

City of Wisconsin Dells Parks, Recreation, & Waterway Committee

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday Sept 8, 2015 5:30 PM

300 La Crosse St Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Chairperson: Jesse DeFosse

Committee Members: Mike Warnke, Tammy Mayer, Joey Van Dinter,
Becky Gussel, Lauren Witcha, Gordon Priegel

1. Call to order and note attendance
2. Approval of the August 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes
3. Discussion and Decision if needed on the Comprehensive Outdoor Rec Plan
4. Discussion and Decision on 2016 Budget (Operational and Capital)
5. Items for Referral
6. Adjournment

Alderpersion Jesse DeFosse, Chairperson
Posted and Distributed – Sept 4, 2015

Open Meetings Notice: If this meeting is attended by one or more members of the Common Council who are not members of this committee, and their attendance creates a quorum of the Common Council, this meeting may technically be considered a meeting of the Common Council for the purposes of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Please be advised that upon reasonable notice, the City of Wisconsin Dells will furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in meeting activities.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERWAYS COMMITTEE

CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS ~ BOWMAN PARK

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

August 3, 2015

1. Chairperson DeFosse called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Dells Events, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

Present: Chairperson DeFosse, Joey Van Dinter, Becky Gussel, Mike Warnke,
Lauren Witecha, Gordon Priegel, Kate Berg, Thad Meister,

Others: Jeff Smith from the Dells Events

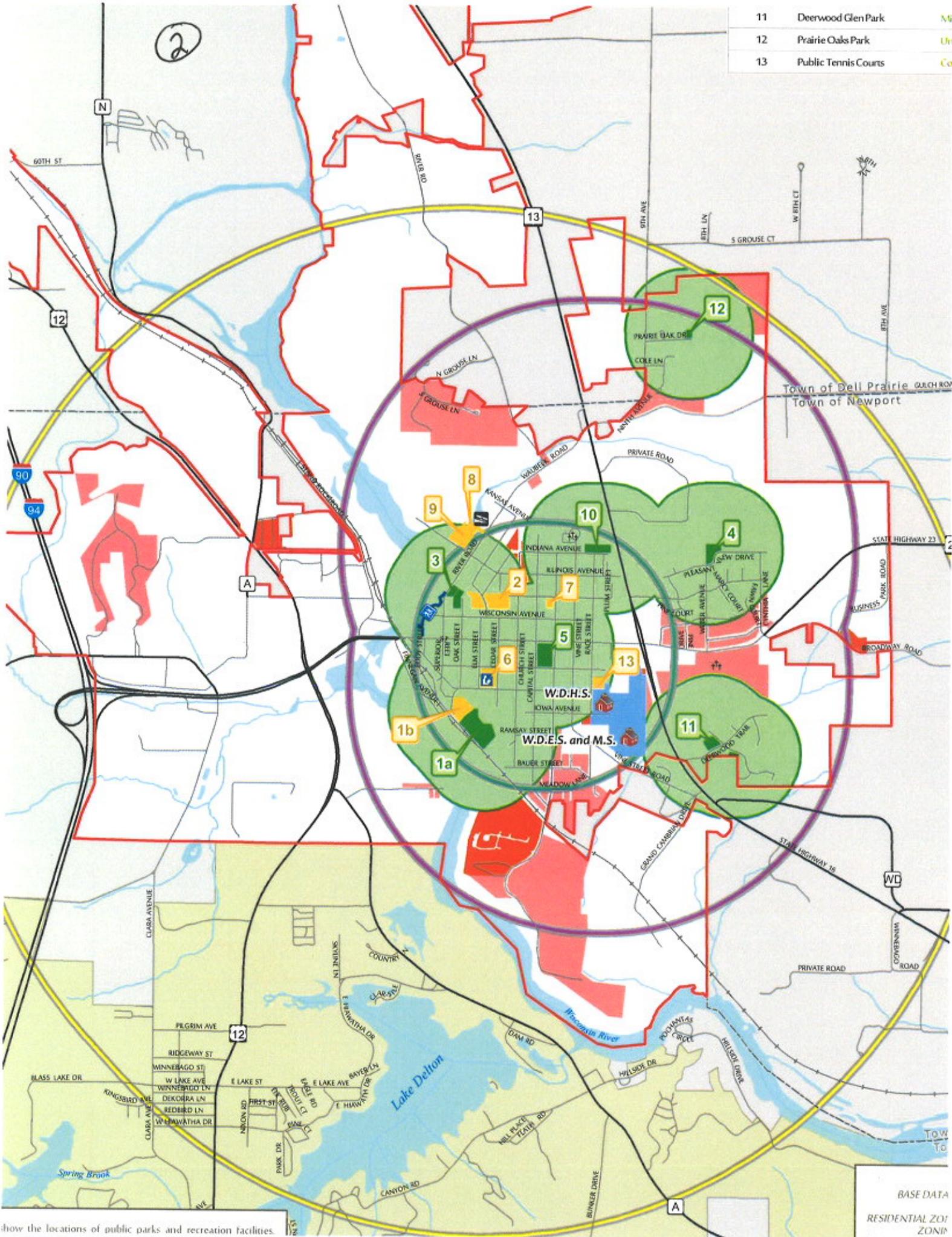
Excused: Tammy Mayer

2. Motion by Witecha and seconded by Gussel to approve the June 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion by Witecha and seconded by Van Dinter to approve the 2015 Fall/Winter Park and Rec Guide. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Discussion Only on Comprehensive Outdoor Rec Plan prioritization of needs and wants. Recommendations will be forwarded to MSA.
5. Items for referral are 2015 Budget
6. Motion by Warnke and seconded by Gussel to adjourn at 6:35 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Thad Meister

Parks, Recreation, & Waterway Director

11	Deerwood Glen Park	M
12	Prairie Oaks Park	U
13	Public Tennis Courts	C



show the locations of public parks and recreation facilities.

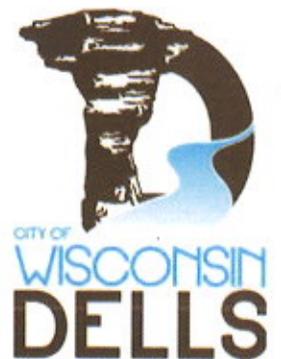
BASE DATA
RESIDENTIAL ZONING
ZONING

WISCONSIN DELLS

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



Prepared by MSA Professional Services, Inc.
in cooperation with the City of Wisconsin Dells Parks & Recreation Committee



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(Reserved for Adoption Resolution)

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Wisconsin Dells, WI Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2015-2020

BRIAN L. LANDERS- MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

Jesse DeFosse, First District Wards, 1, 4, 7 & 8
Brian Holzem, First District Wards, 1, 4, 7 & 8
Michael Freel, Second District Wards, 2, 4 & 9
Dar Mor, Second District Wards 2, 5 & 9
Ed Fox, Third District Wards 3 & 6
Ed Wojnicz, Third District Wards 3 & 6

PARKS & RECREATION & WATERWAY BOARD

Jesse DeFosse, Chair
Thad Meister, Secretary
Mike Warnke
Tammy Mayer
Lauren Witecha
Becky Gussel
Joey VanDinter, LD Rep
Gordon Priegel, LD Rep

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM:

Thad Meister, Parks, Recreation & Waterway Director

PREPARED BY:

MSA Professional Services, Inc., project #:85042

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Plan Purpose
- 1.2 Planning Process
- 1.3 The Role of City Parks

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

The City of Wisconsin Dells realizes the importance and benefits its parks and open space system has on the City's character and quality of life and is committed to providing for the recreational needs of its current and future residents. This plan intends to guide the continual improvement of the city's park and open space system and to maintain the city's eligibility for State and Federal park and recreation grants. This plan envisions a connected system of parks and open spaces throughout the community, related to the city's natural resources, geography and neighborhoods.

The Plan is also intended to be a support document and component of the City of Wisconsin Dells Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan along with the City's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to implement the City's parks and recreation program.

Specifically the plan provides:

- *Information regarding demographic trends and natural resource concerns,*
- *An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,*
- *An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,*
- *General policy direction regarding park and open space planning and maintenance,*
- *Recommendations for improving existing park facilities,*
- *Recommendations for park and open space acquisition and (re)development projects.*
- *Implementation strategies*

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and discussions will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

Recreation planning has been an essential component of long-range community planning in Wisconsin Dells. In 2007, the city adopted the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to address changes in growth and demand for parks and recreational facilities. While this document has served the community well, a new plan is needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next five years.

In 2015, the city contracted with MSA Professional Services, Inc. to assist with an update to the 2007 CORP. Preparation and adoption of this plan occurred over a eight month period. Oversight for the project was provided by the Parks, Recreation, and Waterways Director and Park Board. The Board met five times with the planning consultant to provide policy recommendations and to review draft documents.

Early in the planning process the consultant facilitated an online community survey to gather citizen feedback on desired public park and recreational facilities (refer to Appendix A).

It's the city intention to update this plan every five years, in-part to remain eligible for park and recreation grants (see side bar on the following page), and as best practice to ensure that the plan remains relevant



to the community’s needs. This plan was developed following the Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (Appendix F) of the 2011-2016 Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) created by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The plan content and format have been tailored to fit the needs of the community.

1.3 THE ROLE OF CITY PARKS

Proper planning is essential for the city’s park and open space system to continue to meet the recreation needs of the community, as well as to continue to preserve valuable natural areas. Whether the city is experiencing a bear or bull period of economic growth, it is important to remember the many benefits that park and recreational facilities provide the community.

CORP and GRANT FUNDING

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship) in 1989. Named for two of Wisconsin’s most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1954-1981), the purpose of the program is 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.

The Stewardship grant program is the most widely used recreational grant program in the state. Eligibility for the program requires that a community maintain a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (CORP), updated every five years, and that the project for which grant funding is sought is described in the CORP. Many other similar state and federal recreational grant programs have similar requirements or have shown a tendency to favor those grant applications which are supported through previous community planning efforts.

Community Image – Local parks provide opportunities for formal and informal social gatherings. Community festivals, organized recreational events, or chance meetings between city residents at local parks, all provide opportunities for residents to socialize with people they might not otherwise meet. In addition, having excellent park and recreation facilities can be a source of pride for a community. These factors contribute to the image of the city as “A great place to live, work, stay and play.”

