

**CITY OF WAUSAU**

**COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR**

**RECREATION PLAN**

**2010 - 2014**

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# **CITY OF WAUSAU COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to provide guidance to City staff and officials in the acquisition, development, and programming of parks, playgrounds, and special recreation areas throughout the City. To achieve this end, the plan focuses on the adequacy of existing facilities and the opportunities for future recreational facilities.

Following adoption of this report by the Common Council and approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wausau will qualify for various recreation and natural resources grant-in-aid programs from the State and Federal governments. The qualification period for these program aids will extend for five years from the date of adoption of the plan. These grant-in-aid programs are intended to assist local communities with the implementation of park improvement programs.

Physical planning issues are explored in two broad categories: Those with a primary impact on a neighborhood basis and those which are citywide in scope. Neighborhood planning was considered appropriate since most of the City's park facilities have been developed to focus on small neighborhood service areas. Citywide planning is required for the development of riverfront improvements, downtown enhancements, community parks, and sports complexes, all of which have received considerable public attention in recent years.

## **DEFINITIONS**

In order to more clearly understand this plan, it becomes necessary to define certain terms as they are used in the context of this report.

### **Passive Use Area**

An area primarily designed for picnicking, passive trail use (e.g., hiking), hunting, fishing, etc., and other non-organized recreation activities. This type of facility often emphasizes natural settings and de-emphasizes active recreation facilities.

### **Active Use Area**

An area designed primarily for organized or non-organized active recreation of one or more age groups. This type of design may have, as its primary feature, playfields, playground apparatus, ballfields, ball courts, or a combination thereof.

### **Land Based Recreation**

Those activities which can be participated in without the requirement of recreational water supply. Camping, hiking, picnicking, and field sports are examples of land based recreation.

### **Water Based Recreation**

Those activities requiring the availability of a recreational water supply. Swimming, fishing, boating, waterskiing, and ice skating are examples of water based recreation.

### **Service Areas**

The zone of influence of park or recreation service areas are usually determined by the average distance users are willing to travel to reach a facility. Although usually expressed in terms of service radius, it must be remembered that features such as major traffic arteries and rivers influence the distance users must travel. Also, a park or recreation area may be unique in the county or region and will therefore extend the zone of influence of that facility to the entire county or region. Where service areas are not influenced by the other factors, the zone of influence is generally considered as follows:

- Mini parks (tot lots)                      1/8 to 1/4 mile radius
- Neighborhood parks                      1/4 to 1/2 mile radius
- Community parks                      1 mile radius
- Single/special purpose park              encompasses entire municipality

### **Play Structure**

A play system which incorporates a variety of functions such as slides, climbing bars, suspended platforms, and railing interconnected in one unit. Structures are usually sized for preschool and elementary users with structure height and apparatus complexity being the determining criteria.

### **Urban Forestry**

Urban forestry is the establishment and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and turf on publicly owned land and the regulation of trees, shrubs, and turf on privately owned land within the community.

### **Environmental Corridor**

A defined area, usually oriented in a linear pattern along a river or lake, that contains a high concentration of environmentally significant features (plant species, wildlife, land forms, water features, etc.).

### **Multi-purpose Trail**

A recreational trail that affords a variety of uses to a wide segment of the community throughout the year (e.g. hiking, bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, etc.). Multi-purpose trail systems typically contain barrier free, hard surface segments that are handicap accessible.

### **Open Play Area**

Large turf area usable for a variety of organized or unorganized field sports, such as softball, soccer, football, frisbee, etc.

### **Municipal Parks**

Municipal parks are designed primarily to serve residents within the municipal boundary. There are six specific municipal park types.

### **Mini-Parks - Tot Lots**

Mini-parks provide open space for passive and some active recreation opportunities within a limited walking distance of primary users. The service area is confined to a sub-neighborhood level from 250-1250 persons within a 1/8 mile radius. Average area size ranges from 1000 sq. ft. to one acre.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and passive short-term recreation activities. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of one-quarter mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood

park serves from 500 to 2500 population. Neighborhood parks commonly range from 5-10 acres in size.

### **Sub-neighborhood Parks**

Sub-neighborhood parks are mini-parks that exhibit several characteristics of neighborhood parks, but have restrictions that preclude them from being classified as bona-fide neighborhood parks. Sub-neighborhood parks are usually one to two acres in size and have some recreation facilities typically found in neighborhood parks. These facilities usually attract park users from a one-quarter to one-half mile service radius and therefore have a higher utilization rate.

### **Community Parks**

This type of park is designed to serve several neighborhoods while minimizing park travel distance. Though community parks are designed to accommodate all age groups, most activities cater to the active recreation needs of junior/senior high school students and adults. Although size is not always a sound criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that community parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. Community parks have an effective service radius of 1 mile and can serve from 2500 to 20,000 population. Most community parks have an average size of between 20-35 acres.

### **Urban Greenspace/Open Space Parks/Conservancy Parks**

In addition to providing numerous recreational experiences, these types of parks can protect environmental quality and act as land use buffers. They also help break up development congestion and provide aesthetic quality. Most Urban Greenspace/Open Space Parks contain natural areas such as woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, rock outcroppings, and scenic views. Though no set standard exists, several communities use a ratio of 1 acre/1000 population as a basis to project community demand.

### **Single/Special Purpose Park Facilities**

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features which are unique to the municipality. Examples of this type of facility include children=s zoos, marinas, fairgrounds, and historical features to mention a few. Due to the varying degree of features these types of parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. Often the service area of this type of park includes the entire municipality and is sometimes regional as well. No average park size or service area exists.

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

This plan was developed under the direction of the City of Wausau Park and Recreation Committee. Public input was generated through a series of public meetings and a random survey. Public review of the draft plan was solicited from user groups and the general public. The final plan was approved by the City of Wausau Park and Recreation Committee and adopted by the City of Wausau Common Council (see Appendix D). To ensure that this plan continues to address the needs of the citizens of the City of Wausau and the direction of elected officials, amendments to this plan can be made as recommended by the City of Wausau Park and Recreation Committee and approved by the City Council.

In the process of preparing this plan, several local documents related to park and recreational facilities in the City of Wausau were consulted including: City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan, 2006.

City of Wausau Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, City of Wausau, 2003.

Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wausau/Marathon County Park Department, 2007.

Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan 20-Year Planning and Implementation Guide, January 2009.

