RESOLUTION
Sponsor: Mayor David
From: Plan Commission

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown has been working on the regular five-year update of its Park and Open Space Plan throughout 2013; and,

WHEREAS, said Plan will serve as a guide for making future decisions related to the expansion and development of needed recreation facilities in the community; and,

WHEREAS, the City Park, Recreation and Forestry Department has provided ample opportunities for public input on the plan, including numerous focus groups, a city-wide park user survey, and day-long open house, and has made all working sessions before the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission open to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the Park and Open Space Plan has been thoroughly reviewed at several regular meetings of the Park, Recreation and Forestry Commission, and was unanimously recommended for approval and forwarded to the Plan Commission on December 2, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the Park and Open Space Plan was presented at a public hearing before the Plan Commission on January 13, 2014; and,

WHEREAS, the Park and Open Space Plan has been reviewed at the regular meeting of the Plan Commission on January 13, 2014, and was sent back to the Park and Recreation Commission for further review and possible changes; and,

WHEREAS, the Draft Park and Open Space Plan as amended by a memo and Plan Map from City Planner, Mike Slavney, has been reviewed at the regular meeting of the Plan Commission on February 10, 2014 and was recommended for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Watertown Common Council does hereby go on record to adopt the Park and Open Space Plan 2014 – 2019 for the City of Watertown; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council does hereby request the Department of Natural Resources to make the community eligible for participation in the LAWCON and ORAP programs as they exist today, and may evolve in the future.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>ROMLEIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAYOR DAVID</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL

ADOPTED: Feb. 18, 2014

Cynthia D. Teppler
CITY CLERK/TEACHER

APPROVED: Feb. 19, 2014

John David
MAYOR

(February 18, 2014) Exhibit #8008
Acknowledgements

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ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
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ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
Introduction

Communities throughout the country are recognizing that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include supplying opportunities for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment.

The primary purpose of this Plan is to proactively account for the City’s future park and recreation needs. Furthermore, the recommendations presented in the Plan will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces in the City to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community’s natural resource base into the future. Although, this Plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2030), it focuses on recommendations for development over the next five-year period (2014-2019).

This Plan is also intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the City’s 2007 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the City of Watertown Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2009.

This Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the City for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. This Plan was also prepared as a component of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, under Wisconsin Statutes 62.23 and 61.35. Furthermore, it will be incorporated as a detailed component of the City’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.
A. General Regional Context

The City of Watertown is located in south central Wisconsin on the southern boundary of Dodge County and on the northern boundary of Jefferson County. The Town of Emmet in Dodge County and the Town of Watertown in Jefferson County border the City. The City is located approximately 45 miles west of Milwaukee and 35 miles east of Madison. Map 1 shows the relationship of the City to neighboring communities. The City encompasses approximately eleven square miles.

B. Natural Resources

A survey of Watertown’s natural environment provides an important framework for guiding the park and open space planning process. There are several characteristics of the City’s natural landscape that will direct the development of future park and recreational facilities.

Climate
Southeastern Wisconsin’s climate is characterized by four distinct seasons. Warm summers generally span the months of June through August. The winter months of December, January, and February are cold, with average temperatures below freezing. The region is characterized by temperate conditions in spring and autumn. The first autumn freeze typically occurs around the second week of October, and the last spring freeze is usually sometime during the first week of May.

Soils
According to the Dodge and Jefferson County Soil Surveys, most of the planning area is covered by soils rated as generally unsuited, or poorly suited for development utilizing septic systems. The soils in the General planning area are of two major types:

- The Wacousta-Lamartine-Theresa association predominates in the vast majority of the General planning area. This association is characterized by very poorly drained, poorly drained, somewhat poorly drained, and well-drained soils with a silty or loamy subsoil and are underlain by silt loam, sandy loam, or gravelly sandy loam.
- The Palms-Keowns-Milford association predominates to the south and west of the City along the Rock River corridor. This association is characterized by very poorly drained and poorly drained soils that have loamy or clayey subsoil and are underlain by silty, sandy, or clayey material. This association is also characterized by nearly level soils that are organic.

Watersheds and Water Bodies
The entire detailed planning area is located within the Rock River Basin portion of the Mississippi River system. The dominant feature of the area is the Rock River corridor proper. The Rock River runs from the east side of the planning area, through the City, and leaves the Planning area to the southwest. Silver Creek, which empties southward into the Rock River on the north side of the City, drains the majority of the lands to the north and northwest. Minor tributaries of the Rock drain south to north on the west, northeast, and east side of the planning area. Finally, the headwaters of Johnson Creek drain the extreme southeast and southern parts of the Planning area.

Groundwater
Groundwater resources are plentiful in the planning area at both shallow and deep levels. The shallow dolomite aquifers are likely to be linked to certain surface water features. In areas of granular soils, these aquifers are susceptible to contamination from both surface and subterranean sources. Most private wells
draw from this shallow aquifer. The deep sandstone and limestone aquifers in the planning area are generally of higher quality and considered substantially less susceptible to contamination. In this regard, a few deep common wells are preferred over numerous shallow private wells. The water in the planning area is generally very hard, which can present problems with plumbing, taste, odor, and occasionally appearance.

**Vegetation**
At the time of European settlement, much of southeastern Wisconsin was covered with prairie and oak savannah, oak woods, and lowlands. Since that time, most of the land has been converted to agricultural and urban uses. Small wooded areas are scattered throughout the City. Dominant forest types include oak-hickory and maple basswood.

**Wildlife Habitat**
Species of wildlife common to the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include pheasants, cardinals, robins, woodthrushes, great blue herons, and killdeer.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, there are occurrences of aquatic endangered species in the City near the Rock River. There were occurrences of both aquatic and terrestrial endangered species in the southwest and the areas surrounding Rock River. Detailed information regarding the types of endangered animals, plants, and natural communities can be found at the Department of Natural Resources’ website: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/nhi/countymaps/.

**C. Population and Demographics**

**Population**
Over the past thirty years, the City has experienced steady population growth. Figure 1 shows the City’s U.S. Census population from 1990 to 2010. These numbers are compared to population trends for Dodge County, Jefferson County, and the State of Wisconsin. Between 1990 and 2010, the City’s population grew approximately 10 percent. This is slightly lower than Jefferson County, but greater than Dodge County and the state growth rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Watertown</td>
<td>19,142</td>
<td>21,598</td>
<td>23,861</td>
<td>10.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge County</td>
<td>76,559</td>
<td>85,897</td>
<td>88,759</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>67,783</td>
<td>74,021</td>
<td>83,686</td>
<td>13.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>4,891,769</td>
<td>5,363,675</td>
<td>5,686,986</td>
<td>6.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Census, 1990-2010*

Prediction of the rate of future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that Watertown’s actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. Figure 2 below depicts four population projection methods. Three of these sets of projections were prepared for the City of Watertown’s 2009 Comprehensive Plan, and the fourth set was generated by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. All four are projected through 2030, the intended time horizon of the Comprehensive Plan.
Figure 2: City of Watertown Population Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-year Compounded Percentage Rate</td>
<td>23,861</td>
<td>25,792</td>
<td>27,377</td>
<td>29,059</td>
<td>30,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-year Compounded Percentage Rate</td>
<td>23,861</td>
<td>25,140</td>
<td>26,345</td>
<td>27,608</td>
<td>28,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-year Constant Nominal Rate</td>
<td>23,861</td>
<td>25,392</td>
<td>26,642</td>
<td>27,892</td>
<td>29,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin DOA</td>
<td>23,861</td>
<td>25,456</td>
<td>26,768</td>
<td>28,009</td>
<td>29,115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: 1 U.S. Census Bureau, 2 Vandewalle and Associates, 3 Wisconsin Department of Administration (2009)

These projections were derived using a variety of methodologies:

- **15-Year Compounded Percentage Rate**: This scenario was calculated by determining the average annual rate of growth over the 15-year period from 1990–2005, and projecting that rate forward for the next 25 years. The rate of increase averaged 1.4 percent per year. Projecting this growth rate forward would result in a population of 30,845 by 2030.

- **25-Year Compounded Percentage Rate**: This scenario was calculated by determining the City’s average annual rate of growth over the 25-year period from 1980–2005, and projecting that rate forward to 2030. The average annual rate of increase was 1.1 percent per year. Carrying this growth rate forward would result in a population of 28,932 by 2030.

- **25-Year Constant Nominal Rate**: This scenario was calculated by determining the City’s average annual population change for the 25 year period from 1980–2005 and projecting that forward to 2030. The City’s 25-year average was an increase of 250 people per year. Carrying this amount of annual growth forward results in a population of 29,142 by 2030.

- **Department of Administration (DOA) Projection**: The State Department of Administration forecasted an annual population growth rate of approximately seven percent over this 30-year period. Under this scenario, the City will see a 35 percent increase in population between 2000 and 2030, for a projected year 2030 population of 29,115.

For the purposes of this Plan, the City will utilize the Department of Administration (DOA) population projection scenario as a reasonable, conservative estimate that would result in a total population of 29,115 residents by 2030. The selected population projection forecast will be used to project future housing and land demand within the City.

**Age Distribution**

Figure 3 presents information about age demographics in the City. Overall, Watertown is characterized by a relatively young population. Currently, approximately 15% percent of the population is over 65. Approximately 26 percent of the City’s population is under 18 higher than the state average, suggesting this area is characterized by young families.

Figure 3: Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>City of Watertown</th>
<th>Dodge County</th>
<th>Jefferson County</th>
<th>State of Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>38.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent under 18</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>23.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent over 65</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
Racial Distribution
According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in 2010, Watertown is characterized by a predominately “White” population, as are Dodge County, Jefferson County, and the State of Wisconsin (Figure 4). Furthermore, the proportion of “Black or African American” residents in Watertown is considerably lower than both Dodge County and the State. The proportion of “Asian” residents is also slightly less than the State. These data depict a relatively homogeneous population.

Figure 4: Racial Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>City of Watertown</th>
<th>Dodge County</th>
<th>Jefferson County</th>
<th>State of Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>86.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

For Census 2010: People who identify with the terms “Hispanic” or “Latino” are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2010 or ACS questionnaire – “Mexican,” “Puerto Rican,” or “Cuban” - as well as those who indicate that they are “other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino.” Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. The Census does not include Hispanic and Latino people in the racial distribution. They are considered to be an ethnicity. An individual can be any race and/or Hispanic. Since the 2000 Census, the proportion of people who identified as Hispanic or Latino in Watertown increased by nearly 50%. This was also the case for Jefferson County and the state of Wisconsin as a whole. The City of Watertown has a slightly higher percentage of “Hispanic or Latino” residents than Dodge County, Jefferson County and the State according to 2010 Census data.

Figure 5: Hispanic and Latino Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Watertown</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge County</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>-12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Wisconsin</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Employment Characteristics
The City’s relative close proximity to the major urban centers of Madison and Milwaukee provides a wide variety of employment opportunities for Watertown residents. In 2010, approximately 70 percent of Watertown’s population age 16 and older was in the labor force. Figure 6 shows the City’s occupational distribution.
### Figure 6: City of Watertown Occupational Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupational Group</th>
<th>Percentage of Employed Labor Force</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management, Business, Science, and Arts</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Office</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production, Transportation, and Material Moving</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

### Household Characteristics

In 2010, the average household size in Watertown was 2.46 persons per household. As shown in Figure 7, the average household size in the City was comparable to that of Dodge and Jefferson County and the State. Furthermore, the City had a lower proportion of owner-occupied housing than the surrounding Counties and the State.

### Figure 7: Household Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>City of Watertown</th>
<th>Dodge County</th>
<th>Jefferson County</th>
<th>State of Wisconsin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Housing Units</td>
<td>9,745</td>
<td>37,005</td>
<td>35,147</td>
<td>2,624,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Occupied</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Owner Occupied</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>72.7</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Household Size</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010*

### D. Review of Existing Plans

Another critical step in the park planning process is an examination of past planning efforts in the City. A comprehensive understanding of how the City has evolved over time and how it has been planning for the future establishes guidelines for this Plan's recommendations. Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways this Plan should be adapted so that it is consistent with the City's ongoing goals, objectives, and policies, and to ensure it is coordinated with regional planning efforts.