PROJECT MILESTONES

February 2015	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting #1 (discussed project objectives & survey)
April 2015	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting #2 (survey results and existing conditions)
June 2015	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting #3 (reviewed objectives, policies and recommendations)
September 2015	Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting #4 (review complete draft plan)
October 2015	Public hearing/plan recommendation

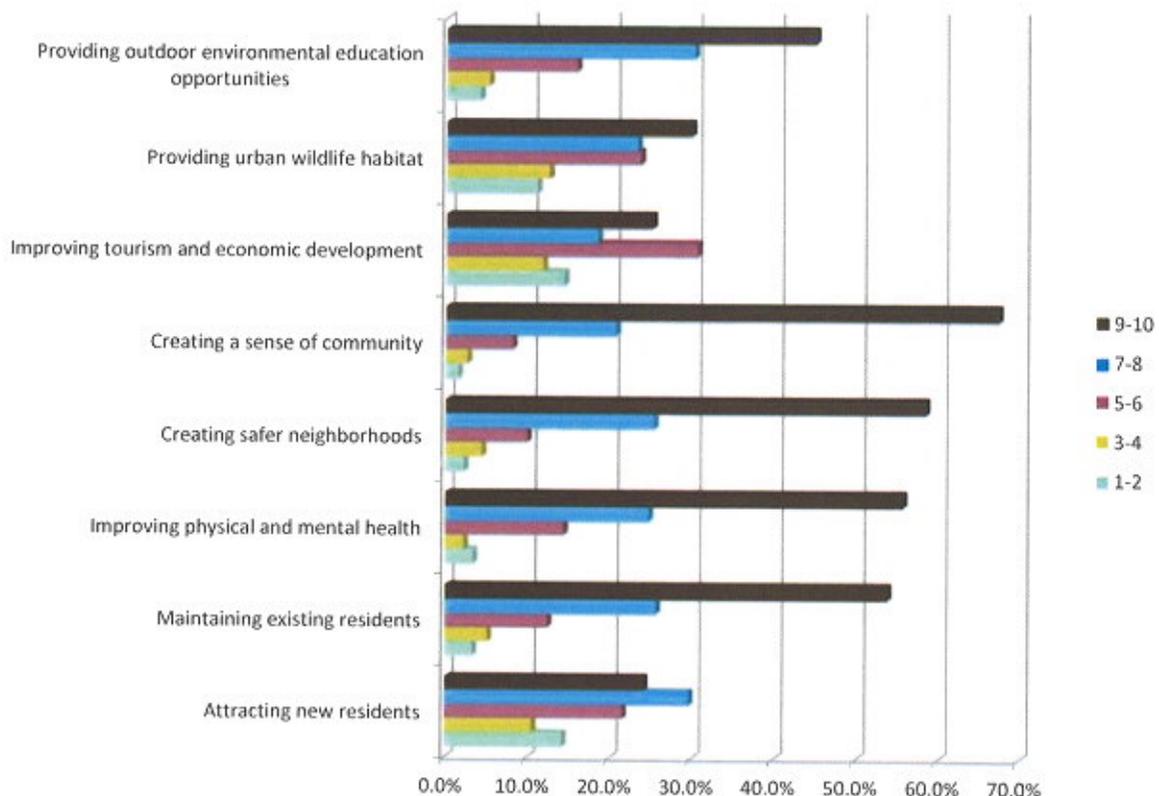
Community Health – With the raising national trend in obesity, especially among children, the city’s park and recreational facilities play a vital role in maintaining and improving the health of residents in the community and aiding in the physical development of children. Parks also provide sanctuaries and places for residents to mentally recharge.

Ecological Health – While park and open spaces provide opportunities for improvements to the health of residents, they also contribute to the greater ecological health of the city. Local parks are often tied together with environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, or significant woodlands. These areas provide food and shelter for local wildlife and natural stormwater retention. Individual parks can provide important “rooms” of natural resource activity; however, they become even more functional when they

can be linked together by environmental corridors, or “hallways.” Wildlife, plants, and water all depend on the ability to move freely within the environment from room to room.

Economic Prosperity - Leisure time is an important component of people’s lifestyles and increasingly people are choosing locations to live based on quality of life amenities such as the amount and type of recreational facilities a community can offer. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the city. Studies have also concluded that property values generally increase the closer residential lots are to a park facility. In addition, if a local parks system is designed with regional amenities, or connections to regional destinations, it can serve to bring additional visitors to the city. The additional tourism can be a significant benefit to local businesses.

Figure 1.1. Community Survey Results: Rate the importance you place on the City’s parks and recreational facilities/programs with regard to the following (1 = not important, 10 = very important):



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CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF WISCONSIN DELLS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2.1 Local & Regional Context | 2.4 Physical Character & Environmental Resources |
| 2.2 Transportation Circulation | 2.5 Existing Land Use |
| 2.3 Demographics | 2.6 Future Land Use |
| | 2.7 Downtown Plan |

The following chapter details community history, demographic data and some of the important natural resources in the Wisconsin Dells area and Adams, Columbia, Juneau and Sauk Counties. The information comes from a variety of resources, including the US Census, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the 2007 Wisconsin Dells CORP, and the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Wisconsin Dells (pop. 2,707) is located in, Adams, Columbia, Juneau and Sauk Counties, and is approximately 54 miles north of the City of Madison. The City is located along the picturesque Wisconsin River.

Native Americans have contributed significantly to the history and development of Wisconsin Dells. The Ho-Chunk (also known as the Winnebago) hunted buffalo and raised crops. The Menominee trapped furs in local waters and sold them across Europe. French explorers in the 17th century used the area as a reference point on early maps of the western Great Lake Regions, the "Dalles" of the Wisconsin River. In later years the River played a leading role in the lumber industry, becoming notorious for being unpredictable amongst those rafting through narrow, confined and high rocky banks of the Dells.

Historical settlement in the Dells began a couple of miles from the current City of Wisconsin Dells. The settlement was known as the "Lost City of Newport," following a railroad bypass in 1856 across the river to the north, the new settlement of Kilbourn City was established. The Village was established in 1857 when the railroad arrived. Residents and visitors' fondly



reference the area as the "Dells," and in 1931 the name stuck and was officially changed to Wisconsin Dells to promote tourism. The Wisconsin Dells' roots in the tourism industry has been a significant part of the local economy since the 1880's. Native Americans have placed their mark on local tourism; Ho-Chunk Nation established, owns and operates a hotel and casino and is the largest employer in the Dells area.

The Wisconsin Dells are best known for its family friendly natural beauty, campgrounds, resorts, amusement and water parks. This tradition of amusement ranks as one of the oldest resort communities in the State with first accounts dating back to 1856.

"We conclude that the wild, romantic scenery of the Dells will always make them a place for resort for seekers of pleasure." - Alanson Holly

Chapter 2

Army surplus land and water vehicles, or “Ducks” were first brought into Lake Delton in 1946 and continue to give passengers rides through woods, uphill and splash into the Lower Dells through canyons and into Lake Delton. Tourism was further changed by the addition of water ski shows in the 1950s, primarily the Tommy Bartlett Show. The Show highlights fast-paced trick skiing, bare footing, jumps, flips and boat maneuvers.

The Wisconsin Dells - Lake Delton region is home to America’s largest waterpark, Noah’s Ark and Wisconsin’s largest indoor waterpark resort; Kalahari Waterpark, and dozens of other waterparks, motels, hotels and resorts, there is no wonder why Wisconsin Dells is known as “The Waterpark Capital of the World.”

2.2 TRANSPORTATION CIRCULATION

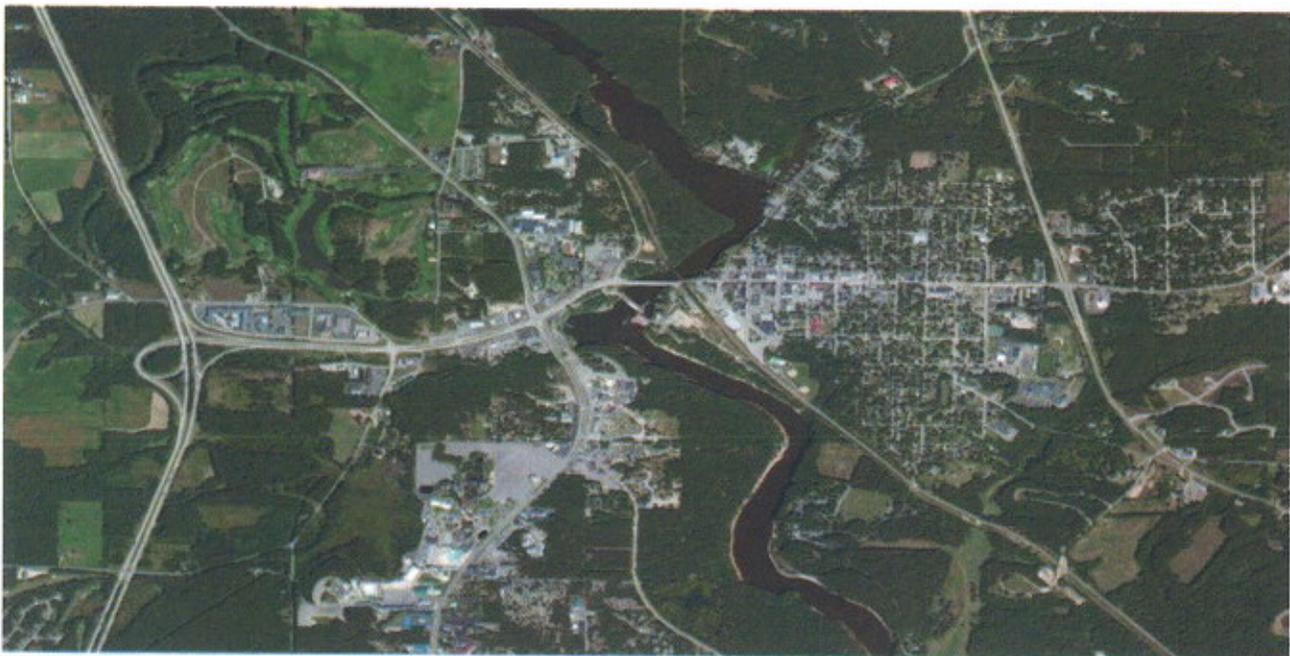
Interstate 90/94 passes around Wisconsin Dells to the city’s western edge. The primary travel corridors in the city are: State Highway 12 (Wisconsin Dells Parkway), State Highway 16 (from the southeast into the downtown), State Highway 13/23 (Broadway) that bisects the downtown.

For non-motorized travel, downtown Wisconsin Dells is considered a desirable walkable community, however the rest of the City is highly auto-dependent. Other than sidewalks located along city streets there are few off-road pedestrian or bicycle facilities within the City.

Snowmobile trails expand the range of seasonal recreational opportunities in the City, providing attractions in winter promoting year-round tourism. There currently is only one County trail connecting snowmobilers from Gultch Road south towards State Route 13/23/16.

Water transportation is a large part of the history of the Dells and is mostly tourism related. The Dells provides several alternative modes of water travel including guided tours on Ducks as well as jet ski, boat, kayak, paddleboard and canoe rentals.

The City of Wisconsin Dells does not currently have a local transit system but partner with tourist attraction entrepreneurs and private companies to extend bus, van and taxi services.



2.3 DEMOGRAPHICS

This section describes some of the historic demographic trends for the City of Wisconsin Dells as it pertains to population, age composition, housing, and school enrollment. Wisconsin Dells falls within four counties; Adams, Columbia, Juneau and Sauk. Wisconsin Dells, the Village of Lake Delton and Towns of Springville, Newport, New Haven, Dell Prairie, Delton and Dellona are included in the Wisconsin Dells "Community Service Area." We chose this community service area because it represents the communities served by the Dells-Delton Recreation Department.

POPULATION

The most recent population estimate for the city is 2,707 (year 2015). From year 1980 to 2010, the population for Wisconsin Dells grew by 6.2%, under pacing the percentage growth of both the Community Service Area and the State. According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration population projections the city is expected to add an additional 377 residents between 2010 and 2040. This represents a 14.1% increase over a 30 year period, or 0.47% annual growth. These projections are similar to the projections for the State, but lower than those of the Community Service Area, but double the growth rate for the city from the past 30 years.

AGE COMPOSITION

Age composition is an important consideration in park and recreational planning as needs and desires of individuals will vary based on their interests and physical abilities. The table on the right summarizes the age composition of the city population from the 2010 US Census. Approximately 22.3% of the population is considered youth (<20 years old) and approximately 23.6% of the population is considered at retirement age (>60 years old). Both of these figures are similar from the year 2000 Census in which 24.6% of the population was under 20 years old and 23.3% was over 60 years old. The median age of the city has risen from 40.3 in year 2000 to 40.6 in year 2010, above the State (38.5).