The most recent City of Wausau Park and Recreation Plan was completed in 2003 and expires in 2008. Following is a list of accomplished action plan items of the 2003 plan.

### **2003 - 2008 C.O.R.P. Accomplishments**

#### **I. City Wide Action Items**

##### **1. Financial**

- a. Define appropriate user fees for programs and facility use.
  - Swimming pool fees have been brought in line with local and state averages.
- b. Dispose of surplus properties
  - Brisbane Court Park and Kelly Park were disposed of.

#### **II. Acquisition and Development**

##### **1. Identify and include in City official map potential park land acquisition in future growth areas.**

- Two future park locations have been identified on the outskirts of the City. One northeast of the City and one northwest of the City.

##### **2. Coordinate with City Engineering the identification and development of pedestrian access ways.**

-The department has coordinated with City Engineering to provide for pedestrian access way at the following subdivisions Fountain Hills, Vistas at Greenwood Hills, Hidden Valley, and the Woodlands.

I. Neighborhood Action Items

1. Grant Neighborhood

a. Pave Parking at Reservoir Park

- The parking lot at Reservoir Park was paved in 2007.

2. Thomas Jefferson Neighborhood

a. Development of River Edge Trail

- Considerable progress has been made in acquiring an easement from Marathon Electric Corporation.

b. Dispose of Brisbane Court Park

- Brisbane Court Park was sold to adjacent landowners in 2006.

c. Replace ball diamond bleachers at Scholfield Park.

- Bleachers were replaced in 2003.

3. Hawthorn Hills Neighborhood

a. Development of the 400 Block of South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

- Plans for development of the 400 Block are near completion by Becher Hoppe Associates/Damon Farber.

b. Dispose of Kelly Park

- Kelly Park was sold in 2008.

c. Replace bleachers at Oak Island Park

- Bleachers were replaced in 2003.

d. Enlarge Junior League baseball parking lot at Oak Island Park.

- The Junior League parking area was expanded from 20 to 32 parking stalls in 2004.

e. Construct off street parking at Oak Island tennis courts.

- A 16 stall parking lot was constructed at the Oak Island tennis courts in 2005.

f. Reconstruct the Oak Island boat launch parking.

- The Oak Island parking lot was reconstructed in 2008.

g. Replace bleachers at Oak Island Park.

- Bleachers were replaced at Oak Island Park Junior League and Minor League ball diamonds in 2003.

4. John Marshall Neighborhood

- a. Replace bleachers at Airport Park
    - Bleachers were replaced in 2003.
  - b. Replace Bleachers at Memorial Park
    - Bleachers were replaced in 2003.
5. Riverview Neighborhood
- a. Replace bleachers at Athletic Park
    - Bleachers were replaced with stadium seating in 2003.
  - b. Replace infield fencing at Athletic Park
    - Infield fencing was replaced with sports netting in 2008.
  - c. Acquire and improve off street parking at Athletic Park.
    - A temporary agreement was negotiated in 2008 with a private landowner to allow for off street parking north of Athletic Park.
  - d. Rebuild tennis courts at Forest Park.
    - Forest Park tennis courts were rebuilt in 2004.
  - e. Replace bleachers at Boileau Field.
    - Bleachers were replaced in 2003.
6. Stettin Neighborhood
- a. Construct second parking lot at Brockmeyer Park.
    - A second parking lot with 78 stalls was constructed at Brockmeyer Park in 2006.
7. Wausau West Neighborhood
- a. Vacate Brady Street Park
    - The Brady Street property was vacated in 2005 and sold to a local housing developer.
  - b. Initial development of Wausau West area neighborhood park
    - Westview Park in the Wausau West area neighborhood was developed in 2006/2007.

## **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WAUSAU**

### **General**

Wausau is the county seat of Marathon County located in north central Wisconsin. The City of Wausau covers 18.27 square miles. The City is situated at the convergence of Interstate Highway 39 and State Highway 29.

### **Topography**

The topography of Wausau is generally hilly. The City is bisected by the lower lying Wisconsin River valley. Elevations range from a high of 1,498 feet to a low of 1,158 feet.

### **Water Resources**

The Wisconsin River flows through Wausau forming Lake Wausau at the City's southern boundary. The Rib River flows into Lake Wausau from the west, and the Eau Claire River flows into Lake Wausau from the east. Wausau shares the Lake Wausau shorelines with the City of Schofield, the Village of Rothschild, and the Town of Rib Mountain.

### **Climate**

The climate of Wausau is classified as continental. Extreme temperatures can range from the low 100's in summer to below minus 30° in the winter. Annual average temperatures fall between 42° and 46° Fahrenheit. Average precipitation is 32.76 inches, with seasonal snowfall between 50 and 60 inches.

Annually, the last spring freeze typically occurs mid-May, and the first freeze of fall is in late September. Prevailing winds are from the northwest in winter and from the south in summer.

### **Soils**

The soils in the vicinity of Wausau are primarily derived from the weathering of glacial drift, outwash, and bedrock. The predominant soil type in Wausau is Mahtomedi loamy sand. These soils are reddish brown sands low on fertility and droughty. In Wausau, bedrock is close to the surface and in many cases forms outcrops.

### **Flora and Fauna**

The native vegetation of the Wausau area is consistent with a Mixed Northern forest. Major tree species include: maple, basswood, aspen, and pine. Commonly seen wildlife are: whitetail deer, ruffed grouse, songbirds, small mammals, and an occasional black bear. Game fish include: muskellunge, northern pike, bass, walleye, and panfish.

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WAUSAU

### Size

The population of the City of Wausau according to the 2000 census is 38,426 making Wausau the 18<sup>th</sup> largest city in the State of Wisconsin.

### Population Trends and Projections

Population change since 1950 for the City of Wausau is shown on the following table.

Year	Population	Change	% of Change
1950	30,386	3,118	11.43%
1960	31,943	1,557	5.12%
1970	32,806	863	2.70%
1980	32,426	-380	-1.16%
1990	37,060	4,634	14.29%
2000	38,426	1,366	3.69%
2008 Est.	40,360	9,356	5.0%
Source-US Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration			

For the time period 1990 to 2000, the City of Wausau experienced a growth of 3.69%; Marathon County and the State of Wisconsin experienced growth rates of 9.04% and 9.6% respectively. This growth is consistent with trends from 1950 to the present, with the growth of Wausau at 26%, Marathon County at 57%, and the State at 56%.

Population projections for the City of Wausau, Marathon County, and the State of Wisconsin are shown on the following table.