**City of Watertown Comprehensive Plan (2009)**

The City’s “Smart Growth” Comprehensive Plan provides for residential and non-residential infill development within the current municipal boundaries. The plan also identifies new residential neighborhoods for City expansion. Much of this new residential development is to the northwest, west, and south. Some additional long-range residential expansion is proposed for the City’s east side. These neighborhoods are designated “Planned Neighborhoods,” which provide a highly-planned mix of residential dwelling units and density types; neighborhood-oriented shopping opportunities; a range of employment opportunities; open space and active recreation areas; and education facilities for area residents.
**Dodge County Park, Outdoor Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2004)**

Recommendations for the City include:

- Extend the Wild Goose State Trail to the south to the City of Watertown and eventually to the Glacial Drumlin Trail to provide a regional trail connection.
- Develop a skate park and BMX facility.
- Develop Quarry Lake for a beach, fishing, and non-motorized boating.

The plan recommends a new County park in the southeastern portion of the County as this area, including the City of Watertown, is outside the service area of any County parks.

**Dodge County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2003)**

The Dodge County plan connects to the routes specified in the Jefferson County Bikeway/Pedestrian Plan that continue into Dodge County including Water Street in Watertown. The plan recommends that Water Street become an on-street route to connect to Second Street, via Silver Creek Road, then to Hill Road and CTH M north to Clyman Junction and the Wild Goose Trailhead. General recommendations for improving biking facilities through the urban areas of Dodge County included bike lanes, wide curb lanes, and shared-use roadways.

**Jefferson County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2010)**

This plan recommends bike lanes on West Street/CTH T because this is a Jefferson County Bike Route to Waterloo and leads to the Milwaukee Street Bridge. This bridge should be improved to provide formal bicycle accommodation. Western Avenue and S 12th Street/CTH X should also be improved to provide the backbone of the bicycle network. Paved shoulders are recommended where curb and gutter are not provided. The plan also recommends long-term installation of trail facilities along the Rock River as part of a countywide strategy to preserve this natural resource. In Watertown, trail development along the Rock River will also enhance mobility in the city center.

**Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (2005)**

This plan developed a series of general park recommendations and conclusions for Jefferson County based on a park and open spaces inventory analysis assessment. The plan recommended construction of a new bike and pedestrian trail along the Old Interurban Line (WE Energies Corridor) from Watertown to Ixonia and Oconomowoc and from Watertown to the Glacial Drumlin Trail via the Rock River Corridor.

**Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2011-2016**

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus. Key plan themes include:

- **Public Health and Wellness:** Access to outdoor recreation is an important predictor of community health and wellness. Parks, trails, and sports facilities provide convenient, safe, and attractive space for people to get outside. Time spent outdoors is associated with a number of important health factors, including improved mental health, more connected communities, and more active citizens. In particular, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor recreation can lower obesity levels. The plan encourages more active outdoor recreation and presents a series of goals and actions to help governments plan for facilities that will provide the greatest health benefit for their populations.

- **Urban Access to Outdoor Recreation:** Accessibility to outdoor recreation has been shown to increase health benefits and physical wellness for local citizens, especially in urban environments. Population in rural counties are decreasing while populations in metropolitan areas are growing rapidly. The benefits and significance of urban parks are therefore increasingly important. The plan considers various urban features and develops strategies to enhance the accessibility of outdoor recreation opportunities in urban settings.
recreation barriers and their solutions, and analyzes peer-to-peer statistics for urban recreation in Wisconsin municipalities. This data provides information on where the state can improve on recreation facilities and which areas need additional focus on developing increased urban recreation.

- Public and Private Partnerships: Providing high quality and accessible outdoor recreation is often a challenge. Conservation and recreation development need a web of community and government support. The plan highlights the importance of inter-governmental relationships and private organizations to provide high quality outdoor recreation to citizens of the state.
Public Participation

A. Focus Group Meetings

On July 1, 2013, the City hosted five focus group meetings with recreation stakeholders. Groups included recreation partners, river activities, seniors, youth, and adult sports. In general, participants were very complimentary of the City’s park facilities and department staff. Parks and mostly well-maintained and there is a good variety of facilities available. The following recommendations for changes and improvements were discussed:

- Improve awareness and communication through and updated City website and use of social media including Facebook.
- Consider a new splash park, off-leash dog park, and a public indoor pool.
- Add batting cages at Washington Park.
- Add lighting and parking areas at Brandt-Quirk Park.

B. Park Input Survey

A citywide survey was conducted in the summer of 2013. The online survey was posted on the City’s website and Facebook page, and hard copies were made available at public libraries. The City received 222 completed surveys. The results of the survey will be used, along with the other public input generated during the process, to form the core recommendations of the Plan. The following is a summary of the survey analysis. In many cases, percentages total to more than 100 percent, as respondents were allowed to select more than one response.

Aspects of Existing Parks and Facilities

When asked to rate particular aspects of existing parks and facilities (cleanliness, landscaping, mowing, playground equipment, athletic fields, and furnishings), most respondents rated the aspects positively. On a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 being Excellent and 5 being Poor, the majority of respondents rated each of the aspects either a 1 or a 2. No more than 11.4 percent of respondents rated any of the aspects as a 4 or 5. The lowest-rated aspect was Furnishings, with 24.4 percent of respondents giving Furnishings a 1 rating, 35.5 percent rating them a 2, 31.8 percent rating them a 3, 10 percent rating them a 4, and 1.4 percent rating them a 5.
Meeting Recreation Needs
An overwhelming proportion of respondents stated that the existing parks and recreational system meets their needs (72.8 percent) or exceeds their needs (24.4 percent). However, respondents offered many suggestions for continual improvement in the other questions.

Most Important Parks/Facilities and Improvements
When asked to identify the parks or facilities important most important to the community, the top three responses were Riverside Park (87.9 percent), Brandt/Quirk Park (67.3 percent), and the Aquatic Center (62.6 percent). Additional enhancements suggested at Brandt/Quirk Park include new playground equipment and improvements to the tennis courts. For Riverside Park, respondents commonly cited ongoing maintenance issues and improvements to the restroom facilities.

Preferred Activities
The most popular activities enjoyed in the park system include using the playground (68.3 percent), walking (65.6 percent), swimming (56.9 percent), picnicking (37.6 percent), and baseball (33.9 percent). Percentages add up to more than 100 percent as respondents were instructed to select all activities they participated in. Most of the 22 activities listed were selected by at least 10 percent of respondents, indicating that wide ranges of activities are enjoyed.
Types of New Parks Needed
The survey presented five different types of parks:

- Neighborhood parks (including playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, and open fields)
- Active community parks (including a variety of sports fields, pavilions, parking, restrooms, and other high impact uses)
- Passive community parks (including natural areas, trails, nature watching, and other low impact uses)
- Bike and pedestrian trails
- River-based facilities

When asked to select which types of new parks are currently needed to meet existing deficiencies and future needs, the most common park type was bike and pedestrian trails (50.5 percent). The next most popular choices were passive community parks (28.8 percent) and river-based facilities (24.5 percent). Neighborhood parks and active community parks were each selected by approximately 18 percent of respondents. Twelve percent responded with “Other,” with many indicating the need for a dog park. Approximately 18 percent of respondents stated that no new parks were needed.

Figure 9: Types of Parks Needed

Types of Programs and Facilities Needed
Respondents indicated interest in a wide range of programs and facilities that they thought the City needed. The top responses were bike and pedestrian trails (55.4 percent), an indoor sports complex (38.1 percent), dog parks (30.7 percent), and a splash pad (29.2 percent).

Influence of the Parks on Decision to Live in Watertown
When asked about their decision to move to or stay in Watertown, 19.7 percent of respondents stated that the City’s park and recreation amenities influenced their decision, while 80.3 percent said that it did not.

See the Appendix for the complete results of the survey.
C. Public Meetings

As part of the planning process for this Park and Open Space Plan, Watertown Park, Recreation and Forestry Department officials held public input sessions at the Watertown Senior and Community Center on July 1, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The planning sessions were an opportunity for citizens to take an active part in planning for the future of the park system. The meetings had an informal structure, allowing citizens to drop by at any time to share their ideas.

Citizens who were unable to attend either of the planning sessions were encouraged to either visit the department office at 514 South First Street or call 262-8080 during business hours.

D. Public Hearing

A public hearing was held on January 13, 2014 to allow residents to comment on the Draft Park and Open Space Plan.
Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities within the City. These facilities are depicted on Map 1. A complete list of the facilities within each park is provided in Appendix A.

As of 2013, the City had approximately 304.7 acres of parks and open space, encompassing about four percent of its total land area. The City maintains 25 parks and one lake access areas.

A. Community Parks

1. Brandt-Quirk Park: This 167-acre park is located in the northwest portion of the City next to the high school. This park was established in 1980 as a 12-acre limited use area to be expanded as the City quarry was abandoned. The park includes 3 ¾ miles of hiking and cross-country ski and pet exercise trails, soccer fields, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, play equipment, 18-hole disc golf course (set on park land and high school land), sand/water play equipment, a batting cage, picnic shelters, and restrooms.

2. Riverside Park: This 29-acre park was established in 1910 and was the first public park established in the City. It is located in the northeast portion of the City, laid out along the banks of the Rock River. Riverside is the system’s most heavily used and most scenic park. The park serves as the center for many community celebrations and activities including the Fourth of July festivities and the annual Riverfest celebrations. The park has numerous amenities including picnic shelters, restrooms, softball diamonds, volleyball courts, horseshoe courts, playground facilities, handicapped fishing pier, a bandshell and the Watertown Aquatic Center.

3. Washington Park: This 6-acre park is located in the southeast portion of the City and was established in 1927. Washington Park has the City’s only lighted baseball facility and also serves as a neighborhood park offering playground equipment and restrooms.

B. Neighborhood Parks

1. Brandenstein Park: This 11.8-acre park is located in the northern portion of the City and was established in 1980. The park offers playground equipment, a baseball field, a BMX dirt track, a shelter, restrooms, and open space for future development.

2. Clark Park: This 9.4-acre park is located in the southern portion of the City and was established in 1941. The park offers playground equipment, a baseball/soccer field, ice-skating, a picnic shelter and restrooms. The park also has a pond and nature area.

3. Deer Trail Park: This 6.25-acre park is located in the southwest portion of the City and was established in 1999. The park offers playground equipment, volley standards, a baseball playfield, a soccer field, and a picnic/grill area.

4. Grinwald Park: This 20.1-acre park is located in the southwest portion of the City and was formerly known as
Milford Street Park. The park was established in 1978 when the City purchased 8.9 acres of land along Milford Street. The Park was renamed Grinwald Park in 1992 when Donald Grinwald donated the adjacent 11.2 wooded acres to the City. The park presently offers three soccer fields and a wooded walking trail.

5. Hunter Oaks Park: This 4.3-acre neighborhood park is located in the northeast portion of the City and was established in 1999. The park offers playground equipment, volley standards, a baseball playfield, a soccer field, and a picnic/grill area.

6. Lincoln Park: This 4.7-acre neighborhood playground is located in the near northwest portion of the City and was established in 1941. The park offers playground equipment, a baseball field and a shelter with restrooms.

7. Mary Rose Park: This 4.5-acre park is located in the northeast portion of the City and was established in 1999. The park offers playground equipment, volley standards, a baseball playfield, a soccer field, and a picnic/grill area.

8. Schaller Park: This 1-acre park offers a quiet setting along the Rock River in the south central portion of the City. A picnic area, playing field, and a small composite playground structure serve youth in the adjacent and somewhat isolated neighborhood.

9. South Concord Estates area: This 1.5 acre parcel in the South Concord Estates subdivision remains undeveloped. The City intends to acquire the land adjacent to this parcel to develop a future neighborhood park.

10. Timothy Johnson Park: This 4.6-acre neighborhood playground is located in the northwest portion of the City and was established in 1967. The park offers playground equipment, a baseball field and a shelter with restrooms.

11. Union Park: This 2.3-acre neighborhood playground is located in the west-central portion of the City and was established in 1926. The park offers playground equipment, a baseball field, and a shelter with restrooms.

C. Special Use Parks

1. East Water Street Park: This 0.33-acre open space site is located in the eastern portion of the City. This park was established in 1933.