HOUSING

As of 2010, there were 1,148 households in the city, 25.0% of which include at least one child under 18 years

Table 2.1. Population History & Projections

Population History & Projections			
	Wisconsin Dells	Community Service Area	Wisconsin
1970	2,401	6,767	4,417,821
1980	2,521	8,429	4,705,642
1990	2,398	9,125	4,891,769
2000	2,418	11,463	5,363,715
2010	2,678	13,684	5,686,986
Projections			
2020	2,845	15,275	6,005,080
2030	3,060	17,340	6,375,910
2040	3,055	18,065	6,491,635
Change			
1980-2010	157	5,255	981,344
2010-2040	377	4,381	804,649
Percent Growth			
1980-2010	6.2%	62.3%	20.9%
2010-2040	14.1%	32.0%	14.1%

Table 2.2. Age Composition, 2010

Age	Total	Percentage
0-9	1,428	12.7%
10-19	1,315	11.7%
20-29	1,478	13.1%
30-39	1,489	13.2%
40-49	1,670	14.8%
50-59	1,629	14.5%
60-69	1,022	9.1%
70-79	666	5.9%
80+	553	4.9%
Median	39.5	

Table 2.3. Housing Statistics

Wisconsin Dells Housing Statistics		
Households		
2000		1,019
2010		1,148
Average Household Size		
2000		2.28
2010		2.26
% of Households with individuals under 18		
2000		29.1%
2010		25.0%

old. The total number of households was up 129 since year 2000; however, the number of households with at least one child under 18 years old declined from 29.1% of all households in year 2000. The average household size is 2.26 individuals, down from 2.28 in year 2000. These trends are consistent with national trends over the past several decades and can be attributed to smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single parent households.

In total there are 1,485 housing units in the city in year 2010, 1,148 occupied households plus an additional 337 vacant units. Of the occupied units, 647 are owner occupied (56.4%) with the remaining 501(43.6%) renter occupied. The total population in owner-occupied housing units is 1,573 and 1,026 in renter-occupied units. Placement of future park and recreational facilities should consider where multi-family buildings are located or planned as these types of housing units generally lack access to green space and play equipment as compared to single-family lots.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The City is part of the Wisconsin Dells School District. The Wisconsin Dells High School and Spring Hill Middle School are both located in the city along with one elementary school, Spring Hill. Lake Delton Elementary is located in the Village of Lake Delton and Neenah Creek Elementary located in Briggsville, WI. The 2013-2014 enrollment for the entire district was 1,785 students, up 1,653 from students in year 2001.

2.4 PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Water Resources- The Wisconsin River shoreline forms the western border of the city. The Dells are home to unique geological and biological river corridor features stretching over 5 miles. Natural sandstone cliffs along the shoreline rise over 100 feet above the water, except in the downtown area where a break in the bluffs allows easy access to the water. The city's average elevation above sea level is 909 feet.

The Dells are located within the Lower Wisconsin Water Management Unit and have two watersheds.

The Dell Creek watershed, that lies within Sauk and Juneau counties to the west of the Wisconsin River and Duck and Plainville Watershed that lies within Adams and Columbia Counties on the eastern side of the Wisconsin River.

The Wisconsin River provides the area with unique riparian ecology and aquatic related recreation opportunities but also presents a potential flood hazard. The floodplain within the City is relatively undeveloped, with the exception of the potential for Crandall's Bay Area off River Road. Crandall Bay connects to the Wisconsin River north of downtown and is the current home of the Illinois Avenue Docks and Indiana Avenue Boat Launch. The bay then connects to Lake Lee, a small lake to the northeast.

Hulburt Creek is a tributary that empties into the Wisconsin River is considered a trout water for 4 miles of its length, with 2.8 miles reaching a Class I trout stream and exceptional resource water (ERW) designation by the DNR. The Hulburt Creek Fishery Area is located west of Interstate 90 and slightly southwest of the Dells Wisconsin River Natural Area.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified the Wisconsin River as a State Natural Area. The DNR has also identified the Wisconsin River as a 303(d) low priority, impaired waterway for contaminated fish tissue.

Natural Vegetation- The historic natural vegetation patterns of the area are concentrated in the river corridor, that consist typically of densely wooded ravines. The residential neighborhoods downtown have a variety of street trees planted in the terraces, the more suburban residential neighborhoods do not have terraces but established neighborhoods typically are planted with a range of privately managed deciduous and coniferous trees. The land surrounding the city is mostly wooded with some wetland pockets and agricultural lands throughout.

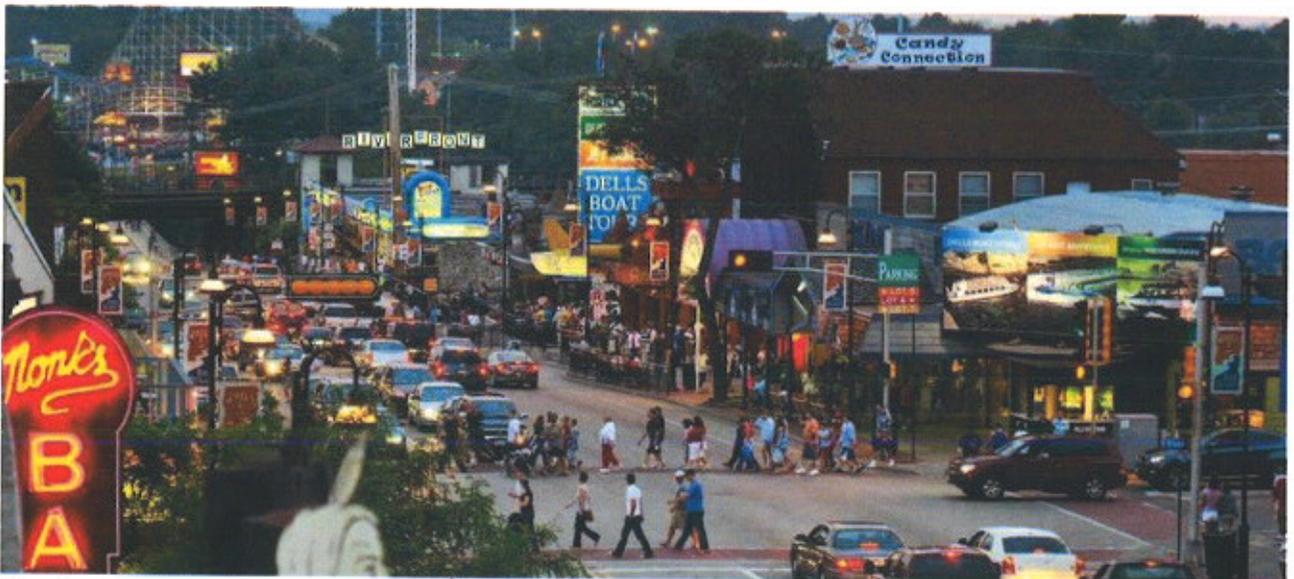
Wetlands within the city are mainly within the creek corridors and are forested. There are Emergent/Wet Meadow wetlands in a variety of locations, larger areas

are located just south of downtown ranging from the eastern banks of the Wisconsin River northeast across State Highway 16. The largest wetland in the Dells is located to the west of State Highway 12 and begins south of State Highway 13 and extends south just past Trout Road. A third larger wetland area spans along Hulburt Creeks river corridor.

Wildlife- Wildlife in the City generally is concentrated along the River and creek corridors and wetlands. The DNR identifies a series of plant communities, plants, mussels, insects, fish, birds and reptiles that are

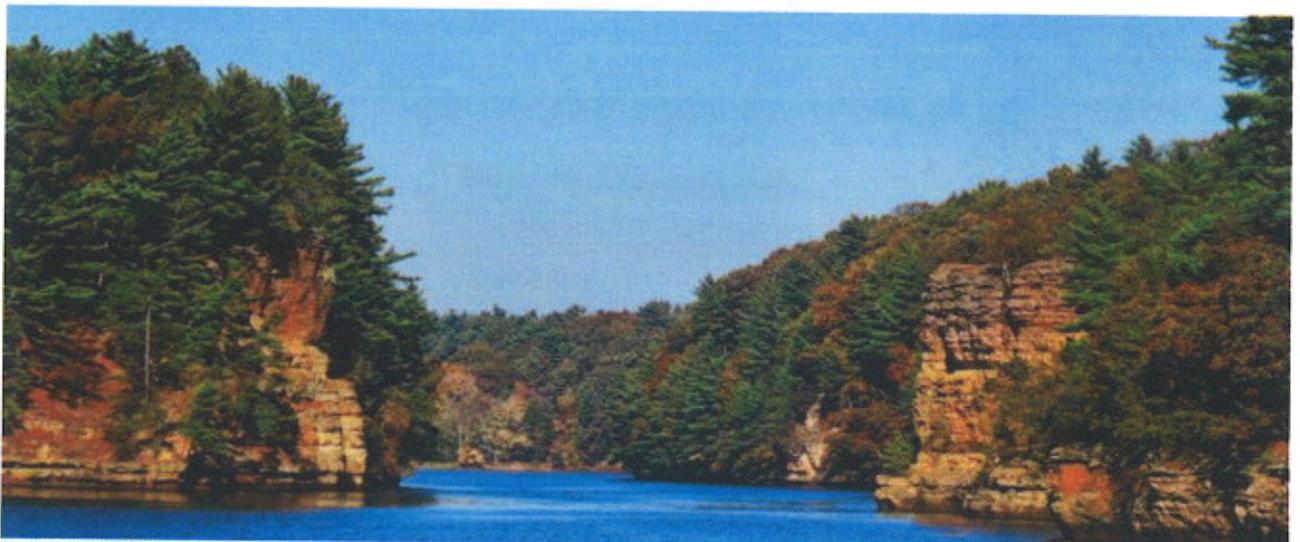
within the area that are threatened or endangered. A comprehensive list can be found through the DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory Data.

The physical resources of the city are many and varied and provide an attractive character to the city and also the potential for varied recreation opportunities. Perhaps the greatest recreation potential for these environmental corridors will be as linear parks and trail corridors linking the city's recreation, employment, commercial and school sites.



Downtown Wisconsin

Photo Credit: <http://www.dells.com/>



Wisconsin Dells

Photo Credit: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com>

2.5 EXISTING LAND USE

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 7.73 square miles, of which, 7.36 square miles is land and .37 square miles is water. In 2010, the population density was 363.9 inhabitants per square mile.

Residential development is most dense around the north and south sides of the downtown near the intersection of WI 12/16 and WI 13. These areas should be well serviced by mini parks and neighborhood parks.

Land annexation and growth of the community since 2007 includes the annexation of St. Vincent DePaul, DIG property, Tonne, Kokomo Property, Steak-n-stein, Buckminster properties, Sherwood Forest, Chula East and City Property between 13th and 9th Avenue.

Commercial land uses are scattered throughout the area. The downtown business and city services are in a compact area along Broadway and River Road while the remaining large scale, tourism related commercial areas may be found along State Highway 16 and State Highway 13.

There are three industrial areas within the City, one along the rail road tracks off of Commercial Avenue and Fitzgerald Road, the second is along the eastern bank of the Wisconsin River and the third, south of Broadway and in an Industrial Park on the eastern side of the City off State Highway 23.

The cumulative effect of the existing land use patterns and circulation system divides the community into geographic neighborhoods and limits access to recreation facilities. The primary barriers in Wisconsin Dells include the Wisconsin River and associated tributaries, the state and county highways mentioned, the rail corridor running north west to south east. Refer to the City's Zoning Map on the next page.

2.6 FUTURE LAND USE

The future growth of the city is guided by the city's 2003 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Future Land Use Map (Figure 2.3, page 12) sets forth the desired development pattern for the city. The planned land use map is designed to accommodate projected population, household, and employment growth; the infrastructure and institutions required to serve residential, commercial, and industrial uses in the city, and the city's agricultural and natural resource base.