	Actual 2000	2010	2020
City of Wausau	38,426	39,813	41,154
Marathon County	125,834	134,504	143,308
State of Wisconsin	5,363,715	5,751,470	6,110,878
Source-US Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration			

### Ethnic Background

The racial/ethnic background of the City of Wausau is predominantly white. Changes in racial/ethnic of the City of Wausau background since 1980 are indicated on the following table.

	White	Black	American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander	Other
<b>1980</b>	98.8%	.07%	.44%	.20%	.49%
<b>1990</b>	93.05%	.13%	.70%	5.98%	.14%
<b>2000</b>	85.91%	.54%	.59%	11.45%	1.51%

The minority population of Wausau has grown steadily over the last 20 years with the Asian and Pacific Islander population increasing most rapidly. It is important to note that while 11.45% of the City's overall population is Asian and Pacific Islander in the 19 years and younger age group, Asian and Pacific Islander account for 23.7% of the population.

### Age Distribution

The age distribution of the City of Wausau residents compared to that of Marathon County and the State of Wisconsin is indicated on the following table.

Age Group	City of Wausau		Marathon County		State of Wisconsin	
	Number of People	% of Total	Number of People	% of Total	Number of People	% of Total
Under 5 years old	2,394	6.23%	8,098	6.44%	342,340	6.38%
5-19	8,506	22.14%	29,143	23.16%	1,189,753	22.18%
20-24	2,526	6.57%	6,799	5.40%	357,292	6.66%
25-44	10,563	27.49%	37,170	29.54%	1,581,690	29.49%
45-54	4,821	12.55%	17,471	13.88%	732,306	13.65%
55-59	1,679	4.37%	6,048	4.81%	252,742	4.71%
60-64	1,355	3.53%	4,784	3.80%	204,999	3.82%

Age Group	City of Wausau		Marathon County		State of Wisconsin	
	Number of People	% of Total	Number of People	% of Total	Number of People	% of Total
65 and over	6,582	17.13%	16,321	12.97%	702,553	13.10%

Source-US Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Based upon a comparison of 2000 census data, the City’s population is slightly older than that of Marathon County and the State of Wisconsin. Wausau has a much higher percentage of its population in the 65 years old and over age group than either the County or the State. Over 17% of the City’s population is over 65, compared to 13% for the remainder of Marathon County, and 13.1% for the State. At the other end of the age profile, Wausau has only a slightly lower percentage (28.4%) of its population in the less than 20 years old age group than Marathon County (29.6%) and the State (28.6%).

**Economy**

To evaluate the economy of the City of Wausau, much of the information and forecasts for Marathon County must be utilized since a county is often the smallest area for which economic information is available. Since the City of Wausau is such an important part of the County’s overall economy, much of the employment and income growth projected for the county should occur in the city.

Data generated by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development indicates that manufacturing continues to be the largest employment industry in the county, with over 25% of non-farm workers employed in manufacturing industries. The second leading employment sector is the education, health and social services industry, with about 19% of the labor force working in service jobs. Somewhat behind is the retail trade industry, with about 13% of the total jobs.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Existing outdoor recreation facilities for each of Wausau's nine neighborhood service areas are listed below. City, County, and School District facilities are included in this inventory. (See service area boundaries map, page 17.)

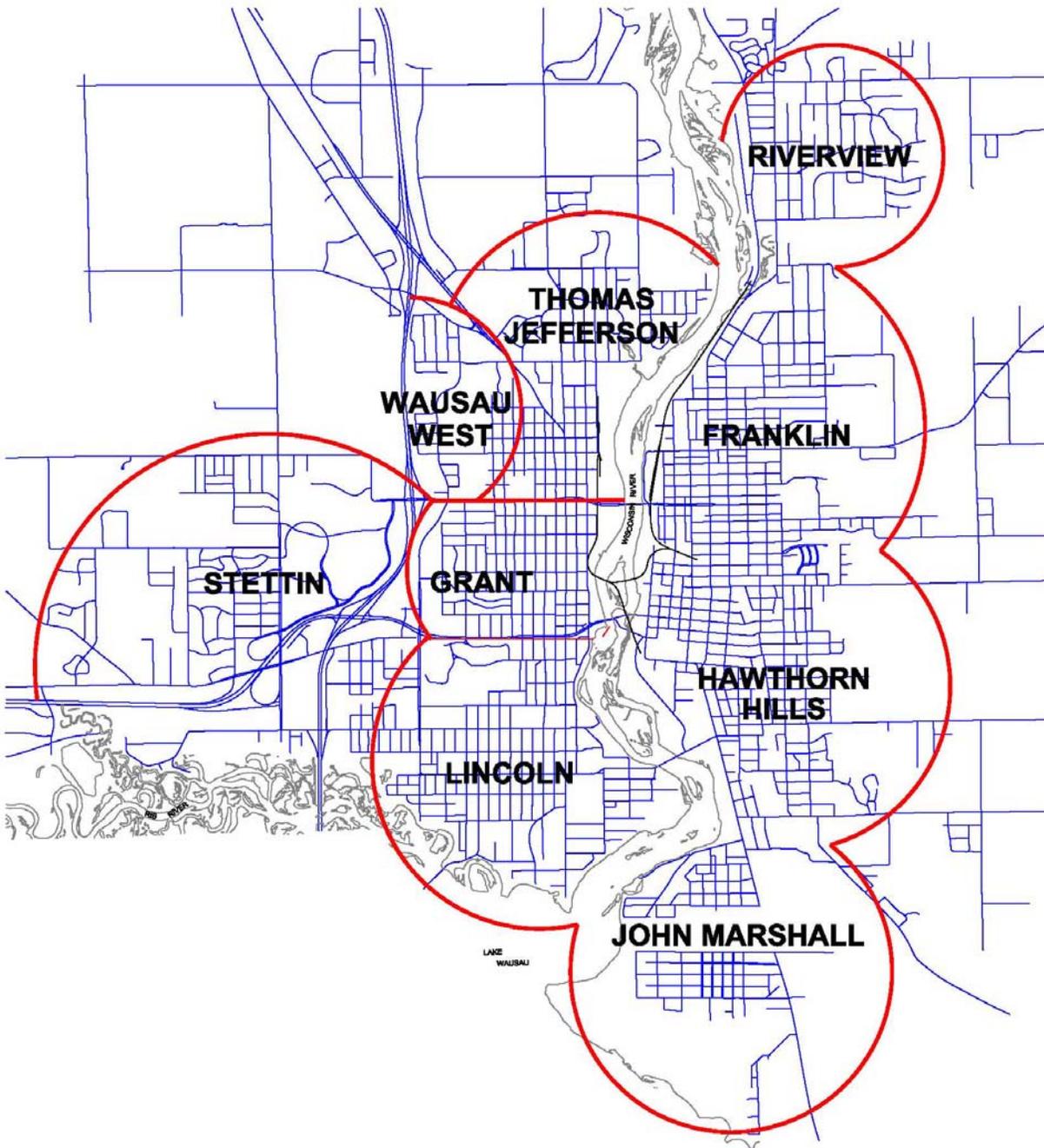
1.	<u>Franklin Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Franklin School (Playground)	3.2
	Kaiser Pool (Special park)	1.0
	St. Michael's School (Playground)	2.7
	Stewart Park (Special park)	1.6
	Thom Field (Special park and Playground)	14.9
	River Edge Trail	.60 mi
	Wausau East High School	106.8
2.	<u>Grant Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Grant School (Playground)	4.6
	John Muir Middle School (Special facility)	15.0
	Reservoir Park (Neighborhood park)	4.1
	River Edge Trail	.52 mi
3.	<u>Thomas Jefferson Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Jefferson School (Playground)	5.5
	North Central Technical School	95.0
	Scholfield Park (Neighborhood park)	5.2
	Schulenburg Park (Special park)	3.6
	St. Anne School	10.2

