



Village of Union Grove

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

December 2022

Community Planning & Consulting, LLC
Appleton, Wisconsin
www.communityplanningandconsulting.com



Acknowledgements

Village Board

Steve Wicklund, President
Patrick Brinkman, Trustee #1
Sandy Born, Trustee #2
Janice Winget, Trustee #3
Adam Graf, Trustee #4
Jennifer Ditscheit, Trustee #5
Amy Ruffalo, Trustee #6

Recreation & Parks Committee

Jennifer Ditscheit, Chair
Patrick Brinkman
Amy Ruffalo

Amy Sasse, Former Chair

Village Staff

Kerry Bennet, Village Administrator
Sara Spencer, Village Clerk
Richard Piette, Director of Public Works
Craig Huebner, Planning Consultant
Gary Vogel, Village Engineer

Michael Hawes, Former Village Administrator
Rebecca Wallendel, Former Village Clerk

All images presented in this document are courtesy of the Village of Union Grove unless otherwise attributed.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-19

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2027

WHEREAS, the Village of Union Grove, Racine County, Wisconsin, has heretofore adopted a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to guide the acquisition, development and management of Village parks and open space; and

WHEREAS, the provision of parks, open space and recreation facilities is important to the quality of life of the residents of, and visitors to, Union Grove; and

WHEREAS, Village adoption of a current open space and recreation plan is required for the Village of Union Grove to remain eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered through the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Village Recreation & Parks Committee has worked with Community Planning & Consulting LLC to prepare the outdoor recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027 encompasses a plan for the recreational development of the Village of Union Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Village Recreation & Parks Committee recommended adoption of said plan on December 12, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027 is hereby adopted by the Village of Union Grove Board of Trustees.

Adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Union Grove, Wisconsin this 12th day of December, 2022.

VILLAGE BOARD
VILLAGE OF UNION GROVE

By:


Steve Wickland, President

ATTEST

By:


Sara Spencer, Village Clerk



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

Our Commitment

By the year 2030, Union Grove will be recognized as a vibrant and highly-desirable place to live and raise a family. We will be known as a Village that fosters a strong sense of community, values the safety and contributions of all citizens, makes new residents feel welcomed, collaborates with neighboring communities, offers affordable and high-quality municipal services, encourages an active business community, cherishes its history while claiming its future, and offers all members in the community a quality of life second to none. The community's vision for the future is supported by controlled, diversified, and complementary growth that continues to provide citizens of all ages with a high quality of life, reasonable cost of living and a safe environment in which to grow, develop and recreate. To achieve our vision, Village government will prioritize five strategic goals.

Our Strategic Goals

1. Deliver quality municipal services in an efficient manner with an emphasis on customer service excellence.
2. Provide safe, functional, well-maintained and cost-effective public infrastructure and recreation amenities.
3. Protect the safety and security of residents, businesses, employees and visitors.
4. Foster a strong sense of community and maintain the Village's "small town" character.
5. Encourage an attractive environment for business and commerce.

Our Mission

Village government exists to serve its citizens by improving the quality of their lives and by providing for the common good. Citizens are our most important customer. Citizen and community needs are the only reasons Village government exists. As community stewards, we listen and respond to the needs of our stakeholders. We do for them what they can't do for themselves by facilitating the delivery of needed services consistent with established priorities and the best use of community resources. We build on past successes while planning for future community needs. We conduct the business of government in clear view of our citizens and against the highest set of moral and ethical standards.



Table of Contents

Ch. 1: Introduction

Village of Union Grove 1

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan..... 2

General Overview 2

Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Trends 3

Ch. 2: Planning Context

Outdoor Recreation Planning in Union Grove 5

Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Plan..... 6

Village of Union Grove Community Survey 2019 7

Racine County Park and Open Space Plan 8

SEWRPC Regional Park and Open Space Plan..... 9

Ch. 3: Community Engagement

Park & Recreation Survey 11

Engagement Session 15

Visual Preference Survey 16

First Draft Working Session 16

First Draft Presentation..... 16

Ch. 4: Goals & Objectives

Background..... 17

Goals & Objectives..... 17

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Ch. 5: Community Profile

Introduction	21
Population Profile	24
Landscape Profile	27

Ch 6: Inventory of Parks & Recreation Facilities

Introduction	35
Village Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities	37
Nearby Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities	41
Current Recreation Programs	44
2021 Events	45

Ch. 7: Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Background	47
Top Priorities	48
Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region	48
Statewide Recreation Needs	52
SCORP Goals	53

Ch. 8: Park & Open Space Standards

Assessment Methods	55
Assessing Park & Recreation Needs & Demand	57
Accessibility	59

Ch. 9: Park & Recreation Recommendations

Introduction	61
Policy-Based Park & Recreation Planning	62
General Recommendations	64
Additions & Enhancements to Current Parks	66
Future Parks & Open Space	69



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

Ch. 10: Funding Options

Introduction	77
Local Funding Sources	77
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	78
Wisconsin Department of Transportation.....	80
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation	80
Private Organizations	81
Other Funding Sources.....	81

Ch. X: Appendix

Park & Recreation Survey	83
Visual Preference Survey	86

List of Tables

Table 1: Composite Ratings by Park & Recreation Facility Category	16
Table 2: Characteristics and Needs of Select Age Groups	26
Table 3: Nature-Based Activities for SCORP 2019-2023	48
Table 4: Parks & Open Space Classifications	56
Table 5: Comparison Park & Recreation Standards	58
Table 6: Policy-Based Recommendations	63
Table 7: General Park & Recreation Recommendations	64
Table 8: Park Additions & Enhancements	66
Table 9: Visual Preference Survey Results	86

List of Figures

Figure 1: Village of Union Past and Projected Population, 1980-2040	24
Figure 2: Population by Select Age Groups, 2000 & 2019	25

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 1: Introduction

Village of Union Grove

The Village of Union Grove is located in southcentral Racine County in southeast Wisconsin. With a 2021 population of 5,399, it is the tenth largest of the county's seventeen municipalities. Union Grove is situated twenty-four miles south of the City of Milwaukee and fifty-eight miles north of the City of Chicago. Lake Michigan's western shoreline lies twelve miles to the east. Other nearby communities include the Cities of Burlington, Kenosha and Racine, and Villages of Rochester, Sturtevant, Waterford, and Yorkville. The Village's geographic location and proximity to six major highways (including I-41 and I-94) make it an ideal place to live, work, and play.

The Village last adopted an outdoor recreation plan, *'A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Union Grove,'* in 2003, and is party to the 2009 *'Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035.'*

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP) describes current parks, recreation, and open space assets, and presents a strategy for meeting future needs. Its purpose is to guide land acquisition, development, and maintenance activities by identifying the general location, character, and extent of existing and desired parks, trails, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, playgrounds, and special recreation areas. Wisconsin Chapter NR 50, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) establishes procedures for the development of a CORP. The adoption of a CORP is a prerequisite for participation in the state's outdoor recreation grant programs and a required component of federal applications for parks and recreation grant funding. Once adopted, a CORP must be updated every five years.

General Overview

Parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our neighborhoods, and make our communities more attractive places to live. Studies have shown a link between the built environment and the physical, social, and economic health of a community. Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has been building vehicle-dependent environments that foster obesity, poor health, social isolation, and high costs of infrastructure. Planning for parks and recreation facilities can promote active lifestyles, build healthy communities, and lower health care and transportation costs.



Access to outdoor recreation provides a variety of benefits and has proven to be an important component of connected, vibrant communities. This is especially relevant for urbanizing areas, as increased development often leads to reduced access to recreational and open space. The benefits provided by access to parks, recreation, and open space include:¹

- **Mental.** Outdoor recreation has psychological benefits, including the prevention or reduction of stress; improved self-esteem, confidence and creativity; spiritual growth; and an increased sense of exhilaration, adventure and challenge from life.
- **Physical.** Getting outside provides physical benefits, such as aerobic, cardiovascular and muscular fitness, as well as improved functioning of the immune system.
- **Social.** The great outdoors afford social benefits like bonding with like-minded people who enjoy outdoor activities and feeling an increased pride in your community and nation.
- **Economic.** People who regularly participate in outdoor recreation tend to be more productive at work. Outdoor recreation creates job opportunities for others, which leads to economic growth. And the preservation of the natural areas needed for outdoor recreation increases property values.

¹ Excerpted from *The Life Habit: Building Blocks of Life*, 2017.

- Environmental. Outdoor recreation provides environmental benefits, including increased environmental awareness. Concern that results from outdoor recreation can lead to increased involvement in environmental issues.

Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Trends²

Outdoor recreation influences many aspects of our lives and the larger communities in which we live. For example, people that participate in outdoor recreation, especially from an early age, tend to have stronger connections to nature and conservation ethics. In turn, these connections often lead to stronger support for the protection of natural resources. Thus, participation in nature-based activities is likely to be increasingly important in the public's level of support for protecting air and water quality, open spaces, and wildlife.

Wisconsinites have historically participated in outdoor recreation at higher rates than the national average. This is likely largely attributable to our abundant natural resource base, the quantity and quality of public lands and waters, and cultural traditions that value the outdoors. It is estimated that more than 95% of state residents participated in some form of outdoor recreation in the past year.

Future participation levels will be affected by the size of our population and the rates at which residents engage in different activities. The state's population is projected to grow by about 700,000 additional residents by 2040 and as a result most activities will see increases in the number of participants, even if participation rates for many activities decline as our population ages.

Newer forms of recreation provide users with more options for enjoying the outdoors, and in some cases supplement users' recreational experiences. For example, fat-tire bikes can extend biking opportunities into the winter months, kayaking can be another way to fish small streams, UTVs can be a way for groups to get to a favorite hunting spot, and drones can be a new way to photograph nature. As battery technology continues to improve, it is possible that many applications will affect outdoor recreation in the future.

Activities with the largest increases in participation over the last five years at county parks, forests, and trails in Wisconsin include:

- Bicycling – winter/fat-tire biking
- Camping – RV/pop-up
- Bicycling – mountain biking
- Riding ATV/UTVs
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Bicycling – recreational/rail-trail biking
- Picnic areas/day use/beaches
- Paddle boarding
- Dog walking on trails
- Hiking/walking/running on trails
- Fishing

² Source: *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023*, WDNR, March 2019.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 2: Planning Context

Outdoor Recreation Planning In Union Grove³

In October 2001, Union Grove contracted with Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to prepare its first outdoor recreation plan. *A Park And Open Space Plan For The Village Of Union Grove* adopted in July 2003, established the following seven outdoor recreation objectives:

- To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.
- To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in intensive non-resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

³ Excerpted from *A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Union Grove*, SEWRPC, July 2003

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
- To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related and other extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
- To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.
- To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity of the Region.
- To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Plan⁴

In February 2020 the Village and its planning consultant, GRAEF, hosted a Land Use Workshop to engage the community and solicit input as part of the process to update the 2009 multijurisdictional comprehensive plan. GRAEF established three stations at which attendees provided feedback to guide the update process. Recreation- and open space-related comments are presented below.



Village of Union Grove 2050 Comprehensive Plan
Land Use Workshop, January 29, 2020

'What I Want for Union Grove'

- More trails, bike paths, and walking paths
- Recreation center and soccer fields

Target Development Areas

- North Gateway & Railroad Corridor: Walking trails

Inspiration Boards

- Outdoor Recreation: Forest trails, paved paths for bicycles / pedestrians

⁴ Excerpted from Village of Union Grove website, 2021.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

Other Feedback

- The Village should develop more parkland that is well-advertised and includes shelters or buildings that can be rented for events
- The Village should have more community parks and friendly places to connect with neighbors
- It would be nice to have facilities similar to Franksville Park
- It would be nice to have more sidewalks, parks, and gazebos
- The old railway could be used as a bike trail
- The conservation area should be expanded and feature more walking trails
- There should be weekly concerts in the summer at the parks

On August 3, 2020, the Village Board adopted the 2050 Land Use map, replacing the 2035 Land Use map which resulted from the development of the 2009 multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan. The 2050 map was developed over a six-month process that began with the workshop described above. The 2050 Village of Union Grove Future Land Use Map is presented on page 10.

Village of Union Grove Community Survey 2019

The 2019 Community Survey was administered from September 1 to September 30, 2019. It was announced in the Fall 2019 edition of the Village Voice newsletter which was mailed to nearly all households. The survey was also announced in the Union Grove E-News e-mail newsletter, on the Village website, on social media and written about in The Journal Times and Westline Report newspapers.

Although the survey was broadly focused on a wide array of issues, a number of questions and responses were directly or indirectly related to outdoor recreation.

Question 1: How important are the following features in your choice to live in Union Grove?

	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Very Much</u>
Scenery / Natural Beauty	8.4%	46.6%	45.0%
Recreational Opportunities	24.5%	50.2%	25.3%

Question 3: Please rate your perceptions of the following types of activities in Union Grove:

	<u>Negative or Very Negative</u>	<u>Positive or Very Positive</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Community Events	17.5%	73.0%	9.6%
Improvements of Park, Public Spaces	19.4%	70.4%	10.3%
Conservation and Green Initiatives	26.3%	51.4%	22.3%

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Question 5: How satisfied are you with the current status of each of the following municipal services in Union Grove?

	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Very Much</u>
Park Maintenance	4.4%	30.6%	54.0%

Question 6: How often do members of your household make use of the following Village amenities?

	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Very Often</u>
Paths and walkways	33.69%	42.6%	23.5%
Playground Equipment	45.8%	40.6%	13.6%
Picnic / Pavilion Areas	52.6%	42.6%	4.8%
Baseball Fields	65.6%	24.4%	10.0%
Dog park	68.5%	22.3%	9.2%
Soccer Fields	73.6%	18.4%	8.0%

Question 14: Please share any other comments or ideas you have for the community.

Need Bike Trail/Rails to Trails/More Paths/Path	11.4%
Improve Recreation for Kids/Teens/Public Pool/Park	9.9%
Pedestrian Safety Concerns/Lack of Sidewalks	7.1%
More Recreation Offering for Seniors	1.4%

Racine County Park and Open Space Plan⁵

Racine County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. This includes the periodic updating of the County Park and Open Space plan, the current version of which was adopted by the Racine County Board in 2001. The plan was reaffirmed through re-adoption of the plan by the County Board in 2006 to maintain the County's eligibility for Federal and State grants. With the assistance of Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Racine County in 2011 undertook another effort to update its park and open space plan, extending the planning horizon further into the future. The primary purpose of the plan is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of the existing and future population of the County and to protect existing natural resources.

⁵ Excerpted from *A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County*, Racine County Department of Planning and Development and Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

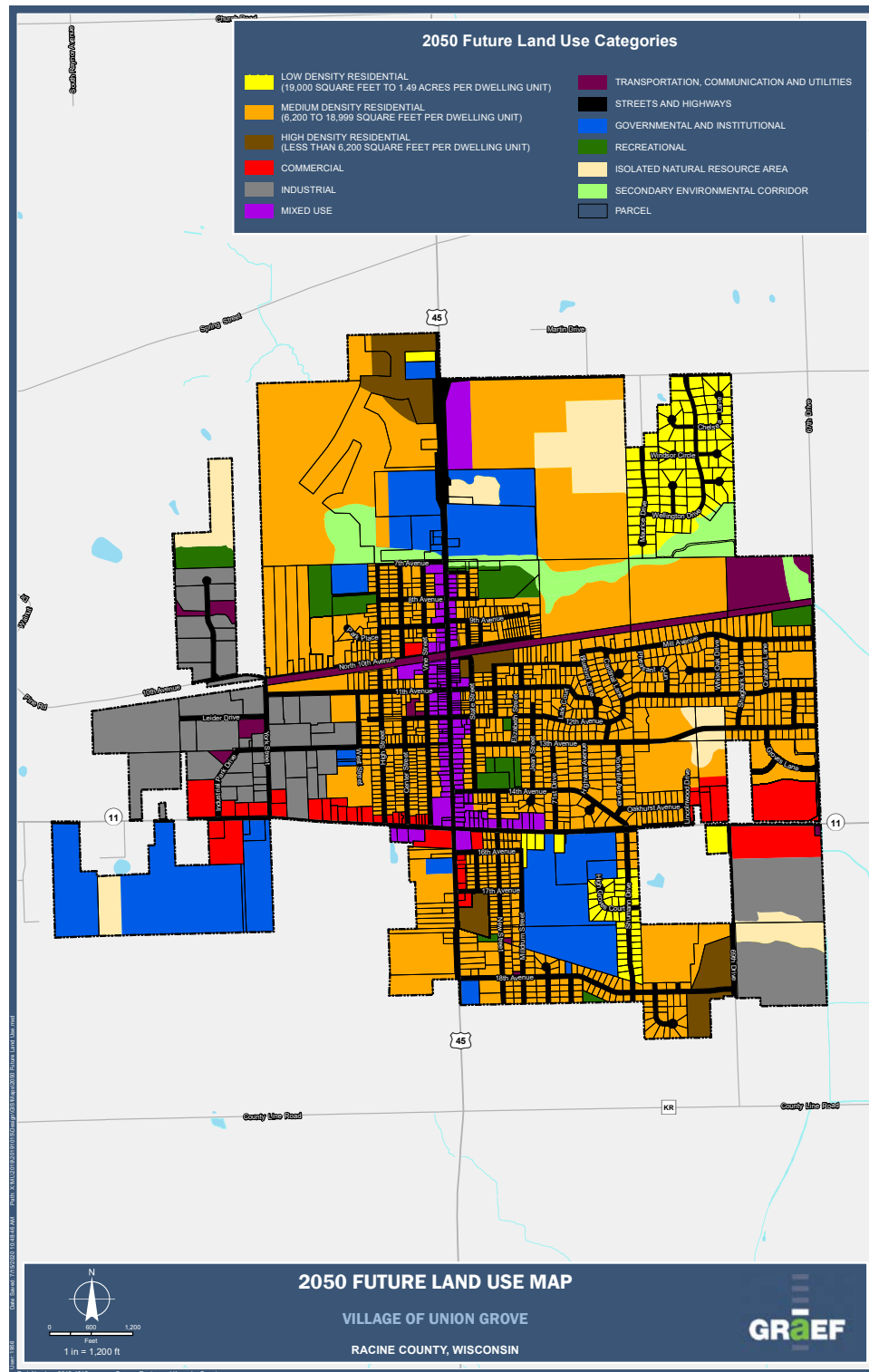
SEWRPC Regional Park and Open Space Plan⁶

SEWRPC adopted its first recreation plan for the region, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000* in December 1977. The purpose of the report was to identify existing and probable future park and open space needs within the region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, a regional trail system, smaller non-resource-oriented urban parks, and attendant recreational facilities. The report recommended the development of:

- A resource-oriented outdoor recreation plan providing recommendations for the number and location of large parks, recreation corridors to accommodate trail-oriented activities, and water-access facilities to enable the recreational use of rivers, inland lakes, and Lake Michigan.
- An urban outdoor recreation plan providing recommendations for the number and distribution of local parks and outdoor recreational facilities required in urban areas of the Region.

