

2020 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF STURGEON BAY

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Adopted by:

The City of Sturgeon Bay Common Council on February 2, 2021

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**City of Sturgeon Bay Park and Recreation's
Mission Statement**

Enhancing the quality of life through leisure opportunities in Sturgeon Bay

INTRODUCTION

A. Importance of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

For over 100 years the City of Sturgeon Bay has been involved with creating and maintaining parks for its citizens. The City has recognized the value that parks have toward the health, beauty and economic vitality of the community. People of every age and standard of living have need for some form of recreation and municipal parks and recreation facilities are able to meet such need. But the benefits of parks go beyond the basic recreation that they provide.

Parks are very effective in building a sense of community. They create shared space and a nucleus for its surrounding neighborhood. Often a neighborhood is defined by (and named after) its local park. Park improvements can benefit the image of an area and are a tangible product of local government action. The creation or improvement of a park is a tool for community revitalization and can lead to a turnaround of a distressed area. Sturgeon Bay has included parks and open space in the redevelopment of its downtown waterfront region.

Parks and other green space also provide economic benefits to the community. Real property values are increased adjacent to parks. The classic example is the incredible values for properties surrounding New York's Central Park, but the relationship holds true for smaller parks in smaller cities as well. People enjoy living near green space and are willing to pay a premium to do so. The increased property values translate to greater municipal tax revenues. The acquisition and improvement of parks can pay for itself through the property tax revenue. Beyond the fiscal benefits, parks assist in economic development by luring new residents. Today's population is increasingly mobile. New residents (and retained residents) are then able to funnel money into the local economy.

There are environmental benefits to the provision of parks. Parkland is very useful in protecting environmentally sensitive areas, flood plains and other lands where development is inappropriate. The open space provided by parks can be used for storm water management in order to reduce flooding and improve water quality. Trees within vegetation can be reintroduced into the City (prairie, woods, meadows, flower gardens, etc.). Given the many benefits of parks, it is appropriate that the City plan for its parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

B. Park Planning

Sturgeon Bay has been involved with park and recreation planning for many years. The City's Comprehensive Plan of 1969 included a recreation element. Subsequent updates to the Comprehensive Plan have always had recreation components. Other City and County publications have focused on park and recreation issues for Sturgeon

Bay through the years. The first comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, the Outdoor Recreation Plan for the City of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin was adopted in 1987. It is this plan that has been continually updated approximately in five year intervals, with the previous update adopted by Common Council on February 16, 2016.

With the adoption of this updated Outdoor Recreation Plan, the City will extend its eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON) and various grants for a five year period 2020-2021. This program provided 50% grant assistance to municipalities for recreation acquisition, development and planning. Only those projects which are specifically identified in the plan may be considered for grant assistance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the state administrator of this federal aid program. The City has received grant assistance from this program on several occasions.

C. Objectives of Plan

In general, this plan presents an inventory of existing recreation facilities, provides recreation planning criteria and conducts a needs analysis for Sturgeon Bay. The plan contains specific recommendations for individual parks as well as general development recommendations. Finally, it has information on implementation of the plan.

The objectives of this plan are as follows:

1. Provide a basic document identifying and detailing a coordinated outdoor recreation program to meet the needs and demands of Sturgeon Bay residents and visitors.
2. Establish a rational basis for the provision of public recreation facilities based on appropriate standards, equivalent distribution in the City, established demand and the protection of unique natural features.
3. Coordinate the City's recreation program with those of providers of recreation, such as the schools to maximize public benefits.
4. Provide the City of Sturgeon Bay with a period of eligibility for state and federal cost sharing assistance.

D. Types of Parks

In contrast to county, state and federal agencies, which have quite varied and extensive recreation and resource protection responsibilities, communities are most often concerned with meeting local, daily recreation needs. These local community needs can best be met by providing a variety of parks which serve all age groups of the population. The following selected definitions of parks are those considered most appropriate.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park provides open space for passive recreation for all ages within a neighborhood, particularly for the elderly and mothers with young children. Neighborhood parks generally range from one to seven acres. Ideally, these parks should be located no more than ½ mile from home and, if possible, associated with a natural feature. Access to these recreation areas should be safe and easy, avoiding major thoroughfares and any other obstacles. Site development should include walkways, benches, landscaping shelter and a play lot for younger children.

Neighborhood Playgrounds

Neighborhood playgrounds serve approximately the same areas as neighborhood parks, but they provide school age children with playground and play field equipment. Frequently, these playgrounds are associated with an elementary school or a neighborhood park. Where associated with the latter, residents are afforded both passive and active outdoor recreation opportunities. The size of a neighborhood playground can vary, but these areas are generally larger than neighborhood parks to accommodate ballfields, basketball courts, open play fields, skating rinks in the winter, playground equipment and tennis courts.

Athletic Play Fields

The athletic play field provides active recreation space for older children, adolescents and adults. These areas frequently include lighted ballfields and athletic fields and are sites of organized activities. Because of the acreage demands of such activities, play fields are generally between ten and twenty acres, with twelve acres as a desirable minimum. Play fields have a tendency to be used by adults from throughout the community and from outlying regions as well.

Community Parks

The community park is generally a large park under municipal jurisdiction, which provides a variety of outdoor recreation facilities for residents. Community parks vary considerably in size and development, frequently containing a number of the following facilities: swimming facilities, picnic areas, shelter houses, play fields and equipment, tennis and pickle ball courts, restrooms, nature study areas, hiking trails, boating facilities, bandstands and winter related facilities. Community parks serve people of all ages. Community parks may also serve neighborhood park functions for a surrounding residential area.

Specialized Recreation Areas

These are areas which are limited in recreation value, limited as to who wishes to use them, or are undeveloped for recreation. Examples of these specialized recreation areas include conservancy areas, flood plains, historic sites, ski hills and golf courses.

While these areas perform important functions and should be considered as part of the City's Outdoor Recreation system, they often are not included in calculations of current recreational areas.

INVENTORY OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

An inventory of all existing outdoor recreation/open space areas and facilities within the City of Sturgeon Bay was conducted. This inventory includes municipal and other public and quasi-public recreation properties and facilities.

A brief description of each recreation area including its location, size, facilities and function are presented below and summarized in **Table 1**. The locations of these areas are identified on the map shown in **Map 1**.

A. Municipal Facilities

1. Bay View Park

Bay View Park is located on the waterfront, northwest of Madison Avenue. It consists of a small green area with a gazebo, along with an adjoining earthen berm jutting approximately 850 feet into the bay. The berm is known as the old railroad spur since it supported a railroad bridge across Sturgeon Bay. There are waterfront walkways through and adjacent to Bay View Park that both lead to the end of the railroad spur and connect the foot of Michigan Street Bridge westward to Otumba Park. The total size of these waterfront parcels is 3.7 acres, but 1 acre is used for a municipal parking lot, most of which is reserved for use by an adjoining marina. Bay View Park is a great place to relax and view the waters of Sturgeon Bay, the shipbuilding industry, the historic bridge, and the adjoining recreational boating activity. The park functions as a neighborhood park and special recreation area. The walkways are handicapped accessible with ramped fishing decks and viewing area along the railroad spur.

2. Bullhead Point

Bullhead Point is located in the extreme northwest corner of the City along North Duluth Avenue. It contains 1.3 acres of which 1 acre is within the City limits and 0.3 acre is within the Town of Nasewaupee. It consists of an unimproved earthen breakwater that was historically used for off-loading quarry stone. The property offers great views and fishing opportunities. There are three shipwrecks immediately adjacent to the breakwater, making this parcel important for maritime history and underwater archeology. The site contains a recently erected marker commemorating the site as part of the Maritime Trails Program of the Wisconsin Historical Society. There are no other facilities in the park.

3. Cherry Blossom Park

This neighborhood park and playground is located at 919 S. Lansing Avenue and is 5.6 acres in size. It serves the residential area that is west of the Sturgeon Bay Industrial Park and south of Highway 42-57. The park's facilities include a

handicapped accessible shelter building with restrooms, playground equipment, walking and biking trail, sand volleyball court and picnic facilities. The Ahnapee Trail extension runs through this park and provides access northward toward the downtown business district and southward through the industrial park toward the rest of the Ahnapee Trail. Immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of Cherry Blossom Park is additional City-owned property. Except for the land along the Ahnapee Trail, this property is slated for future streets and development but it could potentially be used to expand the park's acreage.

4. Eastside Waterfront Walkway/Stone Harbor Marina

This public walkway includes about 325 feet of shore frontage and runs north from the Michigan Street Bridge. It consists of the waterfront area adjacent to Stone Harbor Resort and Conference Center and ties back to Kentucky Street at First Avenue. There is also a public marina with 22 slips. Public restroom facilities are available on the Michigan Street side of Stone Harbor's building.

5. Franke Park

This neighborhood park consists of 6.5 acres in the southeast corner of Sturgeon Bay at 1700 Clay Banks Road. This land was donated to the City by the Franke Family to be preserved in its natural state, allowing for the opportunity to walk along the constructed quarter mile path and boardwalk and enjoy the wetland area with signs identifying the natural vegetation. The path is handicapped accessible from the parking area but no restroom facilities are available.

6. Garland Park

The park is Sturgeon Bay's first municipal park. Acquired in 1892 and known simply as "City Park", it was renamed Garland Park in 1916. This neighborhood park consists of 2.2 acres located at 435 N. 8th Avenue, between North 7th Place and Jefferson Street/8th Avenue. The park is covered by mature white pines. Amenities at the park include picnic facilities and a 296 foot long wheel chair exercise course. There are two small parking lots as well as restrooms.

7. Graham Park/East Side Dock

In 2004, the City purchased 1.2 acres of property adjacent to the municipal East Side Dock. The purchase was assisted by a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The land was part of the former PBI Shipyard and the creation of the waterfront park is a key part of the redevelopment efforts for the shipyard. The park lies at the foot of Pennsylvania Street and Oregon Street. It contains 233 feet of dock wall. Graham Park is a passive recreation area which includes a waterfront walkway. The walkway connects the adjoining East Side Dock parcel and winds through the rest of the former PBI Shipyard to connect with Third Avenue. The City received a Brownfields Grant from the State of Wisconsin to assist in removing concrete, asphalt, and building foundations from the former shipyard in order to bring the park into a usable state. This work occurred in 2005.

Adjoining Graham Park is the East Side Dock. The facility contains 325 feet of dock wall and has been used for transportation purposes for decades, including docking space for the Goodrich passenger steamers that plied the Great Lakes years ago. The City received a Harbor Assistance Grant to reconstruct the failed dock wall and improve the site for the docking of cruise ships. The renovation was completed in 2004 and is now a first class facility for the cruising industry. When coupled with the new waterfront park, the municipally owned property totals about two acres with 559 feet of dock wall. This is used as a dock area for visiting U.S. Coast Guard ships, Great Lakes cruise ships, and the tall ship festival.

In 2020 a gift from generous residents and visitors allowed for improvements to the park. Improvements include an amphitheater, fountain, sculpture, outdoor gaming areas, walkways, and plantings.