2. Fannie P. Lewis Park: This 1-acre park is located in the north-central portion of the City and was established in 1983. The park offers a quiet setting along the Rock River with a boat landing, handicap fishing pier, flower gardens, and a small shelter.

3. Kalota Park: This 10.8-acre park was donated to the City in 1989 by former Mayor Carl Kalota. The park presently has no amenities and there are no plans for improvements in the near future. It is being preserved as a green space and a wetland area.
4. Pet Exercise Park: This 5-acre park is located in the southeast portion of the City at the City’s former landfill site. It was designated as a pet exercise park in 2000. The park offers off-street parking, picnic tables, and a maintained trail for walking of pets.

5. River Walkway: The River Walkway was developed in 1986, as part of the Downtown revitalization effort. The walkway is located along the Rock River running from Main Street to Milwaukee Street (6 blocks). It is approximately 1,600 feet in length and averages approximately 50 feet in width, for a total of about 1.5 acres. This passive recreation facility features an observation deck overlooking the lower dam, a 500-foot boardwalk, and a plaza area with park tables and benches. In 2006, the City adopted a detailed plan for the River Walkway facility.

6. Senior Center Grounds: This 2.1-acre park was established in 1972 and is located along the east side of the Rock River south of the downtown. The Senior and Community Center is located on this site. The park is also the southern access point of the River Walkway.

7. Silver Creek: This small .25-acre park was established in 1960. In addition to providing access to the Rock River, the park is the site of the Silver Creek pond, which serves as the City’s largest and most heavily used skating facility.

8. Skate/BMX Park: This 2.76-acre park located just east of Carriage Hill Drive includes a collection of metal ramps and obstacles to serve both skaters and BMX bike riders. This lighted park is also serviced by a parking lot, foot bridge, and service road.

9. Tivoli Island: This 4-acre island is located in the Rock River in the eastern portion of the City. The island offers a unique opportunity for picnicking and nature study.

10. Veteran’s Memorial: This open space site is less than 1-acre and is located downtown. It is the site of a monument to veterans of wars, which was built after World War I.

11. Watertown East Apartment area: This 3.5-acre neighborhood park is located on the northeast side of the City and was donated in 2000. Most of this land is marshland and the City is presently looking for additional acreage to provide recreational facilities for this area.
D. Public and Private School Recreational Facilities

Public Schools
1. Douglas Elementary School: This 2-acre facility is located on the City’s north side.
2. Lincoln Elementary School: This 0.3-acre facility located in the west central portion of the City.
3. Schurz Elementary School: This 1-acre facility is located on the City’s south side.
4. Webster Elementary School: This 1.5-acre facility is located in the near southeast portion of the City.
5. Riverside Middle School: This 10-acre facility is located in the eastern portion of the City.
6. Watertown High School: This 197-acre facility, which opened in 1994, is located in the northwest portion of the City next to Brandt-Quirk Park.

Private Schools
1. Calvary Baptist Christian School: This 3-acre private school is located in the southwest portion of the City.
2. St. Bernard’s School: This 0.3-acre private school is located on the City’s west side.
3. St. Henry’s School: This 0.8-acre private school is located in the central portion of the City.
4. St. John’s School: This 0.3-acre private school is located in the central portion of the City.
5. St. Mark’s School: This 0.3-acre private school is located in the central portion of the City.
6. Trinity Lutheran School: This 0.5-acre private school is located in the central portion of the City.
7. Luther Preparatory School: This 7.9-acre private school is located on the City’s east side. (There is only limited public access to this facility.)
8. Maranatha Bible College: This 5.8-acre private school is located on the City’s west side. (There is only limited public access to this facility.)
City of Watertown Park and Open Space Plan
Map 1: Existing Park and School Facilities

Adopted: February 18, 2014
Source: City of Watertown, FEMA, Jefferson Co, Dodge Co

Public School Recreation Facilities
A. Douglas Elementary School
B. Lincoln Elementary School
C. Schurz Elementary School
D. Webster Elementary School
E. Riverside Junior High
F. Watertown High School
Private School Recreation Facilities
G. Calvary Baptist Christian School
H. St. Bernard's School
I. St. Henry's School
J. St. John's School
K. St. Mark's School
L. Trinity Lutheran School
M. Luther Prep School
N. Marantha Bible College

Existing Public Park and Open Space Facilities
Community Park
1. Brandt Quirk Park
2. Riverside Park
3. Washington Park
Neighborhood Park
4. Brandenstein Park
5. Clark Park
6. Deer Trail Park
7. Grinwald Park
8. Hunter Oak Park
9. Lincoln Park
10. Mary Rose Park
11. Schaller Park
12. South Concord Estates Area
13. Timothy Johnson Park
Special Use Parks
14. East Water Street
15. Fannie P. Lewis Park
16. Kalota Park
Neighborhood Park
17. Pet Exercise Areas
18. River Willow
20. Senior Center Grounds
21. Silver Creek
22. Skyler Bluff Park
23. Tivoli Island
24. Veterans Memorial
25. Watertown East Apartment Area

Private School Recreation Facilities
G. Calvary Baptist Christian School
H. St. Bernard's School
I. St. Henry's School
J. St. John's School
K. St. Mark's School
L. Trinity Lutheran School
M. Luther Prep School
N. Marantha Bible College
Goals, Objectives, and Policies

In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this Plan.

**Goals** are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

**Objectives** are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

**Policies** are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this Plan, including citizen input and discussions amongst City Staff and Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission members.

### A. Goals

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of City residents and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and young children.

2. Preserve the City's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

### B. Objectives

1. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each planned neighborhood area in the City.

2. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Watertown residents, generally within 1/4-1/2 mile.

3. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the City.

4. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.

5. Provide for a well-integrated network of sidewalks, recreation paths and trails, and bike lanes throughout the City which connect with other facilities in the area.

6. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

### C. Policies

1. All citizens should be provided with an opportunity for engaging in recreational experiences, and recreational facilities should be equitably located in the City.

2. The City should continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
3. Neighborhood Parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. All new residential development should be within 1/4 mile of a park.

4. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood and development designs and linked by a network of trails, bike routes, and open space corridors.

5. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.

6. The City should continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.

7. The City should explore various means of acquiring land for parks and for developing park facilities, including impact fees/park improvement fees, parkland dedication requirements, state and federal grants, conservation easements, and non-profit organizations.

8. The preservation of primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, lakes, ponds, streams, lakeshores, floodplains, riparian habitats, and wetlands should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater management areas, where appropriate.

9. All new residential development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this Plan and implemented by the City of Watertown zoning and subdivision ordinances.

10. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts, and should follow State and AASHTO standards.

11. The City should encourage public awareness of the City’s parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, and other materials.

12. The City should explore opportunities to work in collaboration with local school districts to provide parkland and recreation facilities.

13. The City should partner with stakeholders to consider formation of a Friends of Watertown Parks group to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the City’s park facilities.

14. The City should examine policies regarding waiving park usage fees for nonprofit groups and consider requiring these groups to provide non-monetary assistance. Groups could donate time for park maintenance, invasive species removal, or equipment construction or upkeep.

15. The City should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.

16. The City should continue its Neighborhood Planning process to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and the locations of parks, open space corridors, and trails.

17. The City should provide a diversity of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including teenagers and senior citizens.
Park and Recreation Standards

In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents.

The following sections include a blend of both national and local standards for park and recreational facilities. The national standards are based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines. Although national standards provide acceptable target guidelines for the types of basic facilities and site characteristics for each category of park, a more thorough and accurate analysis of Watertown’s park system must emphasize the local demand for recreational resources. Therefore, a calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal standards. Furthermore, a locally-derived standard will do a better job of taking into account the quality of the park system as well as the quantity of park lands provided.

A. Mini-Parks

**General Description:** These parks offer specialized facilities that serve a centralized or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens.

**Service Area:** Less than 0.25 mile in residential areas

**Desirable Size:** 2,500 square feet to 2 acres

**Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:** N/A

**Basic Facilities and Activities:**

- Coordinated play equipment and structures for pre-school and elementary school age children
- Conversation and sitting areas arranged to permit easy surveillance by parents
- Landscaped areas that provide buffering and shade
- Lighting for security at night (full cut-off fixtures should be used)
- Parking is typically not required

**Desirable Site Characteristics:**

- Suited for intense development
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Located in close proximity to residential development
- Accessible by walking or biking
- Well buffered by open space and/or landscape plantings and separated from roadways by physical barriers, such as fences

B. Neighborhood Parks

**General Description:** These parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as baseball and soccer fields, but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study.
**Local Standard Service Area:** one-third mile radius uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers

**Desirable Size:** 5 acres minimum; 5-10 acres is optimal

**Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:** 3.25 acres

**Basic Facilities & Activities:**
- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces

**Desirable Site Characteristics:**
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

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### C. Community Parks

**General Description:** Community parks are intermediate in size and are able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.

**Local Standard Service Area:** 1.5 miles

**Desirable Size:** As needed to accommodate desired uses; 30-50 acres is optimal

**Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:** 9.25 acres

**Basic Facilities & Activities:**
- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate off-street parking spaces, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow

**Desirable Site Characteristics:**
- May include natural areas, such as water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking
D. School Parks

**General Description:** School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the City or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.

**Service Area:** Variable – depends on function

**Desirable Size:** Variable – depends on function

**Local Standard Acres per 1,000 Population:** Variable – depends on function

**Basic Facilities & Activities:**
- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces

**Desirable Site Characteristics:**
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

E. Special Open Space Areas

**General Description:** Areas of open space that cannot be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Special Open Space Areas enhance an overall park and open space system by maintaining and improving the community’s natural resource base, accommodating special activities that aren’t included in other parks, and providing interconnections between isolated parks and recreation areas.

Examples of Special Open Space Areas are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as golf courses, sledding/skiing hills, marinas, beaches, display gardens, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use. Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors, wildlife habitats, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

**Service Area:** Variable—depends on function

**Desirable Size:** Variable—depends on function

**Local Standard Acres Per 1,000 Population:** 1.5 acres

**Basic Facilities and Activities:** Variable, but some may include:
- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths

- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area

F. Recreation Trails

**General Description:** Recreation Trails accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, nature study, and cross-country skiing. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space lands and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. Recreation trails can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities. Therefore, this section provides descriptions of the different types of recreation trails that this Plan will address and how recommendations will be formulated for each type of trail.

**On-Street Bicycle Facilities**

**General Description:** There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.

Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that are 32 feet or wider with no on-street parking. Shared bicycle/parking lanes generally function well where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high.

Paved shoulders are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes. Paved shoulders are ideal for higher volume streets or highways (more than 1,000 cars per day) with rural cross sections (i.e. no curb and gutter).

**Treatment in this Plan:** Although this Plan presents general recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bike facilities, more formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the City’s road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:**

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet along an arterial street.
- When used along side a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.
- Where bike lanes and on-street parking is provided, minimum combined width should be 11 feet (13 feet where there is substantial parking or turnover of parked cars is high).
- Lanes painted with a bicycle pavement symbol or the words “bike lane” according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:**

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 miles per hour.
- A stripe separating shoulder from roadway is recommended.
- These are generally not marked as an exclusive bike facility.
**Off-Street Recreation Trails**

**General Description:** There are two primary types of off-street recreation trails: multi-use paths and rural walking/hiking trails.

Multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks and environmental corridors.

Rural trails provide connections between urbanized areas, and access to parks and open space areas. Walkways may be restricted to pedestrian use because of environmental conditions. In certain locations, they may also be suitable for equestrian and/or bicycle use. Rural walkways are often sited along creeks, streams, rivers, field boundaries, and other natural linear systems.

**Treatment in this Plan:** This Plan presents recommendations for the location of future off-street recreation trails. However, the design and type of such facilities will not be identified in this Plan.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:**
- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of ten feet to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, walking, running, and skating.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of eight feet wide, surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Minimum 20 mph design speed.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails:** Because these trail facilities often travel through sensitive environmental areas, they are generally not paved. Rather, they are surfaced with crushed limestone, wood chips, hard packed earth, or mowed grass.

**Trailheads**

**General Description:** Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the community’s system. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.