⁶ Excerpted from SEWRPC *Regional Park and Open Space Plan*, www.sewrpc.org, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027





Park & Recreation Survey

In June 2021 the Village of Union Grove began the process of developing the CORP, by creating the 'Village of Union Grove Park & Recreation Survey.' The online and hard copy survey built upon past recreation efforts including the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan and 2019 Community Survey. The purpose of the Park & Recreation Survey was to seek input from residents, property owners, and business owners regarding whether additional recreation uses like walking and biking trails, community gathering places, and multi-season outdoor activities, among others, are desired within the Village.

More than 200 individuals completed the 17-question survey, the results of which are presented on the following pages.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



1. In general, how satisfied are you with the current availability of parks in the Village?

Very Satisfied or Satisfied 80.8%	Unsatisfied or Very Unsatisfied 16.2%	No Opinion 3.8%
--------------------------------------	--	--------------------

2. How often do you, personally, visit a Village park?

Daily	Weekly	Once or twice per month	A few times each year	Rarely or never
2.9%	36.4%	27.3%	23.9%	11.5%

3. How close is the nearest Village park to you?

Within walking or biking distance	Biking, but not walking distance	Driving distance	I don't know
71.9%	7.1%	21.9%	0.5%

4. Which Village parks have you visited during the past year (check all that apply)?

81.1%	School Yard Park
51.7%	Ryan Moe/Michael Young Memorial Park
40.8%	Village Square Park
37.8%	Buften Park
32.8%	American Legion Memorial Park
32.8%	Joseph Leider Memorial Park
9.0%	Indian Trail Park
9.0%	Lauer Wildlife Preserve
7.5%	Lincoln Woods Memorial Nature Park

5. For which of the following activities/facilities do you visit a Village park (check all that apply)?

64.5%	Playgrounds	24.6%	Picnics
59.1%	Fresh air, being outside	14.8%	Basketball court
47.3%	Spend time with family, friends	14.8%	Shelter, gazebo
37.9%	Exercise	13.8%	Facility rentals, family gatherings
36.9%	Walking	13.3%	Soccer field
34.5%	Relaxation	12.3%	Meet new people
34.0%	Baseball field	12.3%	Nature viewing, bird watching, photography
29.6%	Entertainment	8.4%	Fishing
29.6%	Park paths and trails	5.4%	Fitness area
26.1%	Dog park		

6. Which of the following reasons prevent you from using Village parks?

- 46.8% Nothing prevents me, I use parks
- 23.9% Facilities or amenities desired are not offered
- 21.4% Don't know what is offered or available
- 11.4% Too busy
- 10.9% Use facilities in another community
- 5.5% Not interested
- 2.5% Accessibility
- 2.0% Difficulty finding parking

7. Which of the following activities, if available, would you or someone in your family engage in (check all that apply)?

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 68.4% | Community festivals, events | 34.0% | On-road bicycling for exercise or recreation |
| 67.5% | Swimming (outdoor pool) | 34.0% | Wellness programs |
| 67.0% | Nature trails | 30.6% | Sand volleyball |
| 65.1% | Splash pad | 27.8% | Outdoor art, street art |
| 63.2% | Swimming (indoor pool) | 27.3% | Off-road bicycling |
| 59.3% | Outdoor movies, music, performances | 25.4% | Skate park |
| 59.3% | Water park | 24.4% | Flower gardening |
| 56.9% | Mini golf | 20.6% | Dancing |
| 52.6% | Adventure (climbing wall, obstacle course, etc.) | 20.6% | Pickle ball |
| 48.3% | Sledding | 20.6% | Vegetable gardening |
| 38.8% | Ice skating | 19.1% | Bocce ball or croquet |
| 37.8% | Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, martial arts, etc. | 19.1% | Card games, board games |
| 37.3% | Arts and crafts | 14.4% | Operating RC vehicle or drone |
| 36.8% | Disc golf | 13.4% | Shuffle board |
| 35.4% | Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing | 12.4% | Woodworking |
| 34.9% | Nature viewing/photography | | |

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



8. Which of the following would you like to see added, expanded, or improved at Village parks (check all that apply)?

63.2%	Restrooms	23.8%	Landscaping, incl: trees, native prairie
51.3%	Sidewalks, paths, trails	22.3%	Waste and recycling receptacles
47.2%	Grills, picnic tables	21.8%	Park maintenance
46.1%	Benches, seating	17.6%	Safety and security
43.0%	Playground equipment	11.9%	Accessibility and barrier-free recreation
32.1%	Shelters, pavilions, gazebos	10.9%	Parking improvements
26.9%	Lighting	9.8%	Educational, interpretive signs

9. As you may know, the Village is working with Racine County and others on a rails-to-trails project ('Route of the Badger'), a multi-use trail connecting Union Grove with communities and attractions throughout southeast Wisconsin. Which of the following activities, if allowed on the trail, would you be most likely to participate in (check all that apply)?

82.8%	Walking, hiking	18.1%	Snowmobiling
73.5%	Bicycling, pavement	17.2%	Snowshoeing
55.9%	Walking pet	16.7%	Electric scooters, Segway, etc.
43.6%	Jogging, running	11.3%	XC skiing
38.7%	Bicycling, off-road	10.8%	Horse riding
32.4%	Rollerblading, roller skating, scooters (non-electric)	7.8%	Radio-controlled vehicles
29.9%	ATV / UTV		

10. The Covid-19 pandemic has made you (select one):

More likely to engage in outdoor recreation	No more or less likely to engage in outdoor recreation	Less likely to engage in outdoor recreation	I don't know
50%	48.6%	2.9%	1.4%

11. How supportive are you of the Village creating new parks and recreation areas?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
75.2%	20.5%	1.4%	0.5%	2.4%

12. How supportive are you of the Village acquiring land to provide public access to natural areas and open space?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
67.1%	22.4%	3.3%	1.9%	6.2%



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

13. How supportive are you of developing a Village-wide system of interconnected walking and bicycling paths providing access to and from neighborhoods, parks, the rails-to-trails project, and other key destinations?

Very supportive	Supportive	Unsupportive	Very unsupportive	No opinion
69.0%	21.0%	1.9%	1.9%	6.2%

14. If appropriate facilities, amenities, and opportunities were available, how willing would you be to use Village parks and outdoor recreation areas during winter months?

Very willing	Willing	Unwilling	Very unwilling	No opinion
47.8%	43.5%	1.9%	1.9%	5.3%

15. Where should the Village prioritize future parks and recreation funding?

	High Priority	Low Priority	Not Necessary
Developing new parks	20.2%	41.5%	10.8%
Developing new paths and trails	48.3%	11.8%	0.5%
Expanding programs and services	40.3%	18.9%	1.5%
Preserving natural resources	37.6%	12.2%	3.6%
Providing indoor recreation facilities	31.7%	28.7%	5.9%
Upgrading existing facilities	35.7%	27.9%	2.5%

16. Compared to other Village priorities, how important do you think it is to develop and maintain parks, trails, open space, recreation facilities, and services?

Very important	Important	Unimportant	Very unimportant	No opinion
54.8%	41.0%	1.9%	1.4%	1.4%

For responses to Question 17, 'If the Village could do one thing to improve parks and recreation for you, your family, and your friends, what would you like that to be?', please refer to the Appendix.

Engagement Session

The Village of Union Grove Recreation & Parks Committee hosted a Community Engagement Session August 19, 2021 at Village Hall. The purpose of the session is to inform participants of the CORP process, describe existing parks and recreation assets in the community, present Village (and statewide) demographic trends that will guide the CORP planning effort, summarize the results of the park and recreation survey, and identify the recreation amenities desired by residents.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Visual Preference Survey

A visual preference survey (VPS) is a planning tool which allows participants to assign ratings to various development and design alternatives; in this case, park and recreational facilities. The VPS entailed a series of 90 digital images representing options for consideration within the CORP document. Responders were asked to assign a rating to each image on a scale of +3 (strongly favorable) to -3 (strongly unfavorable).

The Village released the CORP VPS online in September 2021. One hundred eight-four people responded to the survey, the complete results of which are presented in the Appendix. Composite scores associated with certain categories of facilities are presented in Table 1.

First Draft Working Session

A working session with the Recreation & Parks Committee was held on January 13, 2022 at Village Hall. The purpose of the session was to review the rough first draft in preparation for its presentation to the general public.

First Draft Presentation

The first draft of the Village of Union Grove Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was presented on April 11, 2022 at Village Hall.

Table 1: Composite Ratings by Park & Recreation Facility Category

Rank	Facility Category	Image Numbers	Composite Rating
1	Food trucks, mobile food establishments, beer gardens	70, 83, 34, 16, 89	1.53
2	Water parks, splash pads, water features	4, 40, 57, 81	1.51
3	ADA, accessible facilities	38, 46, 71, 55, 21	1.39
4	Playgrounds (non aquatic)	38, 42, 55, 72, 68, 49, 21	1.26
5	Trails, paths (nonmotorized)	2, 46, 27, 79, 39, 51, 71, 63, 59, 37, 18, 78, 13, 82, 10, 54, 65, 87, 73	1.22
6	Outdoor events, cultural events	70, 83, 34, 47, 62, 88, 14, 31, 50, 74, 3, 53, 77	1.20
7	Dog parks, pet friendly outdoor activities	79, 89, 35	1.11
8	Native plants, prairie restoration	76, 12, 24, 84, 86	0.99
9	Winter activities, facilities	48, 58, 13, 82, 10, 54, 65	0.92
10	Band shells, outdoor music, outdoor movies	47, 62, 14, 31, 50, 74, 17, 53, 6, 64	0.83
11	Trails, paths (motorized)	36, 60	0.80
12	Community center, senior centers	80, 22, 8	0.76
13	Outdoor yoga, tai-chi, dance, etc.	14, 23, 44,	0.73
14	Adult outdoor exercise equipment	15, 69	0.69
15	Camping, picnic areas	32, 52, 11, 75, 25, 41	0.60
16	Skate park	85, 20	0.58
17	Challenge course, obstacle course, climbing wall	66, 9, 5, 73	0.27
18	Outdoor games, courts (shuffleboard, bocce, croquet, disc golf, etc.)	43, 7, 67, 28, 26	0.22



Ch. 4: Goals & Objectives

Background

The goals and objectives presented below and on the following pages were created based upon the results of the public engagement efforts described in the previous section of this report and state trends identified in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-23 [SCORP].

Goals & Objectives

Ensure parks, recreation facilities, and other public spaces provide access for all residents

- Identify underserved groups and engage their representatives in park and recreation facility planning
- Develop all future parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces to accommodate the special needs of elderly and disabled users, compliant with ADA Title II and Title III.
- Identify opportunities to update and expand existing facilities and services to increase accessibility.
- Apply safe design principles in order to make parks and recreation facilities safer and more user friendly.
- Bring equity to parks and recreation planning by making facilities available to all user groups.
- Identify and remove structural and cultural barriers impeding outdoor recreation opportunity.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Build a healthier, happier, more vibrant community

- Expand walking, biking, running opportunities with additional trails, paths, and bikeways.
- Anticipate the needs of the changing community and structure programs and facilities accordingly.
- Provide opportunities for community gathering by allowing mobile food establishments in Village parks.
- Encourage volunteerism.
- Utilize financial resources efficiently and equitably.
- Strengthen community image.
- Enhance health and wellness through innovative and diversified parks, arts, recreation, and cultural opportunities.
- Provide opportunities for relaxation, learning and socialization to promote personal growth and wellbeing.
- Encourage family participation.
- Provide quiet outdoor spaces for rest and reflection.

Preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance natural resources and open spaces

- Encourage the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and provide habitat for at risk species.
- Acquire and preserve important natural areas and open spaces.
- Focus future acquisition efforts on the development of passive parks and recreation facilities.
- Incorporate native plants into landscaping and stormwater plans for all outdoor recreation facilities.
- Work with willing landowners to preserve significant natural resources located on private property through the use of conservation easements or other land preservation tools.

Ensure that new development projects include adequate park and recreation facilities

- Work with residential developers during the platting process to identify sites appropriate for neighborhood parks and preserved open space.
- Encourage developers to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into all proposed commercial developments and residential subdivisions.

Develop a year-round park and recreation system embraced by the community

- Identify locations for seasonally specific activities such as tree planting, community gardens, sledding, ice-skating, and cross country skiing, among others.
- Utilize the park system to host seasonal festivals, farmers' markets, monthly events, and other such gatherings.
- Create park and recreation programs for families, kids, seniors, etc.
- Effectively promote and publicize area recreational programs and events.

Diversify the transportation system by expanding multi-modal opportunities.

- Identify opportunities to increase multi-modal connectivity between neighborhoods, existing parks and trails, schools, Route of the Badger State Trail, and other key destination nodes within the Village.
- Work with Racine County and SEWRPC to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities into County highway repair and reconstruction projects.
- Identify appropriate streets as designated bicycle routes.
- Utilize wayfinding tools to assist residents and visitors in navigating to and from parks and recreation facilities and other Village destinations.

Continually evaluate outdoor recreation levels of service

- Identify opportunities to build small, mini parks in areas underserved by parks and playgrounds.
- Provide a park system that creates opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy and benefit from recreation facilities, and public open space.
- Offer a diversity of parks and recreation facilities including pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, natural areas, and conservancies.
- Ensure that each neighborhood has access to appropriate recreational facilities.
- Ensure that future parks and recreation facilities are sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common areas for neighborhood gatherings.
- Engage the general public in the design and development of future parks and recreation facilities.
- Meet recreational needs with maximum effectiveness and with minimum expense.
- Work with Racine County, SEWRPC, and adjacent communities to identify opportunities for shared facilities and services.
- Pursue state and federal grants to acquire and develop desired parks and recreation facilities.
- Pursue public-private partnerships to aid in acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks and outdoor recreation facilities.
- Consider pursuing revenue generating recreational facilities and events to supplement parks and recreation budget.
- Update the CORP at least once every five years.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 5: Community Profile

Introduction

The Village of Union Grove is approximately 1,700 acres (2.65 square miles) in size with a 2021 population of 5,399, for a land use density of just more than three person per acre. It hosts a diverse array of land uses including commercial industrial, governmental / institutional, recreational, and a variety of residential districts. Union Grove is home to more than two hundred businesses and eleven parks or open space areas. Nearby recreation amenities include Old Settler's Park (hosting the fairgrounds), Great Lakes Dragaway, a quarter-mile drag strip in the Town of Paris, Richard Bong State Recreational Area, a 4,515-acre unit of the state park system, and Eagle Lake, a 529-acre lake located approximately 2.5 miles west of Union Grove.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Annual Events

The Village of Union hosts a number of community events during the year. Some of the more prominent are described below.

Union Grove Public Market

From produce and baked goods to specialty crafts and collectibles, the Union Grove Public market has a little something for everyone! The market is open every Tuesday afternoon, June-September, near the Union Grove Piggly Wiggly at the northwest corner of Hwy. 11 and 67th Dr.

4th of July Parade

Visitors come to Union Grove from all around to celebrate Independence Day and show appreciation to military members and veterans. The parade starts at the Racine County Fairgrounds parking lot, turns east onto 15th Ave. and heads north through downtown on Main St. The parade is organized by Greater Union Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and has a different theme each year.



Union Grove 4th of July Parade. Image courtesy: The Journal Times.

Racine County Fair

Located just outside of the borders of Union Grove, the Racine County Fairgrounds is host to fairs and expos throughout the year – none bigger than the annual Racine County Fair. The fair is held over a five-day period in late July of each year and offers family-friendly attractions and activities.



Super Saturday 2019. Image courtesy: Union Grove Super Saturday.

Super Saturday & Union Grove Kiwanis Street Dance

Held in late summer of each year, Super Saturday is a day dedicated to family, community, fun and supporting local businesses. The day is capped off with live music of the Kiwanis Street Dance.

Union Grove Great Pumpkin Chuckin' Fest

Where else can you watch teams catapult pumpkins into the air, while enjoying a BBQ competition, entertainment and games for kids? This annual fall-time event takes place at the Racine County Fair Grounds and offers free admission and parking. Organized by Greater Union Grove Area Chamber of Commerce.



Union Grove Great Pumpkin Chuckin Fest. Image courtesy: The Journal Times.

Christmas Comes to Union Grove

Annual festivities include public tree lighting, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa himself. Christmas Comes to Union Grove is held at Village Square on the first Thursday evening in December.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Union Grove Car Show

The back-to-the-past car show fills downtown streets on the second Saturday in August.

