner of County Hwy A and South Park Ave. The conservancy was built with a detention pond and an area for prairie grasses, wildflowers, and wetland plantings to the south. The pond will help reduce the urban non-point source of storm water pollution, including Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP), prior to discharge into Lake Winnebago.



The Town of Neenah Stormwater Utility funded part of the project with the remaining park property developed as part of a Stewardship Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Resources. A small parking lot, picnic areas, and paved trails have been developed on the parcel along with a prairie area. The elimination of invasive species and a nature program with the help from nearby Neenah Elementary schools will be incorporated as part of developing the park.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The natural resource base is a major determinant of potential physical and economic uses of the land. The preservation and management of these resources is important in sustaining economic uses of the land as well as maintaining the quality of life enjoyed by the town residents. Ignoring the role environmental characteristics play in determining the suitability of lands to support various types of development can also result in cost inefficiencies not only for the individual landowner but also to the local unit of government in providing services. Among the most important environmental resources in the Town of Neenah are topography and bedrock, soils, floodplains, and wetlands. Although development in wetlands and floodplains is strictly regulated, it is also advantageous to discourage development of woodland areas, steep slopes, areas of high bedrock and poor soils, and other sensitive areas, which provide important environmental benefits to the community and are more costly to develop. The conversion of farmland to other uses also has long-term environmental effects as well as economic implications.

Topography and Bedrock

The town's location within the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands geomorphic subdivision results in a topography that is generally flat with some fluctuations in the bedrock surface. Landforms of the town are remnants of the last glacial event which ended about 11,000 years ago and, although glacial deposits in some areas are between 40 and 80 feet deep, bedrock outcroppings

are present in the town. In areas where bedrock exists within 60 inches of the surface, over 538 acres in the town, construction of buildings and installation of utilities generally requires costly and extensive construction techniques to be implemented. Although these areas often offer no particular attractiveness for park development, they can be well suited for parkland compared to other types of land use because most recreational facilities require little or no bedrock excavation.

Soils

Soils support the physical base for development within the town. Those exhibiting characteristics such as slumping, compaction, erosion, and/or high water tables place certain limits on development. Severe soil limitations do not necessarily indicate areas that cannot be developed but, like high bedrock, indicate more extensive construction measures may have to be taken to prevent damage to the land or structures. These construction measures generally increase the costs of utilities and developments. About 75 percent of the town's area is underlain by soils with severe limitations for many types of development, including those areas where a high water table restricts the use of conventional on-site waste disposal facilities.

Another factor that needs to be considered in the Town's attempt to preserve its rural character is to identify soils that are highly productive for agricultural purposes. Keeping these areas as viable farming operations is a good way to help ensure that open space remains throughout the town. About 28 percent of the town's land area is considered to be highly productive agricultural land.

Floodplains

About 716 acres of land is designated as floodplain or floodway in the Town of Neenah. Based on the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map for the unincorporated portions of Winnebago County, this acreage includes lands along the Neenah Slough and the shores of Lake Winnebago. Since these areas are susceptible to flooding, they are considered unsuitable for development due to potential health risks and property damage. Further protection of these lands is provided by Winnebago County's floodplain zoning ordinance, Section 17.21, which requires certain land use controls in designated flood hazard areas.

Wetlands

Wetlands occupy large areas of land in the Town of Neenah. Larger areas classified by WDNR as wetlands total 358 acres while 33 additional wetland sites smaller than five acres have also been identified. Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Maps, prepared by WDNR, indicate major wetlands are found along the Lake Winnebago shoreline, the Neenah Slough, and other streams in the town. A large wetland tract also exists in the northern portion of the town north of Larsen Road.

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

Local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands. Winnebago County's Shoreland District Zoning Ordinance, Section 17.20, regulates shoreland use and development within 300 feet of the high water mark of navigable streams, rivers or to "the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater" and shoreland use and development within 1,000 feet of lakes, ponds or flowages. Section 17.22 of the county's zoning ordinance describes permitted uses of wetlands, some of which include development of public and private parks and the cultivation of agricultural crops. WDNR regulates the placement of structures and other alterations below the ordinary high water mark of navigable streams and lakes. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has authority over the placement of fill materials in virtually all wetlands of five acres or greater. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) incorporates wetland preservation criteria into its crop price support programs. Prior to placing fill or altering wetland resources, the appropriate agencies must be contacted for authorization.

Setting aside wetlands and floodplains, which often co-exist, for public open space not only preserves areas with important environmental values for passive recreational opportunities, it also has minimal effect on the town's potential tax base because it is removing from the tax roll land with greatly restricted development potential. In fact, studies have shown that increases in the value of lands adjacent to these protected areas often more than offset the value of the land set aside for open space.

NATURAL FEATURES

Lake Winnebago is the Town of Neenah's most noted physiographic feature. The Neenah Slough and various other intermittent and perennial streams are scattered throughout the town. As indicated earlier, these drainage corridors and tracts of wetlands provide opportunities for open space planning.

Lake Winnebago

Lake Winnebago, with over 137,000 acres of water surface, is the largest lake in Wisconsin and one of its most valuable recreational resources. The lake provides nearly unlimited boating opportunities and access to the Upper Pool lakes, the Upper Fox and Wolf Rivers. The fishery resource of Lake Winnebago is quite diverse. Walleye, perch, sauger and white bass are the most popular sport fish present. The annual sturgeon spearing season in February provides a unique experience for anglers from across the state. Lake Winnebago and the other pool lakes are also major waterfowl nesting and resting areas.

The Lake Winnebago shoreline in the Town of Neenah is developed with year-round and seasonal homes. With the exception of a 50' lot on Rainbow Beach Road that includes a drainageway, the town owns no frontage on the lake and a limited potential exists for acquiring any additional acreage. Fresh Air Park, is a small park which provides access to the lake near the town, and is owned and maintained by the City of Neenah.

Map 1 Town of Neenah Existing Parks and Recreation

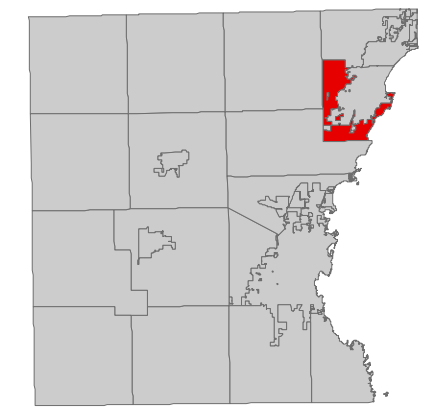
Legend

Trails

- Off Road Paved
- Off Road Unpaved
- On Street Bike
- Other Recreational Areas
- Water
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Facility
- Town of Neenah
- Parcel Lines
- Town Owned Property

4

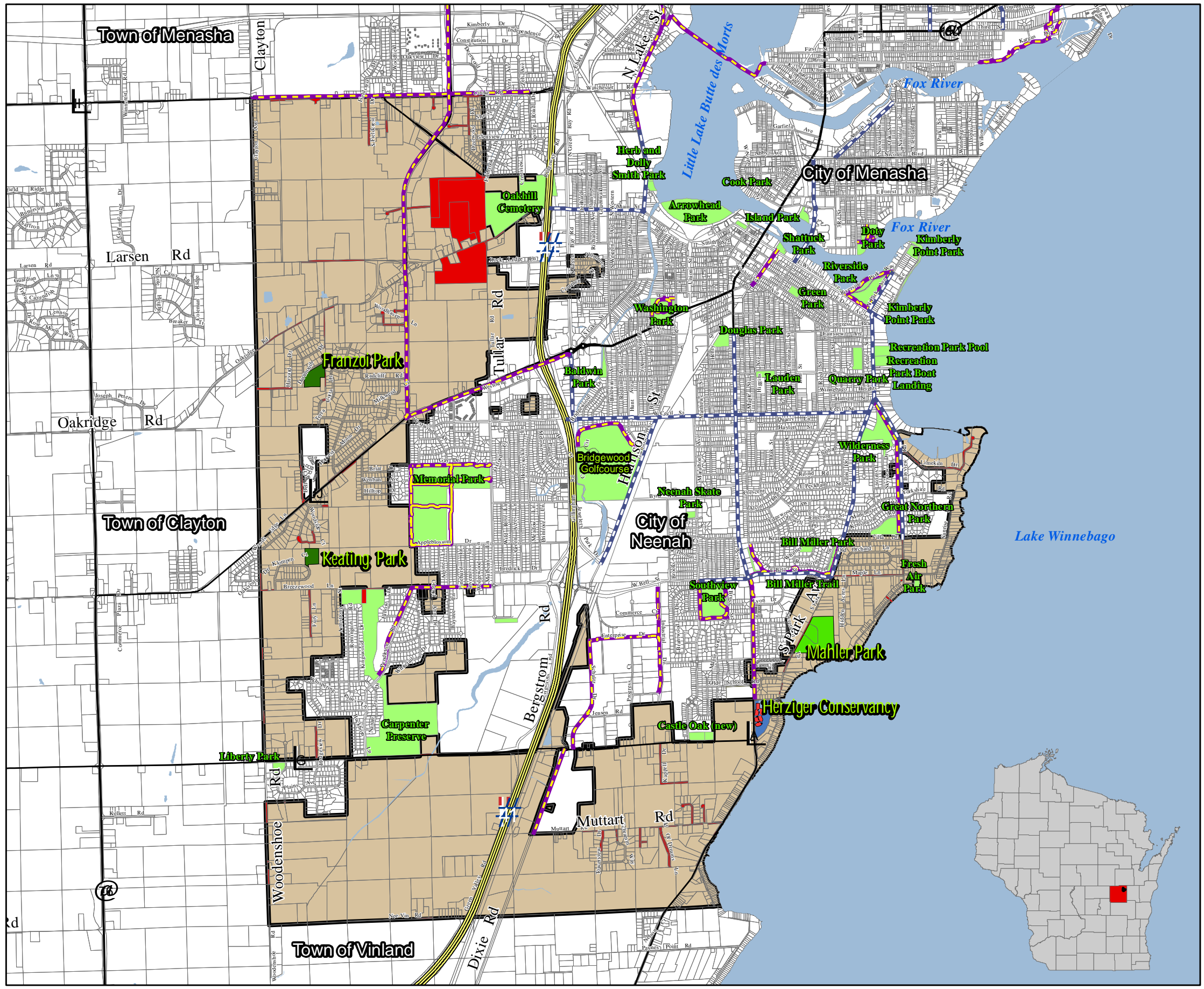
0 0.5 1 Miles



Source: Winnebago County Base and Parks information, 2015, WINGS data, ECWRPC trails data.

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PREPARED JULY 2015 BY: ECWRPC **Draft**

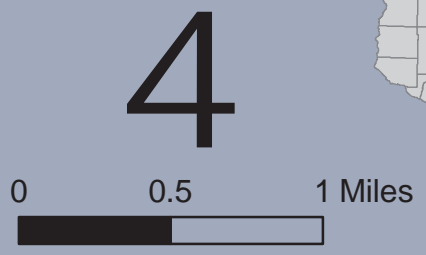
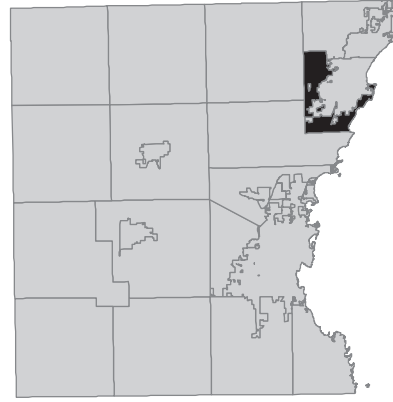
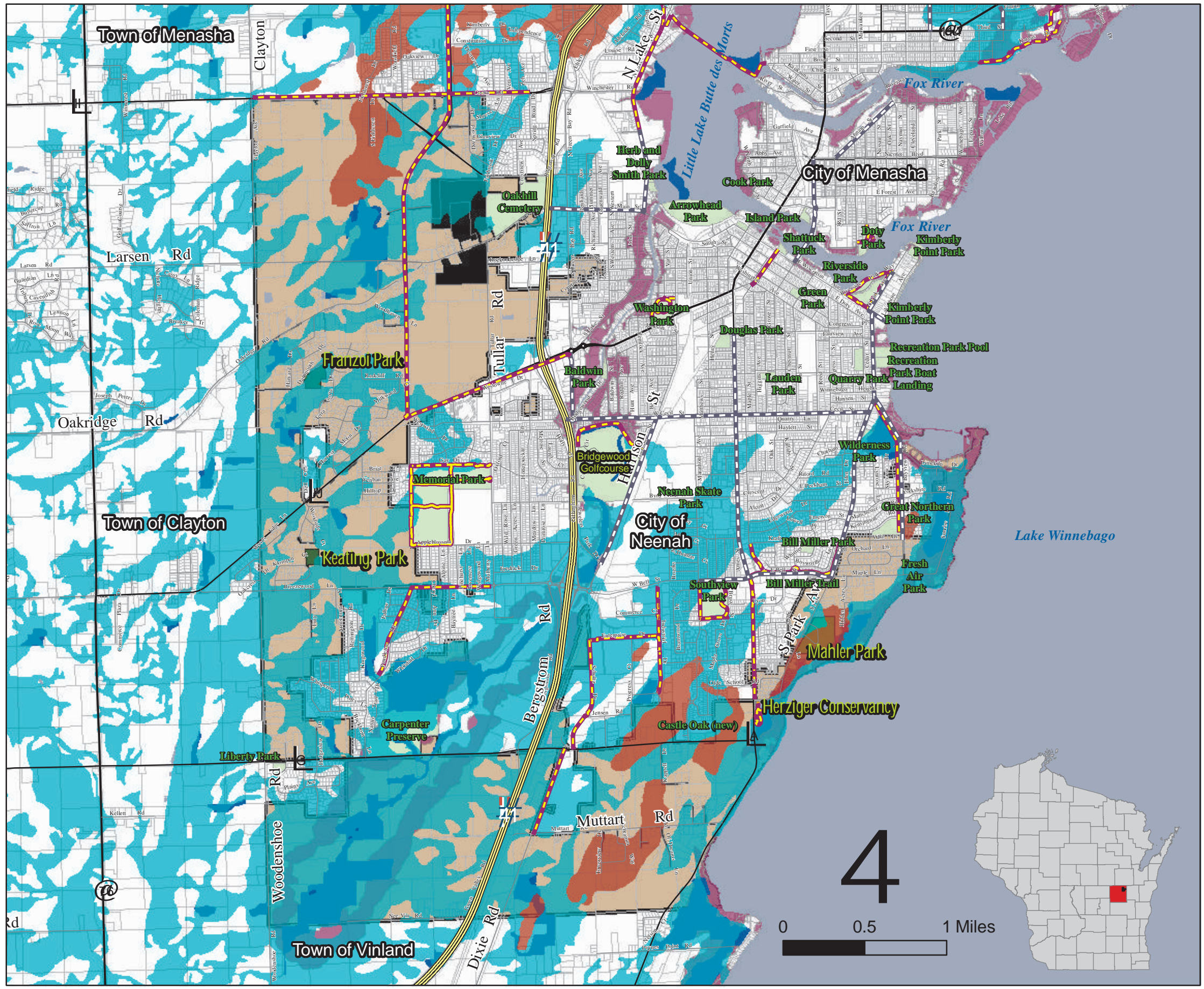


Map 2 Town of Neenah Environmental Features

Legend

Trails

- Off Road Paved
- Off Road Unpaved
- On Street Bike
- High Bedrock Less than 60 inches
- High Groundwater Less than 2 feet
- Wetland
- Floodplain
- Water
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Facility
- Other Recreational Areas
- Parcel Lines
- Town Owned Property
- Town of Neenah



Source: Winnebago County Base and Parks information, 2015, WINGS data. ECWRPC trails data. NRCS Soils data. FEMA floodplains and WDNR wetlands.

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CHAPTER 4

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

CHAPTER 4: RECREATIONAL NEEDS

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

As a policy, park and recreation programs should have a five-year cycle update for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (CORP). This will make the town eligible to compete for Stewardship funding and other available grants if so needed.

Park and recreation needs may include the demand for additional park land to accommodate new facilities, requirements for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, recreation standards are used to identify these necessities. However, in communities the size of the Town of Neenah, citizen input is equally useful when identifying park and recreation desires.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The Town of Neenah has an estimated population of 3,237 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010) with the biggest growth boom taking place from 2000-2010 (22%). Based on DOA estimates, the town is home currently to 3,495 residents with steady growth to continue in the future. Projections indicate that its population will increase by about 4% from current levels, reaching just over 4,820 people by 2040. During this timeframe, both the State of Wisconsin and Winnebago County are expected to experience modest population gains, (Table 6).

**Table 3: POPULATION AND PROJECTIONS CHANGE, 1980-2040
 Town of Neenah**

Year	Population	Number Change	% Change	
1950	2,045	--	--	
1960	2,273	228	11.15%	
1970	2,942	669	29.43%	
1980	2,864	-78	-2.65%	
1990	2,691	-173	-6.04%	
2000	2,657	-34	-1.26%	
2010	3,237	580	21.83%	
Today	2015*	3,495	258	7.97%
Future	2020*	3,810	315	9.01%
	2025*	4,110	300	7.87%
	2030*	4,400	290	7.05%
	2035*	4,635	235	5.34%
	2040*	4,820	185	3.99%

Sources: Census 2010 Data, and Department of Administration projections 2013-2014.*

LAND NEEDS

Land demand standards of 10 acres of publicly owned open space for every 1,000 residents provides a useful barometer for determining whether a community has adequate parkland to meet the recreational needs of its residents. Looking solely at the total recreational acreage currently owned by the town, the acreage is adequate today but delegates should consider purchasing additional park land in the future as a significant increase in population pushes up the demand for major types of active recreational facilities. Maintaining the current parks system, should be a top priority of the town in accommodating its tax paying residents.

Based on this standard, the park and open space acreage will be close to being deficient by 2040 to support its growing population, Table 4. Looking solely at population and recreational land needs, the town should look at acquiring more property to create more recreational uses in the future, Table 4.

**Table 4:
 TOWN OF NEENAH OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND, 2000-2040
 Public Population Demand Projection**

Year	Acres Under Town Ownership*	Population Projection	Park Acres Needed (10 acres/1,000 pop.)	Deficiency / Surplus (in acres)
2000	49.2	2,657	26.57	22.63
2010	49.2	3,237	32.37	16.83
2015	49.2	3,495	34.95	14.25
2020	49.2	3,810	38.10	11.10
2025	49.2	4,110	41.10	8.10
2030	49.2	4,400	44.00	5.20
2035	49.2	4,635	46.35	2.85
2040	49.2	4,820	48.20	1.00

* Includes recreational areas within the corporate limits that are owned and maintained by the township.

FACILITY NEEDS

The composition of a community's population can provide insight into the need for emphasizing specific types of recreational opportunities. Neenah's population distribution by age group compares closely with that of Winnebago County (Table 6). Most of the residents living within the municipal boundaries are between the ages of 25-44 at 22.5% (38.5 median age) which inhibits younger and middle age trends. Recreational facilities should be planned with this in

mind to accommodate this age group. Approximately 19.7% of the population is under the age of 24, while 12.8% of the population is over the age of 65. (Table 5)

Table 5: POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

	Under 5 years	5 – 24 years	25- 44 years	45 – 54 years	55 – 64 years	Over 65 years
Town of Neenah	5.0%	14.7%	22.5%	20.3%	14.7%	12.8%

Table 6: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP (2010 Profile Data)

Age	Town of Neenah		Winnebago Co.		State of Wis.	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	161	5.0	11,702	6.6	358,443	6.3
5-14	460	14.2	24,850	14.0	744,544	13.1
15-24	341	10.5	23,215	13.2	785,761	13.8
25-44	728	22.5	48,111	27.3	1,447,360	25.4
45-54	656	20.3	28,090	15.9	873,753	15.4
55-64	476	14.7	19,893	11.2	699,811	12.3
65+	415	12.8	20,834	11.8	777,314	13.8
TOTAL:	3,237	100	176,695	100	5,686,986	100

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

COMPARISON OF STANDARDS

Jurisdictional Standards

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

Recreational Lands Provided by the State----- 70 acres/1,000

Recreational Lands Provided by the County----- 15 acres/1,000

Recreational Lands Provided by the Local Community- 10 acres/1,000

Recreational Lands Provided by the Private Sector----- 5 acres/1,000

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

The Town of Neenah currently provides 14.08 acres of parks and recreation per 1,000 residents when looking at all park types as a system. Table 7 below breaks down the different categories to assist the town in planning for future types of parks needed.

National Standards

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

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

Table 7: NRPA STANDARDS FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

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

Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Standards

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its *Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urban Areas* (October 2015), has identified a level of service standard for parks, which is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents. ECWRPC created residential standards based on density for various services such as sanitary sewer, water supply, street network, and parks. Their high density category is defined as three or more residential units per acre.

As part of the update to the Comprehensive Plan, the town identifies low density as three-five units per acre, medium density as six-ten units per acre, and high density as twelve or more units per acre. Therefore, the town would be encouraged by ECWRPC to apply the high density standard for the specified services, such as parks, since it is classified as an urban fringe town.

If the Town of Neenah applies a level of service standard, then it addresses the needed services as development is proposed or as population growth occurs.