The planned land use map identifies most of the area surrounding the existing city limits to the west and north for future multi-family residential is planned along Interstate 90/94 and Highway 13 and single family is planned southeast of Downtown. Commercial expansion is planned along the major transportation corridors, State Highway 13/23 and State Highway 12/16 and through downtown along Broadway and River Road. Recreation lands and the future parks and recreation needs of planned residential areas should be considered as these areas develop, including linkages to existing city neighborhoods, parks, and businesses via bicycle and recreational trails.

In addition, the comprehensive plan is currently due for an update. When this occurs more details regarding the need for additional city parks may emerge with changes to the Planned Land Use Map. Given the map does not include areas which have been annexed since 2003 it may be more appropriate to refer to the City's Zoning Map when considering locations planned for residential and conservancy uses.

2.7 DOWNTOWN PLAN

The City of Wisconsin Dells is currently undergoing a planning process to reimagine the Downtown as the River Arts District. This plan will incorporate opportunities for new public space within the downtown as well as proposals for updating and enhancing existing parks.

Figure 2.2, Wisconsin Dells Zoning Map

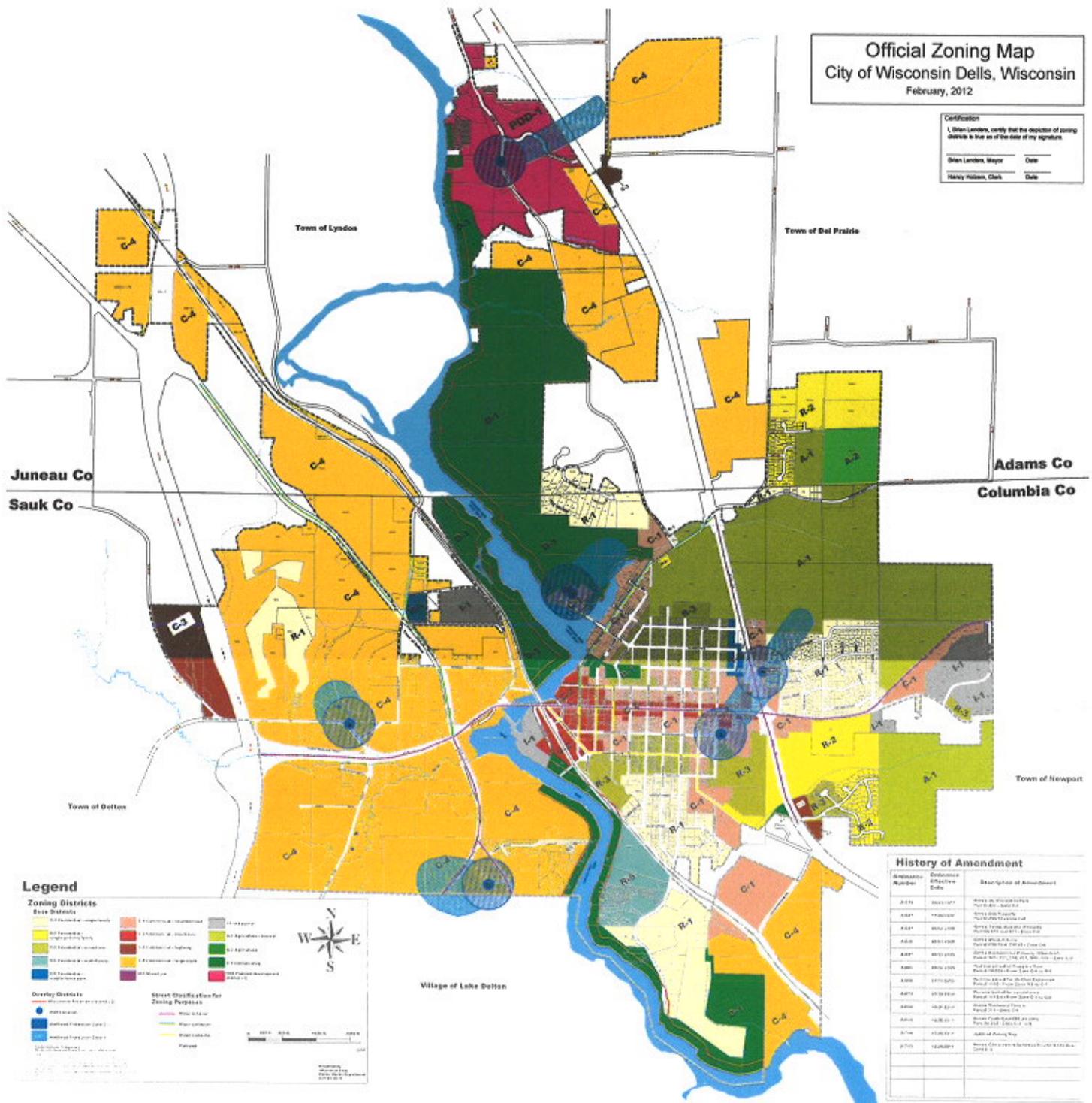
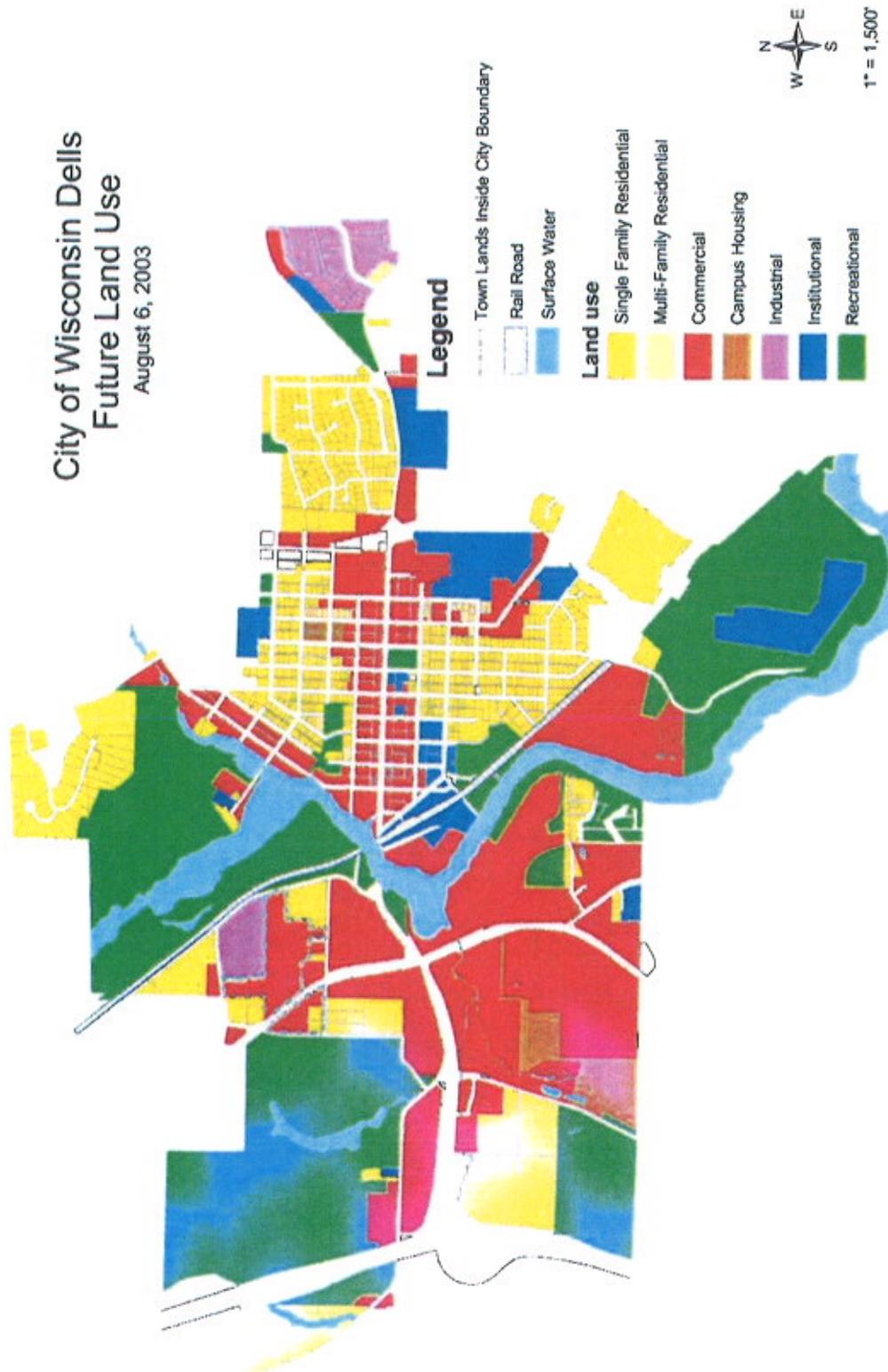


Figure 2.3, Planned Land Uses



CHAPTER 3

PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION INVENTORY

3.1 City Facilities
3.2 School Facilities
3.3 Church Facilities

3.4 Private Facilities
3.5 County Facilities
3.6 Regional Facilities

The following chapter documents existing park and recreational facilities both within the City of Wisconsin Dells and the surrounding region.

3.1 CITY FACILITIES & EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Parks and Recreation Department manages the city's 14 park facilities totaling 39.92 acres. The system is represented by eight types of parks: mini-parks, neighborhood playgrounds, neighborhood parks, community playfields, community parks, special use parks, nature preserves, and undeveloped parks. Refer to Appendix B for a description of the characteristics of each of these park classifications.

Table 3.1 (page 14) lists each city park, park acreage, and park amenities. The location of each park is shown on Map 1: Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities in Appendix C.

Mini-Parks (4.0 total acres)

- Jenkins Memorial Lookout
- Deerwood Glen Park

Neighborhood Playgrounds (2.2 total acres)

- Weber Park

Neighborhood Parks (3.6 total acres)

- Bowman Park

Community Playfields (3.7 total acres)

- Rotary Park
- Public Tennis Courts

Community Parks (7.6 total acres)

- Veterans Memorial Park

Special Use Parks (12.0 total acres)

- Municipal Pool
- Public Library
- Rec. Center
- Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue)
- Municipal Boat Docks (Illinois Avenue)
- Wisconsin Dells Riverwalk

Nature Preserves (5.7 total acres)

- Freemont Ravine Woods

Undeveloped (.5 total acres)

- Prairie Oaks Park

The following is a more in-depth description of the city's most valued park facilities.

Jenkins Memorial Lookout

This mini-park provides several benches that overlook the scenic Wisconsin River. Other site amenities include picnic tables and a historic concrete shelter. The park was willed to the City, requesting it be preserved for passive recreation use.

Deerwood Glen Park

Deerwood Glen is a passive park consisting of public open space with a park shelter. The park is underdeveloped at this time due to the lack of adjacent development.

Weber Park

Classified as the only Neighborhood Playground in the City the park highlights include playground equipment built in 2011 and picnic tables.