**Treatment in this Plan:** This Plan will make general recommendations regarding the future location of trailheads. Suggestions will be based upon both existing and proposed park facilities and parking locations.

**Desirable Design Criteria:** N/A
Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

This section presents an analysis of how well the City of Watertown’s existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the City’s existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of national park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the City (quantitative analysis);
- A qualitative analysis of the City’s park system based on both an understanding of the City’s goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the City’s park and open space system; and
- A review of Wisconsin’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next element of this Plan.

A. Quantitative Analysis

Figure 10 below shows the total acreage of land devoted to each type of park (neighborhood park, community park, etc.) in the City. The table also breaks down the aggregate acreage per park type into five categories of open space. This breakdown more clearly indicates how much parkland in Watertown is devoted to both active and accessible passive recreational activity and how much is comprised of open space areas, which serve specialized recreation purposes or provide environmental and/or aesthetic benefits.

**Figure 10: Total Developed Acres of Parkland by Type of Recreational Use per Specific Type of Park, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Park</th>
<th>Active Recreation Area</th>
<th>Passive Recreation Area</th>
<th>Natural Area</th>
<th>Special Facilities Area</th>
<th>Water, Wetland, Floodplain</th>
<th>Total Park Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood parks</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community parks</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>202.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special use areas</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>52.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public Park Facilities</td>
<td>127.1</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>304.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public/Private School Recreation Areas</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>217.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>187.1</td>
<td>204.4</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>521.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.

*Passive Accessible Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.

*Natural Area: passive, non-accessible areas for conservation

*Special Facilities Area: golf courses, arboreta, scenic overlooks, cemeteries, etc.

Of critical interest are the 127.1 acres of acres of active recreation area and the 119.4 acres of accessible passive park facilities, for a total of 246.5 acres, which are currently provided by the City. The remainder of the City’s 304.7 aggregate acres of parkland is comprised of other open space areas which do not serve a recreation function and therefore do not relate to open space provision standards. For the
breakdown of parkland acreage devoted to the five categories of open space for each individual public and private park see Appendix B.

Figure 11 presents an analysis of the City’s existing park system. As indicated in Figure 9, the City currently has approximately 13 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents, not including school grounds.

**Figure 11: Park Acreage Analysis, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>Existing Park Acreage</th>
<th>2013 Total Acres</th>
<th>2013 Acres per 1,000 Persons*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>202.0</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Recreation Areas</td>
<td>211.8</td>
<td>8.87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private School Recreation Areas</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total City Parks</td>
<td>304.7</td>
<td>12.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on estimated 2013 population of 23,865; see the Background Information chapter of this Plan.

Figure 12 presents an inventory of the total number of existing recreational facilities/equipment in the City. A comprehensive inventory of the facilities in each of the City’s parks is located in Appendix A.

**Figure 12: Existing Recreational Facilities, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th># of Existing Facilities in the City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball/Softball (formal)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballfields (informal)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Goals</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Fields</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoes</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Equipment</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc Golf</td>
<td>27 holes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Shelters (open and enclosed)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. Qualitative Analysis**

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this Plan, a thorough assessment of the City’s existing facilities must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Watertown unique from other communities.

Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will do the following things:

- Identify those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards;
- Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of City residents; and
- Allow for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the City can plan its future park system.
Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this element considers school open space and outdoor recreational facilities as neighborhood parks. There are no set standards or guidelines for classifying school open space areas; however, in the City of Watertown, school facilities serve many of the recreational needs of the residential neighborhoods that immediately surround them. In some cases, the City maintains recreational facilities that are owned by the school district. It should be recognized that school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school sponsored activities are given first priority when it comes to the scheduling and use of these facilities. For this reason, it is important for the City to provide and maintain an adequate number of its own facilities and parklands to accommodate programming needs and to meet local demand.

- City residents are currently not in the service area of any Dodge or Jefferson County parks. To provide access within a reasonable distance to these types of recreational facilities (camping, hiking, nature observation), both Counties should work with the City on future park development in the Watertown area as well as connecting the City to regional trail systems (e.g. Wild Goose Trail and Glacial Drumlin Trail).

C. Geographic Analysis

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provide a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of the City’s residents. To illustrate this distribution, Maps 2 and 3 depict the service areas of the City’s parks. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in the Park and Recreation Standards element of this Plan.

An analysis of Map 2a suggests that neighborhood parklands in the City are currently fairly well distributed and within a reasonable walking distance for most City residents. However, some areas in the central and eastern portions of the City are not within one-third of a mile of a neighborhood park, or the service area boundary is interrupted by a pedestrian barrier, such as a major arterial road. For the purpose of this analysis, school parkland and community parks function as neighborhood parks since they also serve the surrounding areas. Luther Prepatory School and Maranatha Bible College are not included as these facilities offer limited public access. An analysis of Map 2b suggests that the City’s community park facilities are well distributed and serving most City residents.

Due to their specialized nature, the service areas for the City’s special use parks include the entire community.

As the City continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands and open space.

D. Review of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin’s 2005-2010 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Key plan concepts are described in Chapter One. Specific plan recommendations and actions related to local park and recreation planning include:

- Promote the collaboration of public and private recreation opportunities through integrated management planning.

- Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available in a given region.

- Explore new and innovation funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities.
Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, and nature study.

Connect people with urban parks, trails, and community green spaces.

E. Future Park System Needs

Based upon the analyses provided in this element, the City’s future local standard for total active and passive park acreage is 12.77 acres per 1,000 persons – 2.95 acres per 1,000 persons for neighborhood parks, 8.46 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks, and 1.35 acres per 1,000 persons for special use parks. For reasons described in Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements, the City plans to develop neighborhood parks rather than mini-parks to meet these needs.

Based on these standards, Figures 13 and 14 show the minimal additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City’s projected population in 2024 and in 2030. The 2024 projection will be used in the Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreation Facilities element of this Plan to determine recommended parkland dedication and impact fee requirements. The 2024 population projection was selected to more accurately correspond to the January 2008 amendment to Chapters 66.0617 and 236.45 of the Wisconsin Statutes. A recent change in the statutes related to impact fees specifies municipalities have a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure. Land acquisition and improvement recommendations are based on what the City can reasonably expect to accomplish in a ten-year timeframe.

**Figure 13: Park Acreage Needs, 2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>City Standard Acres per 1,000 persons</th>
<th>Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons in 2024*</th>
<th>2013 Total Acres</th>
<th>Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td>235.0</td>
<td>202.0</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>354.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>304.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>49.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on 2024 projected population (27,760)

**Figure 14: Park Acreage Needs, 2030**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>City Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons</th>
<th>Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons in 2030*</th>
<th>2013 Total Acres</th>
<th>Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>86.0</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks</td>
<td>8.46</td>
<td>246.4</td>
<td>202.0</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use Parks</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.77</strong></td>
<td><strong>371.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>304.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>67.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on 2030 projected population (29,115)
Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements

The following recommendations are based on projected growth rates and distributional deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan. By 2030, this Plan recommends adding 17 new neighborhood parks and 3 new community parks for a total additional 123 acres of parkland and make improvements to many of its existing parks. Based upon 2030 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy the City's local park standards, as defined in Chapter VII of this Plan. The timing of parkland acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City.

Map 3 shows approximate locations for future recreational facilities in the City. More precise park boundaries will be determined during formulation of specific neighborhood plans, or in the preliminary stages of detailed site development plans, or when lands are acquired or platted. Proactive identification of lands suitable for active parks, or natural areas worthy of conservation, is recommended early in the development process. Following are general descriptions of the park recommendations.

A. Recommended Additional Parklands

Community Parks
These parks will serve both short-term and long-term future development. They may include recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, a community center, tennis courts, and others. They may also contain areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, bicycling, sitting, viewing, and picnicking. It is important that these parks be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have adequate off-street parking, and also be accessible by foot and bicycle. These parks should be approximately 15-40 acres and serve an area within a 1 to 2 mile radius. The proposed community park is listed and is depicted on Map 3:

1. Future Ronald Reagan Park in the Hunter Oaks neighborhood – 8.2 acres; as the property to the south develops, 4 to 6 acres of parkland should be added to complete the oval shape and serve future residents (I)

Neighborhood Parks (serving developing and deficient areas)
Several park areas are recommended to provide service for developing areas. These parks are for intense recreational activities serving areas that are currently developing or areas that will be developing in the near future. They should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately 1-5 acres and serve an area within a quarter to one-third mile radius, or a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons. The proposed neighborhood parks in this category are listed below by their location and proposed size (if available) and are depicted on Map 3:

2. Meadow Street Area – 3.4 acres (II)

Neighborhood Parks (serving long range development)
These parks are for intense recreational activities serving areas that will be developing in the more distant future. These parks should be built as the surrounding service areas develop. They should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately 1 to 5 acres and serve an area within a quarter to one-third mile radius, or a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons. The proposed neighborhood parks in this category are listed below by their location and are depicted on Map 3:

3. North of Beryl Drive, west of River Road (III)

4. North of Beryl Drive, west of CTH X (IV)

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014  37
5. South of the Airport (V)
6. Southeast of Rock River, east of STH 26 (VI)
7. East of the STH 26 bypass, north of the Rock River (VII)
8. Northwest of CTH A (VIII)
9. West of Welsh Road (IX)
10. East of CTH K, south of STH 19 (X)
11. East of CTH K, south of CTH Q (XI)
12. West of Welsh Road, south of CTH Q (XII)
13. Between Welsh Road and the STH 26 bypass (XIII)
14. South of Silver Creek Road, east of the railroad (XIV)
15. East of South Road, west of CTH E (XV)

**Mini-Parks**

Mini-parks tend to be maintenance intensive and receive minimal use. The acquisition of additional mini-parks is not recommended, with the following exceptions:

- High need is defined within a neighborhood which is not served by a neighborhood park and open space is not sufficient for a neighborhood park.
- As development occurs, the City should incorporate mini-parks into the design of office, commercial, and mixed-use districts. Mini-parks located in these areas should be oriented more towards adults than children, providing open areas to eat lunch, read the newspaper, and take a break from working or shopping. These parks may include paved areas, but should also accommodate some green space. Trees, landscaping, and water features should be incorporated into these park spaces wherever possible.

For the purposes of this *Plan*, new neighborhood parks are distributed on Map 3 to provide recreational facilities through the planning area.

**Special Use Parks**

The City currently has a wealth of special use parks including the Pet Exercise Park, River Walkway, and the Skate/BMX Park. This *Plan* recommends that existing facilities be upgraded and expanded as population and demand increases. The City should also explore new special use facilities in the future as residents’ recreation needs change.

Urban gyms are a new form of special use park featuring outdoor fitness equipment. Essentially a playground for adults, weather-proof fitness equipment varies from static pieces like chin-up bars to cardio and weight machines that use a person’s body weight to create resistance. Some pieces are utilitarian, while others are designed to serve a public art purpose as well. The concept, borrowed from China and parts of Europe, is gaining popularity in the United States, especially in neighborhoods lacking traditional gyms or where costlier fitness options are out of reach for many residents. These parks
occupy less space than other types of recreation facilities and can take advantage of unused spaces or spaces that are too small for other typical park uses. Additionally, they can be built at a fraction of the cost required to build a conventional children’s playground. They reflect a growing interest in incorporating fitness into everyday life. An urban gym could be incorporated into an existing park in Watertown or a future park.

In addition to the existing Pet Exercise Park on the southeast side of the City, the City should plan to acquire and develop land for a fenced, off-leash dog exercise area adjacent to Brandt-Quirk Park. This expansion, which would complement the Brandt-Quirk Park’s existing family recreation facilities, should consist of approximately 30 to 60 acres located directly adjacent to the park.

The park system currently provides three small craft river public access sites. These facilities are located at Riverside, Silver Creek, and Fannie P. Lewis Parks. All three of these existing facilities are sited on the portion of the Rock River between the Upper Dam (near Tivoli Island) and the Lower Dam (near the Senior Center). Given the popular desire for river-based facilities reported in the survey findings, additional river access sites for small craft should be provided upstream of the Upper Dam, near Tivoli Island, and downstream of the Lower Dam. River and bank conditions, the suitability for carry-in and vehicle accessibility, and property availability, will be the most important site considerations for such facilities. General locations are depicted on Map 3.

The Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission should develop a detailed plan for the recently donated property located on the west side of Nelson Lane.

B. Collaborate with Private Entities on Future Facilities

The City intends to collaborate with private groups to provide additional recreation facilities to complement the City’s park system. For example, there is a lack of indoor multi-purpose recreation facilities in the City of Watertown; the closest facility is in Wisconsin Dells. This type of facility could include a variety of indoor sport courts and fields, locker rooms, concessions, and meeting rooms. Due to the expense and complexity of building and operating these facilities, the City does not intend to provide such a facility independently. At the time of writing, a private entity in the City was considering developing this type of facility. The City should support this project and consider how the City could be involved in its development and how the facility would be used.

C. Recommended Recreation Trails

The City of Watertown is deficient in linear bike and pedestrian recreational facilities. Map 3 depicts future on- and off-street recreation trails as proposed in the 2007 City of Watertown Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the 2006 City of Watertown Riverwalk Plan, and the Jefferson County and Dodge County bicycle and pedestrian plans. Additionally, this Plan recommends trail connections through the future recreational facilities described above.

The 2006 City of Watertown Riverwalk Plan recommends a unified riverwalk system to connect activity centers on both sides of the Rock River. The Riverwalk, extending between the Cady Street and South Church Street (Highway 26) bridges on both sides of the river, would provide direct access to the river, pedestrian circulation with linkages between parks and other destinations along the river, and other recreational opportunities. The Plan also recommends an extension of the existing overlook at Main Street including a bike rack, wayfinding signage, and kiosk area. Also, acquisition of additional property adjacent to the Senior Center should be considered for future expansion or a community center addition. The Riverwalk would eventually link with other bike trails in Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Please refer to the Riverwalk Plan for detailed recommendations.

The Jefferson County and Dodge County bicycle and pedestrian plans recommend a local network of signed on-street bike routes as well as off-street multi-use paths that would connect Watertown with the region.
D. Recommended Improvements to Existing Parks

In addition to parkland acquisition and new special facilities, Watertown's extensive existing parks and open space system will need to be maintained and updated. The following are recommendations for improvements to facilities:

1. The following list contains future plans and considerations for the continued development of Brandt-Quirk Park:
   - Consider options to improve access to the park
   - Basketball and volleyball courts
   - Community Pavilion (ice arena and summer recreation facility)
   - Quarry Lake (beach, fishing, and non-motorized boating)
   - Additional picnic shelters and restrooms
   - Playground equipment

2. Continue to develop and maintain playgrounds and equipment in accordance with the Playground Management Plan.

3. The Park, Recreation, and Forestry Department should develop master plans for each of its current properties. These master plans should indicate current use and conditions of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds. Once established, these master plans form the basis for developing a capital improvements program.

4. The Park, Recreation, and Forestry Department should work closely with the Plan Commission to locate neighborhood parks when Detailed Neighborhood Plans are prepared for the “Planned Neighborhood” residential growth areas in the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

5. Continue to participate in county planning efforts, particularly through implementation of the Watertown portion of the Jefferson County Bike and Pedestrian Plan and working with Dodge County on bicycle and pedestrian trail links.

6. Improve communication with park users about available facilities and programming through an upgraded City’s website and use of social media such as Facebook.
City of Watertown Park and Open Space Plan

Map 3: Future Park and Recreation Facilities

Public School Recreation Facilities
A. Douglas Elementary School
B. Lincoln Elementary School
C. Schurz Elementary School
D. Webster Elementary School
E. Riverside Junior High
F. Watertown High School

Private School Recreation Facilities
G. Calvary Baptist Christian School
H. St. Bernard’s School
I. St. Henry’s School
J. St. John’s School
K. St. Mark’s School
L. Trinity Lutheran School
M. Luther Prep School
N. Munthes Bible College

Proposed Park and Recreation Facilities

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- School Recreation Facilities
- Pet Exercise Areas
- River Access Site

Adopted: February 18, 2014
Sources: City of Watertown, Jefferson Co, Dodge Co, FEMA
Estimated Cost Projections for Future Facilities

This element contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this Plan. The information is intended to assist the City with budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy 66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding parkland dedication, fees-in-lieu of dedication, and playground improvements impact fee collection. However, the adoption of this Plan does not commit the City of Watertown to collecting these fees through an ordinance.

A. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

Based on a projected growth of 3,895 persons by the year 2024 and the City’s standard of 11.42 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (for neighborhood and community parks; according to Statutes, the City cannot require dedication of land for special use parks), the City should plan to spend an estimated $978,580 in 2014 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 1,527 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of $641 per new dwelling unit would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,296 square feet (0.03 acres) per dwelling unit would satisfy this requirement, if land dedication were preferred. However, land dedication per this provision must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

Figure 15: Projected Parkland Dedication and Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Projected Additional Population in 2024 (individuals)</td>
<td>3,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2024 (dwelling units)</td>
<td>1,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*11.42)</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Calculated Land Dedication Requirement per Dwelling Unit in Acres (Row C/Row B)</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Land Cost per Acre Estimate (Based on an average cost per acre listed for comparable land sales in the City.)</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Projected Cost of Land Acquisition (Row C*Row E)</td>
<td>$889,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*10%)</td>
<td>$88,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Total Land Acquisition Cost (Row F + Row G)</td>
<td>$978,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Calculated Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit (Row H/Row B)</td>
<td>$641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Alternative Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit in Square Feet</td>
<td>1,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Playground Improvements

Each park type should have a minimum amount of playground equipment/opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of users. However, State law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 16 outlines the collectable playground costs associated with each future park type in Watertown. A cost of $1,264 per dwelling unit would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements.
Figure 16: Projected Improvements by Park Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Cost of Play Equipment</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Cost of Benches</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Total Estimated Cost (Row A + Row B)</td>
<td>$106,000</td>
<td>$112,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Total Playground Costs per Acre</td>
<td>$21,200</td>
<td>$4,480</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Landscaping Cost per Acre</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Sidewalks Cost per Acre (within parkland)</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Adjacent Road and Utility Improvements Cost per Acre*</td>
<td>$37,360</td>
<td>$16,704</td>
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<tr>
<td>I. Grading and Seeding Cost per Acre</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (Rows E + F + G + H + I)</td>
<td>$71,060</td>
<td>$33,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Acres per 1,000 Residents (based on City standard on page 32)</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>8.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Percent of Total Acres per 1,000 residents in Row L (Row K/11.42)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (weighted average of Row H based on Row J = ($71,060<em>0.26)+($33,684</em>0.74))</td>
<td>$43,402</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = See Appendix D for detailed calculations

Figure 17: Projected Recreation Facilities Fee

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Projected Additional Population in 2024 (individuals)</td>
<td>3,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2024 (dwelling units)</td>
<td>1,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*11.42)</td>
<td>44.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Average Park Playground Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Row M from Figure 16)</td>
<td>$43,402</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Projected Cost of Playground Improvements (Row C*Row D)</td>
<td>$1,930,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Calculated Playground Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)</td>
<td>$1,264</td>
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C. Total Impact Fee

In Watertown, impact fees should be imposed on each new dwelling unit unilaterally. By using the fees outlined in Figures 15, 16, and 17 for park lands and playground improvements, the total park fee per dwelling unit will be $1,905. In instances where development has dedicated lands, the collected fee will be $1,264 per dwelling unit. Figure 18 includes the recommended land dedication and fees for both traditional and institutional residential dwellings units.
In an effort to address the inequities between the cost of dedicating land within a development and paying the fee in lieu of land dedication, it is the City’s policy to reimburse developers who dedicate land for the costs of installing road and utility improvements adjacent to parkland as well as grading and seeding costs. Developers shall be reimbursed $200 per linear feet of road frontage for installation of road and utility improvements and $2,000 per acre for grading and seeding improvements. This reimbursement shall only apply to neighborhood and community parks and not to other recreation facilities.

**Figure 18** City of Watertown Recommended Land Dedication and Improvement Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional Residential Dwelling Unit</th>
<th>Institutional Residential Dwelling Unit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Dedication</td>
<td>1,296 sq. ft.</td>
<td>518 sq. ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee in Lieu of Land</td>
<td>$641</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvement Fee</td>
<td>$1,264</td>
<td>$506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fee</td>
<td>$1,905</td>
<td>$762</td>
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Impact on Low-Income Housing

As part of the public facilities needs assessment process, Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing impact fees on the availability of affordable housing within the community. For this type of analysis, it is first assumed that housing in Watertown is affordable if:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a households adjusted gross income;
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the City of Watertown’s median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2010 was $50,273 according to the 2009-2011 American Community Survey data); and
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the Watertown population’s median household income for a home mortgage ($125,683) and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in the City of Watertown would cost approximately $131,967. (According to 2009-2011 American Community Survey data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the City of Watertown is $165,400). Assuming a typical single-family detached housing price of $131,967, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of $125,683, the typical monthly mortgage payment is $812.

The City’s imposed fees for parkland, park improvements, and recreation trails would be an integral part of the housing unit mortgage amount. Based on the recommendations of this Plan, the park fee added to the home mortgage amount is $1,905. After adding this fee, the mortgage amount for the typical single family detached home would increase to $127,588; and assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would be $822. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the park fee is $10 per month. Therefore, using the assumptions for a home in the City of Watertown, this study finds that the park impact fee requirements will have a minimal effect on the provision of affordable housing in the City.
Implementation

The recommendations presented in this Plan will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the City to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs (listed in Appendix C). It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets. The park and open space improvements recommended in this Plan should also be incorporated into the City’s capital improvement plans and programs.

Figure 19 outlines the City’s current land dedication and improvement fees. The City’s fee in lieu of land is lower than communities of similar size in the region. The City should reevaluate parkland dedication requirements, parkland acquisition impact fees, and park improvement fees based on recommendations in this Plan. A commitment to pay these fees should be agreed to as part of Annexation Agreements and should be calculated and applied during the zoning or land division process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional Residential Dwelling Unit</th>
<th>Institutional Residential Dwelling Unit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Dedication</td>
<td>1,250 sq ft</td>
<td>500 sq ft</td>
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<td>Fee in Lieu of Land</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<td>Recreation Facilities Improvement Fee</td>
<td>$1,066</td>
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<td>Total Fee</td>
<td>$1,266</td>
<td>$506</td>
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</table>

The City should coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g. Dodge and Jefferson counties), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g. school districts, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and private and non-profit agencies to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this Plan.