Therefore, the ECWRPC level of service standard used for this analysis is 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Each park provides a half mile to 1 mile service area. Table 8 highlights the ratio of acres per 1,000 persons for community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and natural areas.

Table 8: Available Park Type Acres to People

Type	# Acres	Acre Ratio per 1,000 persons provided*	Recommended Ratio per 1,000 persons**	Surplus / Deficiency
Community Park	25.8	7.38	10	-2.62
Neighborhood Park	14.4	4.12	2	2.12
Mini-Park	0	0.00	0.5	-0.50
Conservancy	9	2.58	2	0.58
TOTAL	49.2	14.08	14.5	-0.42

*3,495 2015 projected population base for today / high end calculated

**ECWRPC standard for community parks and NRPA standard for neighborhood parks, mini-parks, and open space.

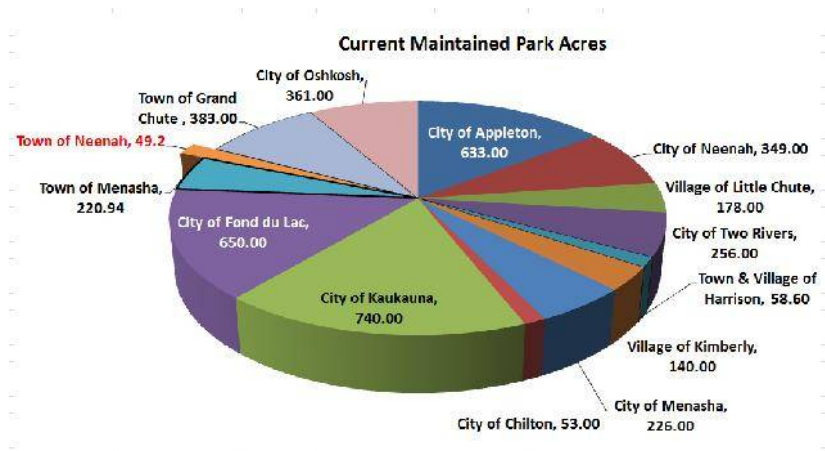
Source: Town of Neenah, 2015

As Table 8 infers, the Town of Neenah is short .42 acres using the level of service standard adopted by ECWRPC when community parks, neighborhood parks, and natural areas are combined. The Town meets and exceeds the expected standard today for neighborhood parks but is lacking in another community park and a mini-park for the population base.

Regional Greenspace Comparison

Neighboring communities were researched for actual populations and green spaces. These parks and facilities also provide a level of service to the town's population base and are usually located out of the ½ mile walking distance for residents but give alternate opportunities for residents. Most visitors to parks don't realize where one jurisdiction ends and the other

Figure 1: Current Maintained Park Acres by Municipality



begins. There are many City of Neenah parks utilized by town residents.

Table 9: TOWN OF NEENAH COMPARISON TO SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND TODAY

Community	2015 Population	Total Park Acreage	Acres Per 1,000 Population 9.25-14.5 A Std.* per 1,000 Capita
City of Appleton	72,810	633	8.69
City of Neenah	25,723	349	13.57
Village of Little Chute	10,432	178	17.06
City of Two Rivers	11,669	256	21.94
Town of Greenville	10,309	213.60	20.72
Village of Kimberly	6,559	140	21.34
City of Menasha	17,407	226	12.98
City of Chilton	3,932	53	13.48
City of Kaukauna	15,627	740	47.35
City of Fond du Lac	43,100	650	15.08
Town of Menasha	18,545	283	15.26
Town of Neenah	3,495	49.2	14.06
Town of Grand Chute	21,288	383	17.99
City of Oshkosh	66,325	361	5.44
Regional Avg.	18.59 Acres per 1,000 residents		

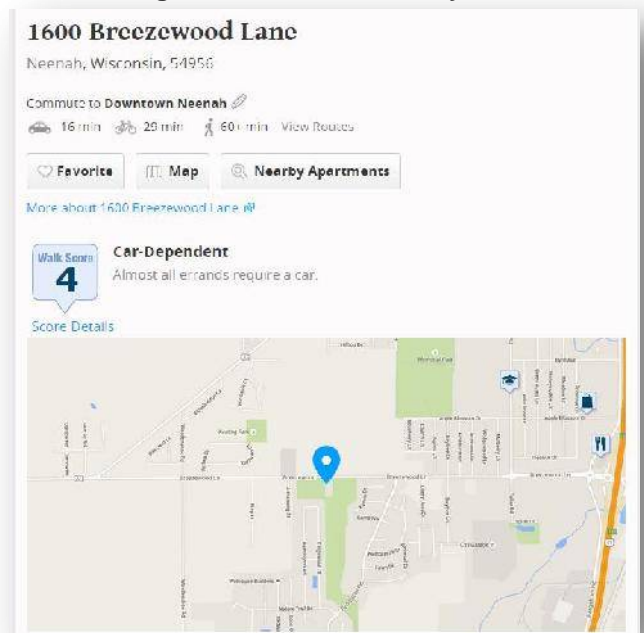
As compared to other communities its size and being an urban-based township, Neenah falls within adequate parameters for acres of recreation for its growing population at 14.06 acres per 1,000 capita. Intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships could assist the town on providing even more opportunities within its boundaries as well as purchasing more land for the future. The number of parks acres provided is still below the regional average at 18.59 per 1,000 capita.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

It is desirable that recreational opportunities be within convenient walking distance of each of a community's residents. With its compact development pattern and distribution of existing parks and schools, town residents walk to an existing recreation facility varies. A ½ mile (neighborhood park level of service) is ideal as a walking distance with also looking at safety and use of sidewalks, trails, and bike paths. When residents are separated from the nearest park or school by natural barriers such as streams or man-made barriers such as busy streets, they are considered to be less adequately served because these features hinder a direct or safe walk. This is a particular concern for children and disabled or elderly residents.

In the Town of Neenah, the bulk of the neighborhood population exists just west of I41. As new development encroaches upon agricultural land, parks will need to be made available to serve those growing subdivisions as well as to support the current population in the surrounding area. When looking at places to recreate, we use the Walk Score® website to analyze how walkable a community is. The Town of Neenah area has an overall score of 4 on a scale of 1-100 with 100 being a walker's paradise from the Town Hall. Almost all errands require a car to restaurants, groceries, and entertainment. From the Franzoi Park, the Walk Score® increases to 21 which is still car-dependent but with trails one can travel to restaurants and other amenities within 10 to 20 minutes. Mahler Park comes in at 22 and Keating Park scores a 1 as it directly serves the neighborhood it is in.

Figure2: Walkscore Analysis



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE AREA DESCRIPTIONS

The following classifications are derived from *the 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Appendix E*, and the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Guidelines – A project of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration*. They have been modified to fit local conditions. These classifications can be used as a guideline for understanding what services are typically provided as well as the area that each park typically serves.

Community Parks

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

Athletic Courts, Fields, or Playfields
Boat Launches
Ice Rinks
Landscaped/Natural Areas with Trails
Parking
Pavilion/Shelter with Kitchen

Picnic Tables/Grills
Playground Equipment
Restrooms
Sledding Hills/Tobogganing Runs
Swimming Pools

Accessibility should be by vehicle, biking, and on foot. These parks should be linked to the public transportation system, existing and future trail network and sidewalks.

Neighborhood Parks

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

Playground Equipment
Play Fields/Open Space
Picnic Tables
Trails

Landscaping
Sport Field/Court
Pedestrian Path
Parking

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

Mini-Parks

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

Development and amenities typically include:

Playground Equipment
Landscaped Sitting Areas
Picnic Tables

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

Open Space / Greenspace

Open spaces are parcels of land or areas that are reserved for the preservation of unique land, water, vegetative, historic, and other aesthetic features in their natural state. Open spaces

should then be addressed separately from park settings. These areas may be publicly or privately owned.

Open spaces may serve certain portions or the entire community. The size and level of service of open space areas varies with the type of use. The normal standard is one-two acres per 1,000 persons and two-five mile radius. Access is important since these areas provide a visual and psychological relief from urban development.

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Walking/Hiking Trails (Abandoned | Ravines |
| Railroad Lines, Right-Of-Ways) | Areas of High Groundwater |
| Environmental Corridors or Linear | Woodlands |
| Parkways | Steep Sloped Areas (12% or Greater) |
| Creeks/Streams/Wetlands/Drainageways | Minimal Landscaping Areas |
| /Rivers/Ponds/Lakes/Floodplains | |

In looking at the people being serviced, Table 10 and Map 2 give a breakdown of each park type and the number of people within the service boundaries. This information can assist the parks department in planning for future residential and recreational uses. Mahler Park and Herzinger Conservancy Park serve areas (City of Neenah and Town of Vinland) outside of the municipal boundaries.

Table 10: Population in Service Areas*

Park Type	Mile Radius	2010 Pop	2015 Pop	2020 Pop	% LOS**
Neighborhood Parks	.5	1227	1317	1391	37.7%
Community Park	1	6369	6428	6547	183.9%
Conservancy Natural Resource	2	14138	14149	14363	404.7%

**Population is based off of EMSI (economic modeling software) population database joined to the service areas. Some overlap exists in buffered areas as well as servicing outside of the municipal boundary - over 100% served. (See Map 2)*

***LOS percent calculations taken from the 2015 population base of 3,496*

Map 3 Town of Neenah Level of Service Areas

Legend

Trails

- Off Road Paved
- Off Road Unpaved
- On Street Bike
- Community Parks 1 Mile Buffer
- Neighborhood Parks .5 Mile Buffer
- Natural Resource 2 Mile Buffer
- Residential Areas
- Other Recreational Areas
- Water
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Special Facility
- Town of Neenah

Level of Service	Radius (Miles)	Count	Area (Acres)	Area (Sq. Miles)	Percentage
Neighborhood Parks	.5	1227	1317	1391	37.7%
Community Park	1	6369	6428	6547	183.9%
Conservancy Natural Resource	2	14138	14149	14363	404.7%

4

0 0.5 1 Miles

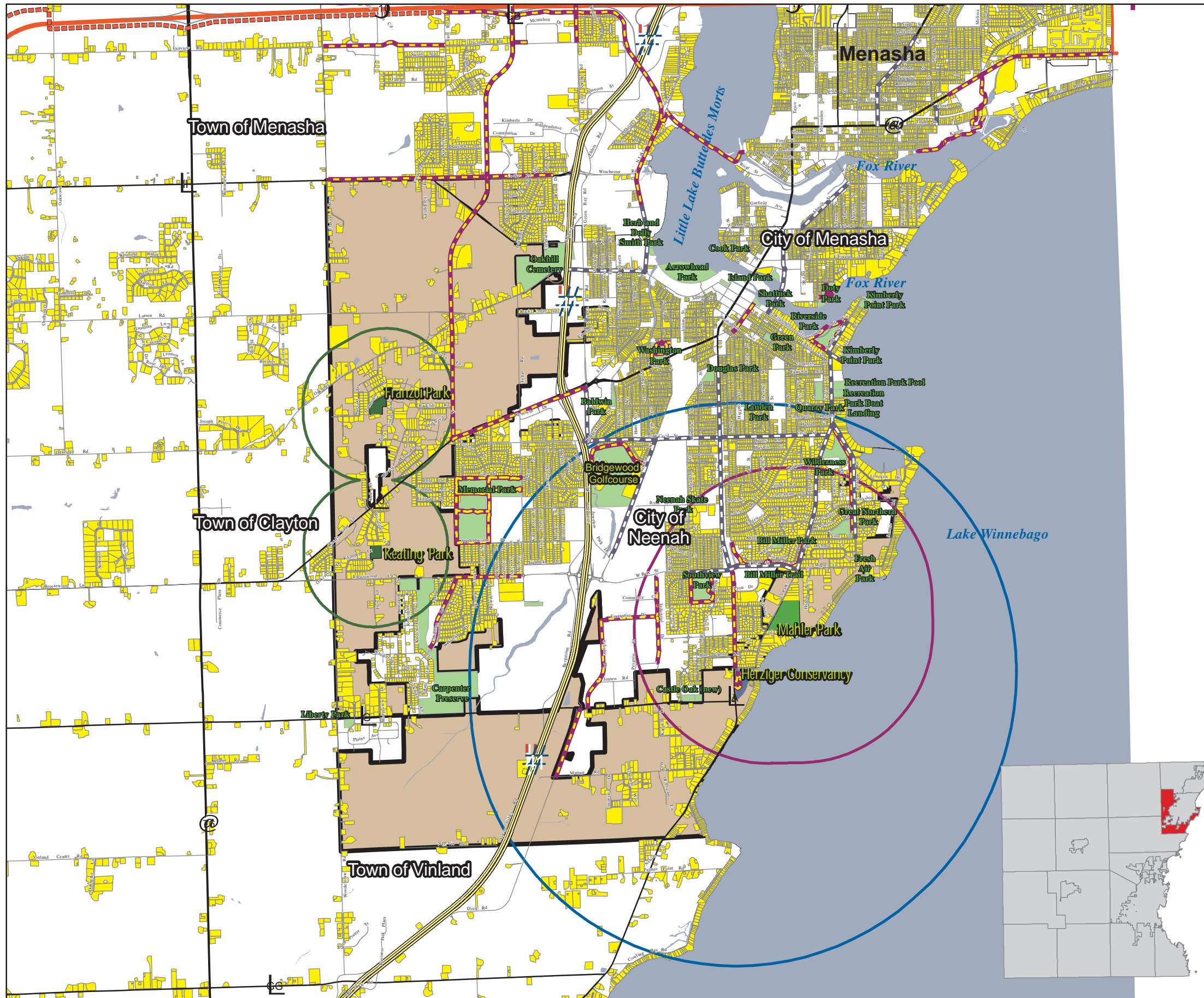
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PREPARED MARCH 2016 BY:



Draft



PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY & ANALYSIS

A public survey was conducted in the fall of 2015 to the spring of 2016 and asked questions conducive to residential satisfaction, needs and wants, and overall facility use. Safety concerns in walking and biking were also included as well as a questions for supporting more parks and trails.

Below is a summary of the findings. For detailed results of the survey, please see Appendix A. Survey answers are a sampling of what residents needs and wishes in the town and should be used when considering additional facilities.



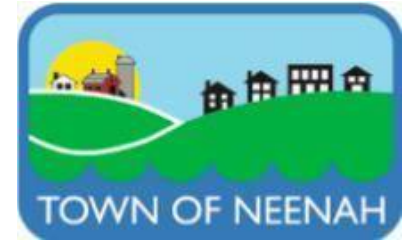
Total started the survey: 72

Total finished the survey: 72 (100% completion rate)

Parks maintained by the town are the following:

1. Franzoi Park (neighborhood park,)
2. Keating Park (neighborhood park)
3. Mahler Park (community park)
4. Herziger Conservancy Park (special facility)

Town of Neenah Parks & Recreation



2015-2016
SURVEY RESULTS & ANALYSIS
Summary

Total Started Survey: 72
Total Finished Survey: 72 (100%) completion rate

March 8, 2016

Parks & Recreation Facilities within the Town are the following:

- **Franzoi Park (Radcliff Rd.)**
- **Herziger Conservancy Park (CTH A & S. Park Ave.)**
- **Keating Park (Klompen Ct.)**
- **Mahler Park (S. Park Ave.)**
- **Lakeview School Playground CTH A (City of Neenah)**
- **Fresh Air or other City of Neenah Park**

Assistance provided by the East
Central Wisconsin Regional Planning

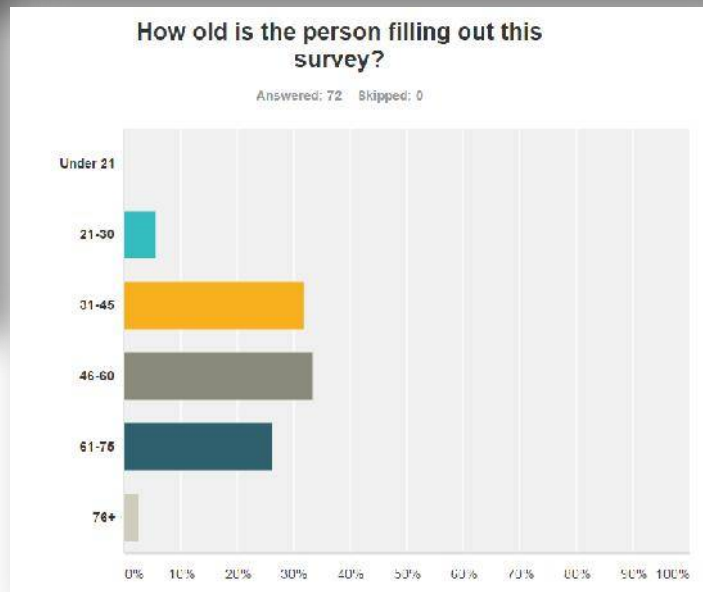
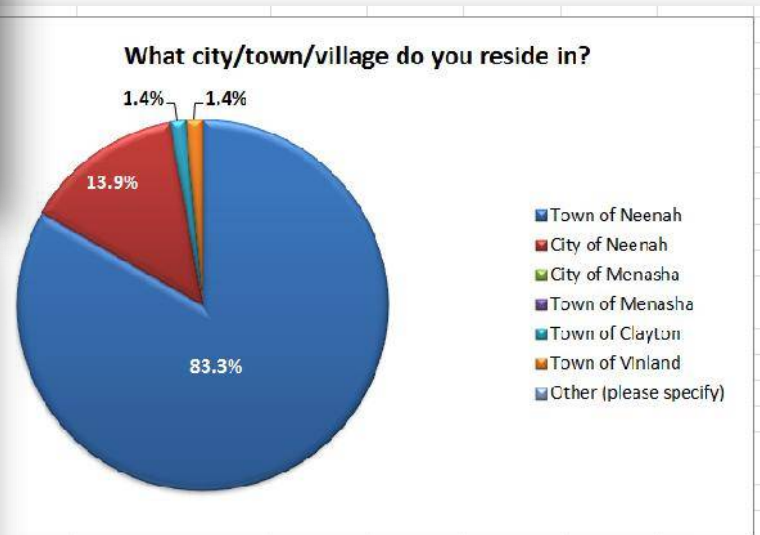


Town of Neenah – Survey Analysis BY THE NUMBERS:

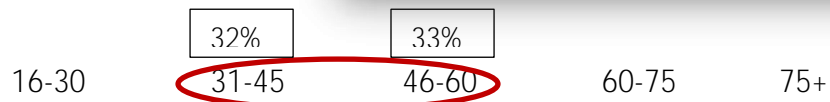
A. INFO/DEMOGRAPHICS

1. Survey Participants Distribution: *Most are within the Township boundaries (83.3%) but a few respondents are traveling from east of I-41 such as Menasha to use the facilities as well as bordering townships.*

What city/town/village do you reside in?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Town of Neenah	83.3%	60
City of Neenah	13.9%	10
City of Menasha	0.0%	0
Town of Menasha	0.0%	0
Town of Clayton	1.4%	1
Town of Vinland	1.4%	1
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
answered question		72
skipped question		0



2. Age Group:



3. Are you Male or Female? Split between participants 49% Male, 51% Female

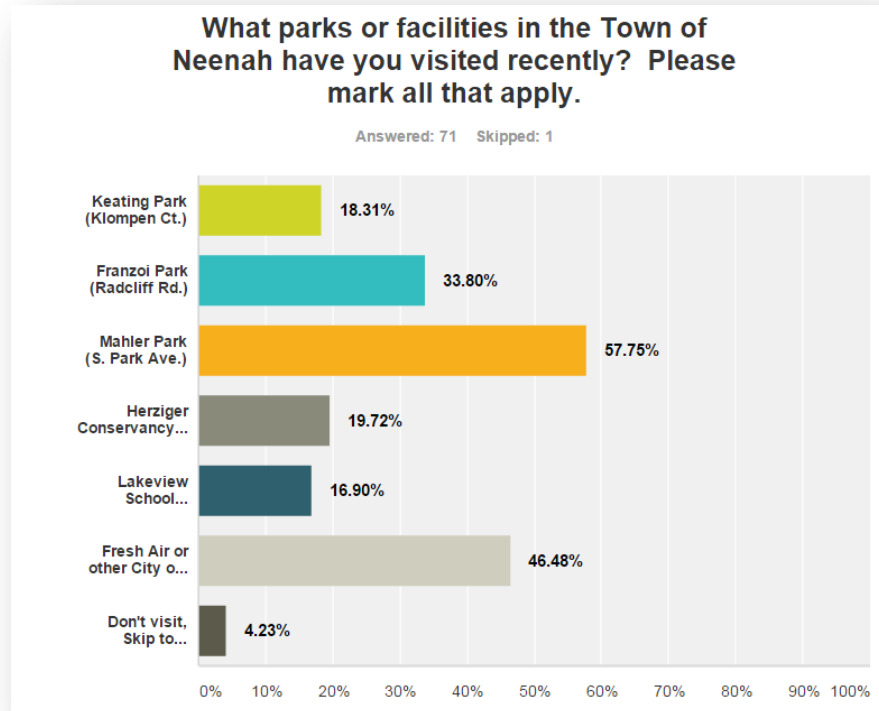
4. How many people reside in your household? Family of 2 was the #1 answer at 45.83%

The Town should focus on recreational needs for couples and ages 31-60.