Chapter 3

Park, Open Space, and Recreation Inventory

Table 3.1. City Parks & Amenities Inventory

Park/Facility	Location	Acres	Play Equipment	Sand Volleyball	Baseball/Softball	Soccer	Tennis	Basketball	Horseshoes	Pickleball	Boce Ball	Skateboarding	Fitness Course	Swimming	Fishing	Kayaking	Ice Skating	X-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing	Sledding	Picnicking/Tables	Benches	Band Shell	Grills	Shelters or Gazebos	Drinking Fountain	Restrooms	Community Event Space	Concessions	Open Space	Nature Trails	Hard Trails	Wading Pool	Sight Seeing	Gardening		
Mini Parks																																				
Jenkins Memorial Lookout	River Road	2.1035																			x												x			
Deerwood Glen Park	Highway 16	1.9342						x															x													
Neighborhood Playgrounds																																				
Weber Park	Weibler Avenue	2.1778	x																	x																
Neighborhood Parks																																				
Bowman Park	Broadway	5.6327	x					x												x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
Community Playfields																																				
Rotary Park	Race Street and Indiana Avenue	2.2631					x																													
Public Tennis Courts	Race Street	1.4096																																		
Community Parks																																				
Veteran's Park	Veterans Drive	7.6	x				x	x												x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x									
Special Use Parks																																				
Municipal Pool	Veterans Drive	3.4848													x																					
Public Library	Elm Street	2.8191																																		
Recreation Center	Michigan Avenue	0.7																																		
Boat Launch Ramp	River Road and Indiana Avenue	0.7235																																		
Municipal Boat Docks	River Road and Illinois Avenue	4.3042																																		
Nature Preserves																																				
Fremont Ravine		5.7119																																		
Undeveloped																																				
Prairie Oaks Park	Prairie Oak Drive	0.4791																																		

Bowman Park

As the only Neighborhood Park in Wisconsin Dells, this park has a playground, basketball court, picnic tables, benches, grills, a shelter, a band shell, restroom facilities and open space.

Rotary Park

Recently renovated this park features two youth baseball fields set up by the Little League International Field, a playground and provides spectators with a picnic shelter and restrooms.

Public Tennis Courts

Four fenced in tennis courts are located north of the High School, and are open for community use.

Veteran's Park

A new playground was built at the park in 2013, other amenities include basketball courts, fitness course, picnic tables, shelter, restrooms and grills. This park also has two baseball/softball fields that were renovated with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau and the City of Wisconsin Dells.

Municipal Pool

Located in Veteran's Park pool facilities include a wading pool, restrooms and showers.

Kilbourn Public Library

The original 1912 Prairie School Designed Kilbourn Library was a Carnegie Library, one of 1,689 built in the United States, financed by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The new library is located on Elm Street next to the relocated, old building, which is now used for offices. The library has unprogrammed open space available for recreational use.

Recreation Center

Located on Michigan Avenue, the Parks & Recreation Department shares a building with Emergency Services.

Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch)

The City of Wisconsin Dells provides access to the Wisconsin River via the Municipal Docks with daily launch fees and season passes. Off-street parking is available.

Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)

Boat slip rentals are available for dock access and are private to renters.

Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve

A nature preserve highlights a heavily wooded, deep ravine at the west end of Michigan Avenue and end short of the Wisconsin River. A passive park for the most part, a banked sledding hill is located on the east side of the ravine.

Prairie Oaks Park

An undeveloped open space in the Prairie Oaks, a platted but vacant subdivision.

Programming

The city offers a traditional package of recreational and leisure programs to the community. It is appropriately viewed as a component of a much wider array of providers within the Wisconsin Dells area. The Dells/Delton Parks and Recreation Department produces a brochure in the spring for summer activities and several flyers to advertise the fall and winter classes. A typical rotation of activities that are offered for all ages is: youth baseball, basketball, girls youth softball, swimming lessons, aqua zumba, swim team, martial arts, tennis, parent tot activities, special events, family activities, enrichment programs, senior events, adult sports and library events. The brochure is partially funded with advertisements by local businesses.

Beyond the regularly scheduled programs there are special annual events sponsored by the city, local civic groups and clubs.

A few other regular programs within the city are privately operated. The Wisconsin Dells High School Varsity staff and Youth Football Club run a 5th and 6th grade tackle football program. The Dells Area Youth Soccer Association (DAYSA) offers a variety of youth soccer programs for ages 8-16. The Dells Delton Area Hockey Association (DDAHA) provides hockey leagues, public skating and hockey at the Poppy Waterman Ice Arena(Lake Delton).



Jenkins Memorial Lookout



Bowman Park



Deerwood Glen Park (undeveloped)



Rotary Park



Weber Park



Public Tennis Courts



Veteran's Park, Municipal Pool



Recreation Center



Prairie Oaks Park (undeveloped)



Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch)
Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)



Kilbourn Public Library



Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve

3.2 PRIVATELY-OWNED FACILITIES

The City of Wisconsin Dells has several private recreational facilities. The Woodside Sports Field Complex has 6 synthetic turf multi-purpose fields, 4 synthetic turf baseball/softball diamonds, 6 batting cages, a full concession stand/retail area, 2 meeting rooms and VIP viewing area with plans of adding 2 grass soccer/multi-purpose fields.



Woodside Sports Field Complex

The Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center Dome provides an indoor venue for sporting events, including 16 volleyball courts, 10 basketball courts, up to 32 wrestling mats or a full turf softball, soccer, lacrosse or football field. The facility boasts 90,000 columnless square feet and 70 foot ceilings. The facility is also open for trade shows and conventions and is home to the Woodside Baseball Academy.



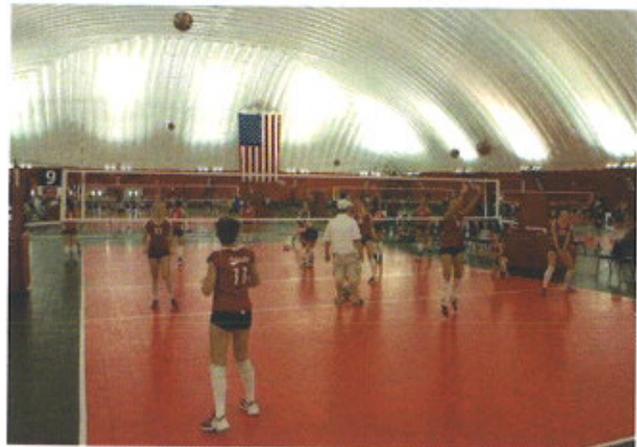
JustAGame Field House

JustAGame Fieldhouse is located on LaCrosse Street and offers 6 full length basketball courts, 10 full length volleyball courts, 4 locker rooms, concessions and sporting goods store. The facility has 94 foot ceilings and can support seating for 1,700 plus, including balcony seating.

The Wisconsin Dells Center located on River Road is a 90,000 square foot, column free, multi-purpose center. The building can accommodate up to 12 basketball courts, 16 volleyball courts, two softball fields or one full soccer field.

Other private recreational facilities in the City include various amusement parks and waterparks, hotels and resorts providing a variety of activities including swimming, zipline rides, skateboarding, horseback riding, golfing, watercraft rentals (motorized, canoe, kayak, paddle boat etc.) and other activities.

Private facilities also offer a variety of winter recreation opportunities including tubing, skiing and snowboarding. Ice hockey and ice skating facilities are provided in nearby Lake Delton via the Poppy Waterman Arena.



Woodside Wisconsin Dells Center Dome

A number of golf courses are located in the area including Trappers Turn Golf Club, Wild Rock Golf Club,

Springbrook Golf Course, Coldwater Canyon Golf Course and Christmas Mountain Golf course.

A private association operates the youth soccer program and another group of high school staff runs the youth football program. These groups have agreements with the school district and the city to use their facilities. Both groups work closely with city staff to form a unified approach to their success. The private recreation groups provide an invaluable structure and organization to these youth programs.

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center is located on County Road N west of Interstate 90/94 and provides outdoor learning and educational opportunities to youth, youth leaders and adults through programs focused on environmental and leaderships education. The center is located on 310 acres of forested land, including a 210 acre island called "Blackhawk Island."

3.3 SCHOOL FACILITIES

Wisconsin Dells High School and Spring Hill Middle and Elementary Schools- The Middle and High Schools are located adjacent to one another off Iowa Avenue south of downtown. The school district own and maintains the adjacent football field, track, tennis courts and baseball diamond.



Wisconsin Dells Elementary, Middle and High Schools

Neenah Creek Elementary School - This school site is located in Briggsville, WI. The school grounds includes a basketball court and playground.

Lake Delton Elementary School - This school site is located on Delevan Street in Lake Delton. The school grounds includes a basketball court, play equipment and picnic shelter.

3.3 LAKE DELTON AND COUNTY FACILITIES

The city coordinates with the Wisconsin Dells School District to provide a broader range of park facilities and services to area residents. The city and the school district have an agreement that allows the city to use the schools' facilities when they are not being used by the school district. The school district also allows other groups to use their facilities, but the city has first priority after the district. The school district is also welcome to use any of the park lands. This reciprocal arrangement works very well and the city/district relationship is very strong. While each entity maintains their own facilities, users show respect for the other property.

Lake Delton has many facilities likely used by Wisconsin Dells residents including: Captain Bob's Park, Kaminski Park, Lake Delton Sk8park, Lake Delton Public Boat Launch, Ralph Hines Memorial Park, Lake Delton Public Beach and Newport Park. Lake Delton also has a multi-use path along Canyon Road that extends 1.36 miles.

None of the four counties the Wisconsin Dells reside in (Adams, Columbia, Juneau or Sauk) owns or manages any park or recreational facilities within the city limits. The nearest County parks in Juneau county are located 20-30 miles northwest of Wisconsin Dells and include Bass Hollow, Riverview and Two Rivers.

3.4 REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Wisconsin Dells is in the southeastern portion of the WDNR's West Central District and is well served by regional parks and open spaces. There are variety of other park and recreational facilities within close proximity to the City of Wisconsin Dells in public

and private ownership. The following list provides the most significant facilities within the Wisconsin Dells region that residents most likely would use. It is not an exhaustive list, but provides a variety of recreational activities. For more information, contact the representative websites.

Several Wisconsin State Parks are located near Wisconsin Dells and include **Rocky Arbor State Park**, located 1.5 miles from Wisconsin Dells offering wooded campsites, hiking trails, picnic area and playground nestled in pine trees and sandstone bluffs.

Dell Creek State Wildlife Area, located in Sauk County is located 7 miles north of Reedsburg and 7.5 miles West of Wisconsin Dells on Highway H. This 2,557 acres property includes opportunities for birding, cross country skiing, trout fishing, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, trapping, wild edibles gathering and wildlife viewing.

Mirror Lake State Park, located in Baraboo is 2,200 acres and includes several picnic areas, wooded campsites and cabins in a beautiful lake setting.

Devil's Lake State Park is located 3 miles from Baraboo and offers lakeshore picnic areas, 29 miles of hiking trails, camping and variety of other amenities. In addition to Park amenities, Devil's Lake State Park is one of the State Parks along the **Ice Age Trail**. The trail winds for more than 1,000 miles following the edge of the last continental glacier in Wisconsin.

The Dells of The Wisconsin River - The Dells are a 5-mile long natural area along the Wisconsin River Corridor and showcase the natural beauty of the area with highlights that include a gorge, cliffs tributary canyons and rock formations carved into the Cambrian Standstone.

Snowmobile Trails - There are many snowmobile trails within each of the counties Wisconsin Dells is situated in. Adams and Sauk Counties each have approximately 200 miles of snowmobile trails. Currently only one trail enters the City from the northwest along CTH LL to a gas station on WIS 33. The trail is managed by the Snow Runners Trail Club.

The regional facilities provide the residents of Wisconsin Dells with the opportunity to participate in activities that may require resources of a greater magnitude than may be reasonably expected from the city. Some examples of this wide array of activities are: archery, camping, canoeing, cross country skiing, disc golf, fishing, hiking, skating and swimming. The city is well positioned to provide sites that provide day to day active recreation and small natural areas to escape from the daily routine.