Generally, the City of Watertown should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this Plan. The City should amend its subdivision ordinance to reflect the recommendations for parkland dedication presented in earlier in this Plan, and should continue to use the development review process to secure parklands as development occurs.
## Appendix A: Recreation Amenities in Public Parks and Schools, 2014

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<tr>
<th>Public Parks</th>
<th>Drinking Water</th>
<th>Rest Rooms</th>
<th>Enclosed Shelter</th>
<th>Open Shelter</th>
<th>Band Shelter</th>
<th>Swimming Pool</th>
<th>Play Equipment</th>
<th>Basketball Courts</th>
<th>Horse-Shoes</th>
<th>Tennis</th>
<th>Volleyball</th>
<th>Baseball/Softball</th>
<th>Batting Cages</th>
<th>Soccer</th>
<th>Disc Golf</th>
<th>Playfield</th>
<th>Picnic Tables/Grills</th>
<th>Boating (non-motorized)/Canoeing</th>
<th>Ice Skating/Hockey</th>
<th>Sledging Area</th>
<th>Boating Area</th>
<th>Nature Study Area</th>
<th>Boating Area</th>
<th>Fishing</th>
<th>Hiking</th>
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**Public Schools**

- Douglas Elementary: ✓ ✓
- Lincoln Elementary: ✓ ✓
- Schurz Elementary: ✓ ✓
- Webster Elementary: ✓ ✓
- Riverside Middle School: ✓ ✓ 6 2 ✓
- Watertown High School: 3 1 ✓

**Private Schools**

- Calvary Baptist: ✓ ✓ ✓
- St. Bernard’s: ✓ ✓ ✓
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ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
### Appendix B: Acreage of Land Devoted to Park and Recreation Uses by Park, 2014

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinwald Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Oaks Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Rose Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Concord Estates (undeveloped)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Special Use Areas:</td>
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<td>East Water Street Park</td>
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<td>Fannie P. Lewis Park</td>
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<td>Kalota Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Walkway</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Center Grounds</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Silver Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skate/BMX Park</td>
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<td>2.76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Park</td>
<td>Active Recreation Area</td>
<td>Passive Recreation Area</td>
<td>Natural Area</td>
<td>Special Facilities Area</td>
<td>Water, Wetland, Floodplain Area</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>Tivoli Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watertown East Apartment Area (undeveloped)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Publicly-owned Parks</strong></td>
<td>127.1</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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<td>52.1</td>
<td>304.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Elementary</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Elementary</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schurz Elementary</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Elementary</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Middle School</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown High School</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>197.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Baptist Christian School</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard’s</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Henry’s</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John’s</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark’s</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Luke’s Lutheran</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maranatha Bible College</td>
<td>(5.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(5.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luther Preparatory School</td>
<td>(7.9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(7.9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public/Private School Parks</strong></td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>217.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>187.1</td>
<td>204.4</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>67.1</td>
<td>521.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.
2Passive Accessible Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.
3Natural Area: passive, non-accessible areas for conservation
4Special Facilities Area: water access site

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
## Appendix C: State and Federal Grant Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Administrative Agency</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wisconsin Stewardship Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) | To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities | $4 million avail. per yr. 50% local match per project | May 1    | - A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required  
- Priority for land acquisition  
- Projects must comply with ADA | WDNR                   | Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218 |
| Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)                    | To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features | $1.6 million avail. per yr. 50% local match per project | May 1    | - A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required  
- Projects must comply with ADA | WDNR                   | Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218 |
| Acquisition of Development Rights                | To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities | $1.6 million avail. per yr. 50% local match per project | May 1    | - Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place.  
- May include enhancements of outdoor recreation. | WDNR                   | Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218 |
| Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)                 | To acquire lands, 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 avail. per yr. 50% local match per project | May 1    | - A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required  
- Projects must comply with ADA | WDNR                   | Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Administrative Agency</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)</td>
<td>To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities</td>
<td>50% local match per project</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required</td>
<td>WDNR with TEA-21 Funds</td>
<td>Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Trails Act</td>
<td>To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails</td>
<td>50% local match per project</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in, or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan. Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan</td>
<td>WDNR with TEA-21 Funds</td>
<td>Stefanie Brouwer, South Central Region 608-275-3218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Enhancements Program</td>
<td>Providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This program provides funding for rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, as well as streetscaping “Main Streets” and landscaping near transportation facilities</td>
<td>▪ Funded through TEA-21 ▪ 20% required match</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>WisDOT</td>
<td>David Cosh 608-246-5445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)

- **Purpose**: Provides flexible funds, which can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway projects through the Federal-aid highway system, bridges, transit facilities, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- **Funding Details**:
  - Funded through TEA-21
  - 20% required match
- **Deadline**: February
- **Notes**:
  - 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
- **Administrative Agency**: WisDOT
- **Contact**: David Cosh 608-246-5445

### Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)

- **Purpose**: Transit capital projects; includes intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations; most funds are to be directed toward transit itself.
- **Funding Details**:
  - 20% local match per project
- **Deadline**: Early Spring
- **Notes**:
  - Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis
  - Congress/Administration can pick the projects; however, the authorization bill contains a list of specific criteria
- **Administrative Agency**: WisDOT Bureau of Transit
- **Contact**: David Vickman 608-264-9532

### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program

- **Purpose**: Funds projects that will reduce vehicle trips and miles; reduce emissions due to traffic congestion, or reduce the per mile rate of vehicle emissions
- **Funding Details**:
  - Funded through TEA-21
  - 20% local match
- **Deadline**: In April of odd numbered years
- **Notes**:
  - Only available to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties
- **Administrative Agency**: USDOT
- **Contact**: David Cosh 608-246-5445
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Administrative Agency</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 402-Highway Safety Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programs Empowerment Program</td>
<td>For bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and training projects, including helmet promotion and purchases, sponsorship of rodeos, classes, and development of brochures</td>
<td>20% local match per project</td>
<td>October – December</td>
<td>▪ Engineering and maintenance work not eligible for funding</td>
<td>WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety</td>
<td>Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Safety Program (Section 403)</td>
<td>Available for bicycle/pedestrian education. May also be used to develop safety classes for bicycle/pedestrian offenders</td>
<td>20%-50% local match per project</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>▪ For communities that can document bicycle crashes related to motor vehicle violations ▪ Funds new enforcement programs up to $1000</td>
<td>WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety</td>
<td>Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>Funds the research needed to substantiate unique local needs for additional safety funding</td>
<td>20% local match per project</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>▪ A study of transit needs on public lands to assess the feasibility of alternative transportation modes (Section 3039)</td>
<td>WisDOT Bureau of Transportation Safety</td>
<td>Michelle Ellias 608-245-2675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Main Street Community Program</td>
<td>Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes streetscape improvements</td>
<td>No Date</td>
<td></td>
<td>▪ General downtown program ▪ May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping</td>
<td>National Main Street Center</td>
<td>Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Downtown Development 608-266-7531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Funding Details</td>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Administrative Agency</td>
<td>Contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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                          |          | $ available for the development of national bicycle safety education curriculum
$ available for grants to a national not-for-profit organization engages in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety
$ available for a study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes | FHWA                         | U.S. Dept. of Transportation 202-366-4000 |
| Urban Forestry Grants                                    | Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness          | $1,000 to $25,000 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          | Jeff Roe 608-275-3256                        |
| Home Depot Community Improvement (Environmental) Grants  | Assistance for forestry and ecology projects, clean-up beautification projects, recycling programs |                                      |          |                                                                      | Home Depot Community Affairs | Local Home Depot Store Manager                |
Appendix D: Park Improvement Fee Calculations

The following is the calculation methodology for Figure 16, Row H.

**Figure 20: Road and Utilities Improvements Calculation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards) in Acres</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Typical Park Size in Square Feet</td>
<td>217,800</td>
<td>1,089,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Conceptual Road Frontage on Two Sides in Linear Feet ((\sqrt{\text{Row B} \times 2}))</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>2,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Parkland Portion (Half) of Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost for Typical Park (Row E \times Row C)</td>
<td>$186,800</td>
<td>$417,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Acre for Typical Park (Row F \times Row A)</td>
<td>$37,360</td>
<td>$16,704</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix E: Park Input Survey Results

A citywide survey was conducted in the summer of 2013. The online survey was posted on the City’s website and Facebook page, and hard copies were made available at public libraries. The City received 222 completed surveys. The results of the survey, along with the other public input generated during the process, were used to form the core recommendations of the Plan. The following is a summary of all responses received. In many cases, percentages total to more than 100 percent, as respondents were allowed to select more than one response.

1. How would you rate the following aspects of the City’s existing parks and recreational facilities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Adequate</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
<td>Park cleanliness</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park landscaping</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park mowing</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic fields</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnishings (picnic tables, sidewalk, benches, etc.)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 222
skipped question 0

Other (please specify):

- Need bathrooms at parks to allow young children to visit for more than 30 min.
- Riverside Park bathrooms are filthy, otherwise, very nice facilities.
- Some parks don't even have picnic tables
- Brandenstein Park needs updated equipment
- Very messy people at the lower dam leaving lots of garbage. Spent 1 hour picking up line, hooks, garbage with my 2 kids. Went back week later and looked almost as bad. I won’t even fish there anymore.
- Baseball fields are covered with rocks and soccer field lines are barely visible all the time
- Rest room facilities could be used at some parks
- Sand and Water makes a good mess and causes many fights when sand is thrown. I don't find the playground at Brandt Quirk a very good idea
- Tennis is my main sport, so I'm disappointed in the lack of good courts in the area, but it seems like most of the other fields are outstanding!
- The Dan Brandenstein Park currently has a restroom under construction, but in the meantime the portapotty that used to be there is gone.
- Except Brandt-Quirk dog trail and "Dog Park" -these are awful.
- Parks are one of Watertown's best features - we should enhance them even more!
- Playground equipment at Brandt quirk, like riverside
- Dog Friendly Areas - 0 - there is no point to having a leashed dog area. They need to be able to run.
- Others from out of town have complimented us highly on Brandt Quirk
- More picnic tables would be nice at Riverside Park
- Many of the smaller parks have nice equipment, but Chamberland could use some help. It’s getting really run down.

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014  65
2. How well do you feel the existing parks and recreational system meets your needs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I do not use the existing system.</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not at all.</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The existing system is adequate.</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The existing system exceeds my needs.</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>answered question</td>
<td>217</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other (please specify):
- Bathrooms/Porta Potty needed for emergencies for mothers with children.
- We live in Oconomowoc. Riverside, Aquatic Center, and Riverside School are what we frequent.
- The parks have everything that I could want.
- Watertown parks are good but not great - would like them to be great!
- Does the job for practices but not for games.
- Sometimes we don't get the same answer and not everyone is on the same page when it comes to little league. I know it came be hard but maybe a sheet with most of the answers would be helpful.
- Would love to see some biking trails!!
- There seems to be a problem reserving baseball fields for practice.
- Cannot walk my dogs on the park paths as I did years ago, so I don't really use the park anymore. How about enforcing laws about doggy doo, rather than ruining the parks for responsible people?
- More is needed. Please see my comments in #10.
- When reserving parks, poor way to let the public sign up, I have felt slighted on reservations for the park.
- The organization around parks and rec run sports is horrible. We don’t have a permanent time for our baseball practice, which makes scheduling a nightmare for working parents. Twice I have had children put in the wrong swimming lesson from what they were signed up. The website is horrible and completely outdated. The forms for programs are lacking in information.
- Except for the field the U11 Watertown Storm Baseball plays at.
- Love this park! I truly feel it is not advertised enough. A great area for family fun and need more sports on fields.
- Bike paths would be wonderful!

3. What improvements should be made to existing parks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brandt/Quirk Park – Community Park</th>
<th>answered question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brandt/quirk park – community park</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- CC Ski-post signage demanding dog walkers to STAY OFF GROOMED TRAILS December thru March 15!!!!
- Add more base in the sand box kids play area
- Playground
City of Watertown Park and Open Space Plan

Appendix E: Park Input Survey Results

- Add bike trail
- Hockey/Ice Skating more frequent maintenance (ice surface)
- Repair the tennis courts
- Add some type of playground/jungle gym
- Add basketball court
- Tennis court repairs and resurfacing
- Better lining paint for soccer fields
- Better rakes
- Emergency evacuation plan (in case of tornado)
- Lights on all fields
- Change the Play Ground I know it would be expensive but parents don't watch their children and to many get hurt
- Tennis Court Resurfacing
- Remove existing infield dirt & replace w/higher quality, safer dirt/clay composite (free of rocks!) made specifically for infields. Grade the infields annually so pockets of standing water are minimized. This is a natural step in park improvement, a follow-up to the sprinkler system that waters the grass.
- A public address system that can be used for park-wide announcements, including but not limited to such purposes as weather alerts. With so many tournaments, this feature would add a lot of credibility to B/Q.
- Additional playground equipment with appropriate netting/fencing to protect the kids as they play from foul balls & people that don't have the kids best interests in mind. I've seen netting over a playground at a softball complex in Mankato, MN, and thought it was a terrific idea.
- Restrict walking and dogs on ski routes
- Area for snowshoeing
- Fenced in dog area with no leash required
- Tennis courts need major work on the surfaces
- Walking paths (not mowed swamp you needs muck boots for) and less brush so mosquitoes don't carry us off when we walk our dogs.
- Speed bumps! In all parks please especially Brandt Quirk, drivers are exceeding the limit by 20 mph, your help is appreciated! Dogs should be kept on leashes, enforce law please.
- Disc golf too close to the north soccer field.
- Playground equipment like riverside
- More trees, landscaping, tables, benches, shelters

Riverside Park – Community Park

- Upgrade restrooms
- Add a Disc Golf Course
- move large rocks by the Glacier River Heritage canoe trail launch to make it easier access
- Better parking towards the fields
- More "no dogs allowed" signs
- Improve bathroom facilities
- Upgrading the existing restroom facilities
- Updated Restroom Facilities
- adult softball fields, lights, warning track, drainage
- Chamberlain mats/flooring replaced
- Do better job on the outfield. Way too many bumps and uneven.
- Keep an eye on the kids in the parking lot. A lot of noise and squealing of the tires.
- Update playground and maintenance of playground
- Improve blacktop at upper level
- Make parking area more attractive somehow, improve bathrooms, add outdoor exercise equip. for seniors
- New or updated concession stand with restrooms for bb players
- Splash pad

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
• Diamond 2
• The play equipment, mats, and the riff-raff that hangs out there in the afternoon.
• Fixing broken equipment/Restaining/Park looks run down
• Telling older kids not to hang around Chamberlain Park and not letting little ones on play area
• If you won’t repair Brandt/Quirk, then Riverside Courts need work
• Adequate supervision at night. Too many teens in the evening from about 5pm on. Swearing, drinking, etc. Not a place to be with a family anymore in the evening. Need more security there
• Needs new bathrooms badly

Washington Park – Community Park
• Make it more of a stadium/sports complex for baseball similar to Marinette, LaCrosse and other facilities
• Bring in good infield dirt-Get tarp’s for pitchers & home plate

Brandenstein Park – Neighborhood Park
• Finish bathrooms
• New and safer playground equipment
• Playground equipment maintenance/upgrade.
• New playground equipment
• Update jungle gym, add pavilion for shade
• Playground equipment
• Just about everything!