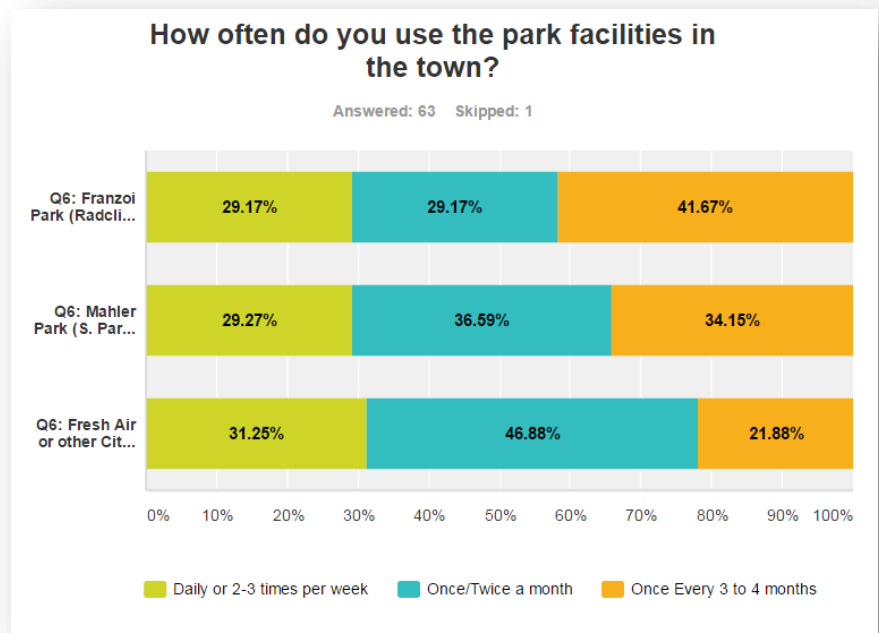
B. USE /SATISFACTION

1. Most Visited Park:

Mahler, Fresh Air (City), and Franzoi Parks were the top 3 visited. Maintenance should be planned accordingly to accommodate use.

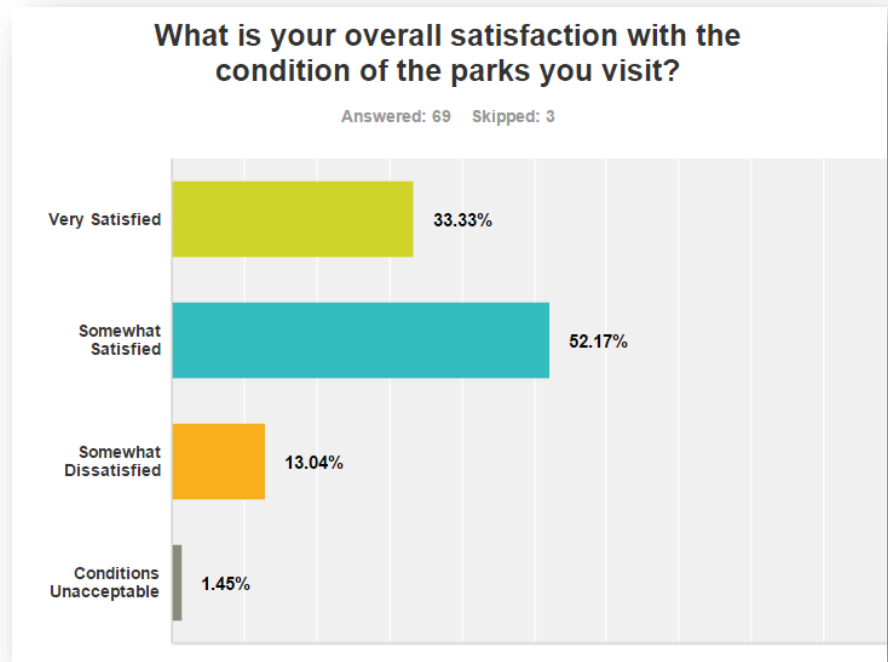


2. Of the top 3 parks visited, the amount of usage of each is depicted here:

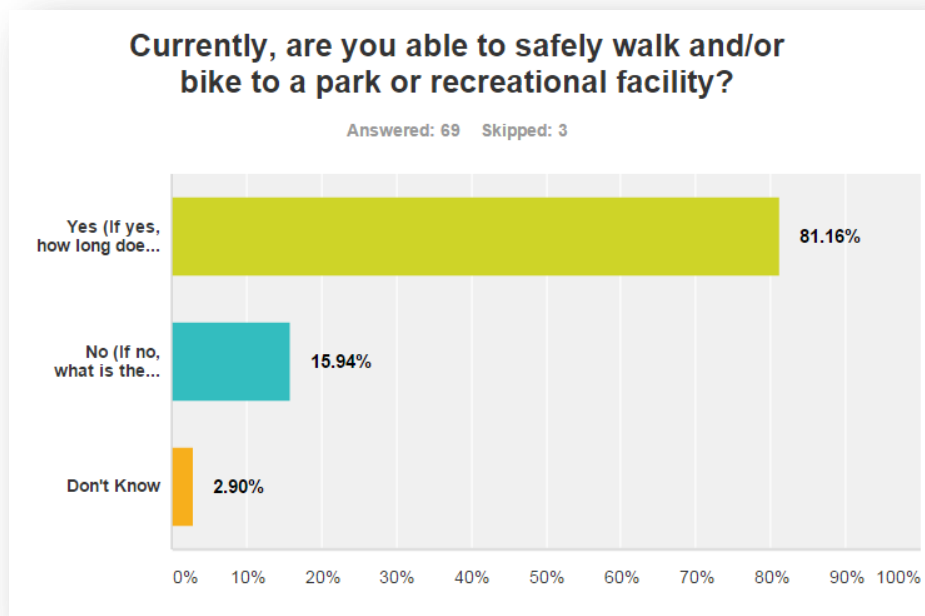


3. All Parks and Facilities –
Overall Satisfaction:

Over 33% were very satisfied with the parks & over 52% were somewhat satisfied. Positive response rate by residents as many seemed pleased on what the town is offering.

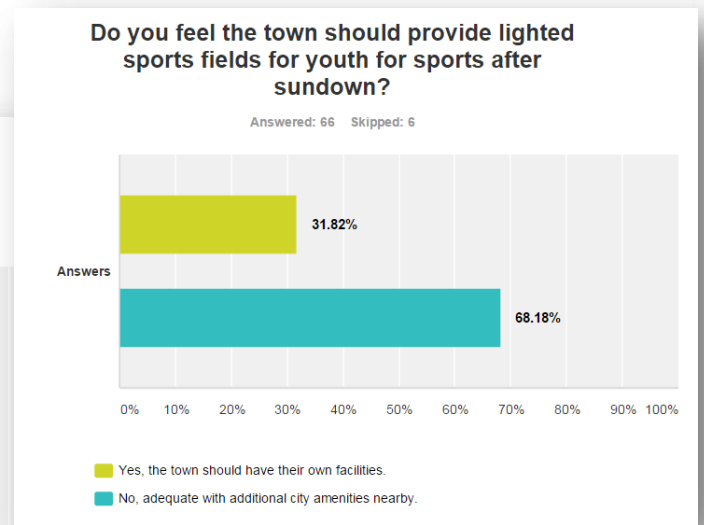
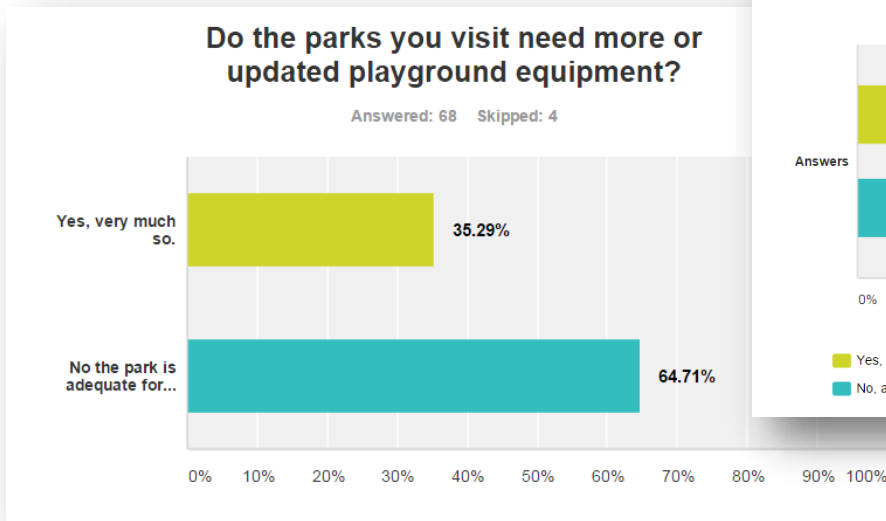


C. SAFETY /ACCESS 81% Yes, 16% No



- Average Time
10-15 minutes
- Street Barriers for those who said no:
- I-41
 - CTH CB
 - CTH G
 - CTH JJ (Winneconne Ave)
 - Breezewood Ln. / Bell St.
 - Maple Lane
 - Oakridge Road

D. SPECIAL FOCUS ON FACILITIES NEED FOR TODAY:



Residents were asked what facilities/programs are needed now in the Town based on Priorities.

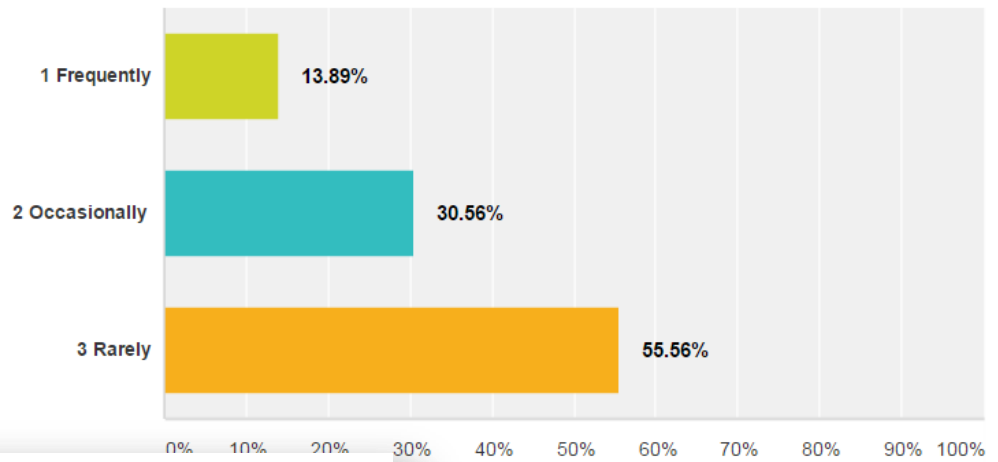
Popular answers: More trails , restrooms, and playgrounds, but shelters , picnic areas, and basketball courts should medium priorities from residents. A contradiction does exist with need vs. priority however with playgrounds and flush restrooms. Maintenance and care of current facilities should be first.

Need	Facility	Yes	No		
	Lighted Sports Fields	32%	68%	100%	
	Playgrounds	35%	65%	100%	
	Flush Restrooms	40%	60%	100%	
Priority	Facility	High	Medium	Low	Not a Priority
	Biking / Trails	X			
	Restrooms	X			
	Playgrounds	X			
	Shelters		X		
	Picnic Areas		X		
	Basketball Courts		X		
	Volleyball			X	
	Tennis Courts			X	X
	Soccer Fields			X	
	Dog Park				X
	Ball Diamonds				X

Most residents felt if a sports complex was built they would rarely use it. (55%) Same goes with frequency of current use of facilities.

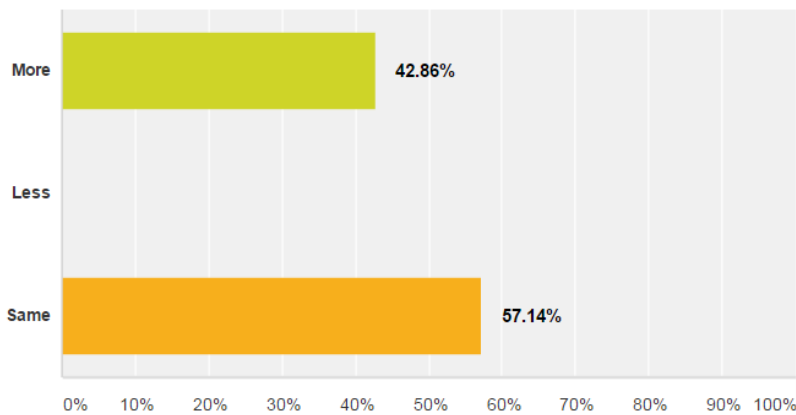
On a scale from 1 to 3, how often would you use a sports complex if it was built in the town? Frequently (1) to Rarely (3).

Answered: 72 Skipped: 0



If parks facilities were upgraded, would you use the park:

Answered: 70 Skipped: 2

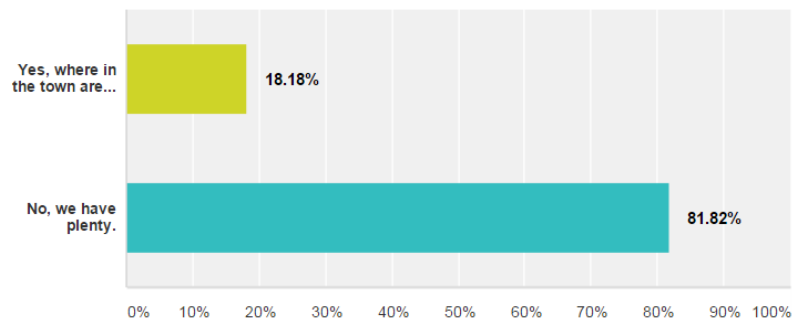


Over 81% said there are plenty of parks in the town and need to improve what is there.

Of those who commented, that new parks should be developed, many thought that parks should go along with development when new subdivisions go in i.e. (Nature Trail) and Woodenshoe Road area and with family oriented facilities such as playgrounds and picnic areas.

Do you feel more parks are needed in the town?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 6

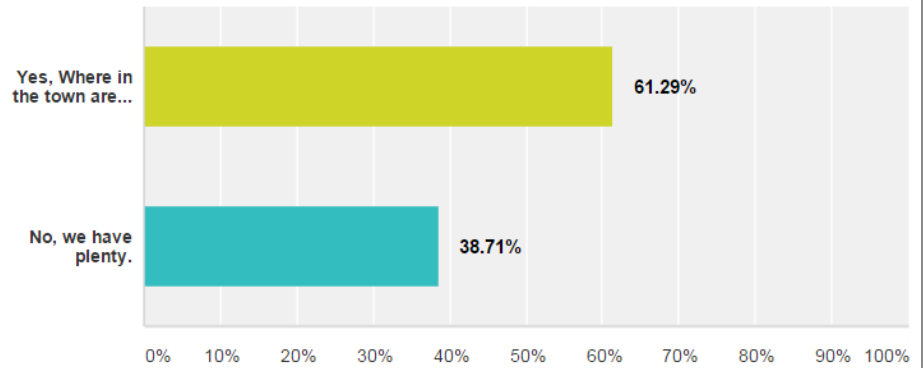


Most residents felt more trail connections are needed over 61% said they need better access to parks from the residential neighborhoods.

Nature Trails Subdivision, CTH G, Breezewood Lane Oakridge Road

Do you feel more trails are needed?

Answered: 62 Skipped: 10



E. FUNDING SOURCES FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW FACILITIES:

PARK IMPROVEMENTS:

When looking at maintenance for strongly and somewhat agree:

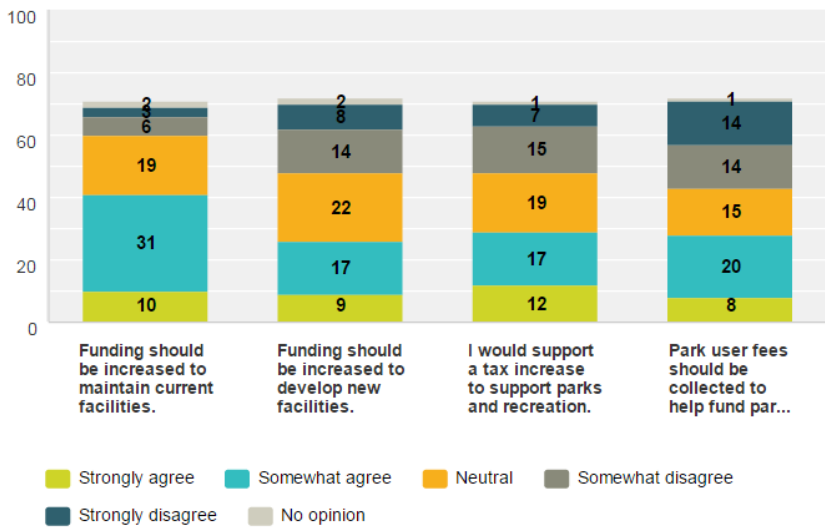
98% said funding should be increased

62% would support a tax increase to fund maintenance

42% would support park user fees for upgrades

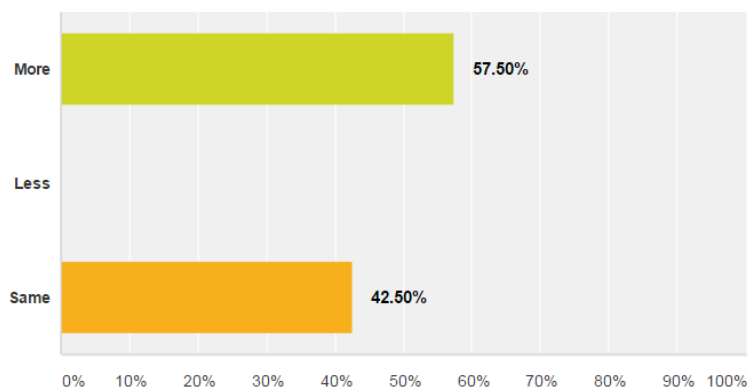
Please identify your opinion for funding park and recreation facilities or programs.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 0



If parks facilities were upgraded, would you use the park:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 1



NEW: Most residents felt funding should be increased to help develop new facilities but this was for trails not parks:

92% said funding should be increased

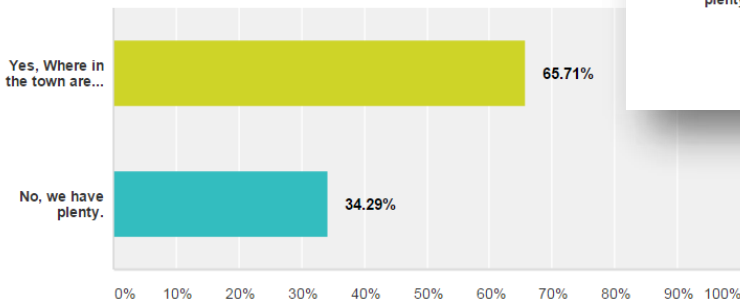
79% would support a tax increase

50% would support park user fees for upgrades

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	Total Respondents
Funding should be increased to maintain current facilities.	33.33% 8	58.33% 14	8.33% 2	0.00% 0	4.17% 1	4.17% 1	24
Funding should be increased to develop new facilities.	34.62% 9	65.38% 17	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	26
I would support a tax increase to support parks and recreation.	41.67% 10	37.50% 9	20.83% 5	4.17% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	24
Park user fees should be collected to help fund parks and recreation.	16.67% 4	33.33% 8	4.17% 1	20.83% 5	25.00% 6	0.00% 0	24

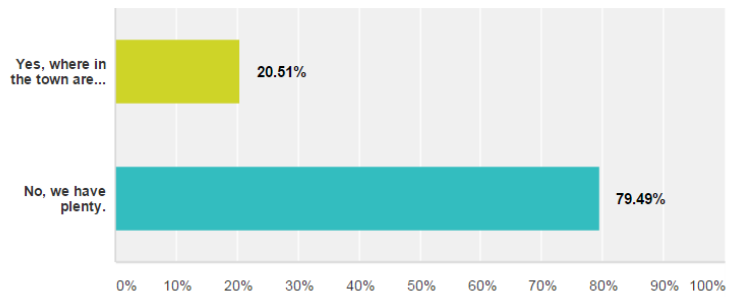
Do you feel more trails are needed?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 6



Do you feel more parks are needed in the town?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 2






OTHER COMMENTS:

- Keating Park is very underutilized...need direction and purpose, the ball diamond is full of weeds and dugouts need work.
- Dog Park
- Community Garden
- Mahler needs to maintain the ball diamonds for use when leagues aren't playing.
- Upgrade the playgrounds and add real restrooms
- Town has enough parks, maintain what is there, add more trails
- Keep the taxes low as this is why we live in the Town not the City
- General routine maintenance needed for all parks.