Many existing, private facilities already mentioned within and nearby the Wisconsin Dells act as regional facilities drawing in residents and visitors from around Wisconsin, the Mid-west and tourists from around the world.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS OF NEEDS AND DEMANDS

- 4.1 Quantitative Analysis
- 4.2 Geographic Analysis
- 4.3 Qualitative Analysis

4.4 Regional & State Trends

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the city's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the city's existing park and recreation system are evaluated using the following methods:

- Quantitative Analysis – a comparison of existing parkland acreage and population projections versus park and recreational facility service standards, including a review of the types and amount of parkland available to City residents.
- Geographic Analysis – an analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park facilities in the city.
- Qualitative Analysis – a summary of public input regarding city parks and recreational facilities gathered through the on-line community survey.
- Regional & State Trends – a summary of the demand or trends in recreational amenities at the county and state level.

4.1 QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

An analysis of existing recreational land area is provided to determine if the recreational needs of the residents are being met. This analysis is limited to an evaluation of the space, or land, devoted to recreational use.

Currently the City is providing approximately 39 acres of parkland, not counting school facilities, county facilities, or private facilities. This translates to .014 acres of parkland per person, or 14.1 acres per 1,000 residents.

Table 4.1 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for total parkland acreage based on city population. For the purpose of calculating anticipated parkland demand, a level of service of 6 and 12 acres per 1,000 residents was assumed. Using a level of service standard of 12 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents the City currently has surplus of 7.2 acres. Assuming the population projections are correct, and the City does not add additional parkland, the total surplus will shrink to 2.7 acres by year 2040.

Table 4.1. City Park Acreage Existing and Projected Surplus/Deficit

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)				
Year	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	2,678	2,845	3,060	3,055
Total Supply (acres)	39	39	39	39
Demand (6 acres/1,000)	16.1	17.1	18.4	18.3
Demand (12 acres/1,000)	32.1	34.1	36.7	36.7
Surplus (6 acres/1,000)	23.3	22.3	21.0	21.0
Surplus (12 acres/1,000)	7.2	5.2	2.6	2.7

Table 4.2. City Park Acreage Existing and Projected Surplus/Deficit by Park Type

Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit by Type (in acres)				
Year	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	2,678	2,845	3,060	3,055
Mini-Park (ac)	3.37	3.33	3.27	3.27
Neighborhood Playground (ac)	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7
Neighborhood Park (ac)	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.6
Community Playfield (ac)	-9.7	-10.6	-11.6	-11.6
Community Park (ac)	-5.8	-6.6	-7.7	-7.7
Special Purpose Park (ac)	No Standard Applicable			
Nature Preserve (ac)	No Standard Applicable			

Table 4.2 summarizes the current and projected supply and demand for parkland acreage by park types, using the lowest service standards as described in Appendix B.

The results of Table 4.2 indicate a projected surplus for all park types through year 2040 except for community Playfields and Community Parks. The deficit in community playfield acreage is expected as the city currently has only two community playfields and one Community Park. It is important to note that the school-owned property is not included in this analysis. The school-owned property does indeed play a vital role in filling the community playfield needs of the residents of Wisconsin Dells; however, because access and maintenance are not regulated by the city these facilities were not included in the analysis in Table 4.1 and 4.2. Nor were county or private recreational facilities mentioned previously.

Although the total acreage of community park and recreation lands is an easy indicator of the presence of parks and recreation space, it is not the only indicator of whether a community is able to meet the park and recreation needs of its residents. **The National Recreation and Park Association advocates that the location of parkland, and the types of recreational facilities offered on that land, are just as important as the total acres of parkland.** A community with a lot of parkland, but few recreational facilities, is less likely to meet the needs of its residents than a community which has a lesser amount of parkland, but has a larger variety of recreational opportunities. Fortunately for Wisconsin Dells residents they have access to a

wide range of recreational facilities as summarized in Chapter 3. Section 4.2 provides additional analysis on the location of city parks.

4.2 GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location of park and open space facilities in relation to the city's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. The National Recreation and Park Association advocates that all residents should live within a 1/4-1/2 mile of some type of public park or open space. Map 2 in Appendix C indicates areas of the City that are not currently served by a city park; that is, they do not fall within a 1/4-mile service area of any city park. The map also illustrates service areas based on park type, including 0.5-miles for neighborhood parks, 1-mile for community playfields, and 2-miles for community parks. Areas currently zoned for single- and multi-family development are highlighted on the map.

The map indicates the following deficiencies in the location of parkland:

- A portion of the single family homes off of 9th Avenue and Grouse Court at the northeast side of the city are currently underserved by parks of all sizes.
- Most residential housing areas are covered by Community Parks within 2 miles of the service area.
- The future single-family residences at Trappers Turn Golf Club and Mobile Park located on Commercial

- Avenue are/will be underserved by Community Playfields, Neighborhood Parks and City Parks.
- Single Family residential off of Bowman Road are underserved by Community Playfields, Neighborhood Parks and City Parks.
 - Single Family residences along S. Gourse Lane, 9th Avenue, Waubeek Road, State Highway 23 east of State Highway 16 are underserved by Neighborhood and City Parks.
 - The majority of residences in Downtown Wisconsin Dells are within the 0.5-mile radius of a neighborhood Park and/or City Park, however not all City Parks are created equal, Jenkin's Memorial Lookout is a passive park, inaccessible to citizens with disabilities.
 - A portion of the city is under served with community playfields. However, as previously discussed, the school grounds provide additional community playfields which aid in serving this deficiency.
 - Both Deerwood Glen Park and Prairie Oaks Park are undeveloped, although Deerwood Glen has an open air shelter. The existing and planned neighborhoods around these parks will be underserved by recreational facilities until these parks develop.

4.3 QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

As part of the update to this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department administered an on-line community survey to poll resident's opinion regarding city park facilities and recreational programs. The following is a summary of responses to key questions. A complete copy of the survey results are located in Appendix A.

General Satisfaction

- 82% of respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with city park and recreational facilities (parkland and equipment).
- 78.8% of respondents indicated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with park and recreation programs (e.g. recreational classes). 10.3% had no opinion.
- The majority of residences rated the condition and maintenance of parkland and facilities as good or excellent. Higher responses in the fair or poor response chose included the condition of the Recreation Center and Aquatic Facilities

Safety and Accessibility

- 81.4% of respondents indicated they feel safe when visiting a city park.
- The majority of respondents expressed concerns over teenage population and perceived illegal activity at Bowman Park.

General Use - Facilities (excluding winter months)

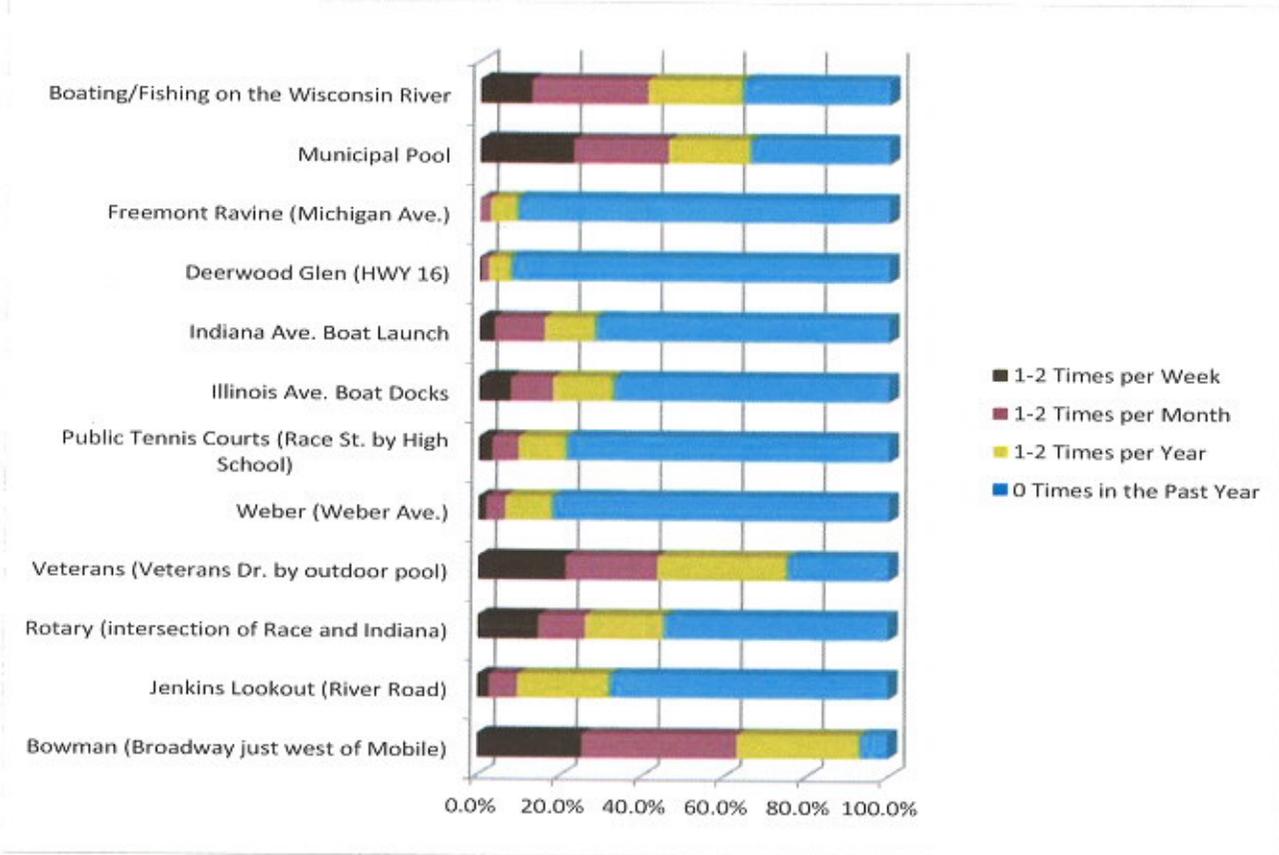
When asked to rate the top six most commonly used activities or facilities, 70.3% of respondents indicated they most commonly used playground equipment, followed by the Municipal Pool (54.1%), picnic facilities (grills, shelters, etc.) (45.6%), Riverwalk (44.6%), ball diamonds (35.5%) and basketball courts (26.4%).