Clark Park – Neighborhood Park
• SPRAY DIAMONDS FOR WEEDS
• Broke slide
• Sitting benches, informative signage, wood chip trail
• Add outdoor exercise equipment, for older adults and seniors that walk around town
• New Rubber on the ground!!!!!!! More trash cans. . LOTS of litter IN the playground area:
• Sand or otherwise refinish Chamberland.
• Road behind the concession stand. Traffic flies down the road and is very dangerous for people crossing to their cars. More speed bumps?
• More picnic tables and benches
• Need more advertisement. Such a nice park for sports and family fun
• New bathrooms, it’s always dark and wet in the ladies bathroom
• Landscaping/trees around diamonds, better fencing
• Fix score board and new bleachers
• Washington park has swear words written on the playground equipment
• Add outdoor exercise equipment, for older adults and seniors that walk around town
• Open the bathroom up for usage
• Not sure if there are restrooms? Or if there are restrooms, are they open consistently?
• Remove weeds from baseball diamond sand
• More park benches
• New playground equipment
• Parking lot by new bathrooms
• Complete the bathroom structure
• Tennis courts need a facelift
• More benches by the play area for adults
• Add horseshoe pits and outdoor, cement?, ping pong tables
Deer Trail Park – Neighborhood Park
- Needs bathroom, shade
- Restroom Facilities
- Baseball area could be upgraded into a better practice facility
- Bathroom additions to where kids practice for soccer, etc.

Grinwald Park – Neighborhood Park
- No comments

Hunter Oaks – Neighborhood Park
- More Trees
- Shelter area and bathrooms
- Restroom
- Bathroom
- Tables
- Something that gives shade
- Needs some shade, bathrooms, more benches,
- Restroom Facilities

Lincoln Park – Neighborhood Park
- Benches
- add outdoor exercise equipment, for older adults and seniors that walk around town
- No paper towel or soap - not even dispensers! Gross.
- bleachers, improve ball field

MaryRose Park – Neighborhood Park
- Needs a shelter with picnic tables and bathrooms attached to the shelter
- More picnic tables
- Bathrooms - not just port-a-potties

Schaller Park – Neighborhood Park
- No comments

South Concord Estates Area – Neighborhood Park
- No comments

Timothy Johnson Park – Neighborhood Park
- SPRAY DIAMONDS FOR WEEDS

Union Park – Neighborhood Park
- Bleachers
- Infield could use some better maintenance
- SPRAY DIAMONDS FOR WEEDS

Aquatic Center – Special Use Park
- Cleaner
- Open earlier on the weekends and later at night

Fannie P. Lewis Park – Special Use Park
- Add outdoor exercise equipment, for older adults and seniors that walk around town
- Lawn Mowing- It needs to be Weed Wacked more than every few weeks. . . it looks horrible walking and driving past when the grass along the curbs and rocks are 8” tall
**Indoor Pool – Special Use Park**
- Heat in locker rooms and better showers

**Pet Exercise Area – Special Use Park**
- Off leash completely fenced in area. I don’t use this now. We drive to the Jefferson County park. I don’t even see the purpose of a leashed dog park. They could walk there dog anywhere on a leash.

**River Walk – Special Use Park**
- Clear to make accessible through the winter, extend north of Main St bridge / south of Milwaukee St.

**Senior Center – Special Use Park**
- No comments

**Silver Creek – Special Use Park**
- No comments

**Skate Park – Special Use Park**
- No comments

**Tivoli Island – Special Use Park**
- I’d love to see it restored to its former glory- instead of a mosquito haven.

**Veteran’s Memorial – Special Use Park**
- No comments

---

4. What 3 parks/facilities in the City’s park system are the most important to the community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandt/Quirk Park</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington Park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neighborhood Parks</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandenstein Park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark Park</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Trail Park</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinwald Park</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Oaks</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Park</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MaryRose Park</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schaller Park</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Concord Estates Area</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Johnson Park</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Park</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Use Parks</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Center</td>
<td>62.6%</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Park Input Survey Results

#### Fannie P. Lewis Park
- 0.5% 1

#### Indoor Pool
- 11.7% 25

#### Pet Exercise Area
- 7.0% 15

#### River Walk
- 1.9% 4

#### Senior Center
- 6.1% 13

#### Silver Creek
- 0.0% 0

#### Skate Park
- 0.9% 2

#### Tivoli Island
- 9.3% 20

#### Veteran's Memorial
- 5.1% 11

**Answered question** 214
**Skipped question** 8

### 5. What types of activities do you currently enjoy in the current park system? Check all that apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross country skiing</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rollerblading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice skating</td>
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<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing/kayaking</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc golf</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog exercise</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature watching</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrichment classes</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answered question** 218
**Skipped question** 4

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
### 6. Which of the following types of new parks are currently needed to meet existing deficiencies and future needs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None, all of my parks and recreation needs are met</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood parks (including playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, and open fields)</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active community parks (including a variety of sports fields, pavilions, parking, restrooms, and other high impact uses)</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive community parks (including natural areas, trails, nature watching, and other low impact uses)</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike and pedestrian trails</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River-based facilities</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**answered question** 212  
**skipped question** 10

**Other (please specify):**

- Canoe and Kayak facilities on the river.
- free run dog park
- enclosed dog park
- Splash pad park
- Broke slide at Clark Park
- Bike and/or running trails
- Fenced in dog park
- please turn the parking lot along the river on 1st St into a park, or at least half of it
- More cross-country skiing trails
- Heiden Park for fishing, nature trail, wildlife observation
- Water-splash pad would be awesome
- I’d like Riverside park to allow dogs. I can run my dog around it... but not through it!
- Off leash fenced in dog park
- Indoor Sports Complex
- Kayak/watercraft rental facilities would add to tourism and increase park use. Oconomowoc has added this to their program, and it's great! Would love to stay in the community for kayaking!
- condemn and tear down the big vacant brown bldg Main St and turn that into a neat urban park, with a stage for small performances
- Dog park.
- more pet friendly parks where our pets are allowed to be and have water and exercise equipment for dogs
- Organization of Programs
- Except for available fields for U11 Watertown Storm Team
- Bigger Dog Park with more activities for the dogs
- Need to use our Riverside park more. Such a beautiful park and Branquark Park is quite boring!
- Dog park, I only go to Wttn park when short on time. Usually go to Jefferson County's dog park
- Parks that dogs are welcome at
- Dog Park
- An enclosed area within or new dog park
7. Which of the following types of new recreational programs and facilities are currently needed to meet existing deficiencies and future needs?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Programs for children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs for teenagers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs for adults</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs for seniors</td>
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<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs for people with disabilities</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc golf</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor pool</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor sports complex</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash pad</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer fields</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dog park</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball/softball fields</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football fields</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis courts</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike and pedestrian trails</td>
<td>55.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>21</td>
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</table>

**answered question** 202

**skipped question** 20

*Other (please specify):*

- indoor/outdoor racquetball courts
- More dog walking areas to keep the walkers off the groomed Skate Skiing trails—the craters they leave in the warmer weather freeze hard and that’s when I take all my hard falls.
- I looked this summer for a short/one day or once a week program for my 4 year old... that would involve art/messy art... perfect for outdoors. None found.
- I still see dogs in parks!
- indoor ice rink
- outdoor pickleball court
- Family friendly where the family can go and do different things together for different ages.
- Indoor Ice Rink
- Outdoor pool
- More natural areas to educate young and old alike
- When I mean children- I mean 3/4 year olds. Most programs start at age 5
- Water (boat) based activities
- cool sledding hill, with safe parking nearby and open space around the hill. Could build it out of dirt from road and landscape projects.
- Fishing piers
- Programs for young children (under 5)
- all
- Soccer 3 times a year at shorter periods always seemed impractical to me. The overflow of soccer into baseball was horrible to deal with this year. Why not start baseball after memorial day to give you some rainout cushion? In addition, we always miss the first baseball game because we travel memorial weekend and are usually leaving Thursday night.
- Indoor Winter Activities for Children - Play Areas
- Very good @ present
- basketball hoops
- fenced in dog park
8. What are your top 3 priorities for improvements identified in Question 7?

**Priority One**

- We need a hiking-type of park
- Splash Pad (9)
- Programs for seniors (4)
- Bike trail (15)
- Enforcement of designating and maintaining groomed CC skiing facilities
- Dog park (15)
- Bike and Pedestrian Trails (27)
- Programs for preschool/toddler children
- Bathroom in all parks,
- I think you do a great job with the parks, planting, etc.
- Programs for teens (2)
- Indoor Sports Complex (17)
- Brandt Quirk-resurfacing of diamonds
- Tennis Courts (7)
- Programs for adults
- More classes for specific age groups - not always seniors
- Programs for children (7)
- Would love to see an area where children can come to a park where there are water based activities like other large cities
- Keep improving BQ with lights, field grooming/mounding/drainage. Could bring economic benefits to city yearly
- More options
- Programs for DD people
- Improve infields at Brandt/Quirk (and Riverside). It is a safety and credibility issue.
- Outdoor pool open more hours
- Baseball fields
- More access to the indoor pool for swim times
- Positive Reinforcement Dog Training Classes. Right now we're driving to Madison for this because Watertown only has negative, heavy-handed training available. Positive training has worked so well that we'll be taking the advanced trick training and agility classes as well. It would be great to have this in Watertown, and think of all the well-mannered dogs we'd have! This is the link to the place we've been going. Maybe they'll come out and teach for us. http://www.dogsbestfriendtraining.com/
- More activities during winter
- Administration and organization of park and rec activities
- Clean up the playground equipment
- Make Brandt Quirk available to Watertown Storm U11
• Advertise more for Riverside Park for organized sports
• New bathrooms at Riverside Park, it’s always dark and wet in the women bathroom.
• cleaned up
• Programs for all
• Large area with bleacher seating
• Put in reserved spots at Brandt Quirk for coaches. This would be especially helpful for later games when the parking lot gets filled and you have to carry equipment long distances.
• Indoor Pool (2)
• A baseball complex to be competitive with other communities
• Upkeep on existing diamonds aside from BQ

**Priority Two**

• Indoor Pool (4)
• Indoor sports complex (10)
• attract a business partner for indoor sports
• Dog park (12)
• keeping dogs off the cross country ski trails
• Make the dog park and dog walking trails as civilized as the rest of the walking paths in the park system. A fence would be nice, too.
• an actual bike path not right on busy roads
• Quarry the rest of the rock at Brandt/Quirk Park and develop the future water areas.
• Bike and pedestrian trails (15)
• Shade
• Splash pad (9)
• programs for adults
• Programs for teenagers (11)
• Programs for children (7)
• Programming for Seniors
• All baseball/softball fields-need to be regraded every fall for proper drainage.
• Soccer fields (2)
• Disc golf (Great existing park! Keep it up! Another would be great.)
• More options and times of popular classes
• Rotary Gardens i.e. Janesville
• Geocaching (3)
• movie in the park night
• zero depth and handicapped accessible indoor pool
• Establish a lacrosse field in an existing park
• more time for lessons/activities for indoor pool
• Adding lights to the remaining unlit diamonds at B/Q.
• Outdoor pool is too crowded at times.
• Other: More natural areas
• Football fields for youth football (3)
• Exercise Program at indoor pool
• Timing of activities, factoring in rain dates, set schedules
• Add benches to neighborhood parks
• Branquart Park is BORING!
• paved hiking trails
• 4th through 6th grade basketball league