8. Lawrence Big Hill Park

Lawrence Big Hill Park is centrally located within the City's east side. It contains the highest point in the City, with most of the land dedicated by the Lawrence Family. Hence, the name is appropriate. The park originally contained about 10 acres but subsequent additions now bring the total acreage to 13.2 acres. The main entrance to this park is 191 N. 9th Avenue with a small parking lot. There are secondary access points and potential access points to many surrounding streets. The park has been maintained in a mostly natural state with no formal play areas. There is a small picnic area but no restrooms. At the east end of the park, fronting North 12th Avenue, there is a sledding hill used by children in the winter months. A mountain bike trail was also added to the park in 2019 by a group of volunteers.

Grotto Park is the portion of Big Hill Park that is directly across 8th Avenue from Garland Park. You can gain access to the rest of Big Hill Park by using the stairway up the hill. The grotto includes a beautifully landscaped sitting area with bluff above. Numerous wedding pictures have been taken at this site.

9. Little Creek Parkway

This parkway consists of 6 acres located at 601 S. 16th Place. The property is mostly wooded with Little Creek running along the rear of the parcel. The parkway was acquired in 2001 using grants from the Wisconsin DNR and Door County Green Fund. The park has been left in a mostly natural state in order to protect the creek and its associated wetlands and flood plain. Walking paths and other facilities may be constructed in the future.

10. Market Square

This recreational area is in the heart of the City, between Michigan and Nebraska Streets at 4th Avenue. The Market Square portion is a little over an acre in area.

The site was formerly known as Soukup field after the family from which the property was originally purchased in 1911. Historically, it was used as a ballfield and ice skating facility. Later, most of the land was paved for use as a municipal parking lot and the ballfield and skating facilities were relocated to other parts of the City. However, starting in 1975, the property was used for a Farmers Market for personally grown produce and hand crafted items. This popular event continues to occur on Saturdays during the summer / fall seasons. There is one building on the site, which is the former warming shelter for the skating rink. It now houses the Miller Art Museum annex. The northern edge of Market Square along Michigan Street was landscaped in 1976 as part of the bicentennial celebrations.

11. Martin Park

This park which is located at 207 S. 3rd Avenue is believed to be the oldest park within the City, dating back to the 1880's. The park was previously known as Tweedle Park and Vendome Park and was supported by the Door County Park and Pleasure Drive Association. The City acquired the park in 1920. It was renamed in the 1930's in honor of mayor James Martin, who is credited with spearheading efforts to improve the park. It is 1.0 acre in size and historically was the focal point for community activities in the downtown area, such as Memorial Day commemorations and local concerts. At various times, the park contained a bandstand, fountain and Veterans Memorial. In 1963 The Peterson Pool was erected on the site. The indoor pool operated until the new YMCA swimming facility opened in 2001. The vacant pool building was demolished in fall of 2008. In 2011 a stage was constructed to accommodate the Harmony by the Bay Concert Series and the Movie in the Park series. It is also a popular venue for other community events. Permanent bathroom facilities were installed in 2015.

12. Memorial Athletic Complex

This recreational area is comprised of several athletic fields under a combination of both municipal and school district jurisdiction. It is located on the east side of the city and is generally bordered by Michigan Street, South 12th Avenue, Rhode Island Street and South 15th Avenue. It is adjacent to the high school, middle school and Sunrise Elementary School. The City portion totals around 16.5 acres with another approximate 9 acres owned by the School District of Sturgeon Bay. The facilities were created from lands donated by the federal government which used the property for workers' housing during World War II.

The centerpiece is Memorial Field, a joint baseball/football field that features permanent bleachers with press boxes and a concession/restroom building. The field is used by the high school football and baseball teams, along with the American Legion baseball team. Jaycee Field, an adult softball field including concession building with restrooms, is located at the corner of Michigan Street and South 15th Avenue. There are also three girls little league fields – Optimist Field and Bay Ship Field are located in the southwest park of the complex

between Quincy Street and Rhode Island Streets. PBI Field is located behind the outfield of Memorial Field. The main parking lot off of 14th Avenue serves as a skating rink in the winter, with the concessions building doubling as the warming shelter.

The school district maintains two facilities at the complex. The track and field facilities are located along the south side of Michigan Street. They are conveniently located across the street from the high school and middle school in order to serve physical education classes and also as practice fields. The running track was widened to nine lanes. The soccer field is located between 14th and 15th Avenues. It is partially on school district property and partly on leased municipal property. The field is lighted and the school district erected permanent shelters for players in 2008.

13. Nautical Drive Launch Ramp

This boat launching facility is located on the west side of Sturgeon Bay. It is situated at the end of Nautical Drive, adjacent to the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club. It consists of a two lane launch ramp that was previously leased by the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Harbor, a private marina. The Sail Training Foundation, a non-profit educational organization, maintains its sail boats from this location. The ramp is in deteriorating condition and needs upgrading. Although the City owns over two acres next to this facility, most of the property is leased to the Yacht Club and Sturgeon Bay Marine Center. Hence, the usability of this ramp by the public is somewhat limited. The City of Sturgeon Bay waterweed operation is run from this facility.

14. Otumba Park

Otumba Park is a very popular neighborhood park located on the west side waterfront at 225 W. Juniper Street. The name of the park honors the original name of the Sturgeon Bay region when it was organized as the Town of Otumba, after a Mexican Indian tribe. The park is a little under four acres in size and includes several amenities. There is a sand beach and swimming area which was improved in 2012 to help prevent beach closures due to storm water runoff. Otumba Park also includes a large playground, two tennis courts, basketball court, a sand volleyball court, a shelter pavilion with restrooms and various picnic facilities. A waterfront walkway leads towards Bay View Park to the east. There is a parking lot for about 25 vehicles. In 2020 additional property was purchased at the south end of the park. Due to the high water levels in 2019 & 2020 a plan was started to eliminate/reduce beach area erosion which will also make a larger usable beach area.

15. Sawyer Park

Located at 36 S. Neenah Avenue, this is another of the City's waterfront parks. The west side of Sturgeon Bay was known as Sawyer prior to its merger with Sturgeon Bay in 1891. Sawyer Park contains 8.8 acres and is comprised of reclaimed industrial lands that the City acquired in the 1980's. The park is most

known for its large modern boat launching facility. This very popular launching site has six lanes within a protected basin, docking space, harbor master's building, restrooms/fish cleaning stations and large lighted parking area with room for about 170 vehicles with trailers. This facility was completed in 1991. Next to the launching facility is an expansive lawn area. This area is used for various fishing tournaments and other special events.

The Sturgeon Bay Open Bass Tournament and the Sturgeon Bay Rotary Club jointly funded construction of a large pavilion at Sawyer Park. The pavilion was completed in early 2006 and was enclosed in 2010 making it the only fully enclosed shelter within the City parks system.

The dock wall and the land adjacent to the water is currently leased to the U.S. Coast Guard. It is the mooring facility for the USCGC Mobile Bay, a buoy tender and ice breaker. The leased property is one of three U.S.C.G. facilities in the Sturgeon Bay area. The Coast Guard's presence is celebrated through the City of Sturgeon Bay being named an official Coast Guard City.

The most recent improvements to Sawyer Park include a pedestrian walkway winding through the park and under the Oregon Street Bridge. This walkway is intended to continue to connect with Bayview Park to the northwest. Historical signs and artifacts related to maritime history line the walkway.

16. Shiloh Road Dog Park

This fenced in four acre park located on Shiloh Road consists of two dog areas, a one acre area for small dogs and a three acre area for larger dogs. No other amenities are at this park. It continues to run largely on donations.

17. Skate Park

The newly constructed Skate Park is located adjacent to the West Side Field at 16 W. Spruce Street. The 10,000 square foot park opened in September of 2014. It contains street skate as well as vertical features and is open to skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes. The park was built from funds received through donations received from the community as well as grants received from the Tony Hawk Foundation and other local organizations.

18. Sunset Park

Sunset Park is the largest municipal park in Sturgeon Bay. It is located at 747 N. 3rd Avenue, is north of Bay Shipbuilding Company and is bounded by North Third Avenue, Florida Street, Alabama Street and the shore of Sturgeon Bay. The total size of the property is 63.2 acres, but approximately 20 acres of that is covered by Bradley Lake (Little Lake). This park was once the site of an early sawmill established in 1853 by Lyman Bradley and David Crandall. It was known as the "Lower Mill" and later the "Island Mill" since it is situated on a peninsula of land separated from the mainland by a swamp. Causeways were constructed and

over the years the region was filled by mill refuse and later by fill that was removed to construct Bay Shipbuilding Company's large graving dock.

In 1928 the City acquired the site. The land was used for workers' housing during World War II. In the 1950's the City transformed the property into Sunset Park. The park performs many functions and is regularly used. Facilities include the Frank Graass shelter building with restrooms, numerous picnic tables, grills and modern playground equipment. The park also boasts a fine sand beach and swimming area. The beach was reconstructed in 2010 with the help of Door County Soil & Water and Wisconsin Coastal Management. At the south edge there is a boat launch ramp and transient docking pier along with a trailer parking area. Athletic facilities include a new multi station exercise course, ½ mile walking/jogging trail, Frisbee golf course, basketball court, sand volleyball court, four tennis courts and three little league baseball fields – Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary Fields with bleachers, dug outs and concession stand. The park has sufficient parking and has been recently landscaped.

With about ½ mile of shore frontage, Sunset Park offers ample opportunity for shore fishing and enjoying the view across the bay. The lake is also used for fishing, especially by kids, and hosts a youth fishing tournament each Father's Day. Because of its large size and number of activities available, Sunset Park serves as the City's lone community park. The annual 4th of July Fireworks, Fine Art Fair, Kick off to Summer and the Door County Fall 50 is held at Sunset Park.

An engineered wetland was constructed in 2016 north of the entrance adjacent to North 3rd Avenue to help filter the storm water runoff that is entering Bradley Lake and improve the water quality of the lake.

19. West Side Field

This athletic field is used as an adult softball facility. It contains 3.3 acres and is located along the west side of Madison Avenue at Redwood and Spruce Streets. Amenities include concrete bleachers, concession building with restrooms, lighted scoreboard and PA system with announcer's booth. There is a parking area serving the facility. West Side Field, in addition to serving adult softball leagues, hosts tournaments. There are no children's play facilities, although the field at one time was used as a skating rink in the wintertime.

20. Westside Waterfront

Located at the heart of the community, this underutilized stretch of prominent waterfront is located between the western approach to the two bridges, the Maple-Oregon Street and the Michigan Street bridges, which connect Sturgeon Bay's central business districts. This West Waterfront area offers a unique opportunity to revitalize a highly-visible and under used waterfront.

In 2011 the City of Sturgeon Bay began working on plans to improve this area. Goals for the project development include developing a busy, highly functional

waterfront area for community residents as well as improve the City's appearance and welcome visitors to the community. Improving public access to the waterfront and encouraging higher and best uses for prominent, valuable waterfront sites is key to developing this site. The current plan for developing the waterfront portion of this site into a recreation area includes creating a wide waterfront promenade between the bridges, establishing an approximate one-acre park area adjoining the promenade at the south end along the Oregon Street Bridge approach, and installing a large central pier. These potential improvements are part of the overall redevelopment effort for the West Waterfront area. Wisconsin Coastal Management Program grants and a Stewardship grant have been received for implementation of public improvements, but the actual construction will also depend upon tax increment financing from new private development. New private development should begin in 2021. Proposed park improvements could occur as development is completed..