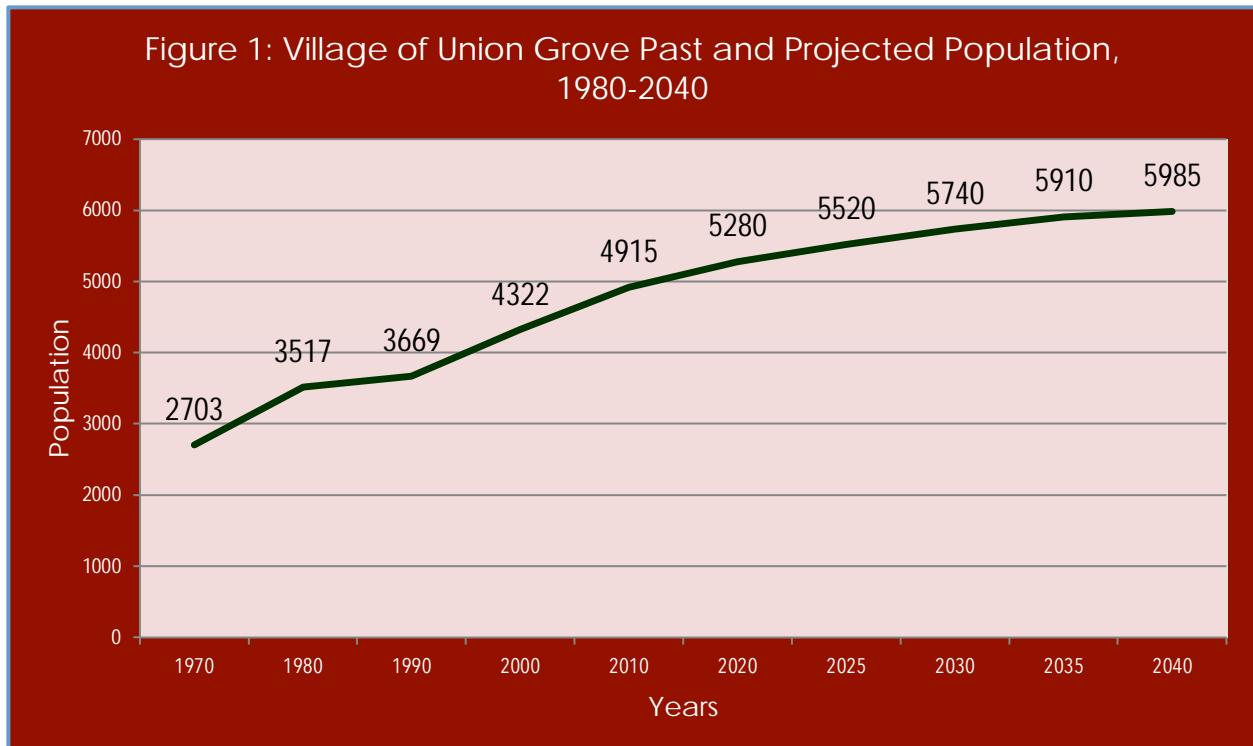
Racine County Metropolitan Statistical Area⁷

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) delineates Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) according to published standards applied to Census Bureau data. The general concept of a MSA is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration within that core. MSAs provide a more meaningful measure of population and economic dynamics than what can be achieved by focusing upon individual municipalities. Union Grove is part of the Racine County MSA. With a 2019 population of 196,311 it is the fifth largest in the state. Racine County is part of the Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha (MRW) Metropolitan Combined Statistical Area (CMSA). With a 2019 population of 2,047,966, the MRW is the largest MSA in Wisconsin, 10th largest in the Midwest, and 39th in the U.S.



Union Grove Car Show. Image courtesy: Pinterest

Population Profile



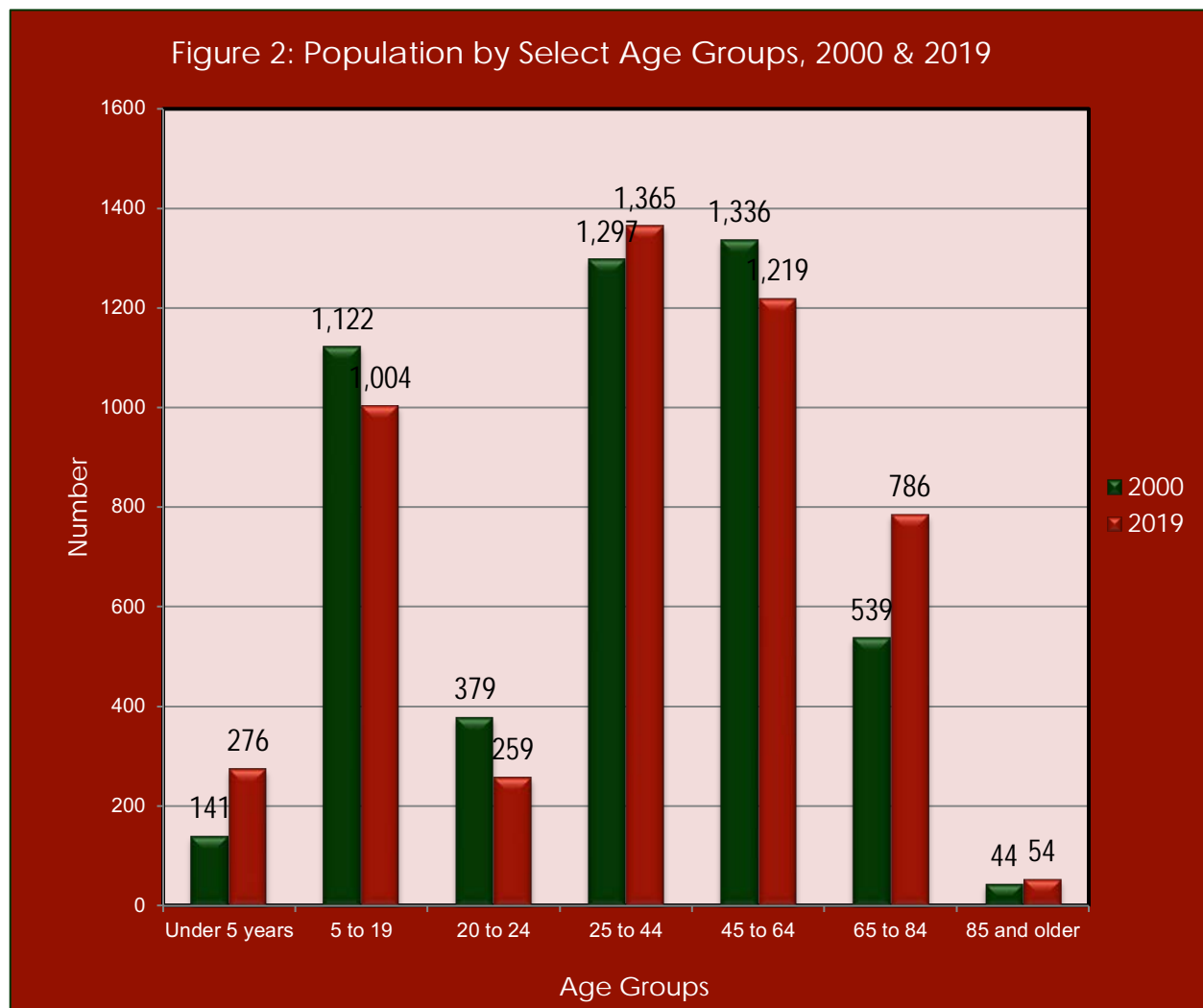
⁷ Source: United States Census Bureau, 2021.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

During the past 120 years Union Grove's population has increased by a factor of ten...from 520 in 1900 to 5,280 in 2020. Although the pace has slowed, the Village remains a growing community with a projected 2040 population of nearly 6,000 (see Figure 1).

Figure 2 compares the population of the Village within select age groups for the years 2000 and 2019. These groups are important for planning purposes since each represents a differing set of needs with respect to outdoor recreation, transportation, housing, and the like. Table 2 provides a brief description of each group, its characteristics, and examples of potential park and recreation needs.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Table 2: Characteristics and Needs of Select Age Groups

Age Group	Description	Characteristics	Types of Park & Recreation Needs
Under 5	Infants, toddlers, pre-school, and kindergarten	Entirely dependent upon others	Playgrounds; splash pads; summer park programs; neighborhood parks; gymnastics and tumbling.
5 to 19	School aged children and young adults	Dependent upon others for lodging, food, education, and most other needs	Athletic facilities; multi-purpose sports fields; BMX/skate parks; disc golf; RC/drone areas; adventure facility (climbing walls, ropes course, etc.); ice rinks; summer park programs; youth baseball/ soccer; neighborhood parks; teen center; youth fitness & wellness programs; after school programs.
20 to 24	Post high school; job and career training (college, trades, military, etc.)	Somewhat dependent upon others for certain needs	Ice rinks; music in the park; disc golf; RC/ drone areas; adventure facility (climbing walls, ropes course, etc.); martial arts, sports fields/courts.
25 to 44	Established adults	Increasing earning and spending potential; traditional child-raising years	Outdoor fitness stations; public art; water features (fountains, reflecting pools); camping; community gardens; yoga/tai chi in the park; softball/volleyball leagues; meeting space for rental.
45 to 64	Mature adults	Prime earning years, often 'empty nesters'	Community gardens; outdoor fitness stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; pickleball; meeting space for rental.
65 to 84	Retirement-age	Decreased earning, sustained activity level, increasing healthcare costs	Hiking/biking trails, equipment rentals (kayaks, XC skis, etc.), community gardens; senior exercise stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; dancing; pickleball; meeting space for rental.
85 and older	Post retirement	Decreased earning, spending, and activity level	Community gardens; senior exercise stations; yoga/tai chi in the park; dancing.
All ages	n/a	n/a	Multi-use trails; pedestrian & bicycle facilities; passive parks; fishing areas; swimming pools; music/movies in the park; public art; water features (fountains, reflecting pools); nature center/nature trails; equestrian trails; picnic areas; dog parks/exercise areas; performing arts facility; multi-generational community center; programs for people with disabilities; community festivals & special events; arts & crafts.

Note: The information presented in this table is intended to reflect examples of the types of park and recreation facilities that may be desired by the given population group. It should not be considered an exhaustive list.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

General Population Characteristics

The demographic information presented below was collected from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing statistical survey by the Census Bureau sent to approximately 250,000 addresses monthly. It gathers information previously contained in the long form of the decennial census.

- Of the 4,963 persons in the Village in 2019, 2,281 (54%) were female, 2,682 (46%) male.
- The median age is 37.2 years (Racine County, 41.1; Wisconsin, 39.9).
- 93.8% of respondents identified race as 'White', 2.2% 'Black or African American', 0.5% 'American Indian and Alaska Native', and 0.4% 'Asian'.
- 3.3% of the population identifies as 'Hispanic or Latino (of any race)'. *Note: Under Census Bureau policy, the terms 'Hispanic' and 'Latino' are considered an ethnic or cultural identifier, not a race.*
- Of the 3.2% of the population identifying as 'Two or more races', 94% identify as 'White and Black or African American' with the remainder 'White and Asian'.
- 91.1% of residents age 25 and older were high school graduates; 11.7% have an Associates degree; 16.3% Bachelor's degree; 7.0% graduate or professional degree.
- Median household income was \$67,405 (Racine County, \$60,779; Wisconsin, \$64,168).

Landscape Profile

Union Grove's natural landscape provides a foundation for outdoor recreation planning. This section includes brief descriptions of aquatic and terrestrial resources along with a list of those endangered and threatened species known or believed to exist in Racine County.

Physiography & Topography⁸

Glaciation has largely determined the physiography, topography, and soils of Racine County. Of the four major stages of glaciation, the last and most influential was the Wisconsin Stage, which is believed to have ended about 11,000 years ago. Racine County varies from gently rolling glacial plains and ground moraines in the eastern half to steeper hills in the west. Ground moraines are typically comprised of dense basal till, which frequently contains a combination of silt and clay. The eastern edge of the County also contains the lake terrace, which runs parallel to and contiguous with the shoreline of Lake Michigan. To the west, the western side of the Fox River is comprised of sand and gravel outwash deposits. Glacial outwash deposits are common along the major rivers and streams of Racine County. Outwash is alluvial in origin and was deposited by glacial melt water. A few places also contain lacustrine deposits, which include the sediments of glacial lakebeds.

⁸ Excerpted from *A Multijurisdictional Plan for Racine County: 2035*, SEWRPC, November 2009.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Geology⁹

The bedrock formations that underlie the unconsolidated surficial deposits in Racine County primarily consist of Silurian Age dolomite. Eastern Racine County has prominent areas in which the Racine formation of dolomite reef strata are exposed either through natural outcroppings along the Root River and Lake Michigan or in old quarries. This reef strata has a rich diversity of fossil marine organisms. Southwestern Racine County provides good examples of glacial topography extending from Walworth County. Kettle and kame glacial formations can be found in this area. The advances of glacial ice sheets resulted in a wide range of glacial deposits over the underlying bedrock. The most substantial glacial deposits, represented as depth to bedrock, are 100 to 300 feet thick, and located in the central portion of the County. Areas where bedrock ranges from zero to less than 100 feet are generally found in the eastern and western portions of the County. Bedrock in Union Grove's shoreline areas tends to be located within 25-50 feet of the surface. Bedrock throughout the remainder of the Village is 50-100 feet below surface with the exception of small portions at the northwest and southwest corners lying at 100-150 feet.

Surface Water Resources

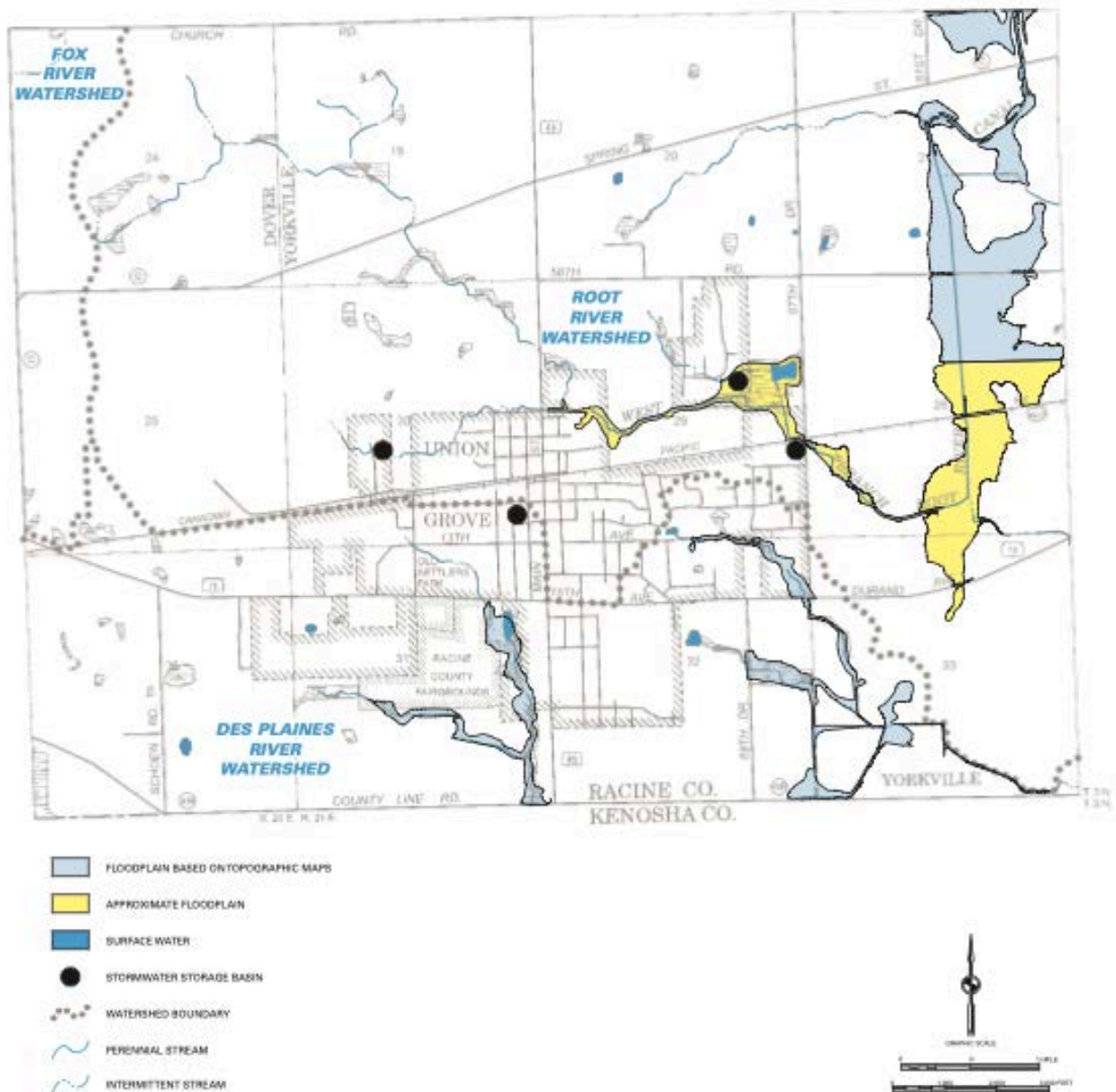
Surface waters, including streams and lakes and their associated wetlands, floodplains, and shorelands, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. They provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development of the County, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Racine County is traversed by a subcontinental divide that separates the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River drainage basin from the Mississippi River drainage basin. The divide exerts a major physical influence on the overall drainage pattern of the County, but also carries with it legal constraints that, in effect, prohibit the diversion of any substantial quantities of Lake Michigan water across the divide.