Priority Three
• Bike and Pedestrian Trails (10)
• Programs of adults (8)
• Programs for teens (7)
• Programs for children (4)
• Dog park (8)
• Indoor sports complex (12)
• Indoor Pool (5)
• splash pad (5)
• Disc golf (3)
• Lacrosse (3)
• Baseball fields (3)
• More seating - benches
• Signage for pedestrian trails in existing parks
• Geocaching (2)
• Indoor Ice Rink
• Additional, protected playground equipment intended specifically for siblings of participants on B/Q diamonds.
• Kayak Rentals. We meet friends in another town for kayaking right now. I know they'd love to come to Watertown and kayak on the river there. It would be a popular attraction for our town.
• Sledding hill
• Things for the disabled
• Football Field
• More soccer fields available for the public
• Some way of enforcing rules in general
9. Did the City’s park and recreation amenities influence your decision to move to or stay in Watertown?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please explain:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Please explain:

- We are really spoiled to have so many quality parks in our small community. Thank you Parks & Rec. for the upkeep of these parks!
- Influenced our decision to stay in Watertown
- Lived here whole life and now have kids to enjoy programs
- I live in Oconomowoc because my wife commutes to Milwaukee for work.
- No, but we only go to certain parks
- I have found the existing parks and recreation facilities excellent.
- Born and raised here. Long-time resident.
- It is wonderful to have both community pools.
- Gets you outside and enjoy what the city has to offer
- Riverside school/swim lessons for kids
- Move here & stay due to employment and schools
- We were impressed with the aquatic center and Riverside Park
- There is nothing that really makes me want to stay, but nice facilities when you come back
- We enjoy the parks in Watertown, we frequent the river walk (wish it was longer), dog exercise (wish there was a free run area) area, and Riverside park (at times it is overrun with teenagers up to no good).
- We have great parks but they have not played a part in our decision to stay or move here.
- I grew up here and moved back, mostly to be close to family and friends, but the parks are one of the things that makes Watertown nice. They should be improved, expanded, and enhanced as much as possible.
- It was never a factor
- I enjoy the fact we have so many & they are well maintained!
- I want to my family to be able to enjoy the city in which we live
- I moved without any consent or choice of mine
- Watertown has activities going on all the time, if you’re bored you’re not using the park and rec. directory.
- I would stay in Watertown regardless due to family obligations
- Riverside Park attracted us to live in the city and near that park.
- Moving to Watertown 12 years ago was based on its location relative to job site.
- I have lived in Watertown my whole life.
- Other priorities influenced our move to Watertown, but the park system is a plus and has a bearing on our decision to stay or move.
- Lived here all my life
We were looking to move to Janesville. We decided not to because we liked the size of Watertown and we really like the ability to play tennis whenever we pretty much can.

Really liked how many neighborhood parks there are here, that was part of our choice for purchasing a house here over other communities.

Years ago (when we could walk dogs on the trails in the parks) the parks were one of the best things about this town. I know I sound like a broken record here, but if I enjoy walking with my dogs. I’m not going to go hiking or walking without them. I still use the sidewalks in the city and I love my daily walks, but I no longer use the parks.

I have lived here all my life and we will be staying here since our families are here. We have 5 children. The playgrounds all seem the same now. I liked the playgrounds how they used to be. With the big rocket slide at Riverside Park, and the characters that have springs that you can rock on, or the flying swings that used to be at Clark Park. Bring back some fun things for the kids!!

No, we moved here for other reasons, but were pleasantly surprised by the good parks. With future improvements and additions, the park system could/should be a BIG selling point for new families and new businesses to come to Watertown!

Living in Watertown has been determined by employment, however our family has always enjoyed the wonderful park system we have always had.

I think we have a great base, but could come up with some great community bonding activities. Like Family Park Night - families in the area of set park (different night / park) to coordinate Family Night to gather with neighbors. Games, food, and music. We live in Hunter Oakes area and it would be a great neighborhood community to get our families together for a night.

We have pretty high taxes here, but to me it is worth it to live in a city with great services, facilities, and parks.

We didn't know about it when we moved to Watertown, but it is a definite benefit in our community.

I try not to take for granted the system we have since so many cities do not.

Have lived here all my life

I bought a house near Riverside Park because it is so pretty and family friendly.

We have lived here for a long time

Wanted children to be able to participate in baseball youth programs

work influenced the move

Being close to riverside park was an influential part of our decision to move to Watertown.

We live right by Riverside park and we LOVE IT! It really is an awesome park. The bathrooms & Chamberland need some updating though.

I got a job in town, moved here, and then began to discover everything Watertown had to offer.

We are here for life
10. What other issues and opportunities should the City's updated Parks and Open Space Plan address?

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<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>skipped question</td>
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- Ongoing maintenance – (i.e., painting and sealing, repair and replacement of equipment (worn out basketball nets and backboards), existing trail maintenance, and general upkeep of resources.)
- Biking, Kayaking/Canoeing & winter ice Skating.
- More police presence at riverside park
- Local artists’ talents utilized.
- Brandenstein Park is a special park and unfortunately is the only park in Watertown with very old and outdated playground equipment. It desperately needs to be replaced.
- How many little kids go to the parks and have to use the bathroom
- You do marvelous with what you’re doing!
- Newer equipment
- Indoor facilities that could serve a dual use by both the schools and the public
- Update some playground equipment and weeding issues
- I’d like to see the lights go up at BQ on the ball fields.
- Holding more softball tournaments at Riverside Park. Huge area to hold big quality games and will bring more people into the area to sleep/ enjoy the nice quiet area.
- I want to be careful of asking for too much, because a large request could equate to a large tax bill.
- That nice bathroom was done at Daniel Brandenstein, why is it not usable?
- Food vendors
- Outdoor Education and Recycling. Keeping green space in town.
- More attention to ice rinks.
- Please allow credit card payment for classes and easier ways to register for classes - especially swimming - very difficult for working people to get registered!
- Make some of the parks smaller so there is not so much useless land wasted-only to be mowed
- Would be nice to see bike trails in Watertown in some way connecting to local trails. Completion, improvement of the river walk would be great. Need to have additional uses for our river that runs thru our town.
- Look for additional ways (beyond the indoor pool) to partner with the school district to share grounds and facilities. Create a cool web site promoting Watertown parks (note: the city's current web site it terrible! and a bad online image to promote to the world). Get area businesses to help fund parks improvements.
- A bike trail from the city to the new trail going in
- More for young teens not into the skate park
- Can't think of anything else at this time.
- "I think it would be awesome to see more winter sports for the children to keep the busy indoors and outdoors. We have to try and keep the cost down so the families can afford doing this and not to chase them away."
• That is the challenge!
• Thank you and your TEAMS for all you efforts,
• YOU EFFORTS DON'T GO UNNOTICED!!!
• Additional tables etc. at the parks would be nice.
• Use space around town more efficiently, don't build new tennis courts and then remove other ones, repair what you have.
• Not sure about issues, but I would love to see more safe bike trails for families. Not enough. We haul our bikes to Oconomowoc to ride our bikes. We start at Imagination station. I'd love to see something like that for our community.
• Bear in mind the incredible economic impact Brandt/Quirk baseball/softball facility has on our city. As such, always be proactive in not just maintaining, but also in making improvements there! Tournaments hosted at B/Q could be destination events on weekends for out-of-towners, meaning big bucks for the Watertown economy. During the week, locals can take pride in playing on quality ballparks that will lend themselves to safe participation thanks to such upgrades as the sorely needed infield dirt replacement. B/Q is a wonderful facility but it is beginning to lose a bit of its original shine and appeal now that it is over ten years old. Other area cities, with Janesville immediately coming to mind, have recently opened new, multi-diamond baseball/softball facilities. They are eager to lure tournaments from other towns like Watertown. Please, by being proactive in maintenance and improving/enhancing B/Q, you will assure our city is a desired destination/home for safe, enjoyable, profitable, "want-to-come-back" and "stay" place for baseball and softball! Thank you for your careful consideration. It means a lot to this Watertown family!
• Dogs off leash at Brandt Quirk Park is still an issue.
• Easy safe access to parks via "complete" streets type of plan.
• Keeping the riff raff out of the parks
• None I can think of.
• Watertown has a pretty good park system!
• Indoor complex would be GREAT due to so many cold weather months here. Could be a shared facility for many sports/activities
• Would be exceptional if the concord estates subdivision had something put in place at the site.
• The city should partner with the YMCA, Maranatha, the Quirk and Darcey Foundations, the Community Foundation, and large area businesses to create an awesome indoor sports facility that would draw people from all over for soccer, hockey and more. I think this should be a top priority. Next, it would be very nice to have a man-made sledding hill in or near town. Finally, the parking lot behind the old Fischer building could/should be turned into an urban riverside park. If there are outside partners, and some outside funding available, I think a majority of city residents would be willing to use tax dollars to make these types of things work.
• I don't know if the city puts money aside to maintain the parks, but Riverside Park really needs to be cleaned up. I went with my daughter, sister and her 3 kids and we were just amazed at how ROUGH the playground looks. I would drive to Oconomowoc Any time to use Imagination Station, which is very clean and kept up! Riversides playground needs to have the flooring replaced and some of the wood repaired. I think a few more trashcans could also help because there was Lots of litter in the playground area! We love going to the parks to feed the ducks, enjoy the water and beauty of nature its self.
- "Continued upkeep/maintenance. The River Walkway is currently in desperate need of repair. Something more durable, possibly the recycled composite material, needs to replace the wooden walkway in existence. In places, that walkway is almost ready to break through. Extend the walkway
- South on the West side of the river to Bethesda, with the well wishes of the businesses located on this side. Thanks for your time and continued efforts in serving our community."
- "The tennis courts need resurfacing really bad. About broke an ankle on a large crack at BQ. More seating out there as well, please!! And a NICER shed so the equipment could be stored safely!
- Also, need to market the Ice Rink more! I never know when it is open. You could get area business to help pay for it by hanging banners on the sides. Also needs seating out there!"
- We need bike and running trails. We need a safe place for families to take their children on bike rides. I run outdoors most days of the week and drivers are NOT courteous to/aware of pedestrians. I am afraid to take my children on bike rides on city streets.
- Get a new website!
- People who have low economic status that can't afford a season pass to pool activities.
- Programs for teens that will appeal to their interests.
- "Allow Watertown Storm U11 Baseball Team to play home games at Brandt Quirk.
- We should have enough schools to practice indoors in winters, but they're all occupied by men's adult sports."
- Senior and Disabled persons needs. It's hard to walk on some paths with uneven and lumpy ground.
- Maintenance of parks, how to keep our parks clean
- Monitoring of teenage children in the parks after 7:00 p.m. at night. More police drive-bys?
- Should ask for more community input. There are currently not many avenues for people to have a say in matters.
- Encourage Kayaking through or to Watertown as a destination. Camping opportunities.
- Loitering in the parking lot around vehicles. Seeing 4-8 kids standing around someone's vehicle. It’s trashy.
- You have to fix the baseball diamond at the HS that the Park and Rec uses. With the backstop being SO far behind home plate, it ruins almost every game. Players can basically run all 4 bases if the ball gets by the catcher. It's miserable and even the pros don't have to go that far!
- please fix all the holes/ uneven ground in the volleyball area at Riverside park.
- Community involvement. The community should help take care of its beautiful parks or volunteer to meet the needs that people think the Park Dept. should do.
- connecting bike trails to other trails and communities would be awesome! I ride on trails in a lot of other communities and they are always busy.
- We are losing a lot of kids to area indoor training facilities at a cost of 6 figures to our city