General Use - Parks (excluding winter months)

Figure 4.1 (page 22) provides a summary of the general use of city parks. Excluding winter months, the most frequently used city park and recreational facilities include, in order:

- Bowman Park
- Municipal Pool
- Veterans Park
- Boating/Fishing on the Wisconsin River
- Rotary Park

Figure 4.1, Survey Responses Rating the Frequencing of City Park Use Excluding Winter Months:



General Demand

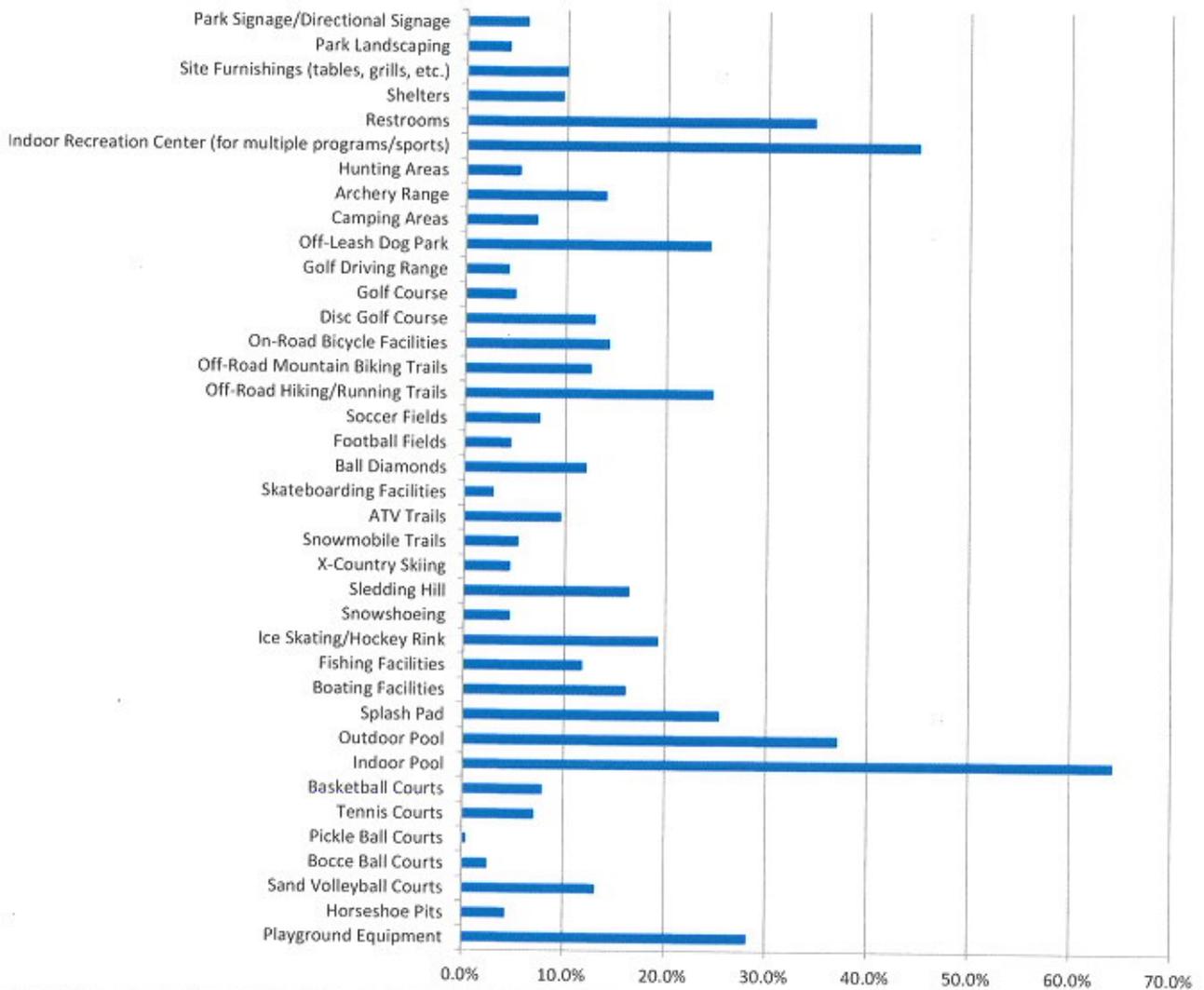
- 76.7% of respondents indicated they felt the city currently has enough parks to meet the needs of their household.
- Respondents were asked to indicate the level of priority for developing new park and recreation facilities as the city continues to grow. The top three responses to the “high priority” category included Nature Areas (48.6%), Community Parks (34.6%), and On-Road Bike Routes or Lanes (32.1%).
- 58.7% of respondents indicated the city’s current variety of recreational facilities, equipment, and programs met the needs of their household. 22.2% were not sure.
- When asked to rate the top six recreational facilities they would prioritize future investment in maintenance and development of respondents indicated in order: indoor pool (64.3%), Indoor

recreation center (for multiple programs/sports) (45.0%), outdoor pool (37.1%), restroom (34.6%), playground equipment (28.2%) and a Splash pad (25.4%). Refer to Figure 4.2

Funding

- 52.1% of respondents would support an increase in park and recreation user fees to cover the cost of maintaining or building park and recreation facilities. 19.4% were not sure.
- 42.9% of respondents would support an increase in property taxes if the additional taxes were used to cover the cost of maintaining or building park and recreational facilities. 22.3% were not sure.
- 57.2% of respondents would support an increased percentage of their existing property taxes allocated for park and recreational facility maintenance and development. 22.7% were not sure.

Figure 4.2. Survey Responses Prioritizing Future Investment in the Maintenance and Development of the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities:



- 77.3% of respondents would consider a tax-deductible personal gift to the Friends of Port Parks & Rec 501(c)3 Foundation. 17.0% were not sure.

Importance of Park and Recreational Facilities

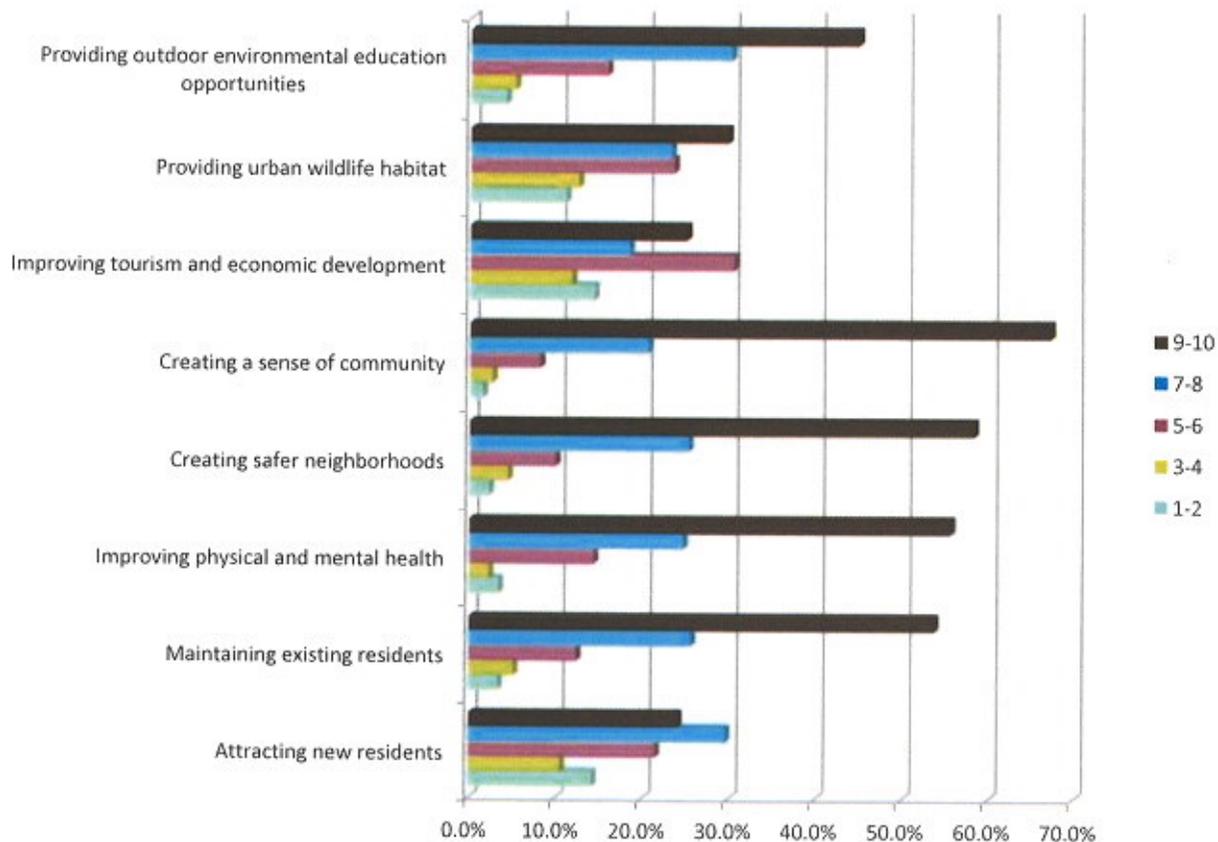
- Respondents were asked to rate the importance (1=not important, 10 = very important) they place on the city's parks and recreational facilities/programs regarding several aspects of the community. The results are shown in Figure 4.3.

4.4 REGIONAL & STATE TRENDS

Insights from the Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2011-2016.

The goals listed below are recommended by the Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to help provide Wisconsinites better access/awareness to outdoor recreation opportunities and to help improve public health and wellness:

Figure 4.3, Survey Responses Rating the Importance of the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities/Programs with regard to:



- **Public Access to Land and Water** – One part of this goal is awareness; there is access to land and water, but many times people don't know about it. Maps and signage that are easily readable would help increase public awareness. The other part of this goal can be realized by providing additional sites with access to the water for boating, fishing, and swimming.
- **Promote Outdoor Recreation as a "Get Fit" Initiative** – Educate the public about the health benefits of walking, biking, nature study, etc. and develop programming and recreation facilities with health agencies.
- **Create Urban Parks and Community Green Space** – Create connected urban parks and community green spaces to improve quality of life and increase opportunities for recreation in urban areas.

According to the SCORP, in Wisconsin there is a projected **stable future demand for low-intensity recreational activities such as walking, gardening, viewing nature centers, sightseeing, bicycling, and picnicking (listed in order of popularity)**. Since these activities should experience stable growth in the future, opportunities to engage in these activities should be created and maintained.

Due to changing demographics, social trends, and other movements, the SCORP is projecting **increased demand for (generally) high-intensity recreational activities in the future such as kayaking, visiting dog parks, climbing, paddle boarding, playing outdoor soccer, RV camping, and BMX biking**. *Activities such as hunting, in-line skating, skateboarding, softball and downhill skiing are projected to have a decreased demand in Wisconsin in the future also due to the changing demographics' preferences.*

CHAPTER 5

GOALS OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

- 5.1 Mission Statement & Long Range Vision
- 5.2 Long Range Vision
- 5.3 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

This chapter describes the Mission Statement of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Long Range Vision for the City's park and open space system. The long range vision describes the city's park and open space system as we wish it to be in 2020, or sooner. The mission statement and long range vision are the foundation of this plan – the goals, objectives, and policies that follow are all intended to help realize the City's mission and vision. This CORP includes four overarching goals:

Goal 1: Complete Park and Open Space System. *To plan and provide a complete system of parks, facilities and open spaces to allow the entire resident population the opportunity to participate in a wide range of both active and passive, indoor and outdoor, recreational activities.*

Goal 2: Natural Resource Protection. *To preserve environmental corridors for the protection of the vegetation, drainage and wildlife resources they provide and for enhancing the social, economic, recreational, and environmental quality of the City.*

Goal 3: Cost Effective Implementation. *Rising development costs and budget challenges will directly affect the success of this plan. Therefore the City must consider a variety of funding options (e.g. grants, donations, endowments, taxes, fees, fundraising, etc.) in order to implement recommended improvements.*

Goal 4: Public Involvement in Park Planning, Design, Development, & Use. *Parks and recreational facilities are a resource for all residents and visitors of the City to enjoy.*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Dells and Village of Lake Delton Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide area residents with a diverse selection of leisure service programs for all. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the community through the development and maintenance of new and existing parkland in addition to providing a variety of quality recreational programs.

LONG RANGE VISION

The Wisconsin Dells park and open space system serves every neighborhood within the city with either a fully developed neighborhood park or school park within a 1/2-mile walk or less. Community parks and special purpose parks provide opportunities for special events activities and unique recreational facilities, including those that support tourism and attract new businesses and residents to the community. Environmental corridors, including woodlands, creeks, ravines, and drainage ways provide opportunities for passive recreational use and the City provides opportunities for public uses along the Wisconsin River. All neighborhoods have safe travel and connectivity for pedestrians. A combination of on-and off-road bicycle trails links the city's parks to adjacent neighborhoods, the downtown, and the Riverwalk. The city provides a variety of park facilities and recreational programs to meet the varied needs of existing and future residents. The city provides an aquatic facility and recreational/community center for use by all residents.

Goal 1, Objective 1: Develop new parks and recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by existing City or School parks.

Policy 1: Most residents should be within a 15-minute walk or 1/4 to 1/2-mile from a public park or open space area and the City strives to maintain a minimum of 12 acres of public park and recreational land per 1,000 residents.