TRENDS

To effectively provide the right type of recreational activities and facilities, the town needs to better understand broader recreational trends. The following tables from the 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identify trends in outdoor recreational preferences. Below is a table that represents the trends and activities for the state as a whole:

Table 11: WISCONSIN RECREATION TRENDS

Increasing Demand 	Adventure racing	Both as individual and group activity
	Driving for pleasure	Easy activity for aging baby boomers
	Developed/RV camping	Baby boomers continue to drive demand
	Kayaking	Participants attracted by cheap entry
	Visit a dog park	Urban residents driving demand
	Soccer outdoors	Urban youth driving demand
	BMX biking	X Games popularity may be driving force
	Climbing	Indoor climbing leading to outdoor climbing
	Stand up paddling	Popularity is sweeping the country
	Triathlon	Varying distances allowed for growth
	Off-road vehicle driving	Post-recession growth continues
Gardening/landscaping	"Grow Local" concept taking hold	
Stable Demand 	Walk for Pleasure	Market saturation
	Running or jogging	Gen Y replacing baby boomers
	Water parks	Recession caused growth to slow
	Motor boating	Easy access to resources
	Day hiking	Popular with many generations
	Golf	Time constraints does not allow for growth
	Tent camping	Stable, but growth is illusive
	Snowboarding	May have peaked after 20 years of growth
	Trail running	Stable niche with Gen Y
	View wildlife	Activity spans generations
	Bicycle	Popular with easy access
Snowshoeing	After large growth, this has stabilized	
Decreasing Demand 	Hunting	Generational loss and private access
	Inline skating	6 years of decreasing participation
	Skateboard parks	Youth are free-skating with longboards
	Horseback riding	Recession impact caused decrease
	Softball	Baby boomers leaving the sport
Downhill skiing	Baby boom generation not being replaced	

Source: 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, August 2012.



CHAPTER 5

HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 5: HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2015 COUNTY HEALTH COMPONENTS AND STATISTICS

With obesity rates on the rise, Neenah's need to promote active communities should be one of the top priorities. From the 2015 Winnebago County Health Rankings*, (with 1 being the best), Winnebago County is rated 42 overall out of 72 in the state for healthy outcomes (today) and 19 out of 72 for health factors (tomorrow). These statistics are down from 2014 where the County was 39 in health outcomes and 17 for health factors. When compared to the other counties in the state, these County Health Rankings illustrate what we know when it comes to what's making people sick or healthy, but understanding the Town of Neenah through the Winnebago County's rankings is only one component of improving the community's health. The "Roadmaps to Health" Action Center provides tools to help groups work together to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. For example, In Winnebago County, the group re:Th!nk Winnebago is one such group who has started this process in working with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to promote health in planning.

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



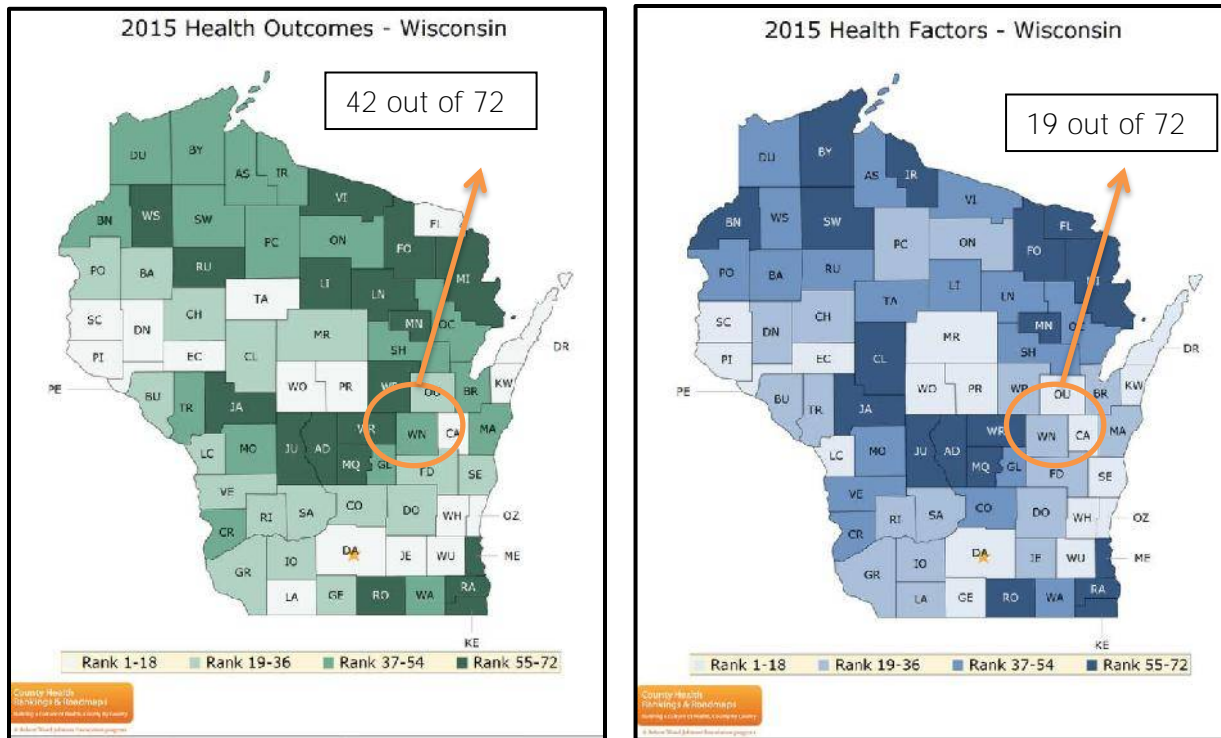
To enable and encourage the citizens of the Town of Neenah to be more physically active, a strengthening of the support and funding for the town's Parks & Recreation facilities and recreational programming should be looked at. "Park Prescriptions" should be written so to speak to encourage active use and enjoyment of what the town has to offer. Improvements that would positively benefit public health and recreation are maintaining and adding more amenities to the existing Neighborhood and Community Parks to support its growing population base. Also adding more multi-use trail connections in general would help promote a healthy lifestyle and active living. Careful attention should be given to areas of people with lesser means so they have at least an equal level of opportunity for physical activity. This goes back to the Goal 3 of making the facilities ADA accessible and designed for those needs. In many large cities, low income neighborhoods can often lack quality recreational programs, playgrounds and parks. They can also be hindered in accessing nearby facilities by physical and land use barriers (i.e. transportation, water corridors and industry).

Continued support with community partnerships such as sport clubs, organizations, non-profits, citizen groups, companies, and other interested parties to develop, fund and operate recreation programs, leagues, and events are key. These partnerships are invaluable to help provide the opportunities for people to be physically active.

Parks, playgrounds, and open spaces provide opportunities for physical activity. However, the presence of facilities is not enough to make sure they are being used for the greatest benefit of

all. Factors such as location, accessibility, programming, connectivity, safety and aesthetics all play a role in the use of public facilities. Investing in consistent/uniform signage that aids people in identifying trails, places to be active, and other rec opportunities, should be considered. Promoting and marketing concepts should be developed along with the funding resources identified such as studies done through the Transform Wisconsin grant program.

Below are 2 maps that demonstrate where the County stands in the state as compared to the other 72 counties with 1 being the healthiest. Factors such as smoking, obesity rates, drinking excessively, STD's and motor vehicle crashes make up the first map,



while outcomes such as premature death, poor to fair health, poor physical days, low birth weight, and poor mental days are shown on the second map. The rankings comparing the rest of the state are as follows:

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

Lastly, according to a publication from the Trust for Public Land, there are 8 ways that parks can improve your overall health:

1. Parks increase exercise. People who live closer to parks are shown to exercise more as the opportunity is there and people who regularly use parks get more exercise than people who don't.
2. Most moderate exercise takes place in parks, approximately 12%. Parks are where people get the kind of exercise their bodies need most.
3. Parks reduce stress and clear the mind. Outdoor areas boost focus and promote relaxation as the term being one with nature implies.
4. A park makeover with aesthetically pleasing spaces encourages use and promotes public health habits.
5. A variety of amenities can attract different users, i.e. skateparks, basketball & tennis courts, baseball, paths, and therefore encourage fun activities.
6. Dedicated fitness zone exercise areas encourage exercise and increase park use. The Town of Neenah just put in workout benches at Fritsch Park where parents can get in reps while watching their kids play on the playground. Body fitness stations are becoming popular to encourage adults to workout.
7. Supervised activities and programming maximize a park's public health benefit. Getting people out and moving in a fun active setting is the best medicine.
8. Exercise is one of the cheapest ways to stay healthy. By promoting healthy habits, parks can help reduce health care costs.



CHAPTER 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Although the town currently has enough land set aside for recreational use to accommodate its population, some facilities are lacking, in short supply, outdated, or not particularly user-friendly. To establish a community-wide recreation system that provides a wide variety of accessible recreational activities to all segments of the town, the following improvements are recommended for existing and potential sites:

Mahler Park

With the development of a major soccer complex capable of hosting tournaments, as well as the construction of a major pavilion with flush restroom facilities where large groups can be accommodated, Mahler Park has become a significant community park. Although paved off-street parking remains at a premium during major events, overflow parking on adjacent mowed areas helps meet the heavy demand. As the park's landscaping matures, the park can be expected to become an increasingly attractive destination for recreationalists. The following recommendations are proposed to upgrade Mahler Park:



- Additional picnic tables, some with shade canopies, and grills should be installed primarily in the area adjacent to the pavilion.
- The existing play equipment should be replaced with new equipment that meets safety standards. New equipment has been added, but some of the old equipment remains. For safety purposes, the equipment base area could be wood chipped with recycled materials.
- An additional volleyball court has recently been developed. Lighting to facilitate night use of both volleyball courts should be considered.
- Continue to eradicate weeds from the ball diamonds with routine maintenance.

- A small shelter and picnic facilities should be considered for the area directly south of the filled-in quarry pond. This structure could serve as the registration area for soccer tournaments.
- Consideration should be given to lighting the ball diamonds & possibly the soccer fields to facilitate evening use.
- The town should look at additional parking (possibly north of shelter) to accommodate soccer tournaments. Develop a master plan for the park that would address the parking issues.
- Considerations should be given to clear out the woods and brush near the sledding hill to create a 360 degree opportunity for users. A snowboarding course should be researched.
- The soccer field to the south of the sledding hill should be lengthened to the official U12 (300' x 165') field requirements to allow for additional games of play. Only one field exists that current allows for this type of game play. Area schools utilize these fields for practices and games.
- A landscaping program should be initiated to keep the park aesthetically pleasing. Particular emphasis should be given to establishing additional shade trees in the picnic area. Because of the shallow depth to bedrock found on the site, material from the sledding hill could be used to create strategically placed planting berms. Trees that have a deep tap root, such as most oak species, should be avoided. Recommended shade trees include red maple, red and white ash, and little leaf linden. White and red pine and white spruce are coniferous species that could be expected to do well on the site. Hawthorn and flowering crabapple varieties are smaller ornamental trees which would be suited to the somewhat drier conditions found on the berms. This should be planned as a future project.



Keating Park

Keating Park is primarily a neighborhood park that serves the needs of residents of the surrounding area. Unlike Mahler Park, it would be inappropriate to extend use into the dusk hours by lighting facilities such as the ball diamond, which would be detrimental to nearby residences. There are, however, a number of actions that should be taken to improve this park:

- Selective clearing of understory trees to



expose mature specimen trees and create a more inviting picnic area should continue to be undertaken and additional picnic facilities provided.

- Bark chips should be considered for trail development in densely shaded areas.
- The existing parking area should be enlarged and paved to reduce maintenance and create a more attractive surface as well as plowed in the winter. Cross country ski trails and snow shoeing trails could be developed along the perimeter of the park.
- The ball diamond fences should be repaired and upgraded as well as the dugout areas.
- Consider a permanent restroom facility depending on use.
- Develop trail connections to the park and market it as a destination.
- Consider adding new playground equipment to accommodate the adjacent subdivision and also draw more users to the park. Work with Neenah Rotary and other area clubs to assist.

Franzoi Park

Like Keating Park, Franzoi Park primarily serves the needs of residents of the surrounding area. The following actions should be taken to improve this park:

- A small basketball court should be constructed. This is planned as a future project.
- Measures should continue to be taken to control brush growth in and along the drainage ditch. This is an ongoing project.
- A security light should be installed in the vicinity of the shelter building.
- Consideration should be given to establishing native wildflowers in strategic areas along the perimeter of the park.
- Repairs and maintenance on the shelter/storage building is an ongoing project.
- Consider adding new playground equipment as well as adult work stations to encourage fitness and health of both the parent and the child to accommodate the adjacent subdivision(s) and also draw more users. Work with Neenah Rotary and other area clubs to assist.



Conservancy Park

- Continue with the prairie plantings and eradicate invasive species annually.
- Consider extending the trail through the wooded areas and adding educational trail markers.
- Consider aerating the pond during the summer months to cut down on algae blooms as well as routine garbage and maintenance of the existing trails.



Other Recommendations

In addition to recommendations for specific parks, there are other actions the Town of Neenah should pursue to ensure that the recreational needs of its residents continue to be met in the future and that its natural resources are preserved and protected. These include:

1. The town should take steps to ensure that convenient recreational facilities are provided in new areas of concentrated residential development. An appropriate measure is to earmark a percentage of the town ordinance requiring impact fees for new development specifically for park acquisition and development purposes.
2. The town should acquire or obtain limited public use easements along selected drainage corridors for stormwater management and off-road trail development.
3. The town should acquire a suitable wetland tract of sufficient size that it could be preserved largely in its natural state.
4. The town should continue to work closely with the City of Neenah and the Neenah School District to mutually maximize available recreational facilities and opportunities. Shared-Use Agreements should be formulized if not already.
5. The town should continue to identify projects that can utilize potential funding and identify staff from local service groups and organizations who can assist as well as volunteers.
6. As major town roads are upgraded, paved shoulders should be provided and striped to promote and encourage bicycling. The town should also be encouraging Winnebago County to provide these accommodations along CTH A, a heavily used bicycle commuter route, as well as on other county highways passing through the town. The county is in the process of completing a Bicycle and Pedestrian plan for 2016. (see multi-modal section below and proposed trail corridors)

7. The town's Park and Trails Commission should continue its work on developing a comprehensive trail system and trail linkages, specifically with the CB trail expansion (Clayton Ave. / Larson Rd.) in the Town of Clayton and the Fox Cities Paper Trail that loops the area.
8. The town should initiate long-term partnerships with adjacent municipalities.

NEW PARKS AND FACILITIES

The following areas should be explored for park development and acquisition in order to meet the needs of neighborhoods that currently lack park and recreational facilities as well as any future development. Town owned property of a little over 40 acres exists near Oakridge Road and Tullar Road that could be utilized for a sports complex. This would be near I41 with easy access from the highway to accommodate sporting events which could be a potential revenue base. This area is shown on Map 4.

Pickle ball lines and tennis courts could be added to Franzoi and Keating Parks as the popularity of this sport is increasing for seniors. Adding an outdoor ping pong table and even a permanent cement bean bag toss game can add to the parks popularity and draw people to them. Trends gear the use of parks and what they should offer.

MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR REVIEW

The town should consider developing its own "*Town Bike and Pedestrian Facility Plan*". Such a plan should consider local levels of service for trail provision, recommend areas of first priority for development and acquisition, and recommend improvements to existing facilities. Currently such a plan is underway for Winnebago County.

Development of "*A Bike and Pedestrian Facility Plan*" (Goal 3, Strategy C) should incorporate township boundaries as well as outside resident users (Appleton, Neenah, and north into Winnebago County), local business leaders, Town Staff, Highway Department, and the Parks/Trails Committee. Also, the recommendations written in the ECWRPC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should be used as a guide for detailed trails development and implementation.

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

The recommendations in this plan are based on several widely recognized publications.

The main publications used include the following:

- *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*

- *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- *Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide*, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
- *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD)
- *Wisconsin Bicycle Planning Guidance*, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations & Communities in Planning & Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21.
- *Wisconsin Pedestrian Planning Guidance*, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations & Communities in Planning & Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21.

Pedestrian Facilities

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

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

Bicycle Routes

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

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

- Space bicycle routes ¼ to ½ mile apart throughout the urbanized area. This method has the advantage of consistency but does not lend itself well to areas that have a large number of barriers to transportation like lakes, rivers, hills, or freeways. Transportation

barriers force a deviation in the grid and may leave key areas unserved (Wisconsin Translink-21, 19-20).

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

Other factors to be considered include safety (actual and perceived); cost, and how well the route system will integrate with other modes of transportation.

Because of the unique characteristics of the Town of Neenah, a combined approach which employs components from all of the above approaches should be used to best serve bicyclists.

Bicycle Facilities

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

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

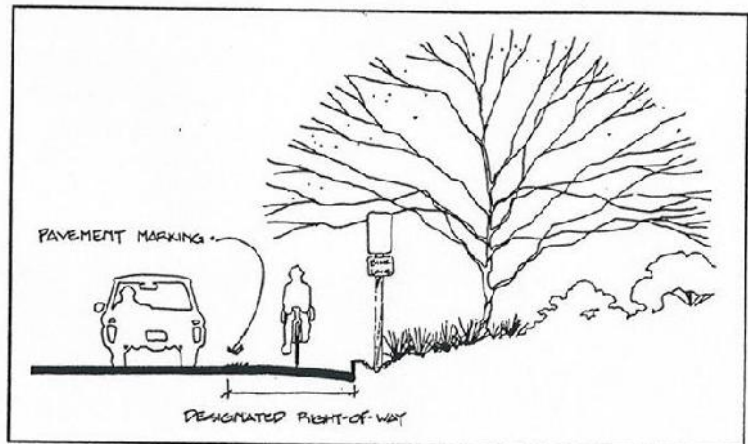


Figure 1 Bicycle lane (Harris et al, 341-3).

- Bicycle Lanes:** Bicycle lanes are a portion of the roadway which has been designated by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. They are usually 4-6 feet wide. Bicycle lanes are perceived by many bicyclists as being safer and thus encourage bicycling on these facilities. (See figure 2.)

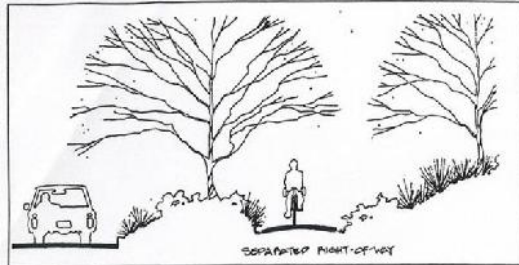


Figure 2 Bicycle Path (Harris et al, 341-3)

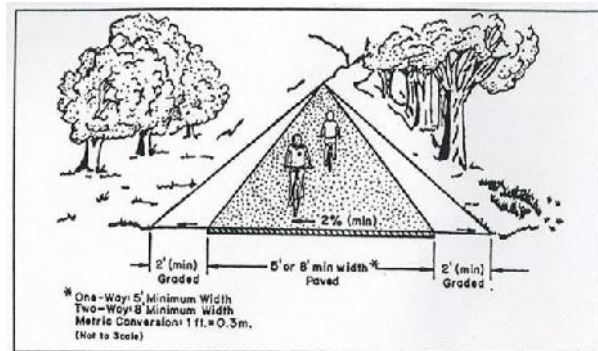


Figure 3 Recommended widths for bicycle paths (AASHTO, 24)

- Bicycle Paths:** Bicycle paths are a bicycle facility separated from the roadway by some sort of barrier or space (see figure 2). The recommended minimum widths for bicycle paths are 5-foot for a one-way path and 8-foot for a two-way path. (See figure 3).

If the path is to be used by pedestrians as well as bicyclists, the minimum recommended path width is 10'. (See figure 4.)

Multi-Modal Accommodations

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

A multi-use recreational trail system has been developed in the Town of Neenah. This trail system connects the three developed community parks. There are also several segments that have been created with recent development. Planning and establishing the trail system should be a joint effort between the Parks & Trails Committee and Planning Commission. A Bike and Pedestrian Facility Plan should be developed that establishes a local level of service for trail provision, recommends areas of first priority for development and acquisition, and recommends improvements to existing facilities.



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

The following areas should be studied further in a detailed Bike and Pedestrian Facility Plan and are depicted on Map 5:

Trail Corridors:

General & Other Trail Connections:

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

- Add signage and make connections to residential areas from existing parks
- Franzoi Park to connect to CB trail
- Keating Park to Breezewood Lane to CTH JJ and CB
- Mahler Park to CTH A/South Park Ave.
- Towerview Drive/Muttart Road: Dixie Road and CTH A. Connect to the City of Neenah’s trails system. (Southview Industrial Park and Frontage Road)
- Work with surrounding municipalities and the county to develop more trails



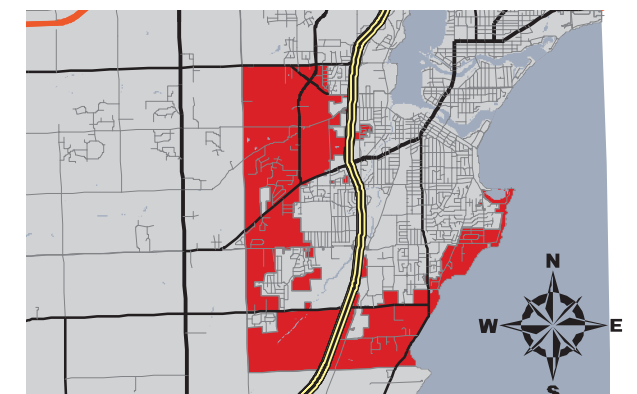
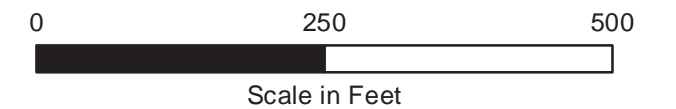
Map 4 Town of Neenah Future Parks and Recreation Sports Complex & Adventure Park Concept* 36.72 Acres



Legend

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aquatic Feature | Pet Exercise Area |
| Archery Range | Picnic Area |
| Baseball | Playground |
| Bicycle | Restrooms |
| Hiking Trail | Wildlife Viewing |
| Parking | Perimeter Trail |

**Representations of possible amenities not necessarily actual aspects. Locations of actual facilities will be dependent upon topography and engineering for best areas. For Planning Purposes Only!*

















Source: Winnebago County Base and Parks information, 2015, WINGS data. ECWRPC trails data.