Watersheds

A watershed is a land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.¹⁰ Union Grove lies within the Root River and Des Plaines Rivers watersheds, the former of which drains to Lake Michigan, the latter to the Gulf of Mexico via the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Approximately eighteen linear miles of streams have been identified within Village boundaries, of which a portion of the West Branch of the Root River is the only perennial stream. See *Surface Water Drainage and Floodplains in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2000* on following page.

⁹ Excerpted from *A Multijurisdictional Plan for Racine County: 2035*, SEWRPC, November 2009.

¹⁰ Source: *What is a Watershed*, National Ocean Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2021.



Surface Water Drainage and Floodplains in the Village of Union Grove Planning Area: 2000

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Wetlands¹¹

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promote the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils.

Wetlands vary widely because of regional and local differences in soils, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation and other factors, including human disturbance. Inland/non-tidal wetlands, like those found in Union Grove, are most common on floodplains along rivers and streams (i.e., riparian wetlands), in isolated depressions surrounded by dry land (e.g., playas, basins and potholes), along the margins of lakes and ponds, and in other low-lying areas where the groundwater intercepts the soil surface or where precipitation sufficiently saturates the soil (e.g., vernal pools and bogs). Inland wetlands include marshes and wet meadows dominated by herbaceous plants, swamps dominated by shrubs, and wooded swamps dominated by trees. Many are seasonal. The quantity of water present and the timing of its presence in part determine the functions of a wetland and its role in the environment.

Wetlands located within and around Union Grove are shown in the image on the following page.

Woodlands¹²

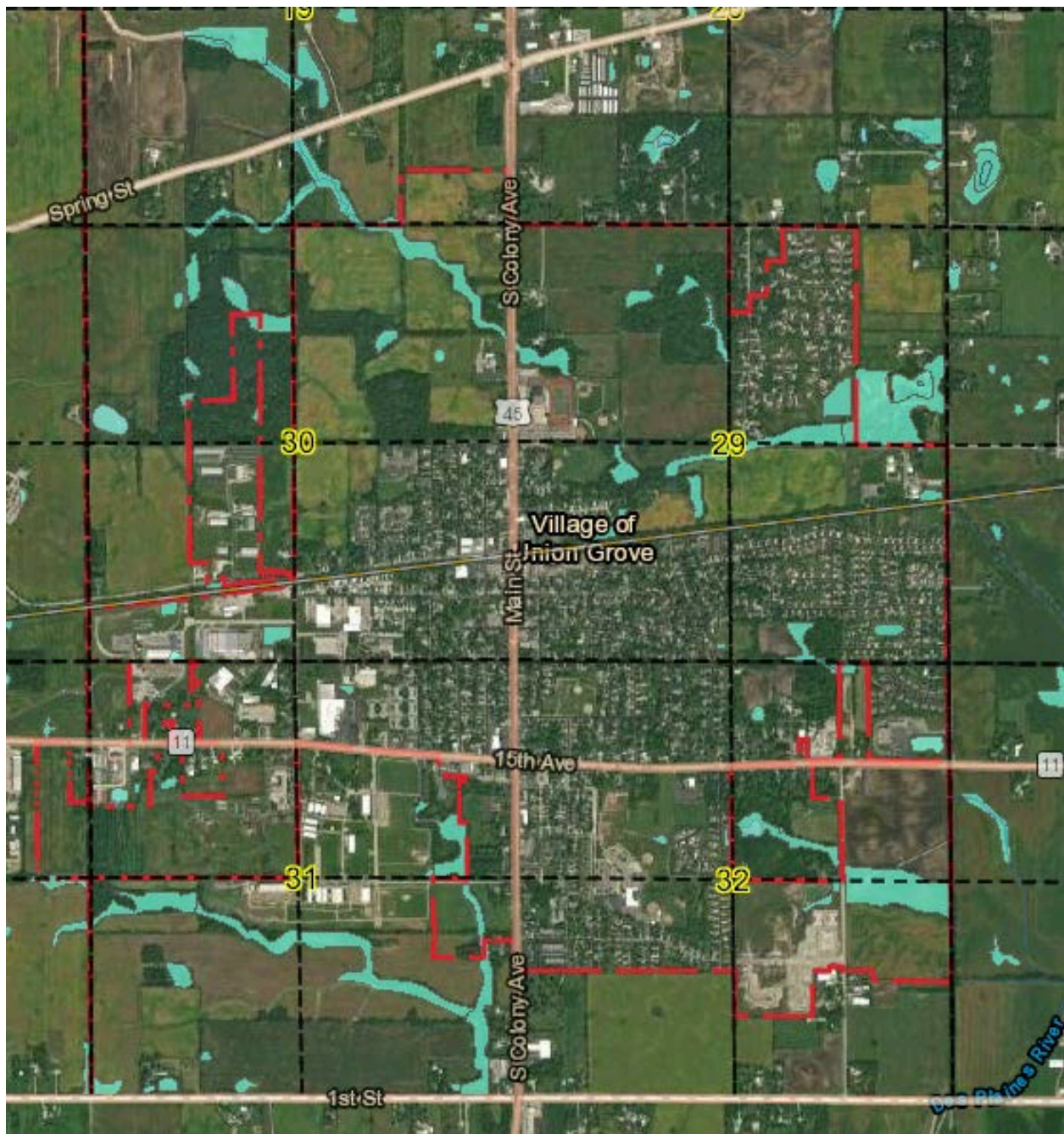
Woodlands are defined by SEWRPC as those upland areas one acre or more in size with 17 or more deciduous trees per acre, each measuring at least four inches in diameter at breast height and having 50% or more tree canopy coverage. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also identified as woodlands.

Woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Under good management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, woodlands can contribute to the maintenance of a diversity of plant and animal life. Woodlands, which may require a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat. Woodlands can and should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection.

Wetlands located within and around Union Grove are shown in the image on page 31.

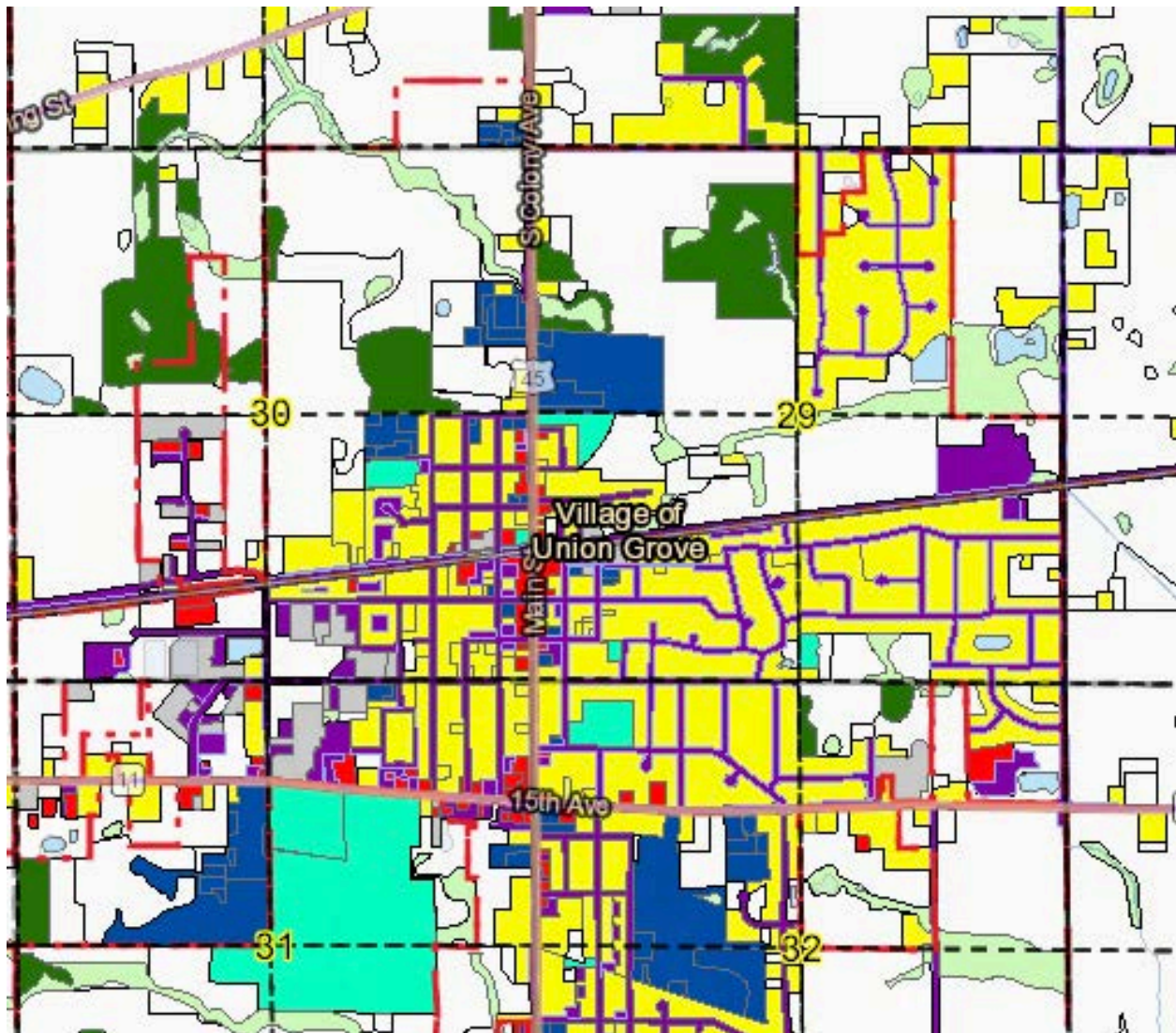
¹¹ Source: *What is a Wetland*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2021.

¹² Excerpted from A Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Union Grove, SEWRPC, July 2003.



WDNR designated wetlands, shown in light blue-green, in and around the Village of Union Grove. Image courtesy: Racine County Mapbook, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



SEWRPC designated woodlands, shown in dark green, in and around the Village of Union Grove. Image courtesy: Racine County Mapbook, 2021.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

Environmental Corridors

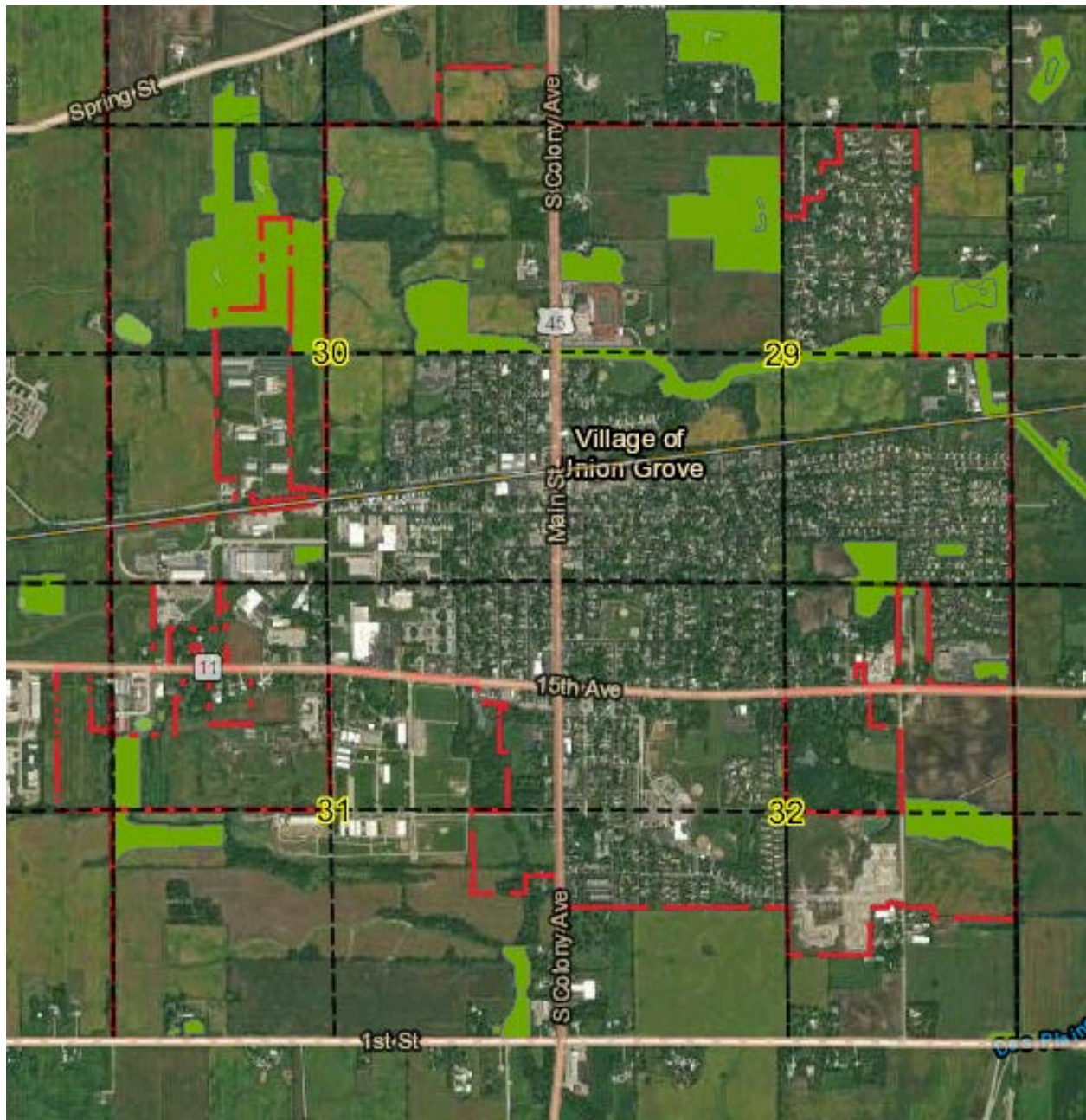
Environmental corridors are areas in the landscape containing especially high value natural, scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational features. In southeast Wisconsin they generally lie along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and in the Kettle Moraine area. From the air, these areas often appear as long intertwining ribbons of natural vegetation and surface waters. They contain the best remaining woodlands and wetlands, wildlife habitats, undeveloped shorelands and floodlands, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, and steeply sloped lands in the region.

Environmental Corridors located within and around Union Grove are shown in the image on page 34.

Land Use

Union Grove's land base is typical of a mature municipality, with a higher density core comprised of an array of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional uses intermixed with parks, surrounded by lower density residential, manufacturing, and open space interspersed with trails, open spaces, and a number of small lakes and ponds. Unlike many incorporated communities, Union Grove possesses a considerable supply of available, undeveloped land, primarily concentrated in the north, southeast, and southwest of the community. Potential opportunities exist for public and private parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation facilities within and around future development.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



SEWRPC designated environmental corridors, shown in light green, in and around the Village of Union Grove. Image courtesy: Racine County Mapbook, 2021.



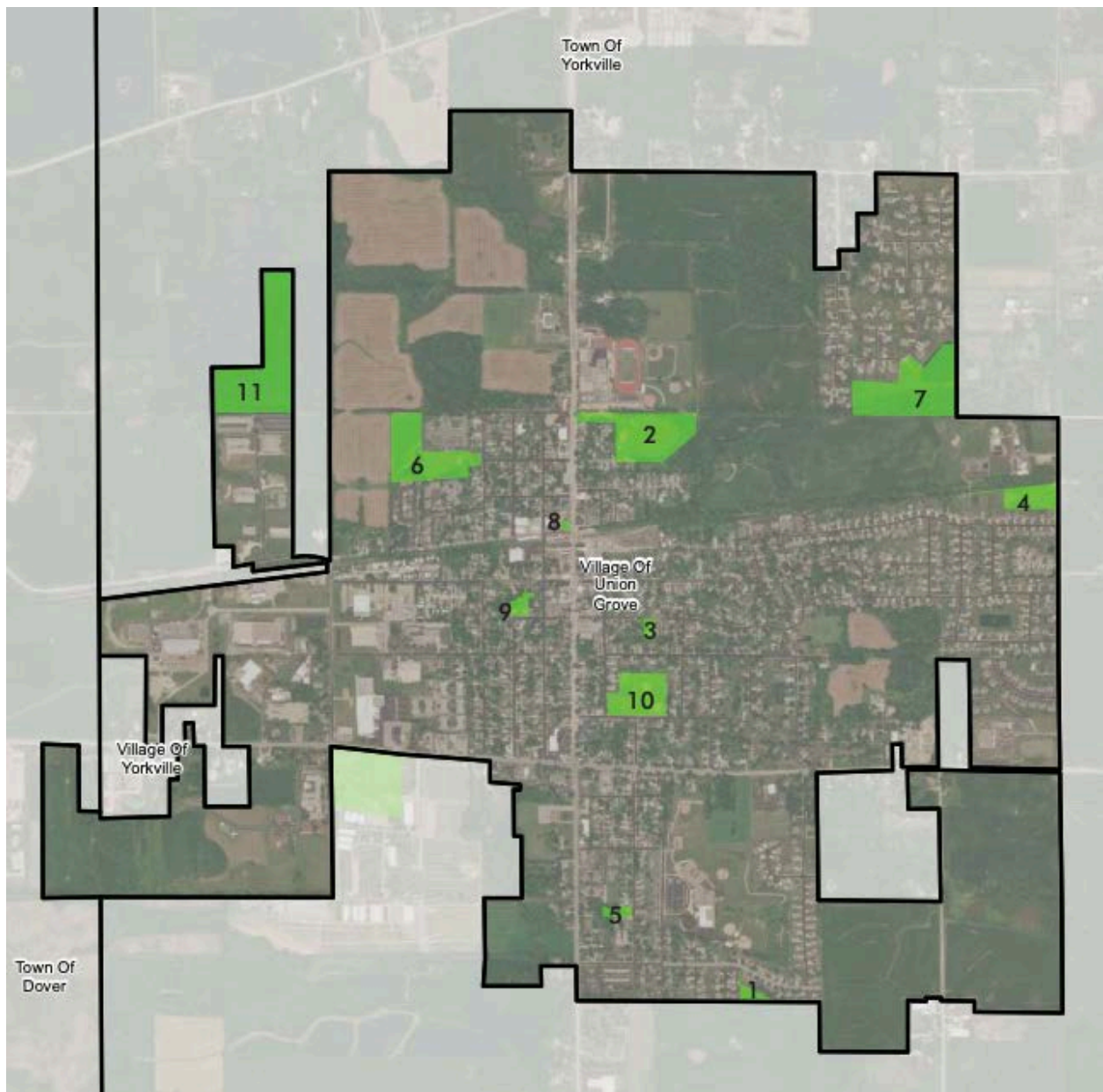
Ch. 6: Inventory of Parks & Recreation Facilities

Introduction

Union Grove hosts eleven public parks totaling sixty acres, representing 3.85% of the Village's 2.6 square miles [see image on following page]. They span from small passive use sites and playgrounds to neighborhood parks and conservancies. Additional public recreation facilities include athletic fields at Union Grove High School, and playgrounds, athletic fields, and the Union Grove Pony Path at Union Grove Elementary School. The Village of Union Grove uses and maintains the north baseball diamond at Union Grove Elementary School for its recreation programs.