21. Woods West Park

This is a neighborhood park on the City's west side that was acquired from the Woods family. Woods West Park is located at 1001 N. Cumberland Avenue, on the west side of Cumberland Avenue, just north of West Maple Street. The park totals 4.8 acres and is partially covered by orchard. This park has a gravel parking lot, a back stop for playing baseball/kickball and playground equipment.

22. Woodside Wildlife Preserve

This park, formerly known as Woodside Park, had its' name changed in March of 2015 to help recognize the many native wildflowers that are not found in many other places in the county. This specialized recreation area consists of five acres of wooded land. This park is a relatively narrow strip of land along the north side of Highway 42-57, between Lansing and Neenah Avenue. This park provides a buffer between the highway and Sawyer Elementary School. There is a ¼ mile walking/nature trail with various natural sitting areas located along the trail. This park is mostly used by Sawyer School students.

B. Other Public Outdoor Recreation Facilities:

23. Sawyer Elementary School

Sawyer Elementary School is located on Willow Drive on the City's west side. The total school site is 10.9 acres and most of the land is used for playground and recreation/open space purposes. The facility includes modular play equipment, along with surfaced area for basketball and other court games. There is a trail and a creek that winds through the partially wooded property. In conjunction with the adjoining 5-acre Woodside Wildlife Preserve, the property serves as a neighborhood park and playground, in addition to its school function.

24. Sunrise Elementary School

This facility is situated at the northwest corner of Rhode Island Street and South 15th Avenue. The total school parcel is about three acres, of which approximately half is used for playground and recreations. In addition to the students, the playground serves the surrounding neighborhood. It includes a variety of play apparatuses and basketball court. The playground is adjacent to the Memorial Athletic Complex, which provides athletic fields for both the school and overall community.

25. Sunset Elementary School

The school is located at 827 N. 8th Avenue. The school parcel contains 2.8 acres with the playground facility located to the rear of the building. Like the other school playgrounds, it contains a multi-station play facility, various other equipment and a basketball court. In addition, the school district leases a vacant 5.4 acre parcel from the City. This land is across Erie Street from the school and provides an open field for various activities. The playground and open field serve the north central portion of the City.

26. T.J. Walker Middle School and Sturgeon Bay High School

The City's middle school and high school are located together on Michigan Street between 12th and 14th Avenues. The buildings and parking area take up much of the site, but there is about six acres of recreational property in the north part of the school property. This area contains three tennis courts and a large open field used as a practice facility for soccer and football.

27. Memorial Athletic Complex

The school district also owns a portion of the Memorial Athletic complex located directly across Michigan Street. The facilities within that property are described under the City owned facilities (#12).

28. Crossroads at Big Creek

Crossroads at Big Creek is a learning center and nature preserve located within the city limits of Sturgeon Bay, just east of Highway 42-57 between Michigan and Utah Streets. Crossroads offers education, conducts research and provides outdoor experiences to inspire environmental stewardship in learners of all ages and backgrounds. Crossroads is comprised of three preserves – Crossroads' Main Campus, The Cove Preserve and the Ida Bay Preserve – and encompasses nearly 200 acres of woods, wetlands, meadows, creek and shoreline. Recreational amenities include hiking and running trails, groomed cross-country ski trails and a mobility-assist kayak launch. The Collins Learning Center offers laboratory and meeting space as well as exhibits and an auditorium. Crossroads at Big Creek is home to the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society and the Leif Everson observatory as well as the Door County Historical Society's Heritage Village. Crossroads at Big Creek is donor-

supported non-profit organization open every day at no charge. For more information, see www.crossroadsatbigcreek.org

29. John Miles County Park

John Miles County Park is situated on the City's east side along North 14th Avenue. Total size of the county owned land is 65 acres, but the Door County Emergency Medical Services and Adult and Disabled Resource Center use up about nine acres, leaving about 56 acres for recreational purposes. The park is dominated by the Door County Fairgrounds, which hosts the county fair each August. The park also contains Thunder Hill Raceway with races occurring each Sunday night during the summer. In the northern part of the park there are three soccer fields that are used by the local youth leagues.

30. Ahnapee State Trail

Ahnapee State Trail is a recreational trail originally established over the former Ahnapee and Western Railroad right-of-way. The trail spans about 30 miles, connecting Sturgeon Bay to Algoma and then on to Casco. It is used for hiking, biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling. The trail enters Sturgeon Bay from the south at Wilson Road. There is a trail head with parking on Neenah Street just south of the Sturgeon Bay Industrial Park. There is a City trail extension that follows a path leading north to connect with Cherry Blossom Park and then into the City's west side downtown, ending at the intersection of Lansing Avenue and Green Bay Road. Total length of the Ahnapee Trail within the City limits is about 2.5 miles.

31. Big Creek Property

The Big Creek property is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is comprised of mostly wetlands located at the mouth of Big Creek. Total size is about 20 acres. The property provides public access to this popular fishing site and provides protection for this largely natural area.

32. Strawberry Creek Property

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has a long-term easement on 80 acres of property located south of Strawberry Lane. It provides public access to Strawberry Creek. Public fishing is allowed except from September 1st through December 31st when the area is designated as a fish refuge.

33. Sturgeon Bay Canal Property/Beach

In 2009, Sturgeon Bay Utilities sold 332 acres of land on the south side of the Ship Canal to the Door County Land Trust, retaining 50 acres for future use by SBU. The Land Trust operates the property as the "Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve", which has grown to 445 acres through an additional acquisition. The preserve has 2.5 miles of rustic trails as well as 500 feet of sandy Lake Michigan shoreline at the end of Lake Lane. It is open to the public year round for activities such as hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing,

birdwatching and some types of hunting. There are two parking lots, informational kiosks, a scenic overlook with a commanding view of the canal and seating benches throughout the preserve.

34. YMCA Peterson Park

This 11.5 acre park which is located on the north end of the Sturgeon Bay YMCA Program Center at 1900 Michigan Street is owned and operated by the Door County YMCA. The park is open free to the public and no membership is needed to use the park. Entry to the park can be made from the YMCA parking lot, or via two main entrances at 19th Avenue and 19th Place and also 19th Avenue and Iowa Street.

The land for the park, and the improvements which have been made, were the result of a 2013 gift from Ellsworth and Carla Peterson. The park space includes: two youth sports fields, a mini amphitheater, a pavilion, three quarter miles of walking paths, a prairie garden, public restroom and a KABOOM! Playground. The \$100,000 KABOOM! Baylake Bank Playground was built with private donations and was constructed in one day by 190 volunteers. Over 100 trees and bushes representing 18 types of plantings have been added to the park site. Dogs on leashes are permitted on the park grounds.

35. Ice Age Trail

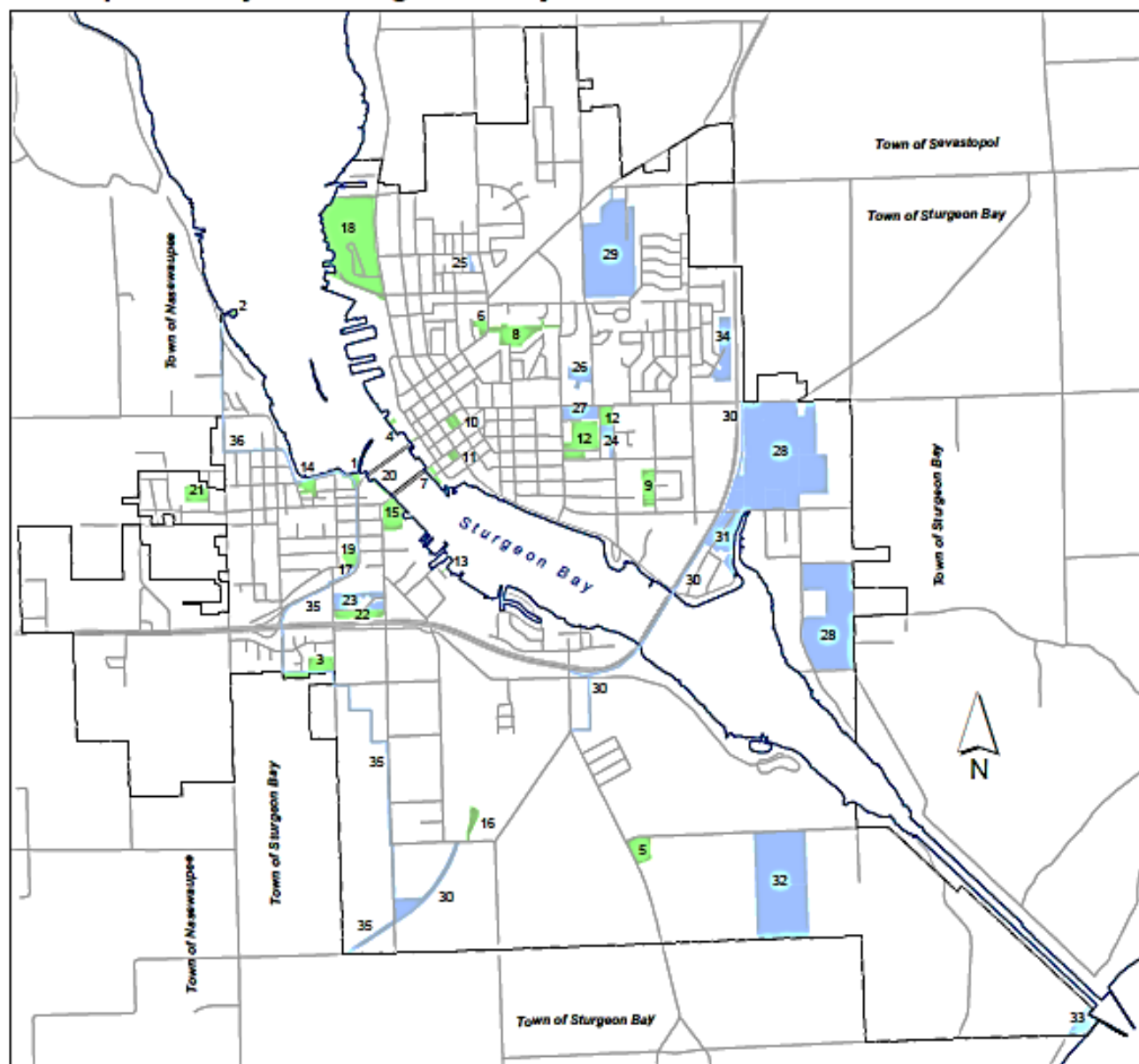
As of 2020 Sturgeon Bay has become a designated Ice Age Trail Community. There is nearly five miles of the Ice Age Trail within the city limits. It enters the City on the Ahnapee State Trail at the City's southernmost point. The trail follows streets through the industrial park prior to reaching the down town area. The trail weaves through the West Side Business District before it heads north out of the City to the trailhead in Potawatomi Park.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF EXISTING RECREATION AREAS