This data was created for use by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Geographic Information System. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission disclaims all liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission business.

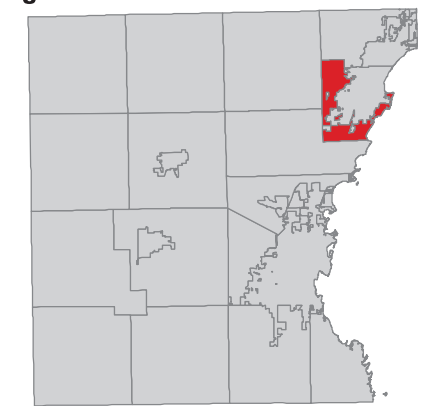
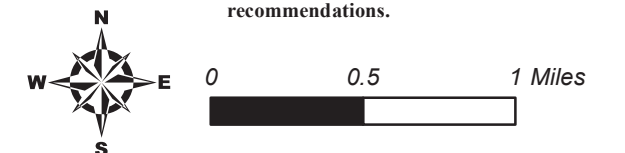
Map 5 Town of Neenah Existing & Future Trails*

Legend

Trails

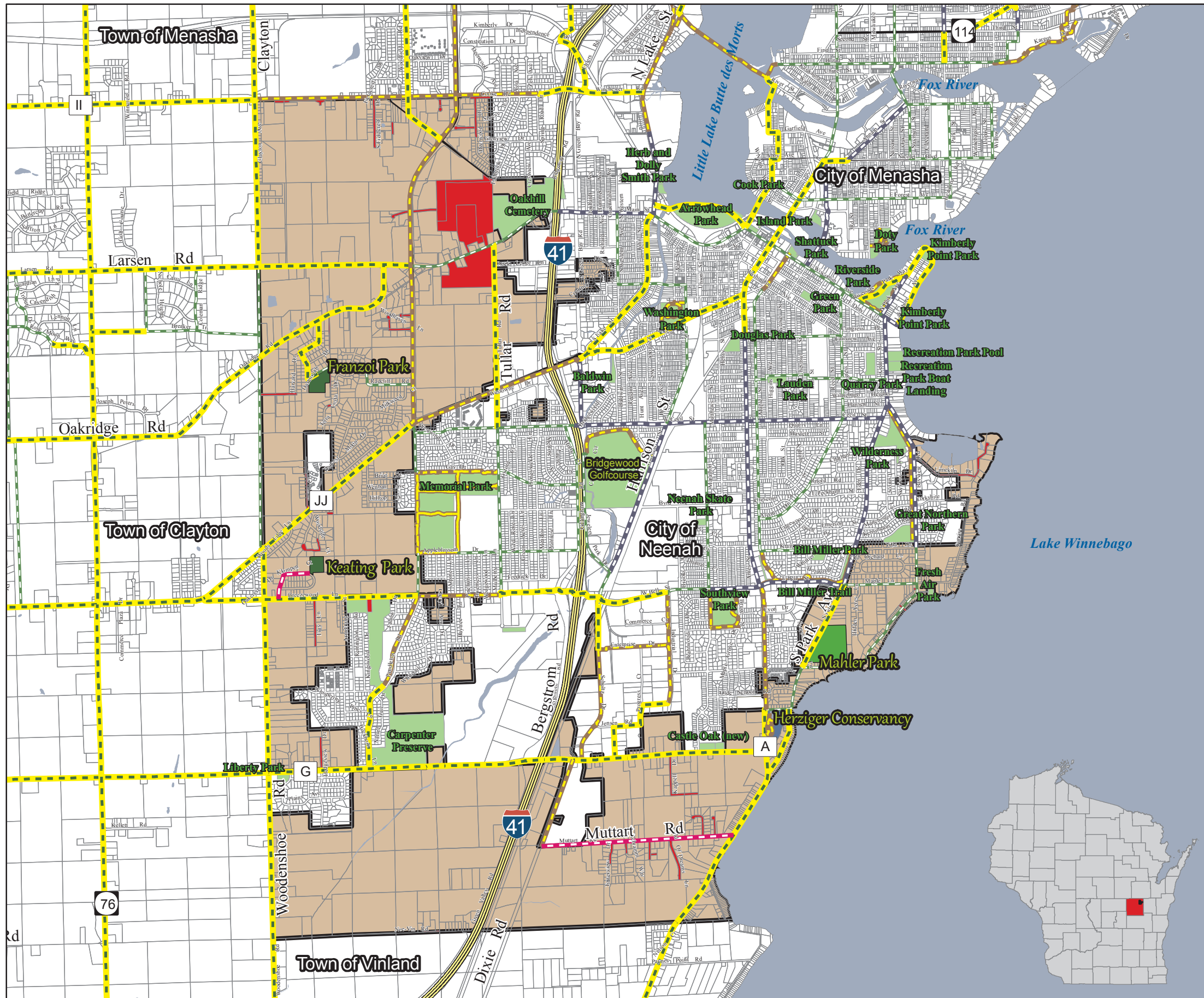
-  Proposed Town Neenah Trail
-  Off Road Paved
-  Off Road Unpaved
-  On Street Bike
-  Planned Facility
-  Proposed Facility
-  Other Recreational Areas
-  Water
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Special Facility
-  Town of Neenah
-  Parcel Lines
-  Town Owned Property

*ECWRPC trails data from the Oshkosh MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Proposed Town of Neenah trails were added per the CORP recommendations.



Source: Winnebago County Base and Parks information, 2015, WINGS data. ECWRPC trails data.

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Accessibility Guidelines

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

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

SPECIAL ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

Town and School Cooperation

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

Town of Neenah and Private Sector Cooperation

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

Shared-Use Parks

Park development, improvement and maintenance are costly and especially difficult with shrinking budgets. This plan incorporates several joint park developments with neighboring communities. Parks should and do serve everyone and not just the individuals that live within your community. The development of parks with neighboring communities will spread these costs out to two or more communities and provide a park that serves residents in adjacent communities. The Cities of Menasha and Neenah and Town of Menasha have already shown an interest in jointly developing recreational facilities such as the "loop the lake" project. Residents are unaware of municipal boundaries and these possibilities should be explored.

Maintenance

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

- Provide routine maintenance and cleanliness for all facilities.
- Provide for non-recurring maintenance needs, repairs and replacements.
- Annually inspect all facilities for safety and maintenance needs.
- Appropriate funds to meet the needs for proper maintenance.
- Maintain facilities to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Develop athletic field maintenance programs to meet the states NR151 Regulations.
- Encourage park staff to attend training conferences to continuing education opportunities.
- Set standards for mowing heights and frequency.
- Set standards for infield maintenance, weeds, flood control, etc.
- Set standards for removal of a field for use based on safety concerns and field conditions.
- Develop a list of when events should be cancelled and who makes the call.
- Complete and document monthly playground inspections. Have a Certified Playground Safety Inspector complete the audits. (CSPI)





CHAPTER 7
ACTION PROGRAM

CHAPTER 7: ACTION PROGRAM

5 YEAR ACTION PROGRAM, 2016-2020

The projects listed below in Table 12, comprise the action program set forth by the Parks & Trails Committee and Town Board for implementation during the next five years and beyond. This action program is based on priority level by year to serve as a guide in planning for future facilities. These were formulated to see where the community should be expending its resources from 2016-2020 and beyond. This will also assist service clubs and organizations to select potential park improvement projects if so inclined. As updates and development nears, more costs should be researched to assist in project budgeting and be included within the estimated Capital Improvement Program.

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

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

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

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

Estimates are based on 2015-2016 costs and do not reflect potential future price increases. The estimates provided are for the total cost of the project, and do not take into account any potential funding assistance, even though some projects may qualify for grant funding but usually a match is required. The capital improvements included in this plan were determined through input from staff and residents through public surveys and meetings. Accompanying cost estimates are based on best available information; more refined estimates should be determined prior to budgeting for specific projects.

Project Priority

Projects that the Parks and Trails Commission would like to see undertake during the next several years are listed on the following two pages. The table emphasizes the provision of additional facilities at existing recreational sites. Many of these projects are eligible to receive matching funds through WDNR's Stewardship Program. Others may qualify for grants through other programs offered by various State agencies and non-profits. For certain projects, however, involvement by individuals and support groups and organizations will be critical. Ultimately the priority and the dollar amounts spent on each project will be decided by the Town Board and on a project by project basis. Table 12 gives a "snapshot" of capital improvements for the next five years.

TABLE 12: Five - Year Action Plan - Snapshot

Needed Now 2016-17, Short-Term 2018, Long Term 2019-20+
**From survey, residents recommendations and needs.*

	Estimated Cost	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
Mahler Park						
Picnic Areas (canopies/grills)	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000				
Replace Playground Equipment	\$ 20,000		\$20,000			
Lighting (baseball, soccer, volleyball)	\$ 60,000		\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Renovate existing ball field(s) / maintain fields	\$ 15,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Additional Shelter	\$ 50,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Parking – Master Plan	\$10,000		\$5,000	\$5,000		
Sledding Hill renovation	\$1,000	\$1,000				
Soccer Field U12 extension	\$500	\$500				
Landscape Program	\$2,500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Subtotal	\$154,500	\$20,500	\$51,000	\$31,000	\$26,000	\$26,000
	Estimated Cost	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
Keating Park						
Clean out brush in wooded area	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		
Adult workout stations*	\$ 15,000		\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
New Playground equipment*	\$ 20,000			\$10,000	\$10,000	
Off road trail - Bark Chips	\$ 1,800		\$ 1,800			
Renovate ball diamond fences and dugout areas / maintain field	\$ 9,000			\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Renovate existing shelter / restrooms	\$ 55,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000
Subtotal	\$103,800	\$11,000	\$17,800	\$29,000	\$28,000	\$18,000
	Estimated Cost	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
Franzoi Park						
Adult workout stations*	\$ 15,000			\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Half Basketball Court	\$ 8,000		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Eradicate brush growth – drainage ditch	\$ 1,500		\$1,500			
Prairie Perimeter	\$ 2,000	\$2,000				
Renovate Shelter / Storage building	\$ 38,000		\$ 8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Security Lighting	\$ 10,000	\$10,000				
Maintain Ball Diamond	\$ 11,107		\$11,107			
Subtotal	\$ 85,607	\$12,000	\$22,607	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
	Estimated Cost	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
Conservancy Park						
Trail extension and educational markers	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000			
Eradicate invasive species	\$ 5,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Pond Aerator and Trail Maintenance	\$ 2,000		\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Add Trail signage	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500				
Subtotal	\$22,000	\$2,500	\$16,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

	Estimated Cost	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
Other Recommendations						
Off-Road Trail Connections	\$ 21,500	\$ 1,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Sports Complex (revenue source)	\$ 1,150,000					\$ 1,150,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,171,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,650,000

Summary Totals by Year				
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020+
\$47,500	\$112,907	\$83,500	\$77,500	\$1,712,500*
Five Year Capital Improvement Total = \$2,033,907				

*The 2020 total should be phased out beyond to 2025 looking at a 10 year approach and incorporated into the next five capital improvement budget.

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CHAPTER 8

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

CHAPTER 8: RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2016-05

ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF NEENAH OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Neenah has requested that the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission provide assistance in updating its comprehensive open space and recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to serve as an ancillary component of the Town's community development plan, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Neenah Park Board and East Central Planning have worked closely to encourage active public participation in the preparation of this plan, and

WHEREAS, adoption of the plan is required for the Town of Neenah to become eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered by the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEENAH TOWN BOARD THAT:

the Town of Neenah Open Space and Recreation Plan be adopted as the approved recreation plan for the Town of Neenah.

Signed this 23rd day of May, 2016.


Robert Schmeichel, Chairperson


Ellen Skerke, Clerk

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APPENDICES A-C



APPENDIX A

DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

Q1 What street do you live on? (Please provide N,S,E,W in your street address if known, for locational purposes only.)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	Kuettel Court	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Whispering Pines Lane	4/2/2016 6:00 PM
3	Remington Rd.	3/10/2016 5:00 PM
4	E Dartmouth Drive	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
5	134 Klompen Court, Next to Keating Park	2/13/2016 9:38 PM
6	Sundial Lane	2/2/2016 2:31 PM
7	Anthem Drive	2/1/2016 10:53 PM
8	1587 lone oak	2/1/2016 12:23 AM
9	Pendleton Road, south	1/31/2016 9:03 PM
10	Harvest Moon Dr	1/31/2016 8:04 PM
11	Radcliff Rd.	1/31/2016 5:06 PM
12	Whispering pines lane	1/31/2016 4:50 PM
13	Harvest moon	1/31/2016 4:13 PM
14	Radcliff Rd	1/31/2016 2:57 PM
15	1228 Radcliff rd	1/31/2016 2:49 PM
16	Terra Cotta Dr.	1/31/2016 2:48 PM
17	Nature Trail Drive	1/31/2016 1:30 PM
18	Milkweed court	1/31/2016 11:27 AM
19	Terra Cotta Drive	1/31/2016 9:42 AM
20	1341 birch bark lane	1/31/2016 9:04 AM
21	Firefly Ct	1/31/2016 8:53 AM
22	Eagle Feather Trail	1/28/2016 8:12 AM
23	Terra Cotta Drive	1/25/2016 3:06 PM
24	We own a rental house on Breezewood Lane in the the Town of Neenah.	1/25/2016 12:30 PM
25	North Hunters pt Rd	1/23/2016 9:15 AM
26	Bayview Rd	1/16/2016 4:08 PM
27	Harvard dr	1/15/2016 10:40 AM
28	Wildlife lane	1/14/2016 10:34 PM
29	East Forest Ave.	1/14/2016 7:08 PM
30	Count road G	1/14/2016 6:37 PM
31	Kuettel Court	1/14/2016 4:36 PM
32	Kuettel Court	1/14/2016 10:28 AM
33	1642 S. Park Ave.	1/14/2016 9:30 AM

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

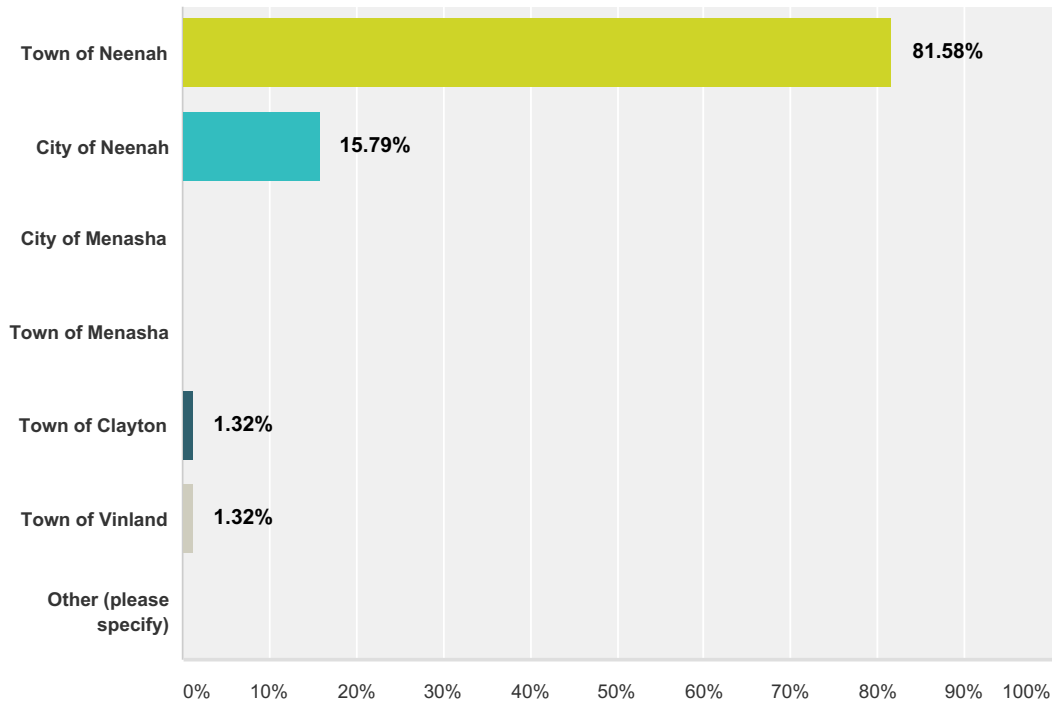
34	Grove Street	1/14/2016 8:44 AM
35	Kuettel ct.	1/14/2016 6:59 AM
36	Kuettel Ct.	1/14/2016 6:49 AM
37	Kuettel Court west end	1/14/2016 6:19 AM
38	Kuettel Ct.	1/13/2016 9:58 PM
39	Kuettel ct..	1/13/2016 8:55 PM
40	Kettle Court	1/13/2016 8:01 PM
41	Kuettel Ct	1/13/2016 7:40 PM
42	S. Park Ave.	1/13/2016 7:37 PM
43	S Park Av	1/9/2016 7:15 PM
44	Maple Ln	1/5/2016 5:05 PM
45	552 Sunrise Bay Road	1/5/2016 4:35 PM
46	Rickers Bay Road	1/3/2016 8:41 PM
47	Sundial Ln	1/3/2016 8:10 PM
48	Oakridge Road	1/3/2016 6:52 PM
49	Old Orchard Lane	1/3/2016 5:32 PM
50	Radcliff Rd	1/1/2016 12:47 PM
51	Woodenshoe Road	12/31/2015 7:51 AM
52	Hedgeview Drive	12/30/2015 1:13 PM
53	E	12/30/2015 5:24 AM
54	West side of South Park	12/27/2015 1:43 PM
55	County rd G. East of hwy 41	12/25/2015 11:55 PM
56	Radcliff Rd.	12/23/2015 9:32 PM
57	S. Park Ave.	12/23/2015 12:41 AM
58	Rainbow Beach Road	12/22/2015 3:14 PM
59	Adella Beach	12/22/2015 8:06 AM
60	E 1542 Hidden Acres Lane	12/21/2015 2:56 PM
61	Woodside Lane	12/21/2015 11:21 AM
62	Terra Cotta Drive	12/20/2015 8:55 PM
63	S Park a e	12/20/2015 8:42 PM
64	Hidden Acres Lane	12/20/2015 5:01 PM
65	Sunrise Bay Road	12/20/2015 12:07 PM
66	Hidden Acres Lane	12/19/2015 4:25 PM
67	2000 Oakridge Rd	12/18/2015 8:58 PM
68	Harvard Drive	12/17/2015 11:49 AM
69	hunters point road	12/16/2015 12:49 PM
70	Tullar Road	12/12/2015 9:12 PM
71	Woodside Court	12/11/2015 1:26 PM
72	Klompen Ct.	12/11/2015 11:27 AM
73	Woodside Ct	12/11/2015 8:53 AM
74	Woodside Court	12/7/2015 9:14 PM

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

75	woodside ct	12/7/2015 7:58 PM
76	Alcott	11/12/2015 2:30 PM

Q2 What city/town/village do you reside in?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

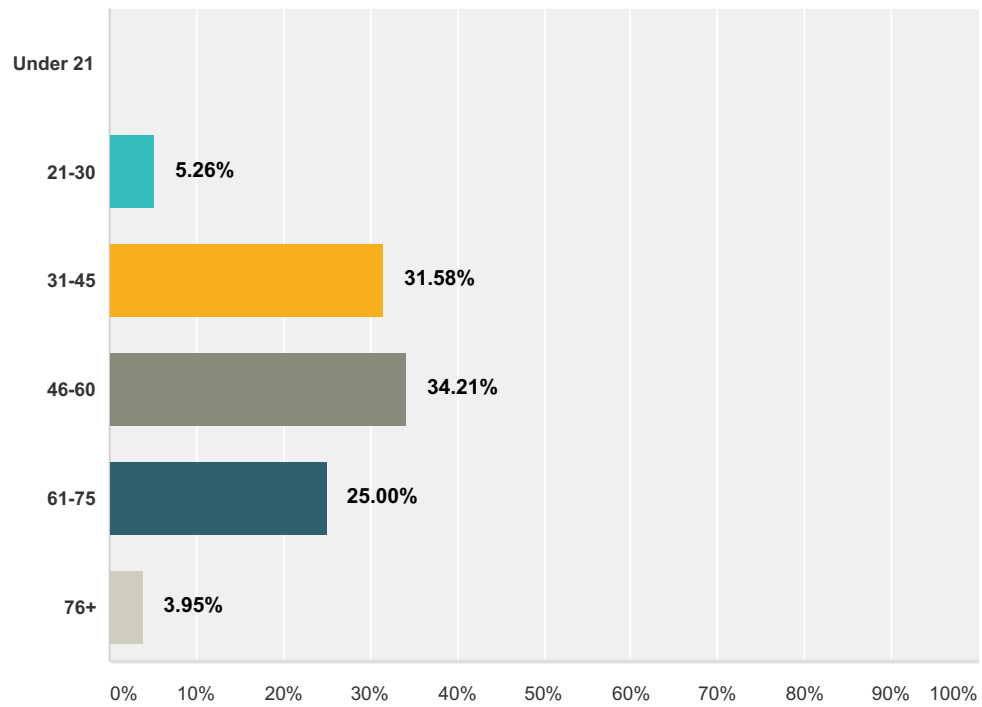


Answer Choices	Responses	
Town of Neenah	81.58%	62
City of Neenah	15.79%	12
City of Menasha	0.00%	0
Town of Menasha	0.00%	0
Town of Clayton	1.32%	1
Town of Vinland	1.32%	1
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total		76

#	Other (please specify)	Date
	There are no responses.	

Q3 How old is the person filling out this survey?