Nearby parks and outdoor recreation facilities include Old Settlers County Park, White River State Trail, Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Eagle Lake, Great Lakes Dragaway, and Wisconsin Sportsman Association.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Village of Union Grove Parks. Image courtesy: GRAEF.

Village Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities

18th Avenue Park

18th Avenue Park (also known as Triangle Park), is 0.8 acres in size and is located on 18th Avenue west of Selma Drive. The park is currently undeveloped with future amenities contingent upon potential development in adjoining neighborhoods.

American Legion Memorial Park

American Legion Memorial Park is 10 acres in size and is located on Main Street between downtown Union Grove and the high school. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Dog park
- Baseball field
- Small playground
- Port-a-potty (approx. May-October)
- Onsite parking

Buften Park

Buften Park is 0.5 acres in size and is located near 12th Ave. and Elizabeth St., two blocks east of Main St. Street. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Playground
- Basketball court
- Small picnic shelter with picnic tables
- Onsite parking

Ryan Moe / Michael Young Memorial Park

Ryan Moe / Michael Young Memorial Park is 3.4 acres in size and is located on 67th Street north of Mill Avenue. The park is dedicated to Ryan Moe, Michael Young, and the memory of all children and young adults of the greater Union Grove Area who have lost their lives. A “wall of love” memorial is located in the park. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:



From top: American Legion Memorial Park, Buften, Ryan Moe / Michael Young Memorial Park. Bottom two images courtesy: Business-yab.com.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- Picnic shelter with tables
- Playground
- Soccer field
- Porta-a-potty (May-September)
- Onsite parking

Indian Trail Park

Indian Trail Park is 0.6 acres in size and is located on New Street south of 17th Avenue. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Small playground
- On-street parking

Joseph Leider Memorial Park

Joseph Leider Park is 3.5 acres on size and is located on High Street at 8th Avenue. New playground equipment was installed at the park in 2020. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Picnic shelter with tables
- Playground
- Soccer field
- Restrooms
- Facilities for holding gatherings or events
- Onsite parking

Lauer Wildlife Preserve

Lauer Park is 13 acres in size and is located south of 58th Road in northeast Union Grove along the West Branch of the Root River. The conservancy includes six acres of secondary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands and a pond. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Fishing
- Passive recreation



From top: Indian Trail Park; Joseph Leider Memorial Park; Lauer Wildlife Preserve

Village Square Park

Village Square Park is 0.25 acres in size and is located on Main Street in downtown Union Grove. The pocket park is used for community gatherings including 'Christmas Comes to Union Grove. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Gazebo
- Park benches

Well #3

Well #3 is a Village-owned parcel 0.75 acres in size located southwest of the intersection of 11th Avenue and Vine Street. It once hosted playground equipment, but now provides open space and functions as a stormwater management facility.

School Yard Park

School Yard Park is 5 acres in size and is located two blocks northeast of the intersection of Main Street and 15th Avenue, a short walk from downtown. The former site of Union Grove Grade School, it now hosts playgrounds, sports fields, and gathering spaces. School Yard Park is the host site for the Recreation & Parks Department t-ball, coach pitch, girls fastpitch softball, and soccer leagues. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Two baseball fields
- Soccer fields
- Playgrounds
- Walking path
- Fitness area
- Picnic shelter with tables
- 'The Pavilion' entertainment stage (see following page)
- Concession stand with restroom
- Onsite parking



From top: Village Square Park; School Yard Park; The Pavilion at School Yard Park

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



The Pavilion at School Yard Park

The Pavilion at School Yard Park was constructed in 2020, and was made possible by a cultural and community services grant from Racine County and contributions from local organizations and businesses. The Pavilion is designed to bring community members together for family-friendly events, library programs, private ceremonies, and school functions...all in a central, walkable location near neighborhoods and downtown Union Grove.

Lincoln Woods Memorial Nature Park

Lincoln Woods Memorial Nature Park is approximately 18 acres in size and is accessible via trailhead at the northern end of Commerce Drive. The passive recreation park was dedicated to the Union Grove Parks System in 2004 by Nancy and M. Graham Molitor. Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Nature trail through woodlands

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The property located in 67th Drive hosts a public soccer field used by the Village Recreation department.

Canopy Hill Public Trail

Canopy Hill Trail entails 18 acres of land including a publicly accessible trail to be donated to the Village by the developer of Canopy Hill Subdivision.



From top: Lincoln Woods Memorial Nature Park; Old Settlers Park. Bottom image courtesy: Racine County.

Nearby Parks & Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Old Settlers County Park¹³

Old Settlers Park is 13 acres in size and is located at 19805 Durand Avenue in the Village of Yorkville. The park, owned and operated by the Racine County Parks Department, is the location of the Racine County Fair.

Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Playground
- Restroom facilities
- Grills and tables
- Baseball field
- Horseshoe pits
- Onsite parking



Eagle Lake County Park¹⁴

Eagle Lake County Park is 25 acres in size and is located at 23705 Church Road in the Town of Dover. Also, owned and operated by Racine County, amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Picnic shelter with views of Eagle Lake
- Restroom facilities
- Playground
- Boat launch
- Onsite parking

White River State Trail¹⁵

The 19-mile White River State Trail follows a former rail corridor as it travels between Elkhorn in Walworth County and Dover in Racine County, with a short gap in Burlington. The crushed limestone trail passes by numerous bridges, scenic vistas, quaint towns, farmlands and wetlands. The trail is operated by Walworth and Racine counties and is within five

From top: Eagle Lake County Park, White River State Trail, Richard Bong State Recreation Area. Images courtesy: Racine County; TrailLink; Visit Kenosha.

¹³ Excerpted from Racine County Parks Department website, 2021.

¹⁴ Excerpted from Racine County Parks Department website, 2021.

¹⁵ Excerpted from White River State Trail, WDNR website, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



miles of Lake Geneva and Big Foot Beach State Park. It accommodates hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders.

Richard Bong State Recreation Area¹⁶

The 4,515-acre Richard Bong State Recreation Area is located in the Town of Brighton in Kenosha County. The park, named for World War II US Army Air Corps pilot and fighter ace Richard I. Bong, was once designated to be a fighter base.

Amenities and recreation opportunities include:

- Camping
- Nature center
- Picnic area and shelters
- Hunting and fishing
- Biking and walking trails
- 6.5 miles of ATV trails
- Swimming
- Boat launch (nonmotorized and electric motors only)



Great Lakes Dragaway¹⁷

Great Lakes Dragaway is a ¼-mile IHRA dragstrip located in the Town of Paris in Kenosha County. The track is open to the public; anyone who owns a car may race.

Wisconsin Sportsman Association¹⁸

Wisconsin Sportsman Association is a 54-acre private, members' run shooting range located 16010 Durand Avenue in the Village of Yorkville. The facility includes the following ranges: pistol, rifle, trap (5 position), skeet (5 position), standard archery practice range, a



From top: Great Lakes Dragaway, Wisconsin Sportsman Association Images courtesy: Racer; Wisconsin Sportsman Association.

¹⁶ Excerpted from Richard Bong State Recreation Area, WDNR website, 2021.

¹⁷ Source: Great Lakes Dragaway website, 2021.

¹⁸ Excerpted from Wisconsin Sportsman Association website, 2021.

realistic “in the woods” range with multiple positions.

Martin’s Field

Located at 13th Avenue and Cardinal Lane, Martin’s Field is a privately-owned facility used by the Village youth.

Route of the Badger¹⁹

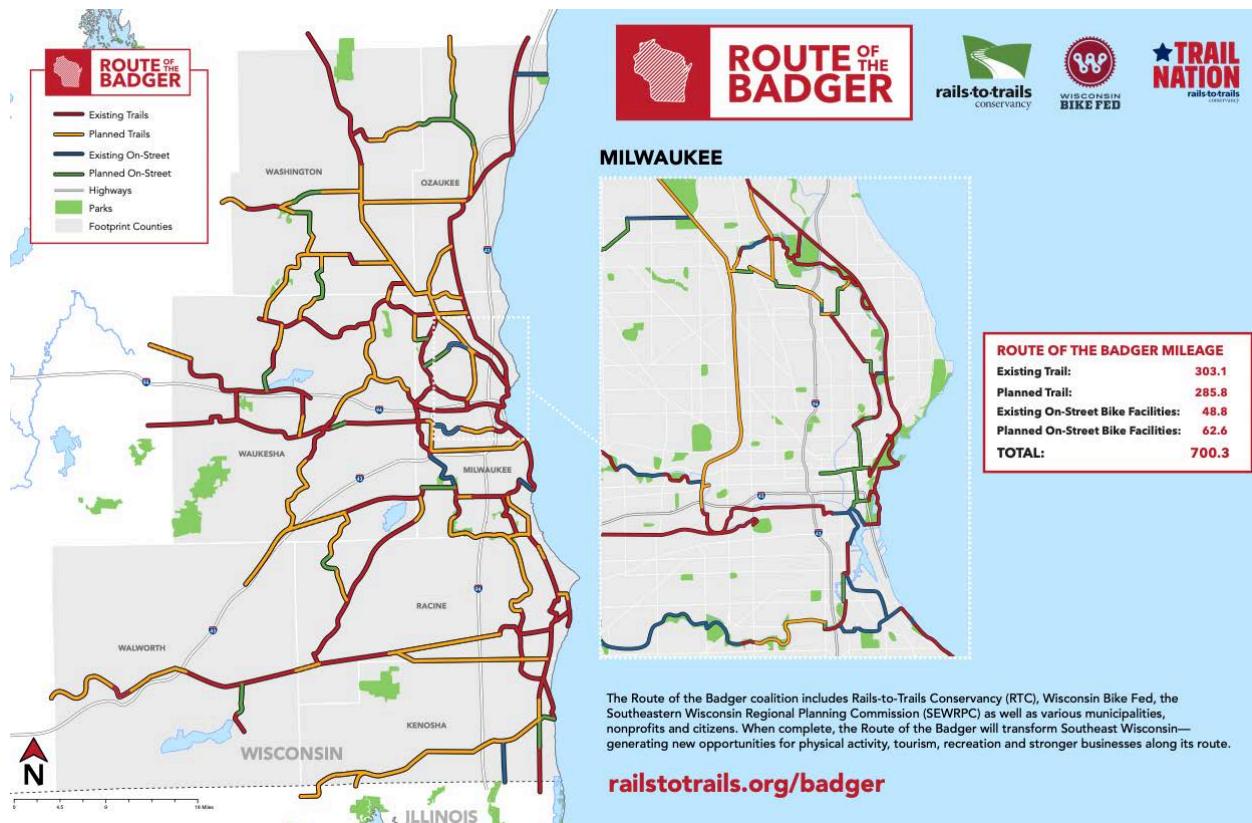


Image courtesy: Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, Wisconsin Bike Fed, and Trail Nation.

The Route of the Badger offers a vision of healthy, thriving communities in Southeast Wisconsin centered around a world-class, 700-miles-plus regional trail system that connects people across towns and counties, providing endless transformational opportunities for physical activity, tourism, connections to nature, recreation and stronger businesses along the route.

When complete, the 700-miles-plus network is expected to stretch from Milwaukee to Dousman and south from Sheboygan to Kenosha. Once the Badger’s south and west routes are completed, they will further link to trails that connect to Chicago, Madison and eventually Minneapolis. Urban trails like the

¹⁹ Excerpted from: Route of the Badger, Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



13-mile Hank Aaron State Trail will be seamlessly linked to more rural routes such as the 51.6-mile Glacial Drumlin State Trail, the 116.7-mile Oak Leaf Trail and the northward Sheboygan Interurban Trail to propel commuters and tourists to community destinations and cultural attractions throughout Southeast Wisconsin.

Current Recreation Programs

The Village of Union Grove Recreation Department currently offers the following programs:

Ongoing Recreational Programs

- Chair Yoga – Tuesdays (all levels)
- Mixed Flow Yoga – Tuesdays (all levels)
- Senior Cards – Thursdays
- Youth Karate – Thursdays (ages 8-12)
- Adult Karate – Thursdays (ages 13 and older)
- Make & Take – First Tuesday of each month
- Yoga Nidra – Second Tuesday of each month (all levels)
- Restorative Yoga – Third Tuesday each month (all levels)

Spring

- Hoop It Up Basketball Clinics (ages 4-11)
- Let's Kick It Soccer Clinics (ages 4-11)
- Disc Golf Basics

Late Spring / Early Summer

- T-Ball and Coach Pitch (ages 4-5 former, 6-7 latter)
- Girls Fastpitch Softball

Late Summer

- First Tee Instructional Golf (kids and teens)

Fall

- Youth Soccer

Winter

- Youth Basketball Leagues (Pre-K through 6th grade)



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

2021 Events

Wehr Nature Center presents the Tales of Tracks and Tails (June 30, 2021)

Learn about the signs and clues left by our wildlife neighbors. Event includes a kit for each child to make a plaster cast of an animal print.

Music at The Pavilion (July 15, 2021)

Join your neighbors for the “grand opening” event at The Pavilion! Kicks off with an opening ceremony at 5:30, followed by live music performed by Jackie Brown Trio. Bring your chair as limited seating will be available. Food and snacks sold by Pina Mexican Eats food truck and Pine Acres Popcorn. Beer, seltzers and refreshments for sale by Kiwanis Club (to raise proceeds for future events).

Get Wild in Wisconsin (July 19, 2021)

Milwaukee Public Museum and Kohl's on the Move present “Get Wild in Wisconsin.” We will be investigating Wisconsin's wildlife and learning about the rich variety of plants and animals that populate our great state. Families with children of all ages are welcome to attend this free event. Registration is required, and is limited to the first 30 children.

Graham Public Library Summer Concert: The Figureheads (August 10, 2021)

Join us at the Pavilion for a family-friendly hip-hop concert! All ages are welcome.

Relay for Life of Union Grove (August 21, 2021)

Relay For Life is a fun-filled event that empowers everyone to help fight cancer by raising money and awareness to support the American Cancer Society's lifesaving mission. Teams of people take turns walking or running laps. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relay For Life symbolizes the hope that people lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face the disease have support, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Dave Danner Memorial Dedication Event Presented by Kiwanis Club of Union Grove (September 25, 2021)

Join in celebrating the life and impact of Dave Danner who served as Band Director at Union Grove Elementary School for more than 30 years. Event will include a memorial presentation and live music by Gary Todd.

Graham Public Library Presents: Tom Brusky Band, a Polka-Variety Concert (October 22, 2021)

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the upbeat sounds. A canopy and chairs will be on-site. Sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Union Grove.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 7: Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Background²⁰

States are required to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years to be eligible to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. SCORPs are intended to evaluate outdoor recreation trends and issues of statewide importance and set forth ideas about recreation's future role in the state. There are several required elements for SCORPs, including identifying priorities for use of LWCF grants. Of the many important issues related to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin, the SCORP highlights the areas of greatest need, thus providing a framework for evaluating LWCF grants.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts, and other state political subdivisions are eligible to apply for LWCF grants for acquisition or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. These government entities best understand their citizens' needs, as well as the opportunities to leverage their local resources and assets. As such, the focus of the SCORP is on providing a range of information, at the county level where possible, to help the public and their elected officials place local conditions, needs, and opportunities into a broader framework.

²⁰ Much of the information presented in this chapter is excerpted from the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023, WDNR, March 2019.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Although the SCORP addresses all types of recreation that occur outdoors (as required by federal legislation), its focus is on “nature-based recreation” activities that are typically provided at larger public lands and require or occur in natural habitats or settings.

2019-2023 SCORP Objectives

- Provide an analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand.
- Provide information and context that is useful to counties, local units of government, organizations, Native American Nations, and others as they develop plans and policies for recreation opportunities in their communities.
- Ensure Wisconsin’s continued eligibility for National Park Service LWCF state-side grants.
- Establish priorities for LWCF grants and guidance for other applicable state and federal funds.