MUNICIPAL FACILITY	ACRES	FUNCTION
1. Bay View Park	2.7	Neighborhood Park
2. Bullhead Point	1.3	Specialized Recreation
3. Cherry Blossom Park	5.6	Neighborhood Park / Playground
4. Eastside Waterfront Walkway/ Stone Harbor Marina		Specialized Recreation
5. Franke Park	6.5	Neighborhood Park
6. Garland Park	2.2	Neighborhood Park
7. Graham Park/Eastside Dock	1.2	Specialized Recreation
8. Lawrence Big Hill Park	13.2	Neighborhood Park
9. Little Creek Parkway	6.0	Specialized Recreation
10. Market Square	1.3	Specialized Recreation/Neighborhood Park
11. Martin Park	1.0	Neighborhood Park
12. Memorial Athletic Complex (City Portion)	16.5	Athletic Play Field
13. Nautical Drive Launch Ramp		Specialized Recreation
14. Otumba Park	3.7	Neighborhood Park / Playground
15. Sawyer Park	8.8	Specialized Recreation/Neighborhood Park
16. Shiloh Road Dog Park	4	Specialized Recreation/Neighborhood Park
17. Skate Park	.5	Specialized Recreation/Neighborhood Park
18. Sunset Park	44/63.2	Community Park/Neighborhood Playground
19. Westside Field	3.3	Athletic Play Field
20. Westside Waterfront		Specialized Recreation
21. Woods West Park	4.8	Neighborhood Park / Playground
22. Woodside Wildlife Preserve	5.0	Neighborhood Park
23. Sawyer Elementary School	12.7	Neighborhood Playground
24. Sunrise Elementary School	3	Neighborhood Playground
25. Sunset Elementary School		Neighborhood Playground
26. T.J. Walker Middle School/Sturgeon Bay High School	15.7	Athletic Play Field/Neighborhood Park
27. Memorial Athletic Complex (School Portion)	9.0	Athletic Play Field
28. Crossroads at Big Creek	200	Specialized Recreation
29. John Miles Fair Park	56	Specialized Recreation/Athletic Play Field

30. Ahnapee Recreation Trail	2.5 Mi.	Specialized Recreation
31. Big Creek Property	20.0	Specialized Recreation
32. Strawberry Creek Property	80.0	Specialized Recreation
33. Sturgeon Bay Canal Property/Beach	3.0	Specialized Recreation
34. YMCA Community Park	5.0	Neighborhood Park / Playground
35. Ice Age Trail	5.0 Mi.	Specialized Recreation

Map 1. City of Sturgeon Bay Outdoor Recreation Facilities



Municipal Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bay View Park | 12. Memorial Athletic Complex (City Portion) |
| 2. Bullhead Point | 13. Nautical Drive Launch Ramp |
| 3. Cherry Blossom Park | 14. Otumba Park |
| 4. East Side Waterfront Walkway/Stone Harbor Marina | 15. Sawyer Park |
| 5. Franke Park | 16. Shiloh Road Dog Park |
| 6. Garland Park | 17. Skate Park |
| 7. Graham Park/East Side Waterfront | 18. Sunset Park |
| 8. Lawrence Big Hill Park | 19. West Side Field |
| 9. Little Creek Parkway | 20. West Side Waterfront |
| 10. Market Square | 21. Woods West Park |
| 11. Martin Park | 22. Woodside Wildlife Preserve |

Other Public Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- | | |
|--|--|
| 23. Sawyer Elementary School | 29. John Miles Fair Park |
| 24. Sunrise Elementary School | 30. Ahnapee Recreation Trail |
| 25. Sunset Elementary School | 31. Big Creek Property |
| 26. T.J. Walker Middle School/Sturgeon Bay High School | 32. Strawberry Creek Property |
| 27. Memorial Athletic Complex (School Portion) | 33. Canal Property Beach |
| 28. Crossroads at Big Creek | 34. YMCA Community Park |
| | 35. Ahnapee Recreation Trail/Ice Age Trail |
| | 36. Ice Age Trail |

December 22, 2020

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ANALYSIS:

An important part of outdoor recreation planning is a facilities needs analysis. For Sturgeon Bay the needs analysis is considered in two ways. First, total amount of per capita parkland for each category of parks is reviewed against national standards. Secondly, the geographic distribution of various park types and their service areas are examined to see how well they serve the major residential parts of the City.

A. Acreage Analysis

Various acreage standards have been developed for use in assessing the park needs of a community. These figures have generally been adjusted over time based upon emerging trends for recreational activities and population characteristics. The National Recreation and Parks Association has established a desired ratio of 2.5 acres of neighborhood parks for each 1000 people in the community and 5 acres of community parks for each 1000 people. Overall, 10 acres of parkland is desired for each 1000 people served. It is noted that the ratios are intended as a general guide and that the individual preferences, conditions and trends need to be considered as well.

Sturgeon Bay's estimated population in the year was 2010 was 9,868. Thus, based upon the above standards, the City should have about 97 acres of total park land with at least 24.25 acres within its neighborhood parks and 48.5 acres of community park land. Currently there is 130.5 acres of municipally-owned parkland in the City, along with over 200 acres of other public outdoor recreation facilities. Even in the specialized recreation areas, such as the county fairgrounds, are removed from the total, there is still about 155 acres of neighborhood parks, neighborhood playgrounds, community parks and athletic play fields. Thus, even considering Sturgeon Bay's tourist and summer resident population, the City is well served with parkland from an overall acreage standpoint.

Including the elementary school playgrounds, the City has 68.7 acres that are classified as neighborhood parks or playgrounds. This figure easily meets the recommended minimum acreage for neighborhood parks.

The City's lone community park, Sunset Park, contains about 44 acres plus about 19 acres for Bradley Lake. Using the standard 5 acres per 1000 population, the City should have a minimum of 48.5 acres. Hence, the City is slightly low on community park acres if Bradley Lake is not included, but above the recommended acreage if the lake is included in the total. It is worth noting that large nearby recreational facilities such as Potawatomi State Park and the previously discussed Crossroads at Big Creek also provide some of the functions of a community park.

The overall conclusion from the acreage analysis is that the City currently exceeds the recommended acreage for overall parkland and for neighborhood parks. It is right about the recommended acreage for community parks, meaning that as the City grows, planning for another community park should be considered.

B. Service Area Analysis

Because a quantitative measurement says nothing about the diversity and location of the facilities available, its value is limited in determining whether residents are adequately served by the existing acreage. Service area criteria are used to assess the distribution of recreation areas in the City. It tests whether the parks are properly dispersed throughout the City and whether all major residential parts of the City are served by parks.

The service area for a neighborhood park or a neighborhood playground is ½ mile radius. This distance is relatively convenient for children to walk or bike. Because many of the park users are walking and biking, the effective service area is limited by major thoroughfares or other impedances such as bodies of water. Thus, in these cases, the actual size of a park's service area may require adjustment. Ideally, all residential areas of the City would be within ½ mile of a public outdoor recreation facility.

Map 2 identifies the ½ mile service area for all of the parks and other outdoor recreation areas included in this study and shows the residential regions that are not near a facility. From the map it is apparent that the outdoor recreation facilities within Sturgeon Bay are fairly well dispersed with only a few areas under served. Most of the residential areas that are not near a park are on the outskirts of the City, such as the northern part of North 12th Place and the Highland Heights Manufactured Home Park on the extreme west side. The only underserved area that is closer to the center of the City are portions of the Oxford Avenue/Ridgeway Drive/Purves Lagoon/Circle Ridge region on the City's west side. Some of these underserved areas are waterfront or large lot regions where the need for public open space is less acute and some of these regions are served by private common open space or recreation facilities.

Neighborhood Parks

The service area analysis also examined the distribution of certain types of outdoor recreation facilities, namely neighborhood parks, neighborhood playgrounds and community parks. **Map 3** looks at the parks that are classified as neighborhood parks.

Sunset Park, though considered a community park, is included since it also provides neighborhood park functions. The analysis shows that the areas closest to downtown on both the east and west sides are well served by neighborhood parks, but that outlying areas, particularly on the east side, are under served.

The northernmost portion of the City (area 1), which includes North 11th and 12th Places and a portion of Bonnie View Drive, is not served by a neighborhood park. Given that there is adjoining land planned for future residential development, this region should be considered for a neighborhood park.

Area 2 is bound by Egg Harbor Road to the north, Alabama Street to the south and 18th Avenue to the east. This small area of land is zoned mostly commercial and agricultural and is not served by a neighborhood park. If the property to the south of Alabama Street is being sold, consideration should be given to the establishment of a neighborhood park.

Area 3 to the south of Michigan Street, east of South 12th Avenue also appears to lack a neighborhood park. However, this region is not as underserved as it appears. There are three public facilities in the area that help to meet the recreational needs of the residents. Memorial Athletic Complex provides a variety of play fields, Sunrise Elementary School supports a neighborhood playground and Little Creek Parkway provides natural open space. Taken together, these facilities provide the various functions that a neighborhood park would, though none are technically considered as such.

The region east of Highway 42-57 (area 4) contains no neighborhood park. This portion of the City is less densely settled and there are several large preserved tracts that provide open space, including Crossroads at Big Creek, the DNR's Big Creek property and the Nature Conservancy's 65 acre Ida Bay estate property. Because of the large tracts of surrounding open space and generally less dense development, a municipal neighborhood park is probably not warranted at this time. If the need becomes evident it would be better to work within these existing open spaces for neighborhood recreation facilities rather than purchase additional land.

On the west of Sturgeon Bay, there also are several residential areas not served by a neighborhood park. The homes along North Duluth Place (area 5) are not near a neighborhood park, but are adjacent to waters of Sturgeon Bay and Bullhead Point, a specialized recreation area. Thus, the need for a park in this vicinity is not apparent at this time.

Purves Lagoon and Circle Ridge residential areas are wedged between the bay and the highway (area 6). Thus, this area is isolated from the City's parks. It also is almost fully developed so there is little opportunity to acquire land for a municipal park. Purves Lagoon Subdivision does contain about two acres of waterfront common open space for use by its residents. Area 6 is not considered a high priority area for development of a municipal park.

Tacoma Beach Road (area 7) is the third waterfront area on the west side that is under served by a neighborhood park. Similar to area 6, this region contains a number of seasonal residents and is fairly isolated from the rest of the City. Most lots have water frontage and, thus, the overall need for a neighborhood park serving area 7 is not great.

The residential area to the south of Highway 42-57, including the multifamily development along Oxford Avenue and the Sand Hill Subdivision, is a growing region that is not near a park. The apartments on the north side of Oxford Avenue provide a private play area for the tenants, but the City should look to acquire land in this region (area 8) for a future neighborhood park. There are additional lands to the east along Clay Banks Road that are expected to develop residentially so park planning is vital in this area. Area 8 should be a priority area.

The final residential region that is under served by a neighborhood park is the Highland Heights manufactured Home Park on the far west side (area 9). This is an isolated development. Unless and until the County-owned property that surrounds the Door County Justice Center is residentially developed, a neighborhood park is not justified.