4.	<u>Lincoln Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	3-M Park (Neighborhood park)	16.0
	D.C. Everest County Park (Special park)	3.0
	Holy Name School	2.5
	Jones School (Playground)	6.9
	Lincoln Neighborhood Tot Lot (Tot lot)	.8
	Lincoln School (Playground)	4.7
	Marathon County Park (Community park)	78.0
	Rib River Park (Special park; undeveloped)	40.0
	Riverside Park and Picnic Island (Neighborhood park/Special park)	14.6
	River Edge Trail	.47 mi
5.	<u>Hawthorn Hills Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	10 <sup>th</sup> Street Park (Neighborhood park)	1.0
	400 Block of S. Third Street	1.5
	Barker-Stewart Island (Special park)	15.0
	Big Bull Falls (Special park)	2.5
	City Hall Park (Special park)	1.3
	Courthouse Park (Special park)	.5
	Hammond Park (Special park)	1.4
	Hawthorn Hills School (Playground)	13.8
	Library Park (Special park)	1.0
	Longfellow School (Playground)	3.0
	Oak Island Park/Isle of Ferns (Community park)	27.2
	Paff Woods (Special park)	20.5
	Pleasant View Park (Neighborhood park)	6.7

	River Edge Trail	1.28 mi
	White Water Park (Special park)	.5
	Woodson Park (Special park)	.3
	Yawkey Park (Special park)	.7
	Wisconsin Public Service Property (farmers' market)	12.2
6.	<u>John Marshall Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Airport Park (Neighborhood park)	6.3
	Alexander Park (Neighborhood park)	2.5
	Eau Claire River Property	50.0
	Holtz Krause Property	57.0
	John Marshall School (Playground)	6.8
	Memorial Park (Community park)	23.4
7.	<u>Riverview Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Athletic Park (Special park)	3.8
	Boileau Field (Special park)	1.6
	Forest Park (Neighborhood park)	4.3
	Gilbert Park (Special park)	6.4
	Horace Mann School (Special facility)	38.5
	River Highlands Park (Neighborhood park)	4.8
	Riverview School (Playground)	10.4
	Sylvan Hill Park (Special park)	70.6
8.	<u>Stettin Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Brockmeyer (Community park)	25.5
	Horgen Park (Neighborhood park)	4.4

	St. Matthew Middle School	12.0
	Stettin School (Playground)	21.7
	Sunny Vale County Park (Community park)	277.0
	Sunny Vale Softball Complex (Special park) (County)	67.0
	Swiderski Park (Neighborhood park)	1.4
9.	<u>Wausau West Neighborhood</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Newman High School (Sports field)	19.1
	Wausau West High School (Special facility)	71.2
	Westview (Neighborhood park)	4.1

CITY PARKS	ACRES	FUNCTION																				
			Boat Landing	Swimming Pool	Fishing	Picnic Area	Open Shelter	Enclosed Shelter	Playground	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Court	Ball Field	Soccer Field	Volleyball Area	Trails	Sledding Hill	Basketball Court	Restrooms	Ice Skating	Drinking Water	Flower Beds	Fountain
Airport	6.3	Neighborhood sports area									1	2							X			
Alexander	2.5	Neighborhood park					1		X	X	2					X			X			
Athletic	3.8	Semi-pro baseball diamond									1						X					
Barker-Stewart Island	15	Natural area												X								
Big Bull Falls	2.5	Scenic area					1												X			
Boileau Field	1.6	Little League diamond									1								X			
Brockmeyer	25.5	Community park							X		1	3					X		X			
City Hall	1.3	Urban garden park																		X	X	
Forest	4.3	Neighborhood park				X	1		X		2											
Gilbert	6.4	Scenic park	X		X	X																
Hammond	1.4	Urban garden park				X	1		X	X									X	X		
Horgen	4.5	Undeveloped	<b>UNDEVELOPED</b>																			
Kaiser Pool	1	Swimming pool		X																		
Lincoln Neighborhood Tot Lot	.85	Tot Lot							X										X			
Memorial	23.4	Community park	X	X	X	X	2		X		2	1				X			X			
Oak Island and Isle of Ferns	15.1 12.1	Community park Natural area	X		X	X	2	X	X		6	2				X		X	X			X
Paff Woods Nature Preserve	20.56	Natural area												X								
Pleasant View	9.83	Neighborhood park				X		X	X		2				X	X						
Reservoir	4.1	Neighborhood park				X	1		X													
Rib River	40	Undeveloped	<b>UNDEVELOPED</b>																			
River Highlands	5.17	Neighborhood park				X			X							X						
Riverside and Picnic Island	11.6 3	Neighborhood park Natural area			X			X	X				X			X						
Scholfield	5.2	Neighborhood park	X		X	X			X		2								X			
Schulenburg	3.6	Neighborhood park		X							2				X							
Stewart	1.6	Performance park				X													X	X		
Swiderski	1.4	Undeveloped	<b>UNDEVELOPED</b>																			
Sylvan Hill	70.6	Winter sports park				X	2	X	X					X	X							
Tenth Street	1.09	Neighborhood park							X							X						
Three 'M'	16	Neighborhood park							X		2	2	1		X				X			
Westview	4.1	Neighborhood park							X													
Woodson	1.3	Urban garden park																		X	X	
White Water	.2	Kayak course												X					X			
Yawkey	.7	Urban garden park																	X	X	X	
<b>TOTAL</b>	327.6																					