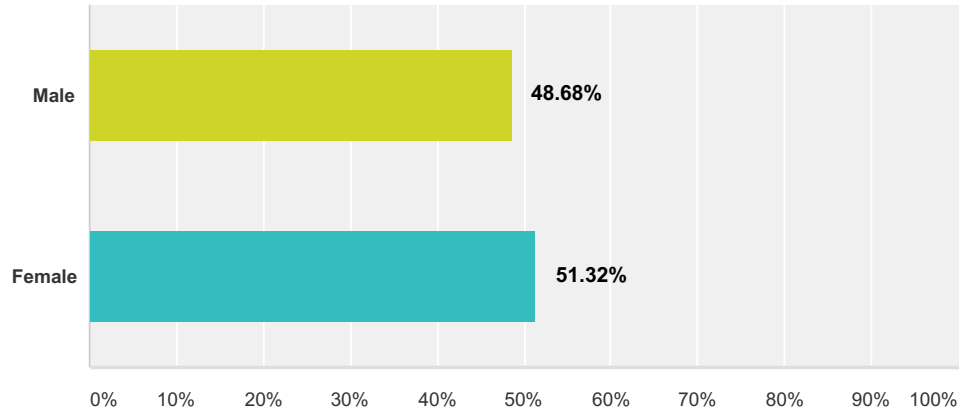
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 21	0.00% 0
21-30	5.26% 4
31-45	31.58% 24
46-60	34.21% 26
61-75	25.00% 19
76+	3.95% 3
Total	76

Q4 Are you male or female?

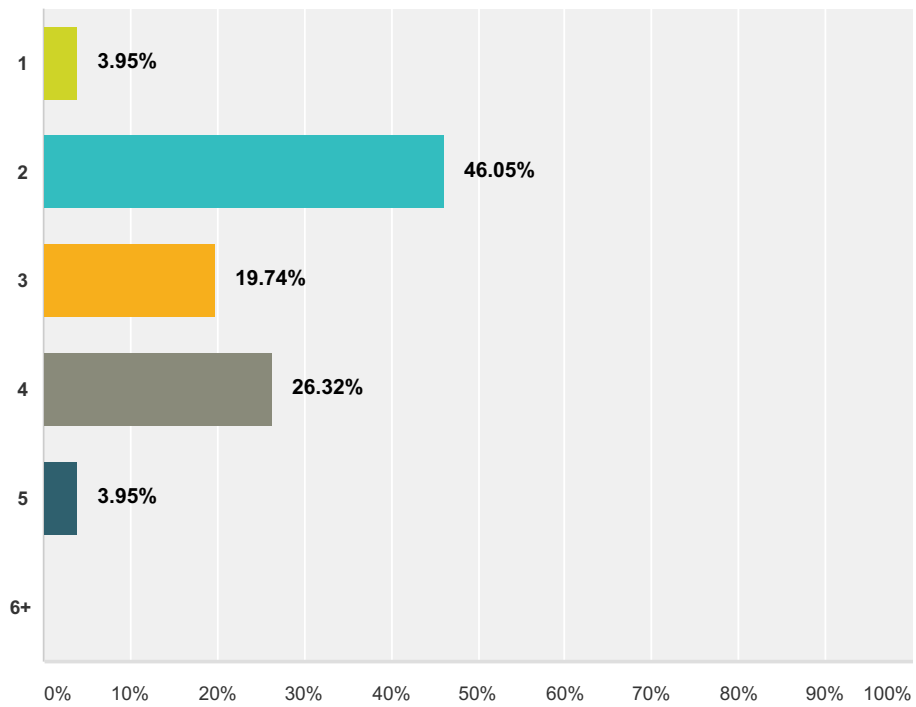
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Male	48.68% 37
Female	51.32% 39
Total	76

Q5 How many people reside in your household?

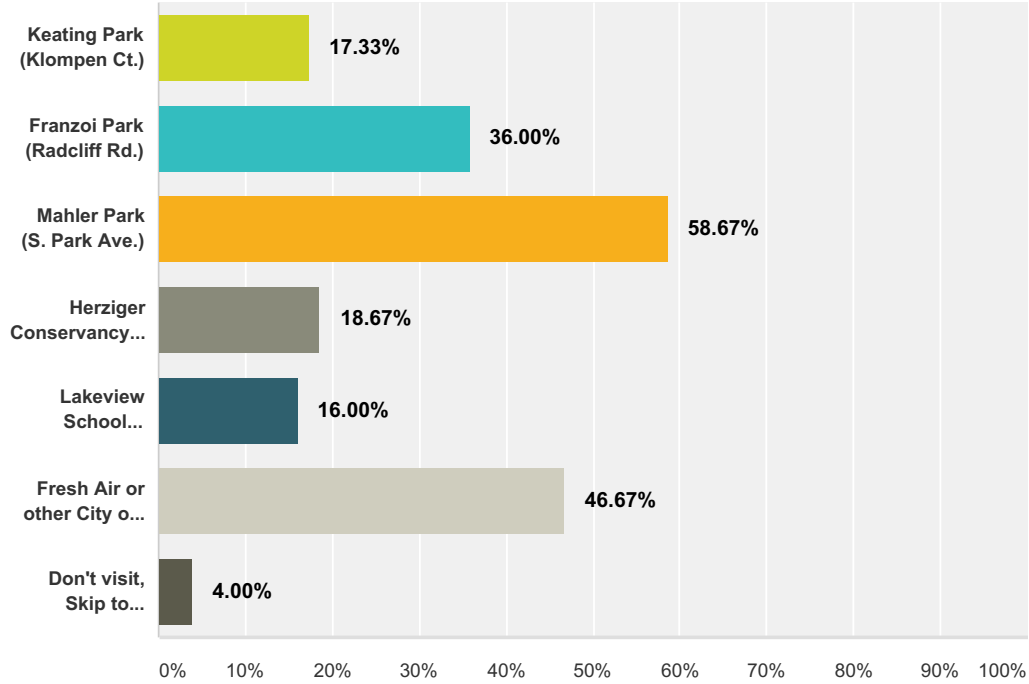
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
1	3.95%	3
2	46.05%	35
3	19.74%	15
4	26.32%	20
5	3.95%	3
6+	0.00%	0
Total		76

Q6 What parks or facilities in the Town of Neenah have you visited recently? Please mark all that apply.

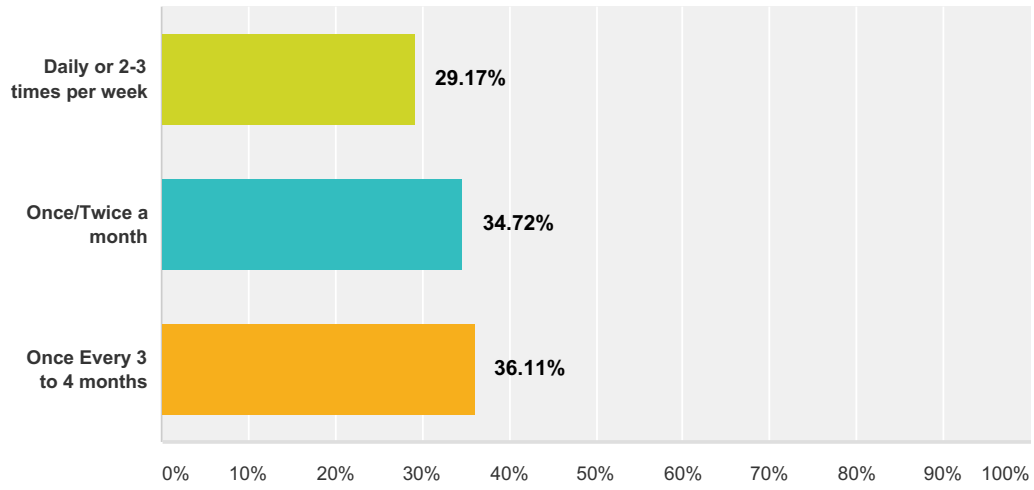
Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Keating Park (Klompen Ct.)	17.33%	13
Franzoi Park (Radcliff Rd.)	36.00%	27
Mahler Park (S. Park Ave.)	58.67%	44
Hertziger Conservancy Park (CTH A & S. Park Ave.)	18.67%	14
Lakeview School Playground CTH A	16.00%	12
Fresh Air or other City of Neenah Park	46.67%	35
Don't visit, Skip to Question 12	4.00%	3
Total Respondents: 75		

Q7 How often do you use the park facilities in the town?

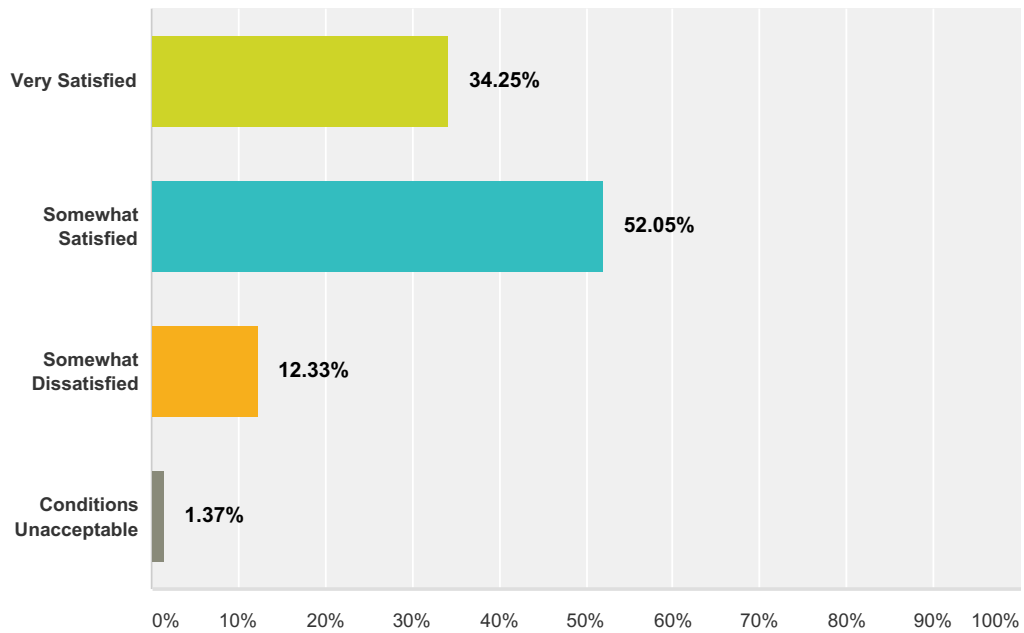
Answered: 72 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Daily or 2-3 times per week	29.17% 21
Once/Twice a month	34.72% 25
Once Every 3 to 4 months	36.11% 26
Total	72

Q8 What is your overall satisfaction with the condition of the parks you visit?

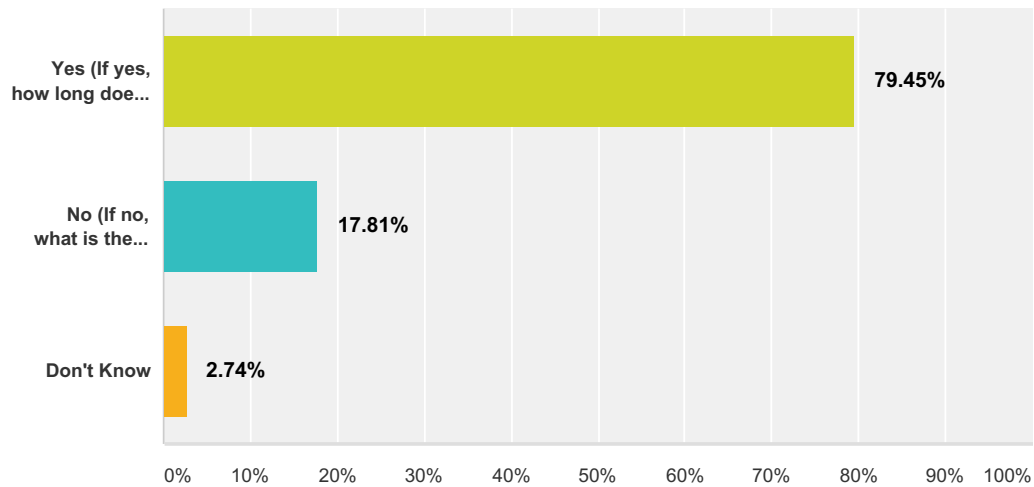
Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Very Satisfied	34.25%	25
Somewhat Satisfied	52.05%	38
Somewhat Dissatisfied	12.33%	9
Conditions Unacceptable	1.37%	1
Total		73

Q9 Currently, are you able to safely walk and/or bike to a park or recreational facility?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes (If yes, how long does it take?, Please specify below)	79.45% 58
No (If no, what is the barrier?, Please specify below)	17.81% 13
Don't Know	2.74% 2
Total	73

#	Time / Barrier?	Date
1	Do not have a sidewalk or path	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Absolutely nothing for kids in huge Nature Trails neighborhood	4/2/2016 6:00 PM
3	From our present home, it would be approx a 20 min bicycle ride to a park. It is safe for adults, NOT children. Too many busy roads	3/10/2016 5:00 PM
4	10 seconds to Franzoi	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
5	5 minutes	2/13/2016 9:38 PM
6	No safe paths/sidewalks to walk or bike to the park	2/1/2016 10:53 PM
7	Lack of bike lanes & sidewalks	2/1/2016 12:23 AM
8	Sidewalks was just added on Breezewood so unsure of time on bike. Will know when weather is nicer. Guessing an hour.	1/31/2016 9:03 PM
9	20+ minutes	1/31/2016 8:04 PM
10	Too far from our home to ride/walk with small kids	1/31/2016 4:50 PM
11	5 minutes to keating	1/31/2016 4:13 PM
12	5 minutes	1/31/2016 2:57 PM
13	About 20 mins.	1/31/2016 11:27 AM
14	10 minutes	1/31/2016 9:42 AM
15	3 minutes	1/31/2016 9:04 AM

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

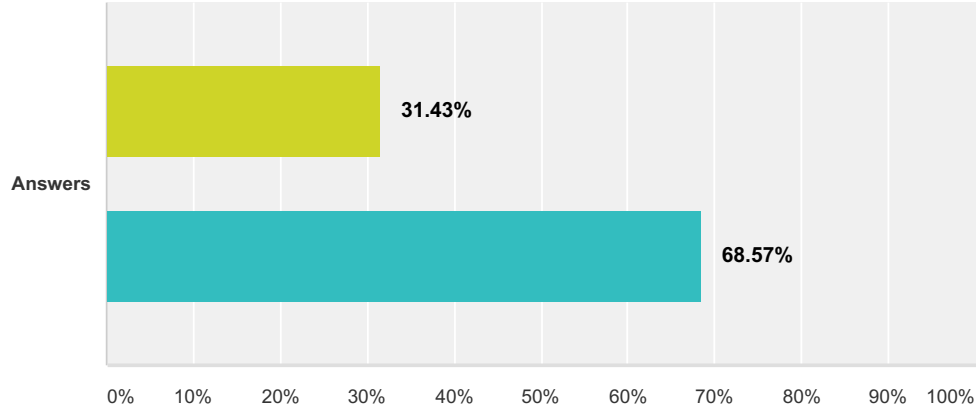
16	5 minutes	1/25/2016 3:06 PM
17	Living in a rural area, we are not comfortable biking on the street to town as high speeds. My husband does, but once was enough for me! We knew that coming out here almost 20 years ago and would not allow our children to ride bikes/walk to town. They now drive! Not complaining, just the way it is when rural and we knew that going in when we built out here!	1/25/2016 12:30 PM
18	South Park seems narrow to me	1/16/2016 4:08 PM
19	10 minutes	1/15/2016 10:40 AM
20	15 minutes.	1/14/2016 10:34 PM
21	Biking on G is dangerous for cyclists and drivers	1/14/2016 6:37 PM
22	20 min	1/14/2016 4:36 PM
23	less than 5 minutes	1/14/2016 9:30 AM
24	10 minutes	1/14/2016 8:44 AM
25	A few minutes	1/14/2016 6:59 AM
26	5 min walk	1/14/2016 6:49 AM
27	5 minutes to 1 hour depending on which park and if Im walking or biking.	1/13/2016 9:58 PM
28	2 to 10 min	1/13/2016 8:55 PM
29	3 minutes	1/13/2016 8:01 PM
30	Takes about 5-10 minutes biking or running	1/9/2016 7:15 PM
31	Walk time to Fresh Air park under 5 min.	1/5/2016 5:05 PM
32	5 minutes	1/5/2016 4:35 PM
33	Walk ~10minutes (when road isn't torn up for sewer repairs)	1/3/2016 8:10 PM
34	We live near two, walking to one is less than 10 minutes but we typically bike. We also drive because of the smaller grandchildren when we take them	1/3/2016 6:52 PM
35	5 min to walk there	1/1/2016 12:47 PM
36	Considerable distance to nearest park.	12/30/2015 1:13 PM
37	5 min.	12/30/2015 5:24 AM
38	One minute	12/27/2015 1:43 PM
39	45 min walk	12/25/2015 11:55 PM
40	5 -15 min. depending on which park	12/23/2015 12:41 AM
41	5 min.	12/22/2015 8:06 AM
42	5 minutes	12/21/2015 2:56 PM
43	last big rainstorm washed out the sand over and around the too-small culverts leading into the park on the east side. you can step over the water and ice, but not ride over it with a bike. this has happened before and will happen again because the culverts are too small and they get clogged with debris, which then causes the water to cut a path around the culverts	12/21/2015 11:21 AM
44	5 min.	12/20/2015 8:55 PM
45	Terrible trails to walk, bike, roller blade. Very dangerous to bring a stroller or wagon - especially Maple Lane	12/20/2015 5:01 PM
46	Road condition at Fresh Air Park is poor	12/20/2015 12:07 PM
47	Maple Lane was "upgraded" recently with a so called "bike lane". What a joke!! The town had the opportunity to do something special and dropped the ball. Take a tour of City of Neenah bike trails and get educated. Because of the width of the trail, these are constantly being used by both bikers and hikers alike	12/19/2015 4:25 PM
48	7 minutes by bike	12/18/2015 8:58 PM
49	Biking along CTH JJ to get to Keating park is not the best situation with children.	12/17/2015 11:49 AM
50	10 to 30 minutes	12/16/2015 12:49 PM

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

51	Keating Park is 2 minute walk. Franzoi Park is a 10 minute bike and the main barrier is getting across County JJ/Winneconne Ave from our court, which requires us to bike on JJ/Winneconne for a couple hundred feet.	12/11/2015 1:26 PM
52	5 minute walk	12/11/2015 11:27 AM
53	Under 5 minutes	12/7/2015 9:14 PM
54	2 minutes	12/7/2015 7:58 PM
55	10 minutes to bike to Conservancy	11/12/2015 2:30 PM

Q10 Do you feel the town should provide lighted sports fields for youth for sports after sundown?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 6

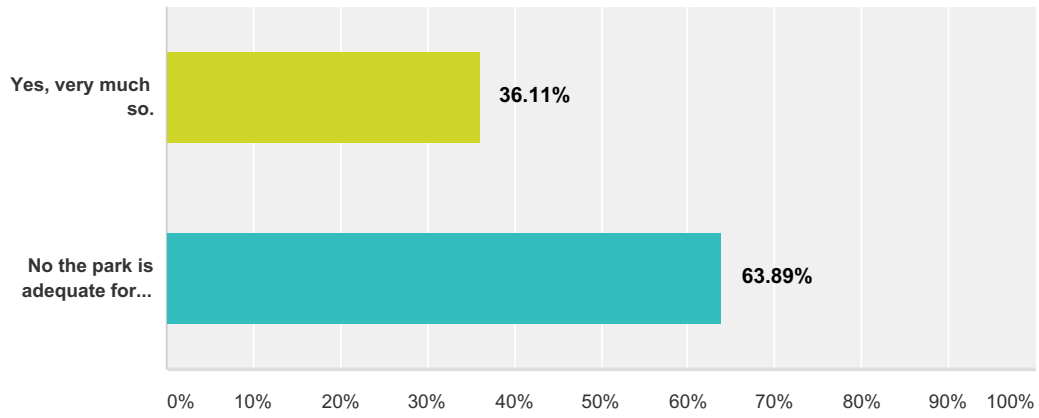


- Yes, the town should have their own facilities.
- No, adequate with additional city amenities nearby.