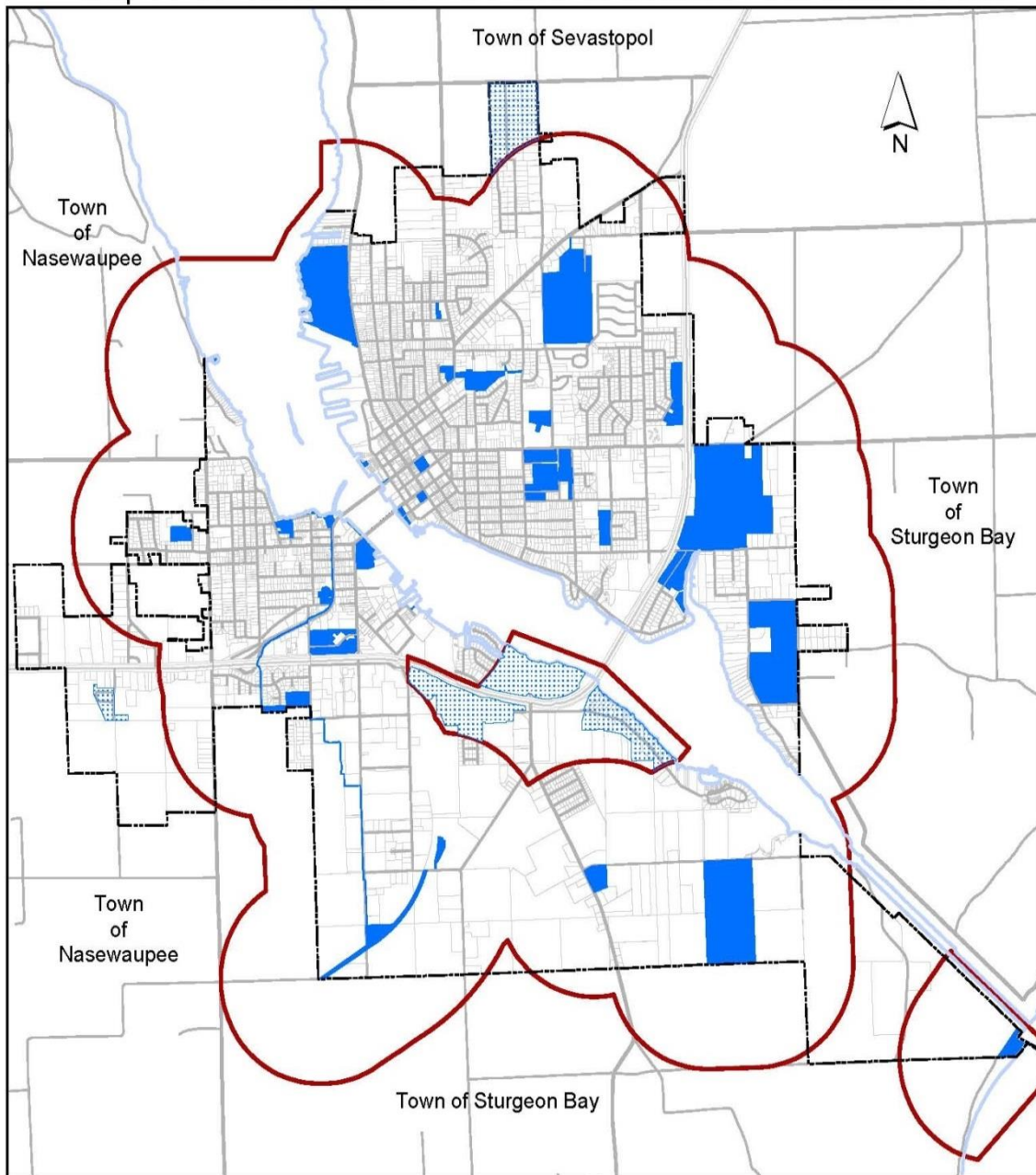
Neighborhood Playgrounds

Map 4 shows the service areas for the City's neighborhood playgrounds, which include the parks with play apparatuses, the three public elementary schools and the YMCA Peterson Park. The coverage is fairly similar to that of the neighborhood parks. Thus, for the most part, the conclusions are the same as stated above. There is just one additional underserved area to note. The Sawyer Subdivision off of Clay Banks Road is a development area near Franke Park, but the facility is devoted to natural area and passive recreation only. Thus, as Sawyer Subdivision and surrounding lands continue to receive new homes, a neighborhood playground becomes needed. One possibility is to place a new neighborhood park and playground between this development and the Sand Hill Subdivision area, thus serving both areas that currently lack a playground.

Community Park

The two mile service area for Sunset Park, as seen in **Map 5**, covers nearly all of the east side and the bulk of the west side's residentially developed area. Thus, the conclusion is that Sturgeon Bay is still well served by its only community park. The southeast area of the city is beyond the desired service limit. This region contains several large vacant parcels that are planned for future residential subdivisions within the City's comprehensive Plan. As this area (and the City as a whole) grows, another community park will be warranted. Ideally, the new park would be situated in the southeast area to balance Sunset Park and provide service to this area.

Map 2. Service Area for All Parks & Outdoor Recreation Areas

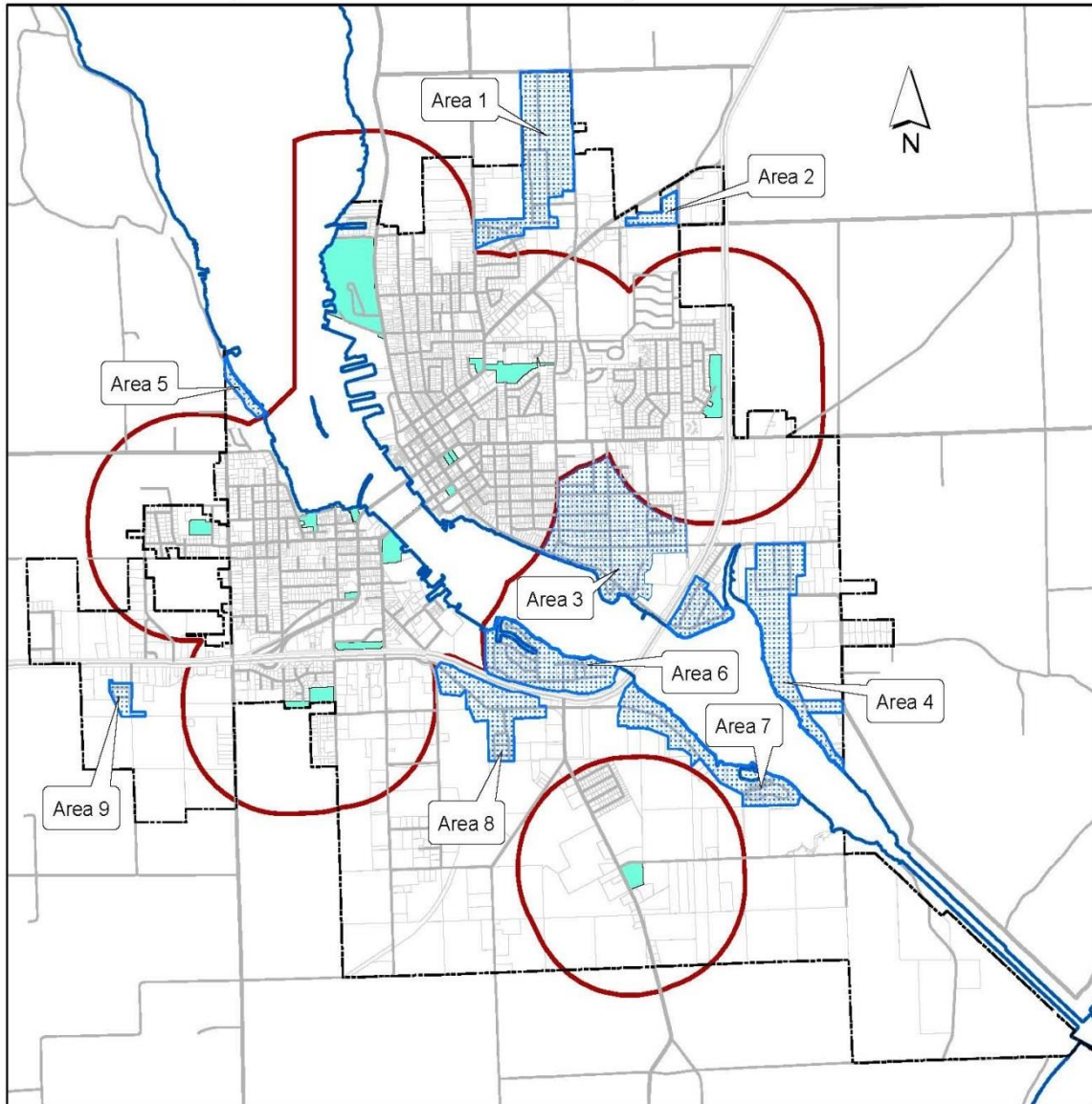


This map shows the existing residential areas of the City of Sturgeon Bay that are not within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park or other public facility that is available for outdoor recreation. The 0.5 mile service radius is reduced in some spots due to the access barriers of the bay and Highway 42-57.

- 0.5 Mile Service Radius
- Public Outdoor Recreation Area
- Major Residential Area Not Within 0.5 mile of Public Outdoor Recreation Area