**CITY OF WAUSAU PARK SYSTEM  
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE AREAS**

## **REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES**

City of Wausau residents have access to a number of County and State managed facilities within the boundary of Marathon County. The County provides 17 parks which have a total of 4,140 acres that are fairly evenly distributed throughout the county. The County has nine County Forest units with a total of 29,768 acres open to the public for recreational use. The Wausau area is also served by three different types of regional facilities. There is one State park, one State park trail, and three fish and wildlife areas in Marathon County that are under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is located in eastern Marathon County and is managed as a partnership of the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Marathon County Chapter of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Inc.

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The recreational needs assessment was developed utilizing three methods: (1) Public input; (2) Accepted recreation standards; and (3) Statewide participation rates.

### **Public Input**

Public input for this plan was generated from public meetings and a random survey of City residents

Public meetings were held on March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at local middle schools. The most commonly addressed issue at the public meetings involved the status of the City's three neighborhood outdoor swimming pools. Comments received at the public meetings are included in appendix A.

A parks and Recreation survey was sent to 4000 randomly selected City of Wausau residents. 1,111 completed survey forms were returned equaling a response rate of 27.7%. The top five recreation activities residents participated in during the last twelve months were:

1. Walking/Hiking
2. Picnicking
3. Biking
4. Walking Pets
5. Swimming

The top five initiatives the public felt that administration should pursue were:

1. Continue to provide swimming opportunities
2. Build more bike trails
3. Build more hiking trails
4. Develop more youth recreation programs
5. Sign more bike trails

Survey results are included in appendix B.

### **Recreation Standards**

Recreation standards used in the assessment are the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines as published by the National Recreation and Park Association. The National Park and Recreation Association suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of park lands (neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and community parks) with a total of

6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 population. The City's rate of 8.43 acres per 1,000 people is in the middle of this range. When individual geographic areas of the city are further examined, however, deficiencies in parkland/population ratios exist.

**COMPARISON OF WAUSAU RECREATION FACILITIES TO  
NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION STANDARDS**

<u>ACTIVITY/FACILITY</u>	<u>NUMBER OF UNITS PER POPULATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF UNITS RECOMMENDED FOR WAUSAU *</u>	<u>NUMBER OF UNITS PRESENTLY IN WAUSAU</u>	<u>DEFICIT (-) SURPLUS (+) OF UNITS</u>
Basketball	1 court/5,000 population	8 courts	2 full 14 half	+1 court
Ice hockey	indoor: 1 court/100,000 population outdoor: depends on climate	1 rink indoor	2 rinks  4 outdoor	+1 rink indoor
Tennis	1 court/2,000 population	20 courts	44 courts	+24 courts
Volleyball	1 court/5,000 population	8 courts	5 courts	-3 courts
Baseball	1 diamond/5,000 population lighted: 1/30,000 population	8 diamonds 2 lighted	19 diamonds 2 lighted	+11 diamonds
Football	1 field/20,000 population	2 fields	6 fields	+4 fields
Soccer	1 field/10,000 population	4 fields	14 fields	+10 fields
Softball	1 field/5,000 population	8 fields	13 fields	+5 fields
Swimming pools (outdoor)	1 pool/20,000 population	2 pools	3 pools	+1 pool

Note: Number of units in Wausau includes facilities within City parks, County parks, and Wausau School District grounds.

\* Any fraction of a facility is rounded up to the next highest whole number.

Baseball diamonds: City Parks-9; County Parks-3, School District-7.

Softball diamonds: City Parks-2, School District-11.

## Statewide Participation Trends

The 2005 - 2010 Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies participation rates for a wide variety of outdoor activities on a statewide level. Based on data compiled by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the following indicates activities with anticipated increases, and decreases in participation along with those projected to remain stable.

### Increasing Demand

- ATV
- Birdwatching
- Canoeing
- Driving for Pleasure
- Gardening
- Geocaching
- Kayaking
- Motorboarding
- Off-road Motorcycling
- Paintball Games
- Picnic
- Road Biking
- RV Camping
- Skateboarding
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Visit a Dog Park
- Walking
- Water Parks
- Wildlife Viewing/Photography

### Decreasing Demand

- Backpacking
- Downhill Skiing
- Golf
- Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- Snowmobile
- Team Sports\*

### Stable Element

- Cross- Country Skiing
- Day Hiking
- Disc Golf
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Ice Skating
- Inline Skating
- Personal Watercraft
- Rock Climbing
- Rowing
- Run/Jog
- Sailing
- Scuba/Snorkel
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Tent Camping

\*with the exception of soccer

## ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

Park and recreation issues generated through the needs assessment process are as follows:

### 1. Swimming Pools

There is a large demand to continue to provide structured swimming opportunities in Wausau. Aging pools and declining attendance need to be addressed.

Survey results indicated support for maintaining three neighborhood pools.

### 2. Hiking/Biking Trails

There is strong support in the community to build more hiking and biking trails including continued development of the River Edge Trail.

### 3. Youth Recreation Programs

Residents expressed interest in expanding the recreation opportunities available to children.

### 4. Bike Trail Signing

Provide signing of bicycle routes and trails. This should be coordinated with the Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

### 5. Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan

The City of Wausau has approximately 6000 ash trees growing in street right of ways and at least that number on private property. With the inevitable arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer in Wausau a plan needs to be developed for identification, removal, storage and commercial marketing of diseased trees.

### 6. Dogs in Parks

Several issues regarding dogs were identified

- a. Dogs running loose.
- b. Dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs.
- c. Demand for a designated dog park.

### 7. Winter Sports Opportunities

There is demand for a designated snowshoe course in the City.

### 8. Disc Golf

Residents of Wausau's west side have requested a Frisbee Disc Golf course be developed on the west side.

9. City Square (400 Block of North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

The soon to be constructed City Square lacks a responsible agency/department for oversight.

10. Sports Facilities

- a. Existing facilities are being utilized beyond capacity and demand continues to grow, especially for baseball and soccer fields.
- b. Existing facilities are inadequate to attract major baseball and soccer tournaments to the area.