Top Priorities

- Focus on natural resources and habitat
- Provide more places near urban centers to support nature-based recreation
- Meet increasing demand for trails (nonmotorized and motorized)
- Increase shore access for fishing, boating, swimming
- Support local recreation efforts

Table 3: Nature-Based Activities for SCORP 2019-2023

- Bicycling – rail-trails, mt. biking, fat-tire/snow biking
- Bird/wildlife watching - at home & away from home
- Camping – tent, RV/pop-up
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Cross-country skiing
- Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- Driving 4-WD vehicles on trails/routes
- Fishing – lake, stream, river
- Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.
- Geocaching
- Hiking/walking/running on trails
- Horseback riding on trails
- Hunting – big & small game, turkey, migratory bird
- Ice skating
- Motor boating
- Nature photography
- Personal water craft riding
- Picnicking/tailgating/cookout
- Riding ATVs/UTVs on trails/routes
- Riding motorcycles on trails/routes
- Sailing
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Stand-up paddle boarding
- Swimming – lakes/rivers/ponds
- Target shooting – firearms, archery
- Trapping
- Visiting a nature center
- Visiting a beach/beach walking
- Visiting a dog park
- Walking/running dogs on trails
- Waterskiing/tubing/wakeboarding

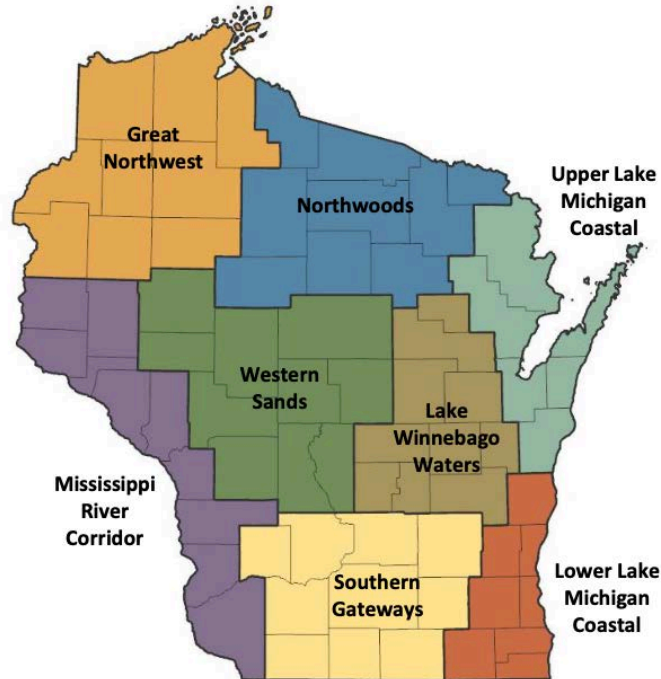
Source: SCORP 2019-2023, WDNR.

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

The SCORP is divided into eight regions: Great Northwest, Northwoods, Mississippi River Corridor, Western Sands, Lake Winnebago Waters, Southern Gateways, Upper Lake Michigan Coastal, and Lower Lake Michigan Coastal (see map on following page). The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region is the most urban and populous of the eight regions. The urban influence of Milwaukee and its surrounding suburbs has led to an extensive network of trails and associated recreation facilities such as dog parks, athletic fields and sport courts. Despite this urban influence, some areas of the region offer opportunities for undeveloped outdoor recreation. The five units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are easily accessible not only to the region’s residents but also the greater Chicago metropolitan area and are some of the most heavily used public lands in the state.

Landscape Setting

This region is also home to some of the world's best examples of continental glacial activity. Drumlins, eskers, kettle lakes, kames, ground and end moraines, and other glacial features are evident throughout the entire area. A particularly striking area is the long "ridge" (known as a kettle interlobate moraine) that formed between the Green Bay and Lake Michigan lobes during the Wisconsin Glaciation. The area is protected in part by the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Historically, many of the state's richest and most diverse streams and rivers were found in the southeastern part of Wisconsin. While most of these have been degraded, improving management practices have improved many of these waterways. However, the Mukwonago River has maintained its quality and harbors one of the highest concentrations of fish, mussels and other aquatic invertebrates in the Midwest.



SCORP Regions. Image courtesy: SCORP 2019-2021.

Recreation Uses and Participation

Lake Michigan is a major recreational resource for this region. It provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, wind- surfing, sailing and all types of boating. There are a number of parks in the area are located along Lake Michigan. Richard Bong State Recreation Area offers the widest variety of recreation activities of any state property, including canoe/kayaking, swimming, fishing, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, motorcycling and hunting. Being a former military airbase, it is also an excellent example of how high-quality recreation areas can be more a function of location, size, and soils that can accommodate a variety of activities, than "wild" settings.

Several rivers that empty into the lake, such as the Milwaukee, Root and Pike, also provide surprisingly good fishing that includes spring and fall runs of salmon and steelhead from Lake Michigan. Some urban recreational trails for walking, bicycling, and roller blading exist, such as the Root River in Racine and Oak Creek Parkways and the Hank Aaron State Trail in Milwaukee. As would be expected in an urbanized area, there is very little land available for open space recreation, such as camping and hunting. However, there are still many small patches of natural landscape left that could support activities such as bird watching and nature observation.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Public Outdoor Recreation Supply

The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region has approximately 95,000 acres of public land available for outdoor recreation. Properties in close proximity to Lake Michigan are especially popular, as well as other small pockets of land dispersed between the region's large urban centers. This section briefly describes the public conservation and recreation lands in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region.

Federal

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages approximately 1,400 acres in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal area, located in both Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Walworth counties. These parcels are reserved mainly for waterfowl production and grassland protection.

State



Kettle Moraine State Forest. Image courtesy: Chicago Tribune

The Department of Natural Resources owns over 90,000 acres in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region. State properties in the region span the range of intended recreational settings and development levels. At one end of the spectrum are properties such as Kohler-Andrae and Harrington Beach State Parks that include developed campgrounds, miles of trails, boating opportunities and

picnic sites. The Kettle Moraine State Forest State is a prominent property in this region, providing numerous trail and developed recreation opportunities. In contrast, properties like Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area, the most intact large bog in southeastern Wisconsin, housing a relict community of flora and fauna. Although these types of properties can provide some limited recreation opportunities for low-impact activities such as hunting, bird watching and nature study, their primary purpose is not necessarily to provide recreation opportunities requiring development or infrastructure.

County

The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region does not have any county forests, but county parks provide campgrounds, boat launches, walking trails and other types of recreational opportunities. For example, an impressive 172 parks in Milwaukee County totaling over 15,000 acres, provide opportunities for cross-country skiing, mountain biking and birding. Sheboygan county has also been active in recent years, developing over 39 miles of paved off-road, multi-use trails.

Trends in Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Strong Increase

- Bicycling – winter, fat tire
- Bicycling – mountain biking

Moderate Increase

- Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding
- Bicycling – recreational, rail-trail
- Picnic area, day use areas, beach areas
- Target archery at designated ranges
- Bird, wild life watching

Slight Increase

- Camping – RV / pop-up
- Camping – tent
- Dog walking on trails
- Hiking, walking, running on trails
- Fishing
- Nature photography
- Swimming in lakes, ponds, rivers

Slight Decrease

- Cross country skiing – groomed trails
- Hunting – turkey
- Hunting – small game
- Hunting – big game



Images courtesy: Wisconsin Bike Federation; City of West Bend

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Moderate Decrease

- Horse riding
- Cross country skiing – ungroomed trails
- Trapping
- Snowmobiling

Statewide Recreation Needs

Places Near Population Centers

Because of the inverse distribution of our population and public lands as well as the limited amount of time people have to participate, there is a very large need to provide more places for people to participate in outdoor recreation near where they live. In particular is the need to provide opportunities for residents to visit places after work or for a couple of hours on a weekend. Places that provide opportunities for hiking, all types of bicycle riding, dog walking, picnicking, and different water-related activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are likely to be heavily used.

Trails

By nearly every measure, the largest need throughout the state is for more trails that enable people to experience natural settings, visit the vibrant down- towns of our cities and villages, commute to work, and access favorite sites. All types of trails are in demand – hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, ATV/UTV and motorcycle riding, and 4WD vehicle trails.

Water Access – Shoreline and Boat Launches

Lakes, streams and rivers are a defining feature of Wisconsin. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, from the thousands of inland lakes and the tens of thousands of miles of flowing water, residents and visitors have been drawn to the water's edge to fish, hunt, launch any manner of watercraft, bird watch and beach walk. Access to water remains a universal need throughout the state.

Camping Opportunities

With a large cohort of retirees travelling in RVs combined with an adventurous younger generation, demand for camping has grown in recent years and is likely to remain popular for years to come. Given the divergence in desired experiences – some campers wanting access to hot showers and Wi-Fi while others wanting neither – recreation providers will need to collaborate and coordinate on providing the camping experiences best suited to different public lands.

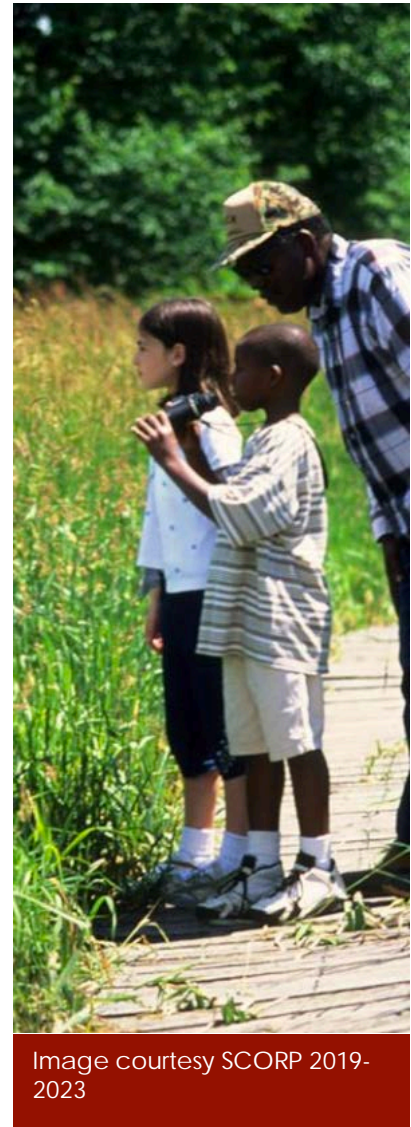


Image courtesy SCORP 2019-2023

Dog Parks and Exercise Areas

Taking care of a dog has many benefits, not the least of which is the exercise people get in walking their pets. With the steady rise in dog ownership (75% of people in their thirties own a dog) and an urbanizing population has come an increasing demand for places to walk, play with, socialize and train our canine friends. Many municipal and county dog parks are among their most visited properties.

Target Shooting Ranges

Many hunters and shooting sports participants live in rural areas or belong to gun clubs and practice their craft on their or the club's property. However, as our population continues to urbanize there is a growing need for places where people can practice gun and archery marksmanship and safety. By their nature, firearm ranges generate considerable sounds and siting new ranges has been a challenge in more populated areas of the state.

SCORP Goals

1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation
2. Grow partnerships
3. Provide high-quality experiences
4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits
5. Enhance funding and financial stability

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 8: Park & Open Space Standards

Assessment Methods

Most local governments rely upon a 'needs analysis' to determine a desired level of service. The purpose of such an assessment is to ensure that adequate park and recreation facilities are available for residents and user groups. These analyses may be based on established national standards, current local needs, existing natural and cultural resources, or some combination thereof. Public opinion is a key component of the needs assessment process.

Standards-Based Needs

The most widely adopted standards are based on early National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Guidelines. First issued in 1934, they reflected the experience and recommendations of a group of outdoor recreation professionals rather than systematic research of local needs and desires. As a result communities across the U.S. possess nearly identical standards though geography and population vary greatly.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Table 4: Parks & Open Space Classifications

Classification	General description	Location Criteria / Service Area	Size Criteria
Mini-Park (also Pocket Park)	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	The basic unit of the park system and the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum. 5-10 acres optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of park, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location and size of school district property.	Variable, depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
Special Purpose Park	A park or recreation area that meets a specific need or serves a particular purpose.	Entire community.	Varies with the size of the area and land available.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open space.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	Minimum necessary to of accommodate desired uses, with 50 acres being typical minimum.
Natural Resource Area	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Greenway	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
Sports Complex	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres optimal.
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose visit.	Variable- dependent on specific use.	Variable.
Private Park / Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable- dependent on specific use.	Variable.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association.

- Recommendation of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons.
- A classification system for parks, which vary in size, amenities, and service area.
- Facility Development standards as a guideline for the number of facilities needed per capita.

Although widely accepted, there is increased recognition that national-based standards may not be providing communities what they really want. A growing school of park and recreation planners argue uniform standards:

- Emphasize “how much” rather than “how good.”
- Reflect past desires and expectations rather than today’s needs.
- Do not recognize the unique conditions, resources, and needs of different communities and cultural groups.
- Are often unrealistic and difficult to implement.

The main critique of uniform standards is that they may contribute to underachievement in more ambitious communities. Demand-based standards go a step further and may better address the specific needs of Union Grove.

Demand-Based Needs

Demand-based needs assessments are closely tied to the results of public input, participation rates, and current usage data. The results of the demand-based assessment will refine land acquisition and programming needs, and identify facility provision priorities.

Resource-based Needs

Finally, resource-based needs are those constructed upon the physical and environmental resources that provide the underlying foundation upon which the parks and recreation system rests. These include creeks and streams; woodlands, wetlands, and remnant grasslands; historic and cultural landscapes; and Lake Michigan.

Assessing Park & Recreation Needs & Demand

NRPA regularly develops outdoor recreation standards based upon national surveying. Such standards can be effective as a guide to determining whether existing facilities and services are sufficient to meet existing (and future) needs. Within communities of similar size the determination of adequacy may be influenced by a number of variables, including:

- The culture of the community.
- The percentage of the population represented by seniors, youth, motorized & silent sports enthusiasts, etc.
- The availability of natural assets such as lakes, forests, grasslands, and the like.
- Proximity to state and county parks and recreation facilities.
- Seasonal fluctuations in non-resident population.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



NRPA's 2021 Field Report recommends municipalities provide one park for every 2,277 residents served and 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.²¹ The report was drawn from the results of surveys submitted by nearly 1,000 agencies (i.e., municipalities) across the U.S. The data was used to establish typical population-based benchmarks for parks and recreation facilities. The best standards are those deemed adequate by residents. Regardless of how they are developed, standards must:²²

- Reflect the needs and lifestyles of current residents and the area being served.
- Provide a basis for measuring achievement of community objectives, both quantitative and qualitative.
- Be attainable within a reasonable time frame and with available or reasonably anticipated funding sources.
- Be based on sound principles, information, and a credible development process, and flexible enough to handle unanticipated situations and rapidly changing needs.

Table 5 compares NRPA parks and recreation standards for municipalities and current Village of Union Grove figures.

Standards	NRPA	Union Grove
Residents Per Park (pop. less than 20,000)	1,235	480
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents (pop. less than 20,000)	12.4	11.4
Miles of Trails (pop. less than 20,000)	3	1.8
Park & Recreation Staffing per 1,000 Residents (pop. less than 20,000)	10.3 FTE	0.2 FTE
Responsibilities of Park & Recreation Staff (all municipalities)		
Operations Maintenance	45%	70%
Programming	31%	15%
Administration	17%	10%
Capital Development	4%	5%
Other		
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per Capita (pop. less than 20,000)	\$114.62	\$16.65
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per Acre Park & Nonpark Sites (pop. less than 20,000)	\$7,959	\$1,498
Annual Operating Expenditures, Per FTE (pop. less than 20,000)	\$95,913	\$89,907
Distribution of Operating Expenditures		
Personnel Services	54%	24%
Operating Expenses	38%	76%
Capital Expenses not in CIP	5%	0%
Other	3%	0%
Excerpted from: 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review, NRPA, 2021; NRP		

²¹ Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, National Recreation and Park Association, 2021.

²² Source: Criteria for Developing Outdoor Recreation Standards, Seymour Gold.

Accessibility²³

Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II

Title II prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services of public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other instrumentalities or special purpose districts of state or local governments. It clarifies the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, for public transportation systems that receive federal financial assistance, and extends coverage to all public entities that provide public transportation, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance.

This title outlines the administrative processes to be followed, including requirements for self-evaluation and planning; requirements for making reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination; architectural barriers to be identified; and the need for effective communication with people with hearing, vision and speech disabilities. This title is regulated and enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice.

²³ Source: United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Page intentionally left blank



Ch. 9: Park & Recreation Recommendations

Introduction

The purpose of the CORP is to guide the Village of Union Grove in the acquisition, development, and enhancement of the recreational resources necessary to meet current and future needs. The recommendations presented in this section are based upon a number of public participation and community engagement activities, a review of state and national recreation standards, and an inventory of local and regional parks and recreation facilities. The recommendations are also guided by the goals and objectives presented in Ch. 3 Community Engagement. The timing of park acquisition and development and improvements to existing facilities will coincide with the demand for recreational facilities and be based upon the availability of funding.

Policy-Based Park & Recreation Planning

Consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, it is the policy of the Village of Union Grove to provide *accessible*, *equitable*, and *sustainable* parks and recreation facilities. A fourth category, General, applies to all other improvements and additions to the Village's park and recreation system.



Accessibility

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities accessible to people of all abilities.



Equity

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities free from cultural, locational, economic, and other barriers that preclude participation and enjoyment by all residents.



Sustainability

Parks, trails, and recreation facilities designed and maintained to preserve, enhance, or restore water quality, wildlife habitat, and natural landscapes.



General

General recommendations for parks, trails, and recreation facilities.



Equity in Access

Equality and equity are not synonyms. Equity in access is achieved when a park system provides just and fair quantity, proximity, and connections to quality parks, green spaces and recreation facilities, as well as programming that are safe, inclusive, culturally relevant and welcoming to everyone.