October, 2015

Map 3. Service Area for Neighborhood Parks

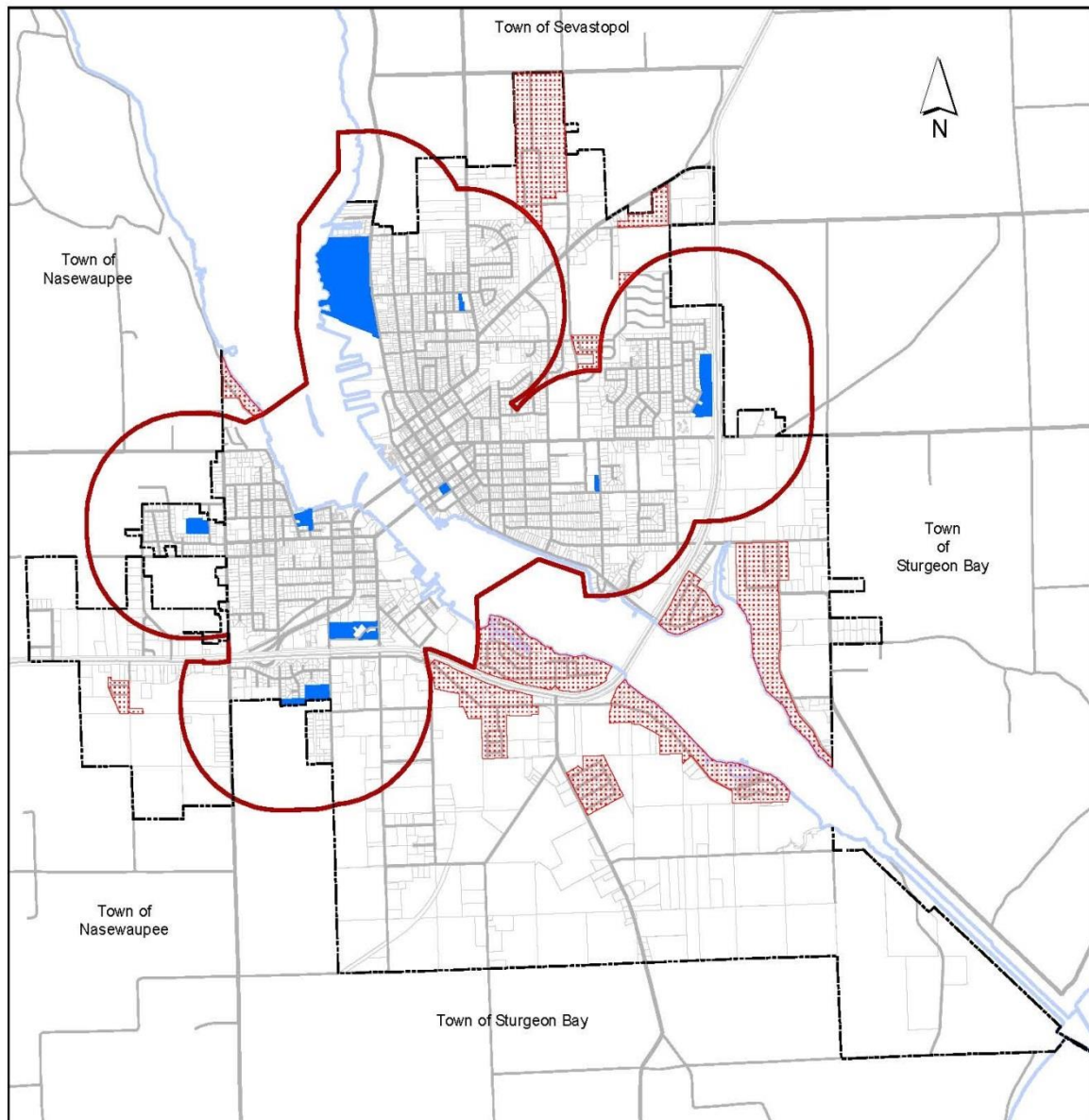


This map shows the existing residential areas of the City of Sturgeon Bay that are not within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park. The 0.5 mile service radius is reduced in some spots due to the access barriers of the bay and Highway 42-57.






October, 2015

Map 4. Service Area for Neighborhood Playgrounds

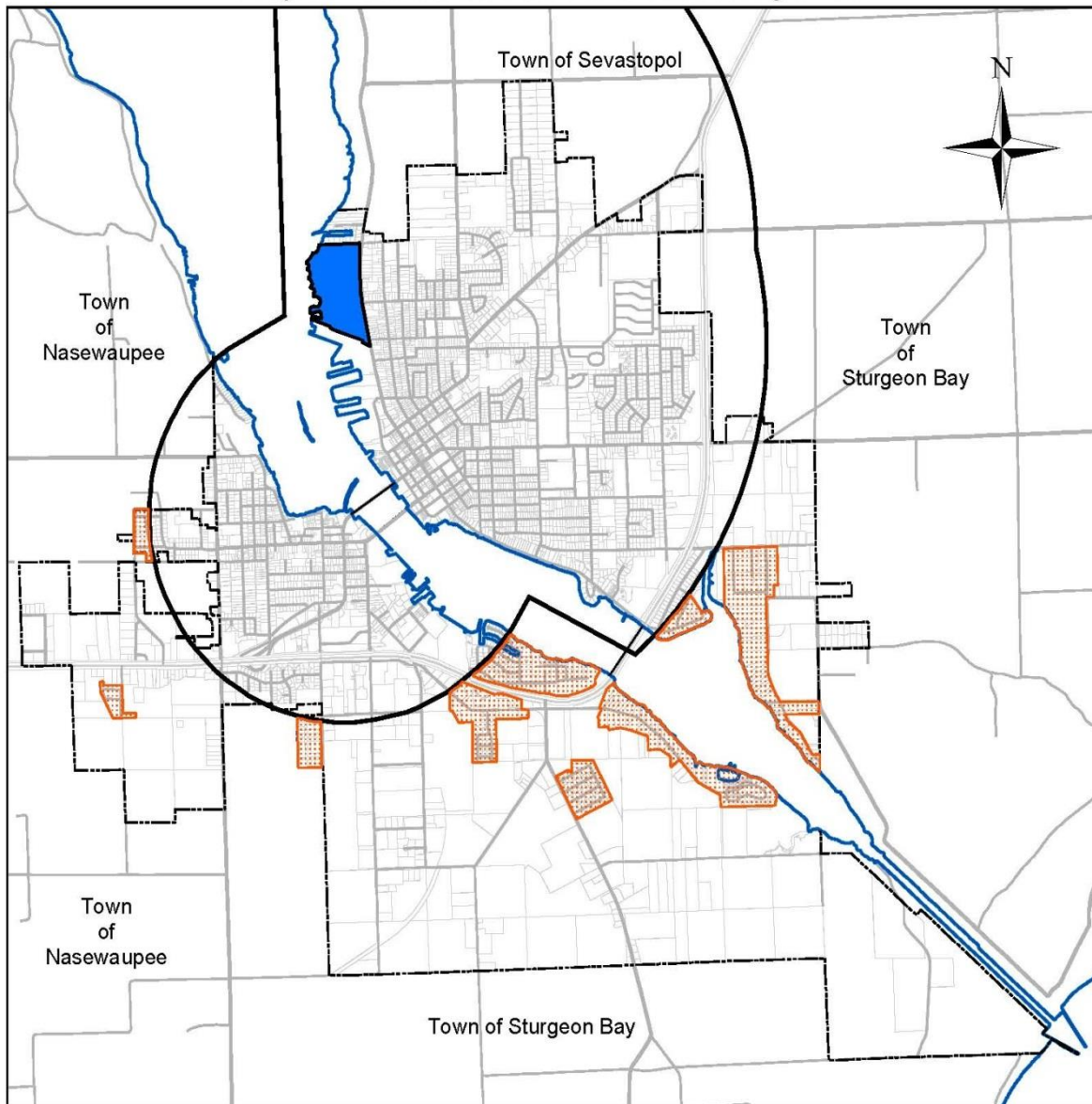


This map shows the existing residential areas of the City of Sturgeon Bay that are not within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood playground (city or public school). The 0.5 mile service radius is reduced in some spots due to the access barriers of the bay and Highway 42-57.

- | | |
|--|---|
|  0.5 Mile Radius for Neighborhood Playgrounds |  Major Residential Area Underserved by Neighborhood Playground |
|  Municipal and Public School Playgrounds | |

October, 2015

Map 5. Service Area for Community Park



This map shows the existing residential areas of the City of Sturgeon Bay that are not within 2 miles of a community park (Sunset Park). The 2-mile service radius is modified on the west side of the city to account for the bridge crossing of the bay.

- Community Park (Sunset Park)
- Major Residential Area Underserved by Community Park
- 2-Mile Service Radius for Sunset Park

October, 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This section of the Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies policies and park improvements that the City should strive to meet during the course of the next 5-year planning period. Certainly, not all of the recommendations can be implemented during this time frame, but by listing them it should keep the City moving forward as opportunities present themselves. By including projects within the plan it also makes them eligible for potential grant funding.

This section is broken into three parts. First, the recommendations for establishing new parks are presented. Next, the general policies and programs affecting the City's outdoor recreation facilities are outlined. Finally, specific recommendations for existing parks and recreation facilities are listed.

A. New Parks

The Needs Analysis section of the plan identified the various residential areas of the City that are not located near existing neighborhood outdoor recreation facilities. As stated in that section, for most of these areas there is not a significant need to establish new park facilities at this time. There are just two regions that are priority areas for establishing neighborhood parks and it is recommended that the City focus its energies on these two regions. **Map 6** shows the location of potential neighborhood park sites.

North 8th Avenue Region – A future park should eventually be established to serve the overall region generally bounded by Bay Shore Drive, Gordon Road, 14th Avenue and Alabama Street. Much of this region is not currently within the City limits, but may eventually annex as development spreads north. Ideally, the park should be centrally located to serve this entire region and potential sites exist on both sides of North 8th Avenue (Cherry Road). Two of the sites are located near stubbed streets that are planned to extend west from the Apple Hills development and, thus, would provide convenient access to that existing neighborhood. A future neighborhood park could also be situated on the west side of 8th Avenue if the opportunity presents itself.

Southeast Region – This region includes the multifamily residences along Oxford Avenue, the Sand Hill and Sawyer subdivisions and potential new residential development along Clay Banks Road and Division Road. It is entirely within the current City limits and has great capacity for growth. Thus, it is a priority area for creating a neighborhood park.

Several possible locations exist. Among them is the land along Samuelson Creek, immediately east of Sand Hill Subdivision (Ridgeway Drive). This location would be

close to the apartments on Oxford Avenue and the creek would provide a natural amenity. This location is fairly secluded, making convenient access a concern.

Another suggested site is located on the west side of Division Road immediately south of its junction with Clay Banks Road. The Wisconsin DNR recently acquired this 4.7 acre parcel as part of the project to extend the Ahnapee Trail through this region to the Bay View Bridge. The land is more than needed to accommodate the trail and plans for the remainder have not been determined yet.

Two other potential locations would be on either side of Division Street. These sites could potentially be part of a large residential development. The proposed extension of the Ahnapee Trail runs across both of these parcels, making a future neighborhood park that much more accessible, similar to Cherry Blossom Park.

Future Community Park – The needs analysis showed that most of the City is within the recommended two mile service radius of the City's lone community park – Sunset Park. The analysis also indicated that the overall acreage of the community park is about right for the current population. But another community park should eventually be considered if Sturgeon Bay's population increases significantly. A large new park situated in the southeast sector of the City would balance the existing Sunset Park and would be in an area with great residential growth potential. Although such a park is unlikely to be needed during this planning period, the City should begin to think about a location. **Map 6** identifies the general region where another community park in Sturgeon Bay makes sense. Notable, this suggested region includes the City-owned compost site, a 30 acre parcel that possibly could one day be converted to park use.