11. Master Planning

Currently there are five undeveloped park properties without master plans in the Wausau park system.

12. Water Access

Public demand for access to local waterways is causing excessive utilization of existing access sites.

13. Access to Neighborhood Parks

Natural obstacles and increased traffic on City streets is impeding pedestrian access to existing neighborhood parks.

14. Picnic Facilities

Current demand exceeds availability of reservable picnic facilities, especially year-round facilities.

15. Open Space Management

A coordinated community-wide approach to open space acquisition and management is needed.

16. Partnership/Cooperation with Other Agencies

Develop policies to avoid unneeded duplication of programs and facilities.

17. Excess Property

There are several undeveloped or underutilized properties that are not functioning as originally intended.

18. Neighborhood Park Concept

Delivery of recreation services at neighborhood parks generate higher per acre cost than the delivery of the same services at larger community parks or specialized sports field sites.

#### 19. Aging Population

The recreational needs of an elderly population emphasize passive recreation over active. With the high percentage of City residents over 65, the need for hiking, fishing, bird watching, and other nature based activities will increase.

#### 20. Minority Population

Asian and Pacific Islanders comprise a large percentage of the City's under 20-year old age group. The participation rates of this population in traditional organized sports have historically been low in Wausau.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Action items are separated into two categories: (1) Those that apply to the broader needs of the entire City; and (2) Those that are specific to an identified neighborhood service area. The citywide action items are further grouped by the issue they apply to.

### **CITYWIDE ACTION ITEMS**

1. Financial
  - a. Pursue non-levy funding for development of sports facilities.
  - b. Dispose of surplus properties or properties that do not meet their intended purposes and apply revenues to parkland procurement or development.
  
2. Acquisition and Development
  - a. Prioritize master plan needs and develop master plans for the three highest rated properties.
  - b. Explore opportunities to utilize storm water detention areas for green space and linkages.
  - c. Identify and include in City official map potential park land acquisition in the future growth areas northeast and northwest of city.
  - d. Develop an open space/land conservation plan for the City.
  - e. Accept dedication fees in lieu of land in areas with sufficient park development.
  - f. Prepare a comparison study of special use parks between Wausau and similar sized communities.
  - g. Coordinate with City Engineering the identification and development of bicycle and pedestrian access ways.
  - h. Reassess our concept of neighborhood parks by investigating:  
(1) Expanded service areas; (2) Multiple use parks; and (3) Private/public partnerships in park development.
  - i. Continue acquisition of easements and development of River Edge Trail.
  - j. The City of Wausau should pursue hosting baseball and soccer youth sports tournaments.
  - k. The City of Wausau should cooperate with other local agencies to provide new recreation programs and facilities.
  - l. Implement recommendation of the Wausau MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to link the River Edge Trail with existing right of ways in the City.

3. Partnership and Cooperation
  - a. Develop (or reaffirm existing) facility and program cooperation plans with School District, user groups, and neighboring communities.
  - b. Acquire participant distribution data from user groups to be used in justification of impact fees.
4. Program and Facility Marketing
  - a. Create seasonal marketing videos.
  - b. Continue updating departmental brochures.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION ITEMS**

1. Franklin Neighborhood
  - a. Development of River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
2. Grant Neighborhood
  - a. Development of River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
3. Thomas Jefferson Neighborhood
  - a. Development of River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
  - b. Pave parking at Scholfield Park  
This project is part of a citywide program to surface unpaved parking lots at City parks (City ordinance requires that all parking lots be paved), and to repave existing paved lots currently in disrepair. The main area at Scholfield Park is currently unpaved.
4. Lincoln Neighborhood
  - a. Development of River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
  - b. Acquire permanent access to Rib River Park

- This 40-acre parcel on the Rib River east of Highway 51 is landlocked with no access to a public right-of-way. This project addresses the issue of unmet public demand for water access.
- c. Initial development of Rib River Park.  
The project includes site development of this 40-acre parcel. This project addresses the issue of unmet public demand for water access.
5. Hawthorn Hills Neighborhood
    - a. Development of the 400 Block of South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
The proposed development includes landscaping, pedestrian walkways, and architectural elements on this downtown block. This project has high visibility and has been identified as a priority by City officials and interested parties.
    - b. Development of River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
    - c. Improvements to Oak Island Jr. League ball diamond  
This project includes infield improvements, new fencing, a retaining wall to allow the outfield distance to be extended, and new lighting. This project was proposed by Wausau Area Youth Baseball Association.
    - d. Pave parking at Bull Falls Park  
This project is part of a citywide program to surface unpaved parking lots at City parks (City ordinance requires that all parking lots be paved), and to repave existing paved lots currently in disrepair. Bull Falls Park parking area is currently unpaved.
    - e. Development of addition to Pleasant View Park  
This project consists of the development of 3.1 acres of land added to the park in 1991. Improvements include parking area, play equipment, paths, landscaping, and associated amenities. This project will also modify the existing developed portion of the park to interface with the new development.
    - f. Develop a Tot Lot playground in the Longfellow neighborhood.
  6. John Marshall Neighborhood
    - a. Development of the River Edge Trail  
Acquisition of easements, construction of paved trail, and site amenities. This project has been identified by City officials and the public as a high priority and a key element in urban revitalization.
    - b. Pave parking at Airport Park.  
This project is part of a citywide program to surface unpaved parking lots at City parks (City ordinance requires that all parking lots be paved), and to repave existing paved lots currently in

disrepair. Airport Park parking area is currently unpaved and prone to drainage problems.

- c. Develop water access at Eau Claire River property  
This project would provide minimal development on this City owned property allowing access to the Eau Claire River. This project addresses the issue of unmet public demand for water access.
- d. Install field lights at Memorial Park Little League ball diamond  
This project would provide pole mounted field lights at the Little League diamond. This project was proposed by Wausau Area Youth Baseball Association.

7. Riverview Neighborhood

- a. Athletic Park Concession Building  
Concessions offered at Athletic Park by the Wisconsin Woodchucks will require improvements to meet health and fire codes for grilling and frying of foods. An additional concession building will be required.
- b. Remodel press box at Athletic Park  
Remodel press box to include heating, air conditioning, carpeting, electrical, and data service along with a new sound system for the park. This project was proposed by the Wisconsin Woodchucks.
- c. New roofing, siding, and signage of grandstand at Athletic Park  
Replace failing roof, replace siding with period appropriate materials.