Source: NRPA, 2021

Table 6: Policy-Based Recommendations

Policy Area	Recommendation
	Conduct a system-wide audit for compliance with ADA requirements.
	Retrofit all parks to accommodate users of differing abilities. Modifications may include parking areas, structures and shelters, picnic tables, water fountains, play equipment, courts and play fields, and trails and paths, among others.
	Transition all non-compliant playground equipment to ADA-compliance.
	Ensure universal access to parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Prioritize under-served neighborhoods for new parks and recreation facilities.
	Ensure parks and recreation facilities are located within safe walking distance (generally five minutes) of all neighborhoods. Use sidewalk and path markings to provide direction to parks.
	Provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities connecting all neighborhoods to community destination nodes.
	Utilize parks for community gatherings, cultural events, and local festivals.
	Incorporate natural landscaping and functional habitat into all parks. Grow, not mow.
	Consider transitioning to Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management systems when existing systems require repair and replacement.
	Identify opportunities for installation of solar and wind energy systems.
	Transition to LED lighting fixtures.
	Incorporate community gardens and 'food forests' into existing and proposed parks.
	Always consider adding more trees to each park.



Accessible Playgrounds

Playing at the playground is an essential part of childhood. It helps kids get the physical exercise they need to stay healthy and develop critical cognitive, emotional and social skills. Every kid deserves the chance to learn, have fun and create joyful memories on the playground. An accessible playground is one that offers a range of play experiences to children of varying abilities. There must be:

- An accessible path from the building or parking lot to the edge of the play area.
- An accessible path from the edge of the play area to the play equipment.
- Surfacing that complies with ASTM 1951 (Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment).

Once a child is in the play area, they must be able to access the play equipment by either moving out of their mobility device onto the playground structure (such as a transfer station) or by direct play structure access in their mobility device (such as a ramp).

Source: 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, 2021

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Low Impact Development

The term low impact development (LID) refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration, or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat. Source: USEPA Urban Runoff: Low Impact Development, 2021. Images courtesy Ayres Associates and H-GAC

General Recommendations

The recommendations presented in Table 7 should be considered for incorporation throughout the Village of Union Grove park system.

Table 7: General Park & Recreation Recommendations

Policy Areas	Recommendations
	Ensure all parks are regularly maintained, welcoming, and safe.
	Provide restrooms and drinking water facilities at all developed parks.
	Install bicycle racks at all park locations.
	Provide pedestrian and bicycle access from all parks to the White River State Trail extension, via sidewalks, trails, and on-road bicycle lanes.
	Provide sufficient trash and recycling receptacles at all parks.
	Plan for the replacement of all aging and non-ADA compliant play equipment and athletic facilities.



Examples of ADA-compliant park facilities

	Ensure safety mats or similar material available under all play equipment.
	Regularly communicate with user groups regarding facilities.
	Provide sufficient resources in support of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and recreational programs.
	Make parks available for use by community groups.
	Encourage local entrepreneurs to use park system for yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, art, music, and similar classes.
	Develop Village of Union Grove Parks & Recreation Wayfinding System and park signage.
	Create a summer-long 'Movie in the Park' program rotating between select parks.
	Partner with School District and local businesses to create a multi-cultural, system-wide park and recreation mural program.
	Establish family-friendly food truck and/or beer garden events, rotating between select parks.
	Have each park host at least community one event each year. Multiple neighborhood events.
	Establish free Wi-Fi hot spots in parks and other Village-owned properties.
	Allow leashed pets in certain park areas.



Movies in the park. Image courtesy: City of Madison

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Additions & Enhancements to Current Parks

















The recommendations below are in addition to those presented as Policy-Based and General Park & Recreation Recommendations.

Table 8: Park Additions & Enhancements

Park	Recommendation	Policy Areas
18 th Avenue / Triangle Park	Small native prairie, no-mow grass.	
	Community garden.	
American Legion Park	Shelter and restrooms.	
	Native prairie, no mow areas.	
	Accessible play set and zip line.	
	Sledding hill, with terrain course and tow rope.	
	Reassess ball diamond and consider alternative amenities for park.	
	Archery Course	
Bufton Park	Accessible play structures and picnic table.	
	Small native prairie west and south of basketball court.	
	Community garden.	
Indian Trail Park	Replace existing swing sets with accessible play structures.	
	Community garden in open area west of New Street.	
Joseph Leider	Large splash pad.	



Images courtesy, from top: BCI Burke; Klode Park Butterfly Garden, Village of Whitefish Bay, WI; Wanick Park, Village of Sherwood, WI; Tenney Park, Madison, WI.

Memorial Park	Review feasibility of access and development of park on 6.1-acre land west of existing park.	
	Large, multi-level accessible sandbox/sandpit.	
	Native prairie, no mow areas.	
	Community garden	
	Wi-F access	
Lauer Wildlife Preserve	Walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing trail with rest & reflection areas.	
	Rustic ice skating rink.	
	Educational wayfinding system created in partnership with School District.	
	Native prairie, no mow areas (with mowed path).	
	Species assessment and aquatic habitat improvements to improve fishing.	
	Accessible fishing pier.	
Lincoln Woods Memorial Nature Park	Educational wayfinding system created in partnership with School District.	
	Develop second access to the park from the east near southwest corner of Canopy Hill subdivision.	
Ryan Moe / Michael Young Memorial Park	Accessible zip line.	
	Inclusive, all-abilities playground area.	
	Wayfinding signage for accessing park from nearby paths.	



Images courtesy, from top:
Woodmans, City of Sun Prairie, WI;
Mahler Park, Town of Neenah WI;
Pinterest

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



	Native prairie, no mow areas.	
	Restrooms.	
	Wi-Fi access.	
School Yard Park	Improve/resurface path.	
	Accessible playset with swings.	
	Native prairie to northeast of park.	
	Establish recurring outdoor music nights at The Pavilion.	
	Wi-Fi access.	
Village Square Park	Small splash pad.	
Well #3 Site	Restored native prairie.	



Image courtesy: ZipKrooz

Future Parks & Open Space

In order to meet the evolving outdoor recreation needs of the community, the Village should consider acquiring additional land to accommodate the uses and facilities described below and on the following pages. Union Grove should also explore opportunities to partner with Racine County and nearby municipalities to create additional outdoor recreation facilities in the area and enhance existing parks.

All-Abilities Park

An inclusive park, or all-abilities park, is a universally designed, sensory-rich environment that enables children to develop physically, socially, and emotionally.²⁴ With inclusive playgrounds, the objective is to include everyone. They are thoughtfully designed to provide a safe place where children of all abilities can play together, and are developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities. An inclusive playground takes away the barriers to exclusion, both physical and social, providing a sensory rich experience for all. An inclusive playground focuses on the following components to ensure a positive, engaging experience for all children:²⁵

Core Elements of Inclusive Playgrounds

- **Physical Accommodations.** Accommodating physical disabilities is one component of an inclusive playground. This includes meeting ADA requirements by providing a wheelchair accessible route and ramps/transfer points. Customized equipment such as special swings allow all kids to enjoy the playground as it is meant to be enjoyed.



All Abilities Trane Park. Images courtesy City of La Crosse, WI.

²⁴ Excerpted from: *Inclusive Playgrounds: How to Plan, Design, and Build Inclusive Playgrounds*, General Recreation Inc., 2021.

²⁵ Excerpted from: *What is an Inclusive Playground*, May Recreation, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- **Engaging.** Inclusive playgrounds provide a number of different opportunities for children to explore. They integrate all the senses and encourages social play. There is a little something for everyone including those that like to climb, run, spin, slide, swing and more.
- **Integrated.** A true inclusive playground doesn't mean that there is special equipment in a separate area off to the side, but rather a space designed as a cohesive community where play opportunities are integrated throughout. This is important for social development.
- **Promote Inclusion.** Just as the name suggests, inclusive playgrounds have another mission that goes beyond the physical accommodations and specialized equipment. These playgrounds do so much for the community. They educate and bring families and people together. They stress the importance of inclusion in every day activities, no matter the ability level. They prove that kids of all abilities enjoy exploring, learning, interacting and having fun together. They stress compassion and, well, *inclusion* of those that are different from you. That's a lesson that benefits us all.



All Abilities Trane Park. Images courtesy City of La Crosse, WI.

Size & Location

The ideal site for an all abilities park will be 5-7 acres in size, easily accessible by bicycle, and with full access to required utilities.

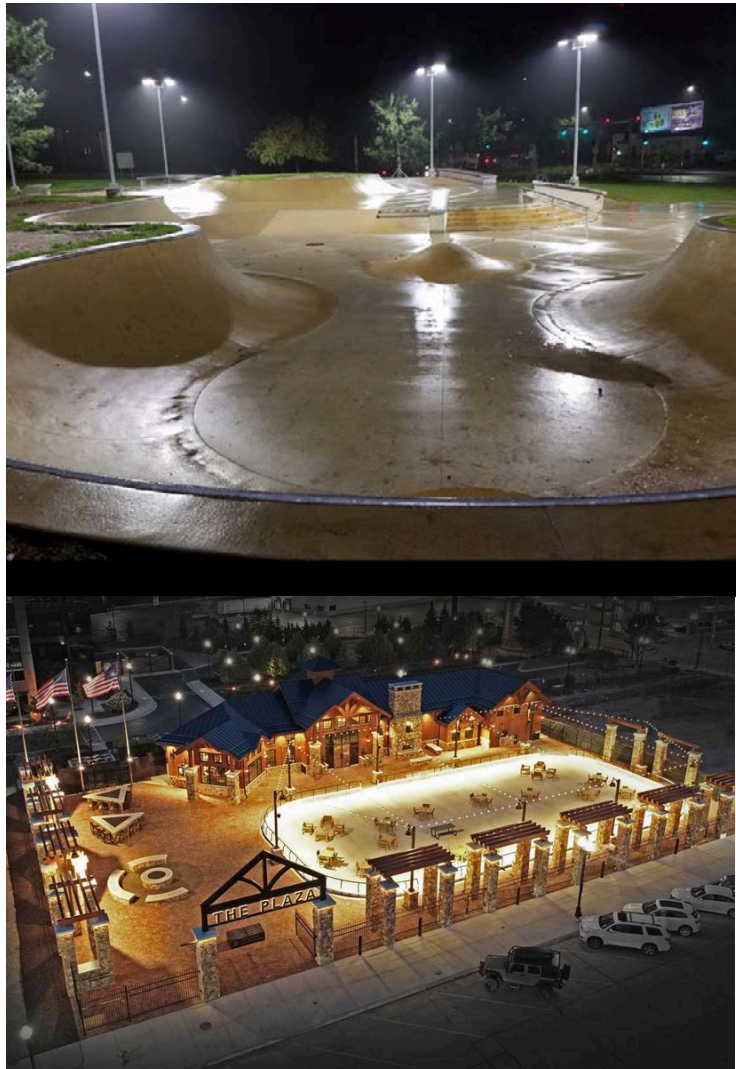
Combined Skatepark / Skate Rink

A skatepark is a purpose-built recreational environment made for skateboarding, BMX, scooter, wheelchair, and aggressive inline skating.²⁶ Skateparks generally fall within three types: skate spots, neighborhood skateparks, and regional skateparks.²⁷

Skate spots are the smallest building block in a community-wide system of skateparks. They can be between 1,500 to 5,000 square feet, and can serve as many as 10 simultaneous users (depending on size and design).

Neighborhood skateparks are between 6,000 to 12,000 square feet and can adequately serve a population up to 25,000 residents. They are generally a mix of terrain styles and provide some comfort amenities. A neighborhood skatepark of average size and quality design can serve as many as 60 simultaneous users.

The regional skatepark is primarily defined by its large size and capacity to handle crowds. They often draw visitors from all over the nation and, although they may seldom be the sole purpose of a vacation, they are typically visited by travelling skaters as 'must see' attractions.



Images courtesy, from top: Radtke Skate Park, City of West Allis, WI; The Plaza at Gateway Park, courtesy City of Neenah, WI.

Size & Location

Ideally, the site hosting an all abilities park will be 3-5 acres in size and located as close to downtown Union Grove as practicable.

²⁶ Excerpted from: *Concrete Skatepark Tour*, Mike McAlister, 2016.

²⁷ Excerpted from: *Public Skatepark Development Guide: Types of Skateparks*, Tony Hawk Foundation, 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



Outdoor Pool / Water Park

The municipal pools of today are not those of the sixties and seventies...staid rectangles with a diving board or two. The modern pool features something for everyone: an Olympic-size pool for open & lap swimming, a zero depth entry leisure pool with spray features, aquatic playgrounds for children, giant water slides for the thrill seekers, diving boards, and plenty of places to relax in and out of the sun.²⁸ Water parks appeal to families who want quality recreation time in a safe setting.



Erb Park, City of Appleton, WI. Image courtesy: MSA Professional Services, Inc., 2021.

Size & Location

The size of the site will be dependent upon the scale and volume of amenities offered; however, the typical municipal water park ranges from 10-30 acres in size.

²⁸ Source: City of Appleton Parks and Recreation, 2021.

Pocket Parks

The defining characteristic of a pocket park is its size. Although there is no strict definition, Pocket Parks are generally recognized as public park spaces that occupy less than one acre of land. In contrast to larger neighborhood or regional parks that attract park goers from all around a city, Pocket parks are built with the intention of providing the community within the park's immediate vicinity with the benefits of a public park. Pocket parks use scaled down features and recreational amenities to relay the same benefits afforded by larger parks while occupying a fraction of the space.²⁹



Patriot Park. Image courtesy City of De Pere Parks Department.

Potential amenities, dispersed across all such parks, may include: small event space, play area for children, small splashpad, basketball half-court, community garden, rain garden, skating rink, climbing wall, and rest and reflection areas, among others.

Size & Location

Less than one-acre in size located within five- to ten-minute walk of all residential neighborhoods.

Bicycle Lanes



Image courtesy: City of Wauwatosa, WI

²⁹ Excerpted from: Pocket Park Toolkit, The Trust for Public Land, 2019.

A bicycle lane is a portion of the roadway designated for exclusive or preferential use by bicyclists. Bicycle lanes are always one-way facilities and are identified with pavement markings and signing. On two-way streets, a one-way bicycle lane should be provided on each side. Bicycle lanes are the preferred bicycle facility on higher volume urban and suburban roadways (i.e., collector and arterial streets) but are seldom justified on residential streets. Among the benefits of bicycle lanes are:

- Defining a space for bicyclists to ride.
- Helping less experienced bicyclists feel more confident and willing to ride on busier streets.
- Reducing motorist lane changing when passing bicyclists.
- Guiding bicyclists through intersections.
- Increasing bikeway visibility in the transportation system (potentially reducing motor vehicle speeds).
- Reducing the number of bicyclists using the sidewalk.
- Increasing the space between pedestrians and motorists (on streets without parking).
- Improving sight distances.
- Increasing effective turn radii at driveways and intersections.
- Providing temporary space for disabled motor vehicles or snow.

Location

All higher volume streets in the Village.

Off-Road Bicycle Trails / Bike Parks

Off-road bike trails are typically unsurfaced, though sections may be laid with gravel, crushed limestone, woodchips, or combinations thereof. Often associated with riparian corridors, woodlands, and other such open spaces, they provide year-round off-road access for mountain bike and fat bike enthusiasts of wide ranging abilities. Most off-road bicycle trails are designed for beginner- and intermediate-level bicyclists riding hybrid or mountain bikes. Constructed mountain bike trails are purpose built for mountain bikes with challenging, narrow-width trails built to the trail standards of the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Many facilities incorporate both types of trails and often use a rating system to designate difficulty similar to downhill ski runs...green circle (easiest), blue square (more challenging), and black diamond (most challenging) to designate difficulty.

Bike parks are facilities specifically designed for off-road biking, often associated with trail systems. Think of them as a skate park for mountain bikes. They are often



Single-track bicycle trails. Image courtesy Quarry Park, Madison, WI

integrated into the municipal parks and trails system and may include skills courses, pump tracks, jumps, and other features.