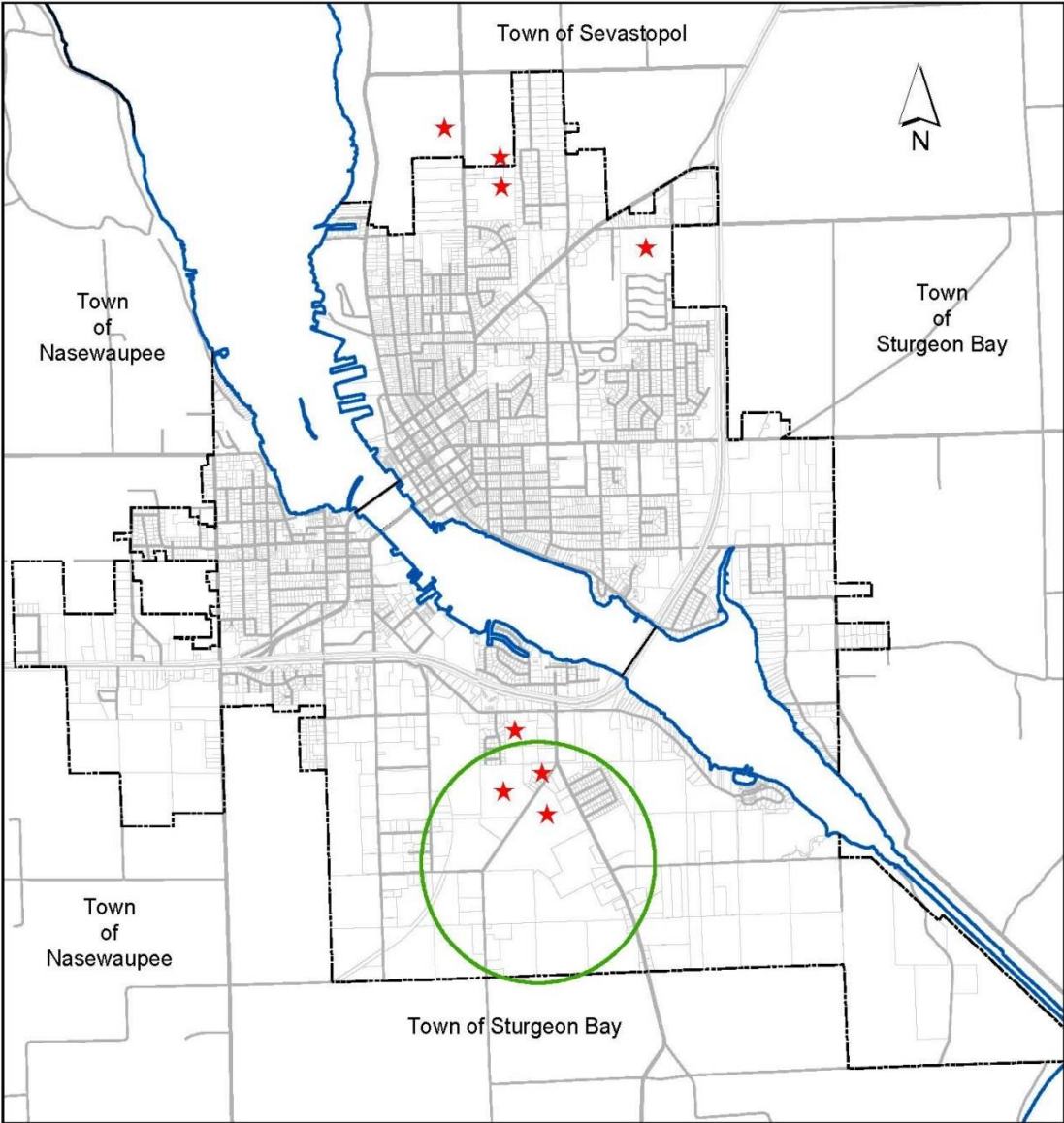
B. General Outdoor Recreation Policies and Programs

The following recommendations are not specific to any individual park.

Continue to utilize the full potential of existing park and school recreation sites and facilities. Because opportunities for acquiring new park sites in the City will be limited, existing park sites should continue to be used effectively. The City should support and facilitate, where appropriate, the relationship established between the school and park systems. Adaptive reuse of existing facilities should be considered to meet an increase in demand for park and recreation facilities.

Seek the continued development of youth, teen and senior citizen facilities and services. The City should help to ensure the recreational needs of these groups are met for the future. Where appropriate, the City should assist or support such programs.

Map 6. Locations for Potential Future Parks



This map shows possible areas for establishing neighborhood parks/playgrounds in the three priority regions. Only one location is needed for each region and other potential locations also exist. The map also shows the general area of the city where a future community park should be considered.

★ Potential Neighborhood Park/Playground



Region for Future Community Park

October, 2015

The development of a Youth Center, either through the City or private organization should be considered.

The design and improvement of existing and new park and recreation facilities should incorporate pedestrian and bicycle routes. Park improvements should provide an appropriate right-of-way through the park for use by cyclists and pedestrians and should include rest room locations, potable water and other facilities of convenience for cyclists, pedestrians and nearby residents. In addition, safe routes to parks should be implemented through sidewalks, bike lanes or other measures, as appropriate.

Meet ADA compliance. The City has strived to comply with the standards of the American with Disabilities Act. This should continue as new facilities are constructed and any existing barriers should be eliminated, where feasible.

Improve Signage. Consistent park identification signs should be erected at all recreation facilities where such signs are lacking. Existing signs should be examined for their consistency and replaced, if necessary. Direction (way finding) signs should also be erected or improved where needed to direct users to the recreation facilities.

Assess existing recreational activities and implement new activities. The City needs to continually monitor the usage of its current facilities. Obsolete activities or equipment should be replaced with new recreational facilities as warranted. Recently, the City has added horseshoe pits and Frisbee golf to its inventory and other activities could also be added or deleted as the tastes of the citizens change.

Water / splash park facility. During the planning period the City should investigate the costs and pros/cons of developing a water or splash park or outdoor swimming pool. Such facilities have been successfully implemented in other communities and could be a major draw for residents and visitors. The facility could also simply be a spray fountain or other less intensive facility that would be an additional amenity within one of the existing parks.

Continue water weed cutting program. The City currently harvests and disposes of water weeds during the summer months to enhance recreational boating and swimming opportunities and generally improve the appearance of the bay. This program should be continued and the City should seek to ensure adequate access points, disposal sites and greater efficiencies in the program. The City should promote erosion control measures and storm water management throughout the City in order to reduce nutrient levels in the water that support the aquatic plants. The most recent aquatic management was updated in 2018.

Work with School District, service organizations, sporting associations and other entities regarding improvements and upkeep for the parks. By partnering with such groups as the Boy Scouts, Jaycees, Rotary Club or Master Gardener's, the City can take advantage of additional expertise, fund-raising ability and support of park facilities and programs. The City has received support from various groups and individuals in the past and this had led to specific improvements in the parks or to support of various recreational programs.

Use recycled materials. Whenever possible the Park and Recreation Department should continue to use recycled materials for its improvements and programs.

Continue to plant trees and other vegetation in the parks. The City should continue its tree replacement program, both within the public parks and along the public right-of-ways. Trees add value to the parks and surrounding private property and provide many benefits. In larger parks, the City could consider recreating specific land cover types such as prairie restoration or wetland areas.

Develop and create a marketing strategy to help promote the parks within the City of Sturgeon Bay. Work to develop a brand for the parks that can be used in marketing and promotional materials that when people hear it they will be able to envision the Sturgeon Bay Parks system. Show the connection between the various parks and how they all link together throughout the City. Continue updating the City brochure and make sure it is available online.

C. Improvement of Existing Outdoor Recreation Areas:

The following are specific items that the City should strive to implement:

Bay View Park

- Enhance the pedestrian connection across Madison Ave. between the north and south sections of the walkway by making improvements to the existing cross-walk or via an underpass of the Michigan Street Bridge, if feasible
- Provide overlook and fishing platforms on the north side of train spur
- Obtain an engineering study of the train spur
- Install bike racks
- Acquire shore front property on the north side of Juniper Street between Bay View Park and Otumba Park

Bullhead Point

- Erect entrance sign
- Update signage

- Make improvements to allow for easy kayak/canoe access
- Install picnic facilities
- Install handicap fishing / observation platform

Cherry Blossom Park

- Acquire land to the south via a land swap idea (excess land at Hudson / Ithaca to Schartner for land immediately south of the park) See **Map 7**
- Upgrade the electrical in the shelter
- Consider allowing portions of the west end of the park to return to a meadow
- Make a sand volleyball court

East Side Waterfront / Stone Harbor Marina

- Improve lighting for marina and waterfront
- Review parking needs and if necessary, provide parking space within a portion of the park or on nearby properties
- Repair sidewalk behind Stone Harbor, several sections have shifted.
- Consider placing a piece of art in the public space.
- Update lighting

Franke Park

- Develop a program to publicize this particular park and its natural state to encourage additional usage
- Continue to maintain boardwalk
- Develop educational signs for the trail
- Develop educational signs for designating of trees and plants

Garland Park

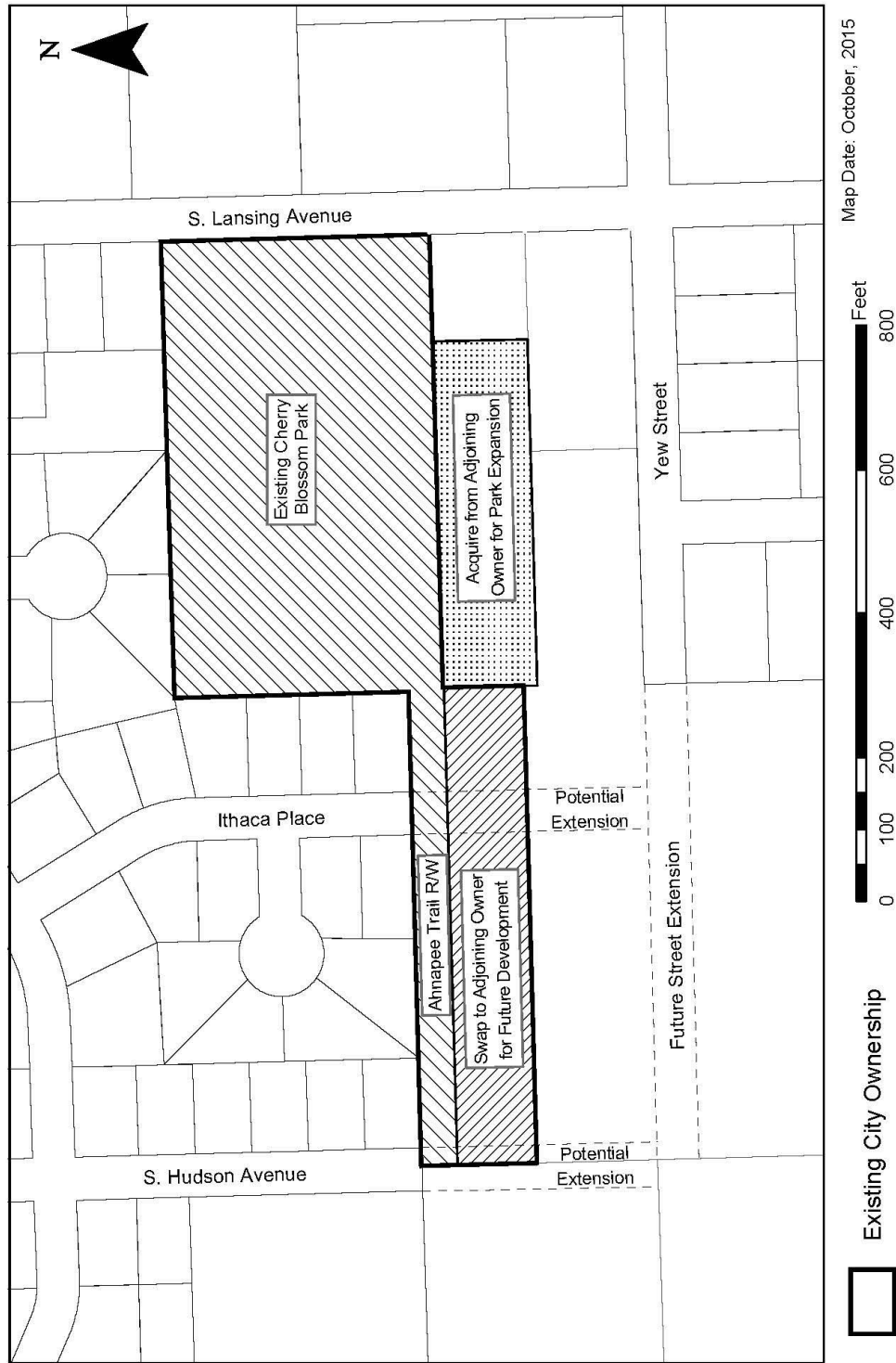
- Install one or two pieces of playground equipment to enhance the neighborhood playground function of this park
- Consider expansion to the north if appropriate adjacent parcels become available
- Install crosswalk to Big Hill (Grotto) Park
- Enhance parking at 7th Place access

Graham Park / East Side Waterfront

- In conjunction with the redevelopment of the PBI Shipyard consider the reconfiguration of park properties within the waterfront area via property swaps or potential land acquisition
- Provide picnic facilities
- Improve landscaping

- Prepare to accept maintenance of gifted park improvements
- Update signage

Map 7. Potential Expansion of Cherry Blossom Park - Property Swap



This map shows a potential swap of property between the City of Sturgeon Bay and the adjoining property owner to the south, whereby a portion of the city lands would be transferred for future development in exchange for lands for park expansion. The premise is that the contiguous land immediately south of the park would be more suitable for parkland, while the other portion is more suitable for future development fronting on potential street extensions. The map is not intended to show exact boundaries, but merely expresses a concept.