	Yes, the town should have their own facilities.	No, adequate with additional city amenities nearby.	Total	Weighted Average
Answers	31.43% 22	68.57% 48	70	1.69

Q11 Do the parks you visit need more or updated playground equipment?

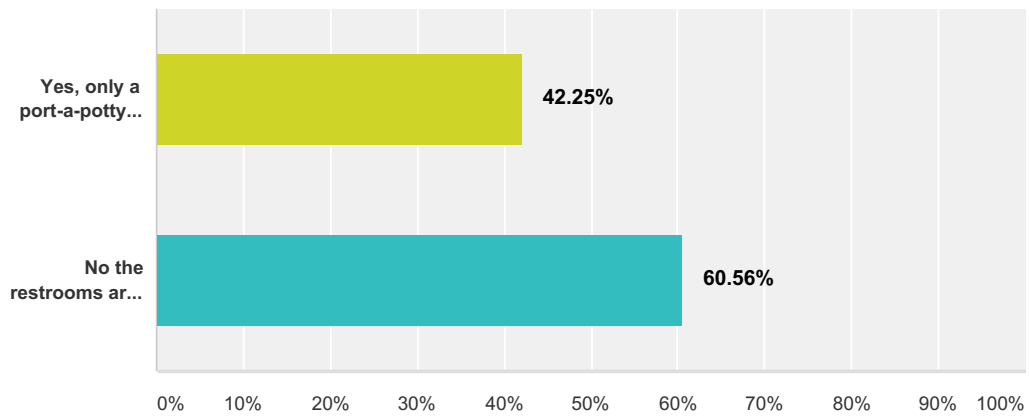
Answered: 72 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, very much so.	36.11% 26
No the park is adequate for my needs.	63.89% 46
Total Respondents: 72	

Q12 Do the parks you visit need to have a flush restroom facility on site?

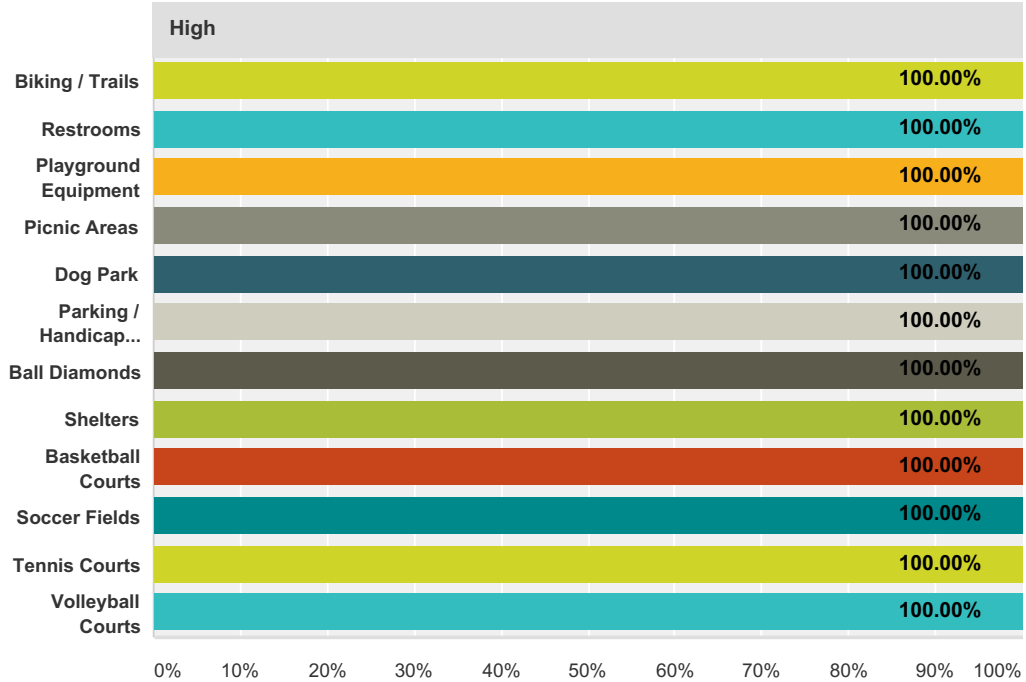
Answered: 71 Skipped: 5



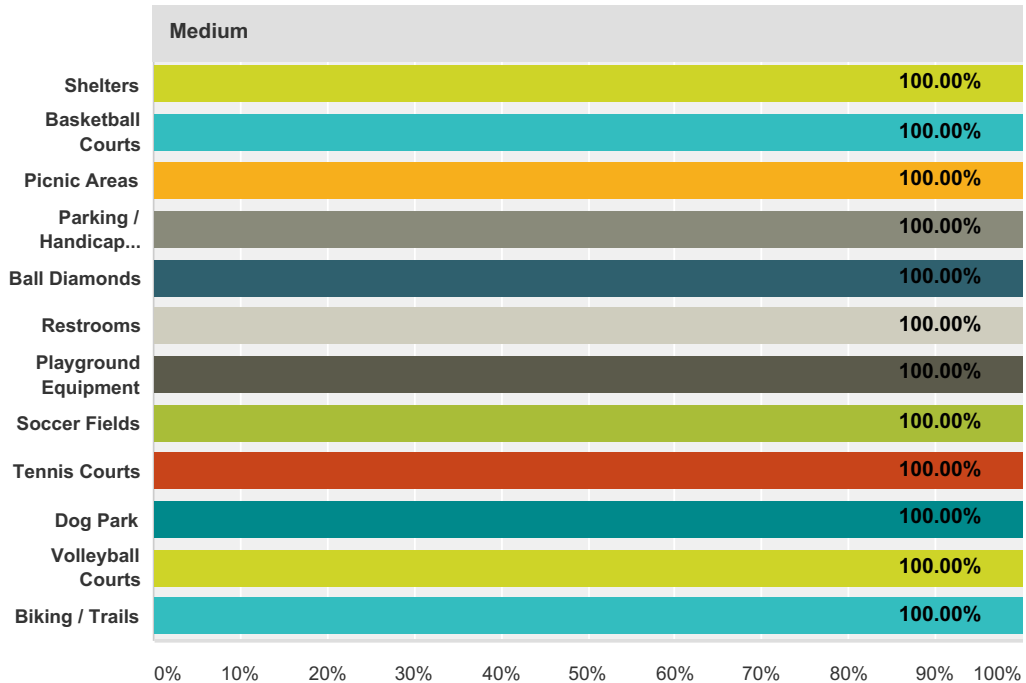
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, only a port-a-potty option exists.	42.25% 30
No the restrooms are adequate.	60.56% 43
Total Respondents: 71	

Q13 Please rank the following facilities according to priority of what is important for long range planning:

Answered: 69 Skipped: 7

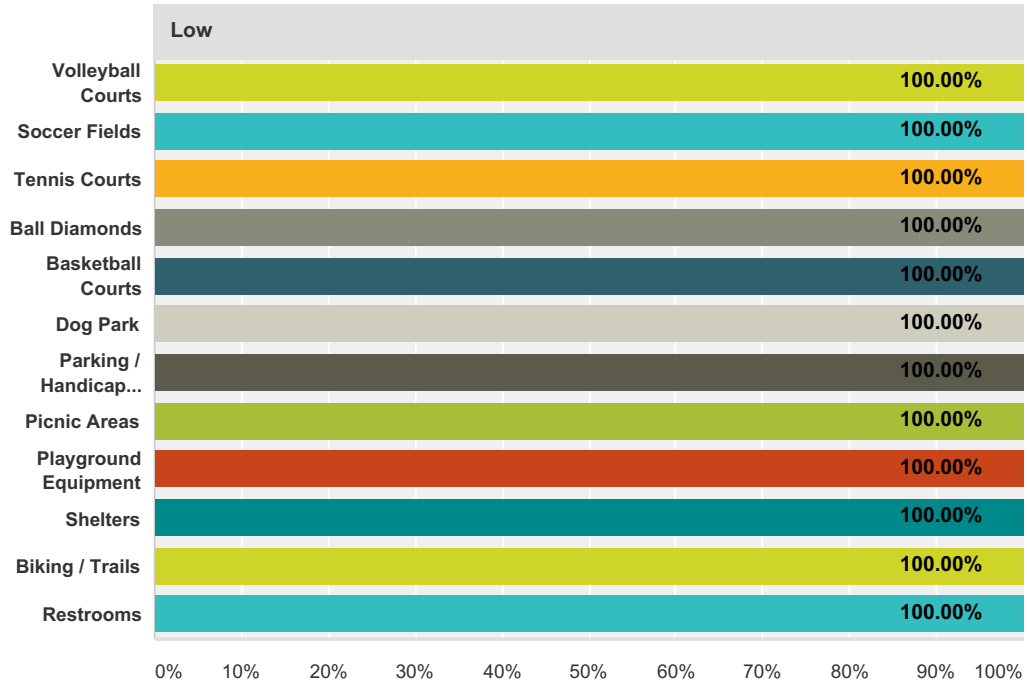


High

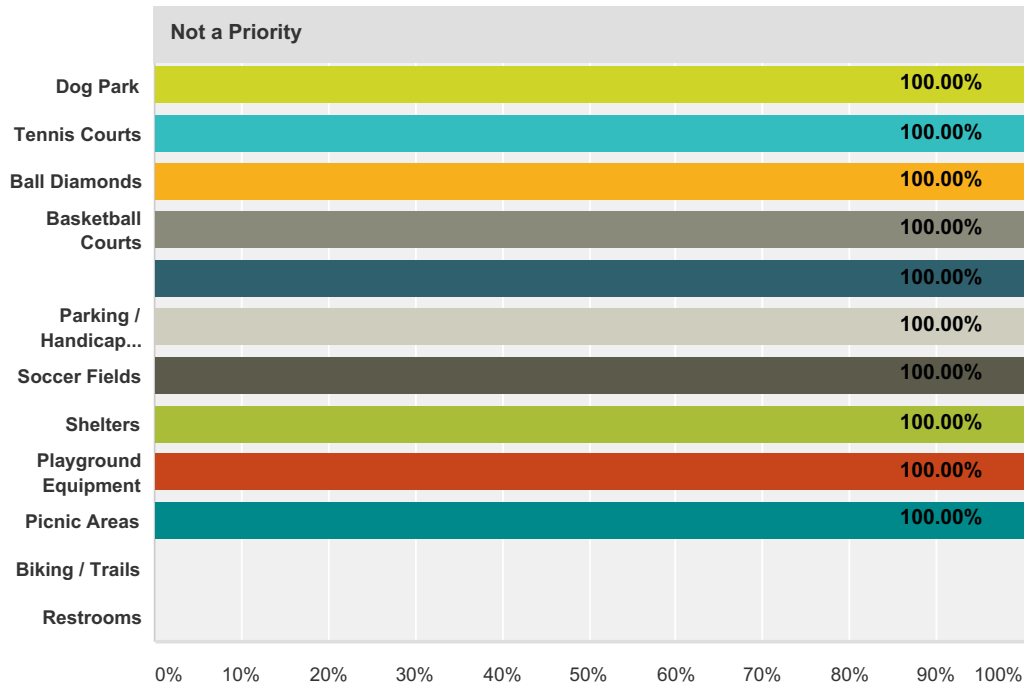


Medium

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020



Low



Not a priority

High		
	High	Total
Biking / Trails	100.00%	48
	48	48

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

Restrooms	100.00%	35	35
Playground Equipment	100.00%	31	31
Picnic Areas	100.00%	17	17
Dog Park	100.00%	14	14
Parking / Handicap Accessible	100.00%	11	11
Ball Diamonds	100.00%	9	9
Shelters	100.00%	9	9
Basketball Courts	100.00%	6	6
Soccer Fields	100.00%	6	6
Tennis Courts	100.00%	3	3
Volleyball Courts	100.00%	2	2
Medium			
	Medium		Total
Shelters	100.00%	42	42
Basketball Courts	100.00%	31	31
Picnic Areas	100.00%	31	31
Parking / Handicap Accessible	100.00%	27	27
Ball Diamonds	100.00%	25	25
Restrooms	100.00%	25	25
Playground Equipment	100.00%	23	23
Soccer Fields	100.00%	23	23
Tennis Courts	100.00%	20	20
Dog Park	100.00%	17	17
Volleyball Courts	100.00%	16	16
Biking / Trails	100.00%	14	14
Low			
	Low		Total

Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

Volleyball Courts	100.00%	35	35
Soccer Fields	100.00%	28	28
Tennis Courts	100.00%	27	27
Ball Diamonds	100.00%	19	19
Basketball Courts	100.00%	17	17
Dog Park	100.00%	17	17
Parking / Handicap Accessible	100.00%	16	16
Picnic Areas	100.00%	13	13
Playground Equipment	100.00%	9	9
Shelters	100.00%	9	9
Biking / Trails	100.00%	6	6
Restrooms	100.00%	6	6

Not a Priority			
	Not a priority		Total
Dog Park	100.00%	18	18
Tennis Courts	100.00%	14	14
Ball Diamonds	100.00%	12	12
Basketball Courts	100.00%	11	11
Volleyball Courts	100.00%	11	11
Parking / Handicap Accessible	100.00%	8	8
Soccer Fields	100.00%	8	8
Shelters	100.00%	6	6
Playground Equipment	100.00%	4	4
Picnic Areas	100.00%	3	3
Biking / Trails	0.00%	0	0

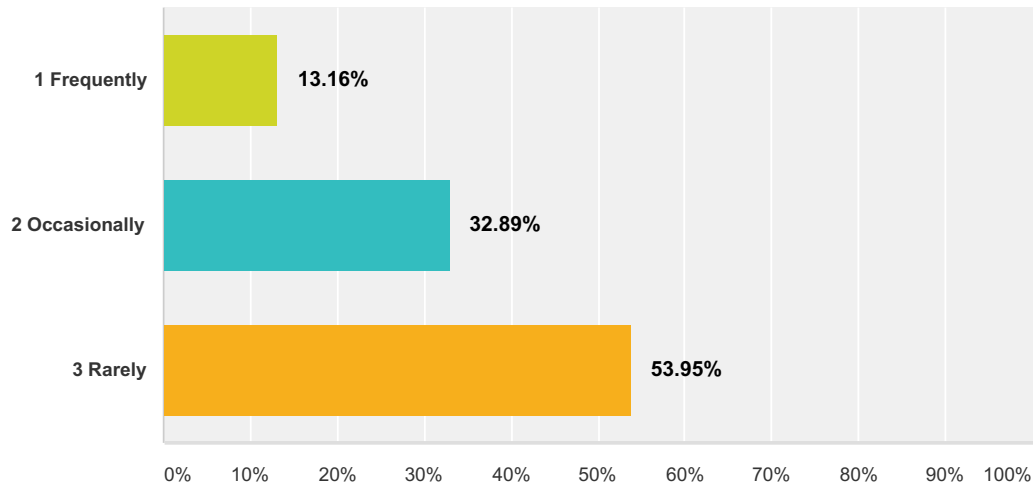
Town of Neenah Parks 2016-2020

Restrooms	0.00%	0
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#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Running trails	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Exercise stations for ages 8 - 16	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
3	I would love safe and fun place for my 98 lb dog to run free!!	1/31/2016 5:06 PM
4	Outdoor workout equipment	1/31/2016 2:57 PM
5	Seats for hikers taking a break (us older folk)	1/31/2016 11:27 AM
6	Don't forget wildlife!	1/25/2016 3:06 PM
7	My son use to play baseball on the town fields...fields needed repair/fencing, worked with NBI to do some of the improvements in a collaborative fashion, but lights, although would be nice, not a priority for just a few games. My children are older now, so we don't use the facilities as often as we may have a few years ago...	1/25/2016 12:30 PM
8	Many Neenah properties are located at a low elevation. Hockey is an important activity to the community, please consider an outdoor facility.	1/3/2016 8:41 PM
9	We absolutely love the trestle trail	1/3/2016 6:52 PM
10	walking/jogging trails	12/25/2015 11:55 PM
11	Naturalized areas, or areas left in their natural state for wildlife and normal water absorption.	12/23/2015 12:41 AM
12	the access road to Keating Park needs to be gated off for the winter. too many people use it as a trash dump, which forces the local residents using the park to pick up their trash.	12/21/2015 11:21 AM
13	I would like to see a paved trail around Franzoi Park	12/20/2015 8:55 PM
14	Make the Town of Neenah a biking destination with an upgrade of biking trails on the street. Right now it doesn't feel safe. I won't let my kids use the "bike path" on Maple Lane	12/19/2015 4:25 PM
15	It would be great to have more some benches especially at Mahler park. A place to rest, visit or just enjoy the outdoors for young and old. Picnic tables and grills are always a asset. Families could spend the day at the park. I would like to mention dogs in the parks. I am a dog lover but to often the owners are not picking up the waste. In the spring I took my grandson to Mahler Park and had to avoid dog dodo with every step. It would be nice to have this addressed some way.	12/16/2015 12:49 PM

Q14 On a scale from 1 to 3, how often would you use a sports complex if it was built in the town? Frequently (1) to Rarely (3).

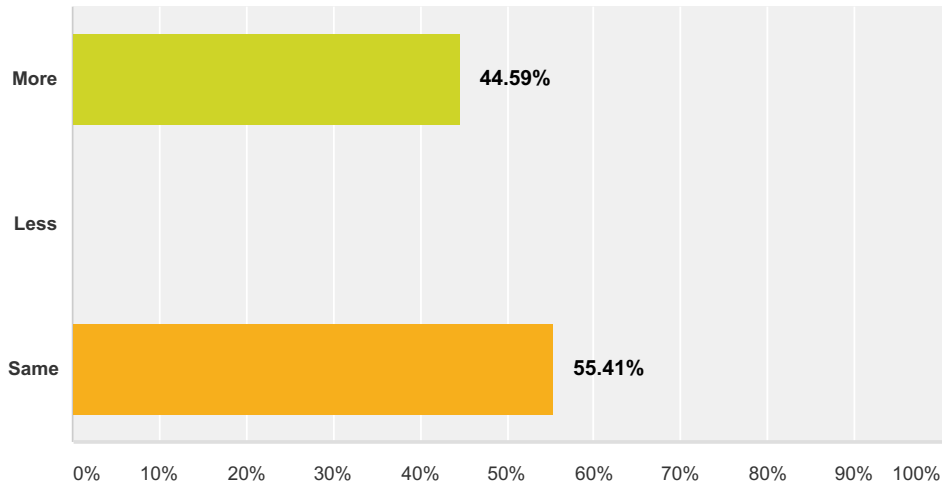
Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
1 Frequently	13.16%	10
2 Occasionally	32.89%	25
3 Rarely	53.95%	41
Total		76

Q15 If parks facilities were upgraded, would you use the park:

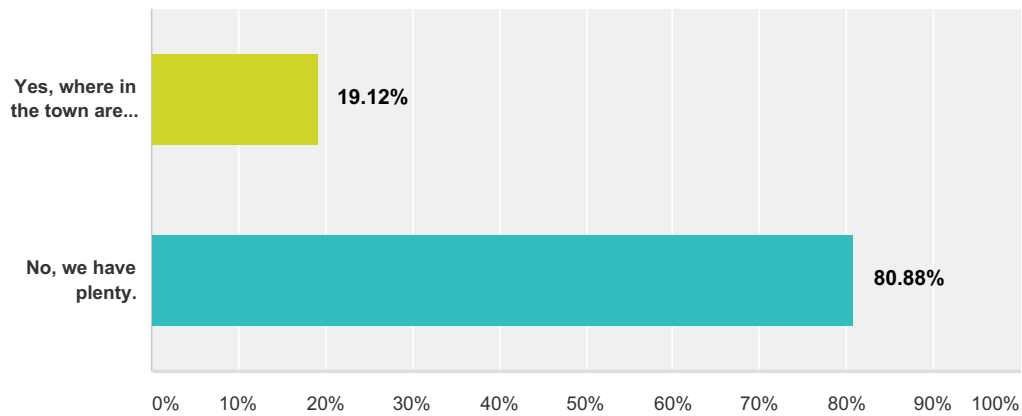
Answered: 74 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
More	44.59%	33
Less	0.00%	0
Same	55.41%	41
Total		74

Q16 Do you feel more parks are needed in the town?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, where in the town are they needed? (please respond below)	19.12% 13
No, we have plenty.	80.88% 55
Total	68