8. Stettin Neighborhood

- a. Develop picnic area at Brockmeyer Park  
This project provides additional support facilities such as play equipment, walkways, picnic tables, and benches at this heavily used community park.
- b. Construct reservable shelter at Brockmeyer Park  
Construction of an enclosed shelter to serve families, organized groups, and community events similar to the facilities at Oak Island or Riverside Park. This project addresses the issue of excess demand for reservable picnic facilities.
- c. Development of Horgen Park or identify as excess property and vacate.  
Improvements to this 4.5-acre park would include playground equipment, walkways, and landscaping.
- d. Initial development of Swiderski Park  
Improvements to this 1.4-acre park would include playground equipment, walkways, and landscaping.
- e. Develop public access to Rib River Park

This project would provide carry-in access (canoe and kayak) to the Rib River east of Highway 51 within the city limits. This project addresses the issue of unmet public demand for water access.

- f. Install field lights at the Senior League diamond at Brockmeyer Park

This project was proposed by Wausau Youth Baseball. Note: Field lights were not recommended in the 1993 Master Plan for Brockmeyer Park due to neighborhood residents' concerns.

9. Wausau West Neighborhood

- a. Develop disc golf course on west side of City.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION ITEMS  
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

			T.I.D.	C.I.P.	Local Foundati	ADLP	U.R.G.P.	U.G.S	A.D.R.	LAWCON	R.T.A.	TEA	Room Tax	R.B.F.	S.F.R.	C.D.B.G	Private
1.	Franklin Neighborhood																
	a. Development of River Edge Trail	\$ 175,000		x			x				x	x			x	x	
2.	Grant Neighborhood																
	a. Development of River Edge Trail	\$ 225,000	x	x			x				x	x			x	x	
3.	Thomas Jefferson Neighborhood																
*	a. Development of River Edge Trail	\$ 315,000		x			x				x	x			x		
*	c. Pave parking at Scholfield Park	\$ 76,000		x													
4.	Lincoln Neighborhood																
	a. Development of River Edge Trail	\$ 167,000		x			x				x	x			x	x	
	c. Acquire permanent access to Rib River Park			x		x	x	x		x				x	x		
*	d. Initial development of Rib River Park	\$ 55,000		x		x	x			x				x		x	
5.	Hawthorn Hills Neighborhood																
	a. Development of the 400 Block of South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street			x			x				x	x					x
	b. Development of River Edge Trail	\$ 175,000	x	x			x				x	x			x		
*	c. Improvements to Oak Island Jr. League ball diamond	\$ 110,000		x									x				
*	d. Pave parking at Bull Falls Park	\$ 36,500		x													
*	e. Development of addition to Pleasant View Park	\$ 145,000		x		x				x							
	f. Develop Longfellow Neighborhood Tot Lot															x	
6.	John Marshall Neighborhood																

**NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION ITEMS  
POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES**

			T.I.D.	C.I.P.	Local Foundati	ADLP	U.R.G.P.	U.G.S	A.D.R.	LAWCON	R.T.A.	TEA	Room Tax	R.B.F.	S.F.R.	C.D.B.G	Private
	a. Development of the River Edge Trail	\$ 300,000		x			x				x	x			x		
*	b. Pave parking at Airport Park	\$ 72,500		x													
	c. Develop water access at Eau Claire River property	\$ 20,000		x		x	x			x				x	x		
	d. Install field lights at Memorial Park Little League ball diamond	\$ 85,000											x				x
7.	Riverview Neighborhood																
**	a. Concession Building	\$172,000		x									x				x
**	b. Remodel press box at Athletic Park	\$ 20,000		x									x				x
**	c. New roofing, siding, and signage of grandstand at Athletic Park	\$ 32,000		x									x				x
8.	Stettin Neighborhood																
*	a. Develop picnic area at Brockmeyer Park	\$ 45,000		x		x				x							
*	b. Construct reservable shelter at Brockmeyer Park	\$ 160,000		X													
*	c. Initial development of Horgen Park	\$ 45,000		x													
*	d. Initial development of Swiderski Park	\$ 55,000		X													
*	e. Develop public access to the Rib River Park	\$ 20,000		x		x	x			x				x	x		
	f. Install field lights at the Senior League diamond at Brockmeyer Park	\$ 110,000		x									x				x
*	Item included in current 5-Year Plan.																
**	Item included in Woodchucks-Athletic Park Improvement Plan.																

**FUNDING SOURCES**

1. T.I.D. - Locally funded Tax Incremental Districts.

2. C.I.P. - Locally funded Capital Improvement Project.
3. ADLP - State funded Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks.

**FUNDING SOURCES (cont'd)**

4. U.R.G.P. - State funded Urban Rivers Grant Program.
5. U.G.S. - State Urban Green Space Program.
6. A.D.R. - State funded Acquisition of Development Rights Grant.
7. LAWCON - Federal funded Land and Water Conservation Fund.
8. R.T.A. - Federal funded Recreational Trails Act Programs.
9. TEA - Federal funded Transportation Enhancement Activities.
10. Room Tax - City of Wausau Room Tax Funding.
11. R.B.F. - Recreation Boating Facilities.
12. S.F.R. - Sport Fishing Recreation.
13. C.D.B.G. - Community Development Block Grants.
14. Private - Individuals, service organizations, user groups.

## **STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAMS**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administers a number of State and Federal grant programs to assist local governments with acquisition and development of recreational lands. The programs administered by the WDNR provide 50% match to local funding for projects. Project grants are evaluated against WDNR criteria and awarded on a competitive basis.

### **STATE PROGRAM CRITERIA**

The State provides several different Stewardship Local Assistance Grants. Each program has specific objectives, although all State grant requests are subject to the following general criteria:

- Local government or private funding match.
- Regional or statewide significance versus local focus.
- The acquisition or project is for a nature-based outdoor recreation@.

Examples of “nature-based outdoor recreation” include hiking, bicycling, nature observation, camping, fishing, picnicking, and canoeing. Support facilities for nature-based recreation are also eligible. Specifically not eligible activities include sports fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

### **STATE PROGRAMS**

#### **ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PARKS**

Funds are available to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

#### **URBAN RIVERS**

Funds are available to acquire land, rights in land, or develop shoreline enhancements on or adjacent to rivers that flow through urban or urbanizing areas, in order to preserve or restore urban rivers or riverfronts for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature-based outdoor recreation activities.