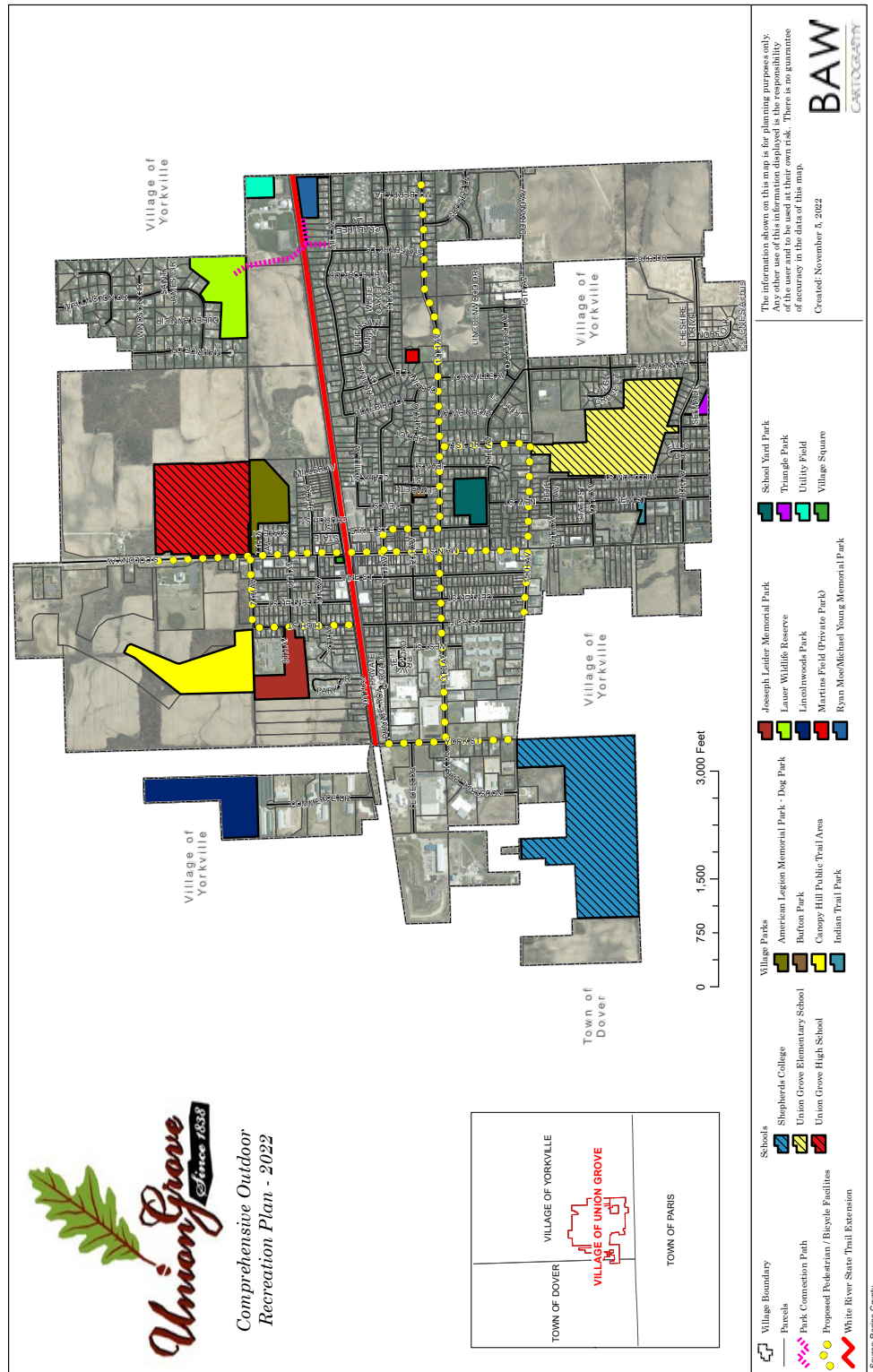
Size & Location

Five to ten acres ideally accessible by on-road bicycle paths.



Images courtesy from top: Middleton Bike Park, Middleton, WI; Powell River Bike Park, Powell, River, British Columbia, Canada

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027





Ch. 10: Funding Options

Introduction

A variety of funding sources are available for parks, open space, and trail projects. These range from payments or land dedication by property developers, federal and state grants and loans, and direct expenditures from the general fund. Private sector fund raising is also a viable option, particularly if some form of recognition is offered in return for investment (naming rights, signage, engraved brick pavers, etc.).

Local Funding Sources

General Fund

The primary sources of all public park and recreation funding in the U.S. is the municipal general fund, primarily via capital improvements planning. A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) provides the means of planning for major project costs by creating a multiyear schedule for physical public improvements. The schedule is based on the projection of fiscal resources and prioritization of improvements five to six years into the future. Capital improvements include new or expanded physical facilities that are relatively large in size, expensive, and permanent. A parks and recreation oriented CIP outlines a community's capital item needs and purchase plans, including:

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- Street improvements (e.g., widening, crosswalks, signalization, corridor studies, etc.)
- Park acquisition and improvements
- Pedestrian & bicycle facilities

Capital items are generally defined as those costing \$5,000 or more and anticipated to last at least five years. The CIP process helps to ensure that improvements are made in a logical order and do not surprise local officials or taxpayers. It allows a community to focus on needs and goals and establish rational priorities.

Park Impact Fees³⁰

Chapters 236.45, is. Stats. and 66.0617, Wis. Stats. provide for the collection of impact fees allowing Wisconsin municipalities to pay for anticipated capital costs associated with new development. Capital costs refer to the one-time cost of constructing, expanding or improving physical, public facilities such as highways, sewage treatment systems, and outdoor recreation, among others. Prior to developing or imposing an impact fee, a municipality must conduct a detailed needs assessment to determine the portion of facility costs necessitated by the new development.

The impact fee may not be used to pay for inadequacies in the current system. Rather than distributing costs associated with new development among existing property owners (generally in the form of increased property taxes), impact fees are collected from the developer or property owner at the time of building permit. They also do not cover operational or maintenance costs, which can be significant over the lifetime of a facility. Once established, impact fees are typically incorporated within a Land Division & Subdivision Ordinance.

User Fees

Local government may impose user fees to offset the costs of park improvements, recreation programs, and maintenance. These fees are discretionary and are typically established by the elected body. User fees are more common with certain recreation facilities than others. Examples include RV campgrounds, indoor skate parks, and RC fields, among numerous others.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Programs

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (KNSP) in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The conservation and recreation goals of the Stewardship Program are achieved through the acquisition of land and easements, development of recreational facilities, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

³⁰ Source: Planning Implementation Tools: Impact Fees, UW Stevens Point Center for Land Use Education, 2008.



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027

Funding for KNSP comes from state general obligation bonds. The State sells bonds to investors to raise funding, then repays the debt over subsequent years. The application deadline is May 1 of each year. Applications should be submitted to the local WDNR Regional Office. KNSP subprograms include:

- Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks. KNSP sets aside 50% of the funds in the Local Assistance Program for projects that improve community recreation areas and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Funds are allocated on a regional basis with 70% distributed on the basis of each county's proportionate share of the state population and 30% distributed equally to each county. Applicants compete against other applicants from their region. Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation. Nonprofit conservation organizations may only apply for funds for land acquisition. They are not eligible for funds for development projects.
- Acquisition of Development Rights. The purpose of the Acquisition of Development Rights Program is to protect natural, agricultural or forest lands that enhance and/or provide nature-based outdoor recreation. 'Development Rights' are the rights of a landowner to develop their property to the greatest extent allowed under state and local laws.

Recreational Trails Program

Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.

Land & Water Conservation Fund

The Land & Water Conservation Fund is a federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the WDNR for this program are split between WDNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50% of eligible project costs.

Urban Forestry Grant

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers urban forestry grants to cities, villages, towns, counties, tribes and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in or conducting projects in Wisconsin. These grants fall into three categories: Regular grants, startup grants and catastrophic storm grants.

- Regular Grants. Regular grants are competitive cost-share grants of up to \$25,000. Grants are to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs, not to subsidize routine forestry activities.
- Startup Grants. Startup grants are competitive cost-share grants of up to \$5,000. These simplified grants are available to communities that want to start or restart an urban forestry program.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- **Catastrophic Storm Grants.** Catastrophic storm grants fund tree repair, removal or replacement within urban areas following a catastrophic storm event for which the governor has declared a State of Emergency under Chapter 323.10, Wis. Stats.

Lake Management Grants

Eligible for municipalities that have approved management plan within five years of the year in which the grant application is submitted for Lake Management Plan Implementation. Focus areas include lake management planning, lake protection and classification, and aquatic invasive species control.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.” TAP was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP- 21). TAP combines three previously separate programs: Safe Routes to School, Transportation Enhancements, and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. Eligible projects include:

- Trail facilities for non-motorized transport.
- Constructing safe routes for non-drivers.
- Converting abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation.
- Constructing turnouts, scenic overlooks and viewing areas.
- Community improvement activities.
- Any environmental mitigation activity.
- The Recreational Trails Program.
- The Safe Routes to School Program.
- Projects in the right of way of former interstate system routes or other divided highways.

All TAP projects are funded 80% federally with a 20% local match. Projects must be completed within approximately six years or will risk loss of funding.

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

Community Development Investment Grant

The Community Development Investment Grant is administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. It supports urban, small city, and rural community redevelopment efforts by providing financial incentives for shovel-ready projects with emphasis on, but not limited to, downtown community-driven efforts. Grant recipients must demonstrate significant, measurable benefits in job opportunities, property values, and/or leveraged investment by local and private partners. The grant is available on a continual basis without specific application deadlines.

Private Organizations

PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride. Funds may be used for projects such as:

- Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges.
- Mountain bike facilities.
- Bike parks and pump tracks.
- BMX facilities.
- End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, and bike storage.
- Bike facility engineering and design work.
- Bike facility construction costs including materials, labor, and equipment rental.

Grant requests may be made for amounts up to \$10,000, but funding may not exceed 50% of the project budget. Grant cycles are held one to two times per year.

Kodak American Greenways Program

The American Greenways Program is the nation's longest running community based grant program that expands and enhances our nation's network of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. The program is a partnership between Eastman Kodak Company, the National Geographic Society, and The Conservation Fund.

National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund

The National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Eligible applicants include towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school district. Eligible projects include:

- Land acquisition or development projects that will provide opportunities for public outdoor recreation.
- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water-based outdoor recreation.
- Property that provides special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways.
- Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas, where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including wildlife areas and areas of physical or biological importance. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land or development within urban areas for day use picnic areas.
- Land or development of nature-based recreation trails.
- Development of basic outdoor recreation facilities.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use.

Other Funding Sources

Other sources of funding involve more work and dedication, but can contribute to making a project reality. Examples of local fund raising include:

- Buy-a-Foot-of-Trail campaigns.
- Local excise tax on bicycles or outdoor equipment.
- Matching funds from local retailers.
- Fund raising event - - outdoor concert, festival, etc. - - targeted to the project in question.

Ch. X: Appendix

Park & Recreation Survey

17. If the Village could do one thing to improve parks and recreation for you, your family, and your friends, what would you like that to be?

- Walking trails
- Splash pad
- Provide some winter fun options: designated sledding hills with maybe a hot chocolate stand and sled rental. A skating rink with same options. For summer, what about something like the Playground program that's done in the Racine area parks through the YMCA? It would be a great option for kids in the summer and get them out of the house with a purpose! Kickball league, chess or checkers outside. Splash pad at a minimum-ideally pool, but I know that's an expensive ask!
- More walking, biking, snow shoeing trails
- Beer garden, rubber pad at playgrounds
- Skate park
- More access for bikes, atv, fishing, activities for families
- More walking/hiking trails throughout town.
- Mill Ave the chain is very difficult to get around but I'm happy it is open. I would like to see that pathway cleared better once you start heading towards the park. It is very difficult with a stroller. I would love to see pop up events at parks maybe food trucks and some beer. Keeping up with the wood chips and weeds at Ryan Moe. Currently everything is good but in the past they have gotten bad.
- Addition of trails and pedestrian connectivity to highly used areas and parks. If my family wanted to use playgrounds or play a sport, union grove offers plenty of opportunities. However, to use recreational trails/nature trails we have to leave union grove
- Have more interests for the older kids. Give them something creative to do
- Something water based would be fantastic. I've always believed a splash pad would be a great addition to the Main Street area, much like Drexel Town Square or the Racine splash pad. Bathrooms at Ryan Moe would also be a HUGE improvement.
- Even though this problem doesn't directly affect me since I don't have a teenager, I see a lot of complaints on the Facebook community page about there being nothing to do for teenagers. I think it would be worthwhile to explore solutions more catered to teenagers. Other than for myself personally, I have no complaints.

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



- Make a biergarten or something, that way it can be enjoyed by all ages and still have room for recreational activities
- Bathrooms
- Improve programs for teens I would like see a rec center with a swimming pool, a gym area for sports is basketball tennis and many more games give our teens something to do.
- Trail system and walking paths through out union grove
- To provide a safe and fun area for all ages including teens and the elderly.
- Splash pad/playground for kids centrally located
- Keep clean
- Indoor pool
- Swimming
- Please get SOMETHING for these kids to DO!
- Skate park or swimming pool more options for tweens and teens.
- Expand playground equipment
- Beer garden, food trucks, music. Family environment.
- Make rails to trails happen and some type of water activity
- restroom availability
- Add some sort of splash pad or water entertainment for kids in the warmer months.
- A community swimming pool
- Provide entertainment, beer garden to raise money and create a better sense of community.
- More nature parks!
- Variety of children's toys in one big park
- Skate park.
- More outdoor full basketball courts, sand volleyball, paved path for biking and roller skating
- Update the park near the dog park. It is very low quality, but could have great potential. Add bathrooms to parks without bathrooms. Create at least one barriers-free/handicap accessible playground for kids with special needs.
- More playground equipment
- Pickleball courts! Definitely Outside and if possible inside
- Pool or water pad, bike trails for our kids
- Snowmobiling on rails to trails!
- More for youth to access
- More paved trails to bike, run, and walk on.
- Allow snowmobiles on route of the Badger
- More to do besides playground (skate park, mini golf, climbing wall...)
- Recreational activities for older children. And some indoor activities for all so that there is stuff to do when the weather isn't great.
- cleaning
- More swings please
- Rails to trails!
- To upgrade all parks
- Need more things to do
- Road to trails. # 13 question
- Believe my obvious comments about the changes that need to happen to save the residents homes off of old school park, I would love to see a water park and pool built.
- Interconnected hiking trails that are dog friendly
- Mini golf would be cool and think a large part of the community would use it

- Accessible large playground
- Have more to do than play on a playground. Be fun for older kids and even adults
- Swings and baby swings at school yard park
- Wheelchair accessible playground
- Make them dog friendly
- Make disc golf courses
- Move faster. Rails-to-trails was the LUG project in 2015-16 and is not yet off the ground. Get a plan, pass it and move forward.
- I would like the parks to better utilize the space within them. Several parks have a lot of space & limited equipment. Bathrooms are also usually not open, which is difficult as a parent with small children. Additionally, a paved trail (stroller/wheelchair friendly) through UG would be extremely beneficial. There currently is no 'safe' place to walk besides down Main St. which is still risky w/traffic.
- Have no need/interest in utilizing village parks
- Swimming area/facility
- Finish the rails to trails and make it dog friendly!
- Unique experience on every visit
- Trails for hiking/biking
- Provide activities for older kids (12-15)
- I don't think there's enough for kids to do in UG and that should be a focus. I've been to Kenosha Dream Park several times this year and the kids LOVE it. UG should look into this type of playground.
- Would LOVE to see more things for kids to be able to do HERE in our town. I.e. Splash pad, pool didn't go over years ago but would be nice. An ice skating rink in one of the basketball courts was a suggestion. Have the girl scout or boy scouts have a stand selling hot chocolate and coffee. Or make some of the high schoolers have the concessions open during games at old grade school park. We have many things that are here but of zero use. Time to get a bit creative to get the community back again. I believe this starts with younger ones being involved.
- Complete rails to trails project, and wheel chair accessible facilities.
- Additional events and activities planned at parks.
- Maintenance and clean up more regularly.
- Community pool and hiking trails
- Update current parks and add running water spout for dog park
- Add pickleball courts, add fish to Lauer pond, music in the park, beer garden, and more village sponsored activities
- Market it, get the word out , more community govt sponsorship, push the town, have fun
- Splash pad
- More atmosphere, events, community intrigue
- Get a fitness center or outdoor pool
- Add a regulation soccer field
- Get an indoor and outdoor pool also maintain natural land farm and wetlands off of 13th by Krause farm land east of Martins and don't run 13th through that land!
- More trails for biking, hiking, running.
- Offer more affordable activities
- To open the bathrooms everyday not only when you rent the pavilions out.
- Please give our children a skate park, we don't need stages or bars we need something for our kids to do

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027





- Ice skating and swimming
- Allow more dogs into village parks
- Have climbing or sensory things for kids with autism. Somewhere to have water!
- Add nature trails
- I would love to see a splash pad put in!!! I find myself having to drive 20 minutes for entertainment for the kids when it's hot out.
- Available bathrooms at all parks
- I feel that we have a great park network dedicated to younger children. It would be great to have parks and activities aimed at all age ranges.
- Make them accessible for all. Make sure they are a safe place to visit.
- Water related activity.
- Beer Garden w/ live music/movie nights, play ground/splash pad
- More for teenage group and special needs kids to do.
- Safe walking paths.
- Something for teenagers - water features
- Something with water

Visual Preference Survey

The tabulated results of the Visual Preference Survey are presented in Table 9.






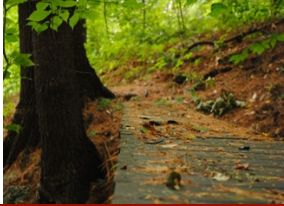




Table 9: Visual Preference Survey Results

Rank	Image Number	VPS Rating	Images		
1	38	2.06			
2	70	1.98			

3	2	1.87			
4	83	1.82			
5	34 46	1.75			
7	27	1.74			
8	79	1.73			
9	39 48	1.71			
11	47 51 71	1.70			
14	4	1.67			

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027







15	42	1.65			
16	40	1.56			
17	55	1.50			
18	63	1.48			
19	57 59	1.44			
21	72	1.42			
22	81	1.36			
23	37 62	1.35			

25	88	1.30			
26	16	1.24			
27	18 68	1.22			
29	19	1.12			
30	76 78	1.08			
32	12	1.07			
33	36	1.06			
34	49	1.05			

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027









35	14	1.04			
36	24	1.01			
37	58 80	1.00	 		
39	29 84	0.99	 		

41	22	0.98			
42	33	0.97			
43	1	0.93			
44	31 43 50	0.92			
47	13	0.90			
48	32 82 89	0.88			
51	15 52	0.83			

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027





53	74 86	0.82			
55	17 35	0.73			
57	3 11	0.72			
59	10 23	0.68			
61	90	0.67			
62	54	0.65			
63	53 77	0.61			

65	85	0.60			
66	65	0.59			
67	75	0.58			
68	20 25	0.56			
70	69	0.55			
71	60	0.53			
72	87	0.49			
73	44	0.47			

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027





74	66	0.33			
75	9	0.32			
76	56	0.31			
77	8	0.30			
78	5	0.26			
79	7	0.20			
80	6	0.18			

81	73	0.17			
82	64 67	0.04	 		
84	28	-0.05			
85	21 61	-0.06	 		
87	26	-0.16			

Outdoor Recreation Plan 2027



88	41	-0.17			
89	45	-0.55			
90	30	-1.81	