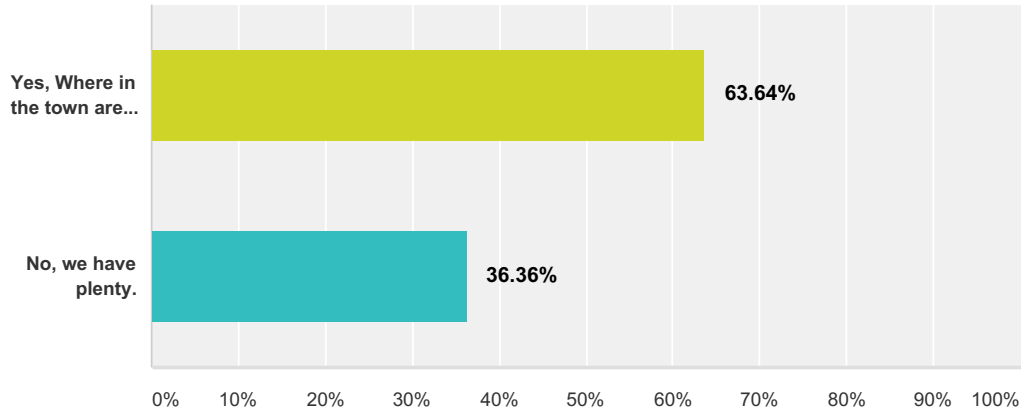
#	Yes, more parks are needed here in the town: (please specify)	Date
1	Some where along the lake, we have an amazing lake in the town it would it is a shame we do not have a swimming beach	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Nature Trails development!!	4/2/2016 6:00 PM
3	We need to maximize the facilities we have.	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
4	We have enough but some of the ones we do have would be used much more if they were upgraded and properly equipped.	2/13/2016 9:38 PM
5	Nature Trails sub	2/1/2016 12:23 AM
6	We have enough parks but the ball diamonds need to be better maintained.	1/31/2016 9:03 PM
7	A big dog park is needed with lots of walking trails!	1/31/2016 5:06 PM
8	Nature trails subdivision!!	1/31/2016 4:50 PM
9	There are plenty but in need of serious makeover.	1/31/2016 4:13 PM
10	I do think the parks are adequately spaced at this point.	1/31/2016 9:42 AM
11	The Town needs a boat access...suggest taking over Fresh Air Park from the City. The City really doesn't want it. Also consider improving the Town owned lot on Rainbow Beach Road.	1/14/2016 10:28 AM
12	west and south	1/14/2016 8:44 AM
13	Public space in the community adds burden to the tax roll, but public space adds opportunity to the residents to provide communal opportunity. Please consider the cost benefits related to this.	1/3/2016 8:41 PM
14	unsure	12/25/2015 11:55 PM
15	Land needs to be set aside for wildlife. Not every park needs to be "developed". Areas of every park should be left alone, as Nature can take care of things better than people can. Do not mow, or put up fences, lights, pavilions or trails in these areas. Designate a percentage of each park that is left natural. Definitely do not spray herbicides or pesticides as these hurt the wildlife. Try to preserve all wetlands in the Town	12/23/2015 12:41 AM

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16	If there are opportunities for additional park land then it should be investigated.	12/17/2015 11:49 AM
17	somewhere on the southwest side of the town in the hwy G and wooden shoe area	12/12/2015 9:12 PM
18	Focus on improving what we have more so than creating more locations. Unless there is significant request or another location elsewhere within the town.	12/11/2015 1:26 PM

Q17 Do you feel more trails are needed?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, Where in the town are they needed? (please respond below)	63.64% 42
No, we have plenty.	36.36% 24
Total	66

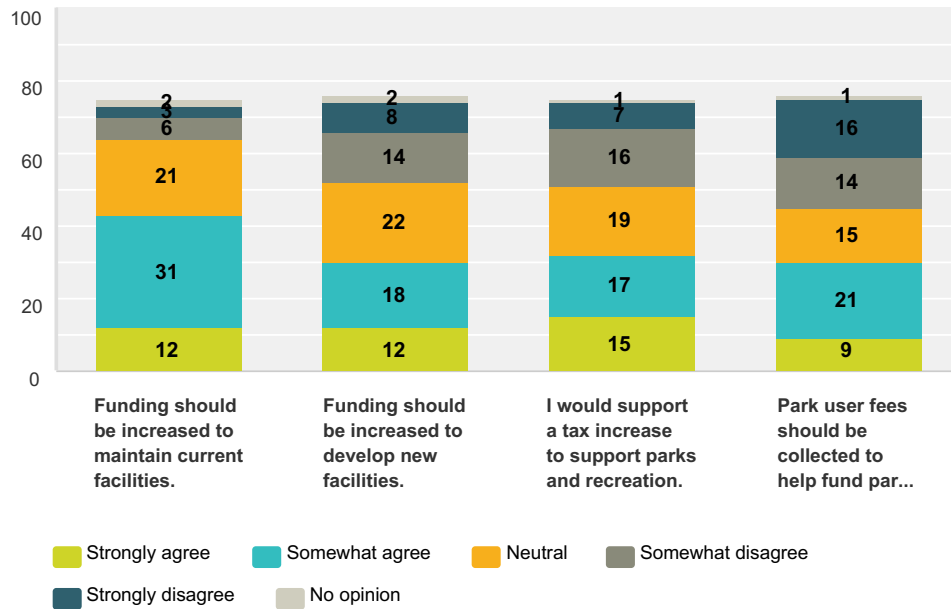
#	Yes, more trails are needed here: (please specify)	Date
1	Finish the trail on South Park	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Larsen Road, Breezewood and JJ	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
3	Nature trails sub	2/1/2016 12:23 AM
4	Trails are always needed to allow for travel other than by car!	1/31/2016 9:03 PM
5	Make it easier to access parks for some residents.	1/31/2016 8:04 PM
6	Ones that allow trained dogs off leash!	1/31/2016 5:06 PM
7	Nature trails subdivision	1/31/2016 4:50 PM
8	connect current trails and pursue newer ones to link parks/neighborhoods	1/31/2016 2:57 PM
9	not sure	1/31/2016 2:48 PM
10	From Franzoi to Keating City of Neenah to CB	1/28/2016 8:12 AM
11	Be nice to link all the various bike trails together. Upgrade friendship trail from CB to Wiouwash	1/25/2016 3:06 PM
12	Not sure if more needed or not, so no answer.	1/25/2016 12:30 PM
13	to hook up w/the other trails	1/15/2016 10:40 AM
14	Will have plenty with completed tressel trail 2nd phase	1/14/2016 7:08 PM
15	Not sure exactly where, but the need for safe bike trails is important.	1/14/2016 4:36 PM
16	west and south	1/14/2016 8:44 AM
17	Along city trunk A	1/13/2016 9:58 PM
18	We need trails where more people can walk and ride bikes; our country is obese. We need to make it easy for people to access trails.	1/5/2016 5:05 PM

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19	Our community is uniquely oriented to agricultural land, Lake Winnebago, Fox River, and Hwy 41; we should capitalize on this both for the well being of our municipalities residents but also for the economic benefits of the community.	1/3/2016 8:41 PM
20	Maybe we have enough trails but I have no idea where they are or the best way to access them.	1/3/2016 8:10 PM
21	It would give the town people and anyone else to have a safe place to walk, run or bike. It might even keep them off the private roads.	12/30/2015 5:24 AM
22	could definitely use more trails. would drive and park to use a good trail for running/walking/biking.	12/25/2015 11:55 PM
23	Can't say -- not sure what trails we now have. Possible periodic article for the town newsletter??	12/23/2015 9:32 PM
24	Try to mark roads with bike or trail lanes to link up parks and interesting areas, like a simple bench looking at the lake or a pond. Inform drivers that roads are not just for cars and trucks. Continue to develop separate trails off of roadways.	12/23/2015 12:41 AM
25	County Road G	12/22/2015 3:14 PM
26	From Mahler park to Herziger park and then south or west.	12/22/2015 8:06 AM
27	Franzoi Park and area in the vicinity of the park. There are no sidewalks for walking.	12/20/2015 8:55 PM
28	Along county G	12/20/2015 8:42 PM
29	maple Lane. The 20 inch "trail" that was added when the road was refinished was pathetic and a real missed opportunity. That road is very busy and very dangerous	12/20/2015 5:01 PM
30	Walking Trail or Path around Maple Lane, Hunters Point, Sunrise Bay, Yorkshire that ties into the City walking paths.....Great loop that many people walk dogs, bike, and jog around. Also fix road on Yorkshire and Hunters Point that are in the Town.	12/20/2015 12:07 PM
31	Along all major roads. Again, take a look at what the City of Neenah did and the use these trails get.	12/19/2015 4:25 PM
32	Any place that is available	12/18/2015 8:58 PM
33	Trails provide a safe way to get to school and parks. CTH JJ and Breezewood are busy roads that could use a trail. Oakridge is a nice country road to bike but is not the safest with children. Larsen Road west connects to the Town of Clayton Park. A trail along Larsen could be beneficial long term with connecting to the Town of Clayton.	12/17/2015 11:49 AM
34	Trails would be really nice along South Park, beginning just to the south of Maple Lane at least as far as Mahler Park.	12/16/2015 12:49 PM
35	Along JJ and down Breezewood to connect to CB Pendleton trails	12/11/2015 1:26 PM
36	A trail connecting the west side town of Neenah to the city of Neenah would help connect the communities and increase safety along those wanting to bike/walk along JJ or Breezewood.	12/11/2015 8:53 AM

Q18 Please identify your opinion for funding park and recreation facilities or programs.

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion	Total Respondents
Funding should be increased to maintain current facilities.	16.44% 12	42.47% 31	28.77% 21	8.22% 6	4.11% 3	2.74% 2	73
Funding should be increased to develop new facilities.	16.00% 12	24.00% 18	29.33% 22	18.67% 14	10.67% 8	2.67% 2	75
I would support a tax increase to support parks and recreation.	20.27% 15	22.97% 17	25.68% 19	21.62% 16	9.46% 7	1.35% 1	74
Park user fees should be collected to help fund parks and recreation.	12.16% 9	28.38% 21	20.27% 15	18.92% 14	21.62% 16	1.35% 1	74

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Live Music, farmers markets, flee market events to help raise money for parks	4/5/2016 7:29 PM
2	Money currently budgeted is covering current needs, funding should be increased at existing venues, a tax increase should be supported - where else could the money come from?>	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
3	I would support a small tax for support but not to make new parks	1/3/2016 6:52 PM
4	Put a fund raiser together, a raffle; perhaps a fund raising walk where people get pledges, to offset maintaining and updating the parks. Rental fees for shelter usage.	12/30/2015 5:24 AM
5	If an "expensive additions" were added (e.g. lighted ball field) then user fees would be appropriate.	12/23/2015 9:32 PM
6	I believe all park areas are a good investment for the Town. So, if a good parcel becomes available, especially a wetland or creek, at a reasonable price, the Town should purchase it. Too many wetlands have already been filled in and those valuable flood buffers are lost forever to subdivisions and developers. Many of these areas can be left in their natural state, therefor not needing constant maintenance. Not every park has to look like a mini-disneyland. Every dollar spent on developing a park means fewer birds and wildlife will reside there. So this is a way to gain some greenspace without extra taxes.	12/23/2015 12:41 AM

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7	Corporate Donations sought out... as well as increased tax to support	12/20/2015 12:07 PM
8	I'd be open to funding options/alternatives. I can understand that a tax increase may not be received with open arms depending on the funding amount needed. I am partial to a user fee or another use-based assessment/contribution.	12/11/2015 1:26 PM

Q19 Please provide any other comments to help us improve the parks and recreational services for the Town of Neenah.

Answered: 27 Skipped: 49

#	Responses	Date
1	Attempt to acquire adjacent parcels of land where possible so more development options are available. Encourage boys baseball/girls softball leaders to utilize Franzoi field more in 2016 vs. 2015. Strive for more input from that leadership on a monthly basis. Get younger sports people on the park and trails committee to succeed older members. (like myself) Such as dedicated walkers, joggers, soccer players, cyclists to improve the dynamics of the facilities and the committee. Jim Pawlowski	2/25/2016 8:45 AM
2	Keating park is very much under utilized. It could be used more for baseball but the field is really not maintained, has inadequate dug outs and no lights. The grassy areas are mowed periodically but not frequently enough to allow for competitive baseball games. In the early summer the park is a sea of dandelions and a haven for mosquitos. All of that said, maybe Keating is located too far from town, (or possibly for a host of other reasons) to be considered a viable sight for improved facilities to attract more use. I don't know the answers but I do support this effort by the town to investigate possibilities and make some informed decisions as to what parks should be further developed for what purpose! I just know that Keating gets used very little as is. In the summer it has a occasional baseball team practice presumably because every other field is being used. Then on a rare occasion, a little league game occurs at Keating. Beyond that, I don't see much use.	2/13/2016 9:38 PM
3	Please put in a dog park!!!!!! I would also love to see a community garden on pendelton	2/1/2016 12:23 AM
4	We (my family, 7 people) use the parks regularly. Play ground equipment, ball diamonds, trails. All are decent. Washington updates will help and give more exciting options, splash pad and updated facilities. Mahler needs to maintain the ball diamonds for use when leagues aren't playing. Families like mine like to play ball there, but we at times have had to pull weeds from the infield and rack just to be able to play. Lawn was so long it was difficult to find our baseballs. The lighthouse park is nice and has been recently up dated. Shattuck park is very nice for the family events that take place there. (If only we could have an area for the smokers to sit! That is awful to say but I have had to move several times during a concert to get out of the line of a smoker that plops down in front of me and my grandkids. I don't want them exposed to that! Neenah does a great job and I would like to thank all that work so hard! But this is my wish list!	1/31/2016 9:03 PM
5	consider upgrading some of the playground equipment and building some 'real' bathrooms.	1/31/2016 1:30 PM
6	Monarch Butterfly conservation area should be added at Franzoi Park Aerators for the pond need to be added at Herziger Park Trees and flower plantings should be added at all parks.	1/28/2016 8:12 AM
7	Focus on maintaining what exists.	1/14/2016 7:08 PM
8	I would like to see fines be levied against people that do not pick up after their dogs.	1/14/2016 4:36 PM
9	See above regarding Fresh Air and Rainbow Beach.	1/14/2016 10:28 AM
10	I think the town has enough parks, we just need to maintain them. More hiking and biking trails would be nice.	1/13/2016 9:58 PM
11	This is a very effective use of communication to provide grassroots input for the needs of the community. Thanks for providing the opportunity to provide input.	1/3/2016 8:41 PM
12	Spending money on lighted fields seems like a bad idea when these neighborhoods lack adequate streetlights and sidewalks to safely access those areas after dark anyway. The kids may not be able to get home safely if they were able to stay out in the parks after dark to play. I think the city of Neenah offers plenty of accessible playing fields. If anything, I think just making the public more aware of the park facilities offered and encouraging their use would be good. I don't know where any of the parks are other than the one in my immediate area and have only visited that one infrequently since it is small and full of mosquitos in the summer. I would like to see property along the CB bike trail being used for expansion of town park facility/facilities. Perhaps a cooperative arrangement with the owners of the wetland property on the northwest corner of CB/Oakridge to develop a series of educational trails that could be utilized by local schools and families or others seeking a break while biking along the trail - similar to Heckrodt wetland preserve in Menasha. It would also be great if the town could make it easier for cyclists and pedestrians to cross JJ where hwy CB ends. That might be outside the town influence, though.	1/3/2016 8:10 PM



APPENDIX B

S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

Town of Neenah Parks and Rec - Commissioners & Staff

S.W.O.T. Analysis Worksheet – Developing Sense of Place and Community
Engagement Exercise

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO! THINKING IS THANKING!

Strengths

What unique recreational resources does the Town have?
What is it like to live in the Town of Neenah? Why does it matter?



Mahler Park:

- Soccer Fields
- Ball Diamonds
- Shelter Building
- Parking Areas
- Basketball Court
- 2 Volleyball Courts
- Convenience to Residents
- Area / Location
- Trail Connections – CB
- Woods
- Quiet parks
- Parks reflect ruralness of township

Conservancy:

- Uniqueness

- Number of Parks – 4
- Wildlife Habitats
- Nature Feel on Urban Fringe
- Proximity to Water – Lake Winnebago



Weaknesses

What could the Town improve its parks, rec facilities, etc.?

Where do you have fewer facilities than your competition?

What are residents likely to see as recreational weaknesses, places voided or lacking?

More shelters needed – Only one is available in Mahler Park

Restrooms should be added to Keating and Franzoi

Upgrade the playground at Keating

Trail connections needed to link Keating and Franzoi Parks

Locations of Keating and Franzoi are hidden, sometimes hard to find by newer residents.

Need more parking at Mahler and Franzoi

The conservancy pond is not clean, aeration is needed

More signage of the trails and prairie is needed.

Marketing of the parks is needed

Why would I want to go to this park? – Destination Reasons

Conservancy trail expansion into the wooded areas

Ball diamond lighting at Mahler

Half basketball facilities needed at Keating and Franzoi

Funding



Opportunities

What recreational opportunities does the Town promote?
What recreational trends could you take advantage of?
What facilities/activities makes the Town of Neenah identifiable ?

Soccer and Baseball Tournament Promos

Create a possible disc golf course

The sledding hill is a great attraction

Promotion of the parks and marketing the shelters – programming and what the town has to offer

Educational markers at the conservancy, wildlife habitat and viewing

Water feature, possible splashpad

Ice rink

Bike maintenance station

Cater to the different age groups – outdoor fitness stations and playgrounds

Alcohol by permit – event hosting

Flower beds and landscaping

No smoking signs at the parks for healthy living / health conscience community

Social media draw and marketing

Website promos

Facebook Page

Sculpture garden to create a destination

Good picnic areas that can be expanded

Seasonal marketing, i.e. Christmas lights, etc...

Threats

What threats are harming the Town's recreational areas?

What is your competition doing better, i.e. Town of Menasha, Town of Greenville, City of Menasha, City of Neenah, etc. in their parks?

How are the Town's weaknesses being a threat to the parks and rec department?



No Staff to assist in improvements or lack of labor

Money / funding

Growth of nearby communities to annex parts of the township

Park system is disconnected, not linked very well

Vandalism because of the remoteness

Safety concerns exist

Service duplication of nearby communities – i.e. Neenah Pool, Ball Diamonds, Soccer fields, etc.

Does the town enforce a fee based facility such as a sports complex to bring in revenue?



APPENDIX C

GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

APPENDIX C: GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency	Contact
Wisconsin Stewardship Programs						
Acquisition of Development Rights	Acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and activities	\$1.6 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	Funds available for areas where restrictions on residential, commercial & industrial development May include enhancements of outdoor recreation	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	Acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$4 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required Priority for land acquisition Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121
Urban Greenspace Program (UGP)	Acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features	\$1.6 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	Acquire land, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities	\$800,000 available per yer 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)	Acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121
Recreational Trails Act (RTA)	Provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of non-motorized multi-trails	50% local match per project	May 1	Funds may only be used on trails identified in or that further a goal of a local, county or state plan Funds may be used on trails that are in SCORP a state park plan	WDNR	Chris Halbur, Northeast District 920-662-5121

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency	Contact
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes Streetscape improvements	Wisc. Dept. of Commerce	No Date	General downtown Program. May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping	National Main Street Center	Bureau of Downtown Development 608-266-7531
Surface Transportation Environment Cooperative Research Program	Evaluate transportation control measures. Improve understanding of transportation demand factors. Develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives	20% local match per project	No Date	Money available for: development of national bicycle safety education curriculum grants to a national not-for-profit organization engages in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of children to and from school by various transportation	FHWA	US Dept. of Transportation 202-366-4000
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness	\$1,000 to \$25,00 of grants awarded with a 50% local match	October 1	Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan, needing worker training, and needing to conduct a street tree inventory	WDNR Urban Forestry	Tracy Salisbury 2984 Shawano Ave Green Bay, WI 54313-6727 Phone: 920-662-5450 Fax: 920-662-5159 Email: Tracy.Salisbury@Wisconsin.gov

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency	Contact
Transportation Grants						
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	Provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Provides funding for rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures as well as "Main Streets"	Funded with TE-Map 21 21 20% required match	February	Not a grant program. 80% of funds are reimbursed if all federal guidelines are met. Project must relate to surface transportation. Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000	WisDOT	Tressie Kamp 608-266-3973 http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21
Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)	Provides flexible funds that can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway, bridges, transit facilities, and bike and pedestrian facilities	Funded with TE-Map 21 20% match required	February	Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists System-wide bicycle planning Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000	WisDOT	Tressie Kamp 608-266-3973
Safe Routes to School Grant Program (SRTS)	Intended to combat childhood obesity and reestablish walking and biking to school	Funded with TE-Map 21	December	Funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities Funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety and programs	WisDOT	Renee Callaway 608-266-3973
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; included intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations;	20% local match per project	Early Spring	Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis Congress reserves money each year Administration can pick the projects	WisDOT Bureau of Transit	Ron Morse 608-266-1650

Community Grants:

Wisconsin Community Fund: These are for non-profits groups.

<http://www.forwardci.org/wisconsin-community-fund>

<http://www.cfoxvalley.org/page.aspx?pid=873>

Sports Field Grants:

<https://www.responsiblesports.com/programs/grants/rules>

<http://www.hksportsfields.com/sports-complex-financing/>

Playground Grants:

<http://www.bciburke.com/grants.html>

<http://www.miracle-recreation.com/purchase-options/playground-grants.html>

[http://www.playlsi.com/Research-Plan/Playground-Planning/Financing/Playground-](http://www.playlsi.com/Research-Plan/Playground-Planning/Financing/Playground-Grants/Pages/Playground-Grants.aspx)

[Grants/Pages/Playground-Grants.aspx](http://www.playlsi.com/Research-Plan/Playground-Planning/Financing/Playground-Grants/Pages/Playground-Grants.aspx)

<http://korkatblog.com/playground-grants/>

<http://www.letsplay.com/get-involved/about-playground-grants?gclid=CJzZ2N792bgCFZA-Mgod6AsA6Q>

Educational: (Could be used for landscaping also)

<http://eeinwisconsin.org/core>

National: The National Parks and Recreation Association has fundraising ideas and resources along with grants for parks.

<http://www.nrpa.org/fundraising-resources/>

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