Lawrence Big Hill Park / Grotto Park

- Provide additional picnic facilities and playground equipment to serve the needs of the neighborhood
- Provide pedestrian access to the park from all adjoining public streets, including Georgia Street, North 8th Avenue, North 9th Court, North 9th Avenue, North 10th Place, North 11th Place and North 12th Avenue with a walking trail linking these areas **(See Map 8)**
- Make improvements to the pedestrian path between Big Hill Park and Garland Park including a crosswalk across 8th Avenue and replacing steps up the hill
- Develop a nature trail
- Install signage at various park entrances
- Create and implement overall landscaping plan including areas in unmowed natural state
- Consult a naturalist to help determine future use

Little Creek Parkway

- Remove dead Ash trees and brush to improve access to Little Creek
- Plant new trees in area
- Develop landscape plan
- Construct nature trail / walking path
- Acquire access from the west via Texas Street
- Install picnic facilities

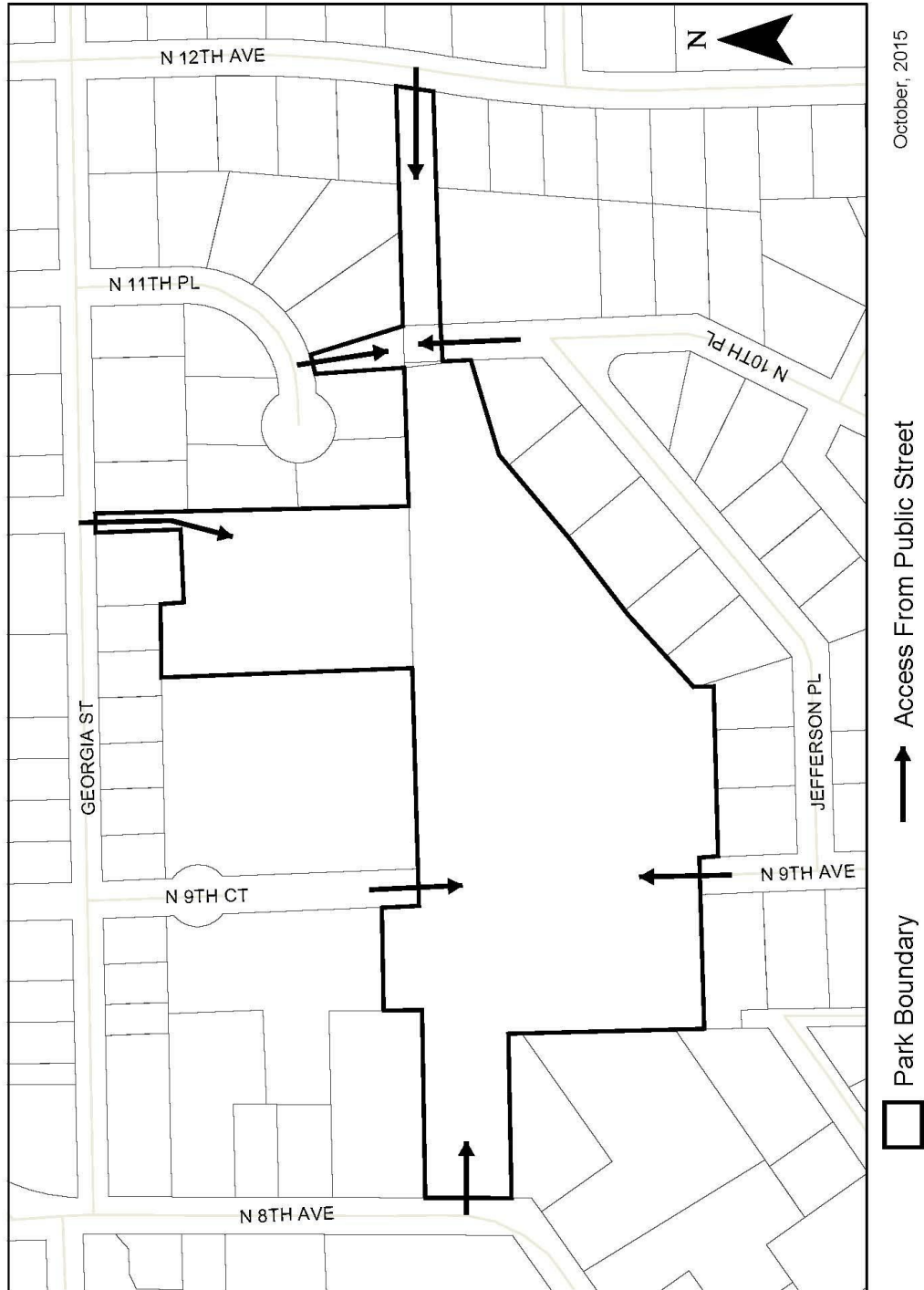
Market Square / Old School Park

- Establish a family park at the corner of Michigan Street and South 5th Avenue with a fountain, plantings, sitting area and walkway
- Install seating area around perimeter of square.
- Continue to promote the Farm Market within Market Square and look into expanding the market around the perimeter of the Municipal building

Martin Park

- Add park hours to sign
- Consider adding STEM features to park
- Replace certain trees and make some additions to shrubbery
- Review parking needs and provide space on nearby properties, on the street or in the northwest corner of the park
- Improve turf to better accommodate heavy usage

Map 8. Lawrence Big Hill Park - Public Access Points



Memorial Athletic Field Complex

- Evaluate on-street parking in the vicinity of Jaycee Field and the Girls Little League Field to minimize auto / pedestrian conflicts in these congested areas
- Continue partnership with Sturgeon Bay High School by working on and developing the Athletic Complex Master Plan:
 - Improve parking for complex by paving or using concrete, install curb and gutter and storm drains.
 - Improve Jaycee Field concession stand and bleachers.
 - Close Quincy Street and convert to a parking area
 - Develop a landscape plan for the entire area to improve the aesthetics of this large open recreation area
 - Move football field inside the current track field and fence in
 - Provide play equipment in the southwest part of the complex
 - Move the press box and bleachers
 - Abandon South 14th Avenue that runs through the complex, access would be via Oregon Street and Quincy Street
 - Build two more softball fields in the northeast corner of the complex
 - Build more parking spaces in the center of the complex and near Sunrise School
 - Establish areas for pole vault, long jump and discus
 - Establish storm water detention areas
 - Provide small ice rink at Memorial Complex
- Construct a concession stand under the press box at the baseball fields
- Fix stairs by skating rink
- Add plantings to the front of the building
- Paint Hoot Field sign and add Hoot Field to back of sign.

Otumba Park

- Expand shelter capabilities
- Expand the park by continuing to acquire appropriate adjacent parcels
- Continue play equipment additions/improvements
- Update restroom stalls
- Establish concrete plaza area
- Install a half wall for tennis
- Plan for best use for newly acquired property on W. Locust St.
- Install swim-up platform
- Expand usable beach area

Sawyer Park and Boat Launch

- Acquire a portion of the Roen parcel to the south of the park, if needed, for additional boat trailer parking
- Install air conditioning and heating system in shelter, rental price could be increased if used.
- Install acoustic paneling to improve acoustics.
- Install additional lighting at the launch area

Shiloh Road Dog Park

- Add restroom and shade structure
- Add dog watering stations
- Plant trees for added shade

Skatepark

- Install power and lighting to this area
- Add onto the parking lot

Sunset Park and Boat Launch

- Develop handicapped accessible fishing docks on Little Lake
- Dredge two large holes in Little Lake to create wintering depth for fish and work with the U.S. Fishery and the local DNR for stocking the Lake
- Pave the walking path and connect it to Delaware Street and Alabama Street
- Continue planting a variety of trees to replace ash trees
- Install permanent volleyball court
- Continue adding flower beds
- Pave parking lot south of launch ramp
- Pave around Little League concession stand
- Improve basketball court to sustain high water levels
- Repair damage from high water levels.
- Continue to make improvements outlined in the Sunset Park Master Plan.

Westside Softball Field

- Install netting over the spectator area to provide for safer viewing
- Install a higher temporary net behind the outfield fence to protect vehicles and West Side School building
- Assist with promoting leagues and events on social media

Westside Waterfront

- Complete the public improvements along the waterfront between Michigan Street Bridge and Oregon Street Bridge.
- Add additional plantings along walkways
- Ensure a distinct delineation between public areas and private development through changes in ground elevation, landscaping or other means
- Enhance visibility and access to the waterfront through signage and gateway elements.
- Mark area as part of the Ice Age Trail.
- Promote Ice Age and Ahnapee Trails, possible kiosk.
- Finish promenade
- Create name for park.
- Finalize park design while staying as close as possible to the West Waterfront Ad Hoc Committee's plan.

Woods West Park

- Plant a select number of fruit trees
- Create a walking trail
- Add a shelter with restrooms
- Create an ice skating rink
- Monitor the usage of the park to consider if mowing should be decreased
- Additional tree plantings

Woodside Wildlife Preserve

- Coordinate use and improvements with Sawyer Elementary School and Master Gardener's Club
- Continue improvements to walking path
- Continue to monitor for invasive species
- Clean up creek area annually
- Improve signage
- Install log benches along the path
- Omit wildflower areas on Neenah
- Organize removal of invasive species

Ahnapee Recreation Trail

- The Ahnapee Trail currently ends at the corner of Lansing Avenue and Green Bay Road. The trail should be extended from its current termination point to the Sawyer Park Boat Launch located at Oak and Neenah Avenue

- Assist DNR and Door county in extending the trail from the current trail head on South Neenah Avenue to the Bay View Bridge – would require private property to be acquired

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

- Extend path through J. Baudhuin property to relocate trail from road right-of-way
- Install signage to clearly mark route throughout the City.

Memorial Drive Scenic Easement

- Create a public walkway along the southwesterly side of Memorial Drive to connect the walkway at the PBI Shipyard redevelopment to the Ahnapee Trail extension at the Bay View Bridge

YMCA Peterson Park

- The YMCA park master plan has provisions to add sand volleyball courts, an all-weather sports court and a splash pad as funding becomes available.