#### **URBAN GREENSPACE**

Funds are available to acquire lands to provide natural space within or near urban areas, protect scenic or ecological features, and to provide land for nature-based outdoor recreation, including noncommercial gardening.

## **ACQUISITION OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**

Funds are available to acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

## **RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITIES**

State funds for the construction of improvements for safe recreational boating facilities. Grant funds may be used for boat launch facilities, launch support facilities, and associated improvements.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAM CRITERIA**

The Federal programs administered by the WDNR have similar criteria as the Stewardship Local Assistance Grant. The major difference is the Federal programs are not restricted to nature-based outdoor recreation projects.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

Funds are available to acquire land and develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

### **RECREATIONAL TRAILS ACT**

The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

### **TEA - TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Federal funds administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing bicycling and pedestrian projects. Projects must be principally for transportation rather than recreational purposes.

### **SPORTS FISH RECREATION**

Federal funds administered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This grant program provides up to 75% funding for fishing piers, motorized boat access, and carry-in boat access.

## **LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAMS**

### **TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (T.I.D.) FUNDING**

Included in the 2002 amendment to the T.I.D. #3 District is the ability to fund River Edge Trail projects within the addition to the district. The locations where T.I.D. funded improvements may occur include the east side of the river from

Franklin Street to Bridge Street; the west side of the river from Maple Street to Bridge Street; and Barker-Stewart Island. Improvements identified in the T.I.D. #3 River Edge plan are clearing, grading, and paving of the parkway, installation of street lights and landscaping, construction of fishing piers, stairs, boardwalks, overlooks, railroad crossings and bridges to Barker-Stewart Island, relocation of electric utility poles, and related facilities.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (C.I.P.) FUNDING**

The City of Wausau funds infrastructure and significant capital projects through its capital program. Annually, the Park Department develops a capital budget request and submits it for review and ranking by the C.I.P. Committee. Following review by the mayor's office, Finance Committee, and Common Council, capital projects are funded based on the availability of financial resources. Significant capital projects are defined as being in excess of \$25,000.

### **LOCAL FOUNDATIONS**

The City of Wausau is fortunate to have several local foundations that have historically helped to fund many civic improvements. Most local foundations have a formal request process and their own criteria for an award of project funding.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS**

Federal funds administered by the Community Development Department available for improvement in targeted areas of the City.

### **PRIVATE FUNDING**

Funding provided by individuals, service organizations, and user groups often for projects of special interest to those providing the funding.

## APPENDIX A

### INPUT RECEIVED FROM MARCH 16 & 30, 2009 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Comments from public meetings held on March 16 and March 30, 2009.

1. Garbage dumpsters left in parks over the winter are being used by people to dump household garbage.
2. How does the public get to see the Park and Recreation Department budget.
3. Develop botanical gardens similar to Green Bay.
4. Who owns the River Edge Trail and what is the current status of development?
5. It is a long distance from the southwest side of the City to the swimming pool. Would like a pool on the southwest side of the City.
6. Individual identified themselves as an advocate for neighborhood pools.  
Garbage cans near play equipment attracts bees and should be moved.
7. Partner with other agencies to provide swimming pools.
8. The arborist crew was commended for the quality of their work.
9. Support for the reduced pool fees and increased amenities.
10. What is the City doing about Emerald Ash Borer.
11. Why is the Park Department removing B.B.Q. grills in the parks? Would like to see some grills stay in the parks.  
  
Are there any plans to develop more skateboard parks?
12. Is the Adopt-A-Park program still active.
13. Is the skateboard park safe?
14. Does the City have any identified bike lanes.

## APPENDIX A

15. Request for a neighborhood park in the Athletic Park (ball park) neighborhood.
16. Youth are loitering near Athletic Park, there is no police presence.
17. We need more bike routes, it's very hard to get from the Sturgeon Eddy neighborhood to the Wausau Hospital.
18. Gilbert Park has no play equipment and Forest Park does not have much of a playground.
19. What was in the previous C.O.R.P. regarding swimming pools?
20. We need drinking fountains at the City ball fields.
21. The department is doing an outstanding job maintaining the parks.
22. Maintain the three City neighborhood pools, add enhancements and concessions.
23. Maintain the three city neighborhood pools. The City shouldn't feel they have to make money on the pools. This is a quality of life issue.
24. Even at \$1.00 pool admittance charge is high for some kids.
25. Cars often park in the boat trailer parking area at Memorial Park. Can we add more boat launch parking.
26. Start an "Adopt a Kid" scholarship program for pool passes.

**APPENDIX B**  
**PARK SURVEY RESULTS**

**APPENDIX C  
COMMENTS FROM PARK SURVEY**

Available on request from Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

**APPENDIX D - COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE PLAN COMMISSION AND  
THE PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Adopting the *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010-2014*.

Committee Action: Plan Comm: Approved 7-0  
Park & Rec: Approved 5-0

Fiscal Impact: None. However, adoption of the plan will qualify the City for various recreation and natural resources grant-in-aid programs from the State and Federal governments.

File Number: 03-0511

Date Introduced: December 14, 2010

**WHEREAS**, the Park and Recreation Committee was established to investigate and make recommendations concerning the City's parks and recreation programs and to recommend ways of improving present or needed park and recreation programs of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, to qualify for various State and Federal grant-in-aid programs intended to assist local communities with the implementation of park improvement programs, an updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan which meets the criteria established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources must be prepared and adopted by the City; and

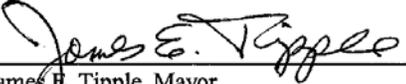
**WHEREAS**, this updated *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* is an important element of the ongoing planning program for the growth, development, and improvement of the community and is intended to provide guidance to City staff and officials in the acquisition, development, and programming of parks, playgrounds, and special recreation areas throughout the City, with focus on the adequacy of existing facilities and opportunities for future recreational facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, this *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* was prepared by staff of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, under the direction of the City of Wausau Park and Recreation Committee, with public input generated through a series of public meetings and a random survey and through public review solicited from user groups and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Park and Recreation Committee met on August 2, 2010, the Plan Commission met on November 17, 2010, and both bodies unanimously recommend adoption of the *City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010-2014* as an element of the *City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan* (2006); now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Wausau hereby adopts the *City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010-2014* as an element of the *City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan* (2006), to serve as a guide for policy, development, and financial decisions related to the sustainability, improvement, and expansion of the City's park and outdoor recreation lands, facilities, and programs.

Approved:

  
James E. Tipple, Mayor