Policy 2: The City requires that residential developments dedicate parkland or provide recreational facilities as part of the approval of new developments in accordance with local subdivision ordinances (e.g. dedicating 5% of the total plat area for usable recreation purposes). In such special cases that this is not possible, the City may require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development equal to 5% of the market value of the total plat prior to subdivision for the purpose of the purchase or development of land to be used for public recreational uses serving the neighborhood. Refer to Section 21.07(10) of the City's Code of Ordinances.

Policy 3: The City encourages "special purpose" parks, plazas, and open spaces within commercial and industrial areas, particularly in the Downtown, that provide outdoor gathering places and aesthetic enhancements in otherwise developed environments.

Policy 4: The City may use its Official Mapping powers to dedicate future park areas or recreational trails in advance of development in order to prevent the loss of lands to other uses.

Policy 5: The City may explore alternative means of acquiring lands required for parks and open space to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. state and federal grants, non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).

Policy 6: The City may promote the development of parks or the allocation of resources to those projects where the benefited parties donate time or funding to assist with the implementation of the project.

Goal 1, Objective 2: Improve interconnectivity, awareness, and use of City parks and open spaces throughout the community.

Policy 7: New park and recreational facilities should be centrally located within the neighborhoods that they are intended to serve and shall be of adequate size to accommodate the demand put on the park.

Policy 8: The provision of safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts.

Policy 9: Sidewalks, or multi-use paths, should be provided on at least one side of all residential streets and a complete system of on- and off-road bicycle trails should connect existing and new neighborhoods to existing and future City parks, commercial districts, and regional recreational amenities.

Goal 1, Objective 3: Provide a diversity of multi-seasonal and multi-use recreation facilities and programs.

Policy 10: The City's park and recreation system provides a variety of recreational facilities and programs to serve the year round diverse needs of residents of all ages. Recreational facilities shall be made available to each household in the City.

Policy 11: The City coordinates municipal recreational programming with the Village of Lake Delton, private recreation providers, the school district, and volunteer sports organizations to provide programming to meet youth and adult recreation needs and to avoid duplication of services or facilities.

Policy 12: The City coordinates park and open space planning and improvements with neighboring communities, counties, and the State to enhance regional recreational opportunities and to prevent duplication of facilities where such duplication is not necessary.

Policy 13: As new parks are created, expanded, or altered the City will consider the development of new

recreational facilities not already found within the same neighborhood or within the community in order to diversify the types of recreational facilities found throughout the entire City.

Goal 2, Objective 4: Preserve environmental corridors as permanent open space areas.

Policy 14: The City should preserve areas for park and open space uses where development is difficult due to unstable soils, steep slopes, surface waters, poor drainage conditions, flooding, or other similar conditions.

Policy 15: The City should make every effort to purchase property, or portions thereof, that becomes available along the Wisconsin River, or elsewhere in the City, which is deemed a high value site for recreation or natural resource protection in order to promote greater public access and use of the Wisconsin River.

Policy 16: The City may consider the development of utilities, roads, stormwater management and telecommunications facilities within parks, or through environmental corridors, provided practicable steps to minimize disturbances and safety hazards to these areas are taken.

Policy 17: The City encourages using environmental corridors and open space areas to link community parks, including allowing the development of compatible recreational uses and facilities (e.g. trails, shelters, etc.) within environmental corridors. The City discourages active recreational uses from locating in environmental corridors if they are determined not to be conducive to preservation of the environmental corridor.

Policy 18: The City practices the use of native landscaping within City park and open space areas and encourages the removal of invasive species from park lands and habitat restoration along the Wisconsin River.

Policy 19: The City will design parks and facilities to minimize the environmental impact and control access to the resources so that the very thing being preserved does not deteriorate due to over use or misuse.

Goal 2, Objective 5: Use park and recreational lands as a means to promote environmental education and community history.

Policy 20: The City encourages public awareness of environmental and cultural resources by installing interpretative signage or historical markers within City parks. The City encourages the use of park facilities for outdoor environmental education.

Policy 21: The City encourages the restoration and maintenance of historic places or structures as unique enhancements to the community's recreational resources.

Goal 3, Objective 6: Coordinate public park and open space lands with school facilities.

Policy 22: Where feasible and otherwise consistent with City park needs, locate neighborhood playground and community playfields adjacent to or in coordination with school properties to prevent duplication of facilities where such duplication is not necessary to meet the recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhood and school.

Goal 3, Objective 7: Maintain existing park and recreational facilities.

Policy 23: The City will maintain a capital improvements plan to replace worn or damaged recreational equipment and facilities.

Policy 24: The City will keep all foliage well-groomed in City parks, including trimming of trees and shrubs, disposal of unwanted plants, and mowing grass. Maintenance of vegetation, removal of trash, and cleaning of facilities will occur on a regular and timely basis as determined by City staff.

Policy 25: The City will make every effort to repair all equipment or items after they have been vandalized within a reasonable time period given budget or staffing constraints.

Policy 26: The City will make every effort to repair or replace all playground equipment that becomes broken or otherwise becomes a safety hazard within a reasonable time period given budget or staffing

constraints. Upon learning of any defective playground equipment the City may post notice of the park closure or playground equipment closure until such time as corrective measures can be taken.

Goal 4, Objective 8: Provide safe park and recreational facilities with access for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.

Policy 27: Facility development and installation must be reviewed with safety in mind, adhering to accepted standards prior to installation including applicable Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards, American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards, or American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Policy 28: To the extent possible improvements/maintenance to existing facilities will be designed to meet the requirements of the American's With Disabilities Act (ADA). Any new park facilities should be designed to meet ADA standards unless environmental limitations are present or similar ADA compliant facilities are present within an existing park (i.e. duplicate facilities).

Policy 29: The City discourages land uses adjacent to existing or planned park and recreational areas that will pose a public safety or access hazard for residents using the park or recreational facility unless mitigation efforts can be installed to address potential safety and access hazards.

Goal 4, Objective 9: Coordinate future improvements to park and recreational facilities with residents, property owners, civic groups, City departments, and other agencies.

Policy 30: The City encourages volunteerism and public/private partnerships in maintaining and developing future park and recreational facilities. Citizen involvement in all levels of planning and design of park and open space areas is encouraged.

Policy 31: The City may create an endowment fund to provide residents an opportunity to make a tax-deductible charitable gift to assist with the maintenance and development of the City's park and recreational facilities.

Policy 32: The City will review and update this Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.

COMPLYING WITH THE AMERICANS W/ DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA, enacted in 1990, clearly states the right of equal access for persons to local government services, including parks. On September 15, 2010 the Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2010 Standards included new provisions for accessible design for recreational facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, fishing and golf facilities. Similar to when the original 1991 ADA Standards were adopted for public buildings, a community is required to complete a self-evaluation of their recreational facilities for ADA compliance by March 15, 2012. Those communities with 50 or more full or part-time employees are also required to develop a Transition Plan, which identifies what corrective work will be completed, when it will be completed, and the individual responsible for the corrective work. Any new recreational facilities designed, constructed, or shaped after March 15, 2012 are subject to the 2010 Standards. Any alteration (not simple maintenance, but something that changes the way the site is used) must make the element altered accessible and must create an accessible path of travel through the site or facility to that element.

There are some fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared to indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails or swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. A good rule of thumb for the City to follow is that anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience anymore difficult than what occurs naturally. Mother Nature does not have to comply with ADA, but the City does.

CHAPTER 6

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARK AND REC. PLANNING

- 6.1 Existing Park Facilities
- 6.2 New Park Facilities
- 6.3 Recreational Trails
- 6.4 Other Recommendations

The quantitative, qualitative, and geographic analysis discussed in Chapter 4 reveals the need for improvements to existing facilities, as well as, the acquisition and development of new sites for future recreational use. It should be noted that some of the recommendations may require considerable cooperation with others, including the citizens of Wisconsin Dells, local civic and business associations, neighboring municipalities, county and state agencies. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations of this plan are divided into four major sections: (1) recommendations for existing park facilities; (2) recommendations for new park facilities; (3) recommendations for recreational trails; and (4) other recommendations. Many of the specific recommendations discussed in each section are identified on the Potential Parks and Recreation Facilities Map¹. Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof.

The time line for completion of the recommendations are within the next five years, or the life of this plan. Due to budgetary constraints it is unlikely that all of the recommendations within this chapter will be implemented in the next five years. Maintenance and improvement projects will be prioritized on an annual basis by the Parks & Recreation Director in conjunction with the City's Parks & Recreation Committee and the

City Council as part of the city's annual budget. Many of the recommendations regarding locating new park facilities will be coordinated with the annexation or approval of development proposals; therefore, the timing is much more variable.

6.1 EXISTING PARK FACILITIES

While adding new park facilities is important to enhancing the City's park system, the City maintains a commitment to maintaining existing parks in satisfactory condition and providing sufficient funding for operations. Such maintenance and operations include providing sufficient budget for the following:

- Maintaining and replacing existing facilities and equipment, as needed,
- Maintaining the landscape at existing parks in good condition,
- Providing sufficient resources in support of recreational programs,
- Maintaining a safe and accessible environment at all City parks.

As new lands are added to the park system, the City will need to budget additional funds for maintenance and operations.

Some of the recommendations identified within this section are remnants from the 2009 CORP. These recommendations have been highlighted (*) where they occur. Items identified as needs are **bold**, versus items that were identified as wants.

¹ This map indicates approximate or preferred locations for new park and recreational facilities. More detailed planning and analysis may reveal other opportunities.

Jenkins Memorial Lookout

- **remove select trees to improve view of river**
- **evaluate opportunity to connect the lookout to the existing Riverwalk**
- **add amenities such as a gazebo, benches and picnic tables**
- **evaluate and plan for better ADA access**
- **replace park sign and improve wayfinding to the park**
- **replace railing and or sidewalk along river road**

Deerwood Glen Park

- **install park sign**
- **create a plan to develop the park when population is present to support use. Amenities to consider: neighborhood playground, half-court basketball, sand volleyball**

Weber Park

- **install two small pavilions***
- **manage existing vegetation by removing hazardous trees and selective pruning/removal of others (including tree stumps)**
- **install a swing set***
- **bring the playground up to meet ADA standards***

Bowman Park

- **remodel/replace existing "stable building" with a new restroom and storage building***
- **design and install new ADA accessible paths throughout the park**
- **design and install park informational signage**
- **design and install a second shelter**
- **install new site furnishings including; grills, benches and picnic tables**
- **replace deteriorating basketball hoop equipment**
- **stripe and mark ADA parking stalls**
- **design and install ADA playground**
- **install security lighting**
- **re-establish lawn areas**

Rotary Park

- **evaluate options for additional parking, design and installation**
- **adding drinking fountain**
- **addition of batting cage**
- **reaffix all missing signage**

Public Tennis Courts

- **add benches for spectators**
- **update/repair existing court surfacing***
- **add a drinking fountain**

Veteran's Park

- **design and install a comprehensive and accessible trail system including a walking trail through ravine and access to the backfield**
- **additional amenities including an additional shelter, picnic tables**
- **update fitness equipment along walking trail**
- **evaluate additional parking options, design and installation**
- **screen dumpster area**
- **upgrades to ball fields including: lighting, scoreboard replacement and additions**
- **add a drinking fountain**
- **study the feasibility of a new equipment storage facility on site**

Municipal Pool

- **study the feasibility of a new indoor pool facility in the place of the existing outdoor pool**

Kilbourn Public Library

- **evaluate the best use of the open space**
- **create a site plan which may include the following: defined soccer field, small pavilion, benches, outdoor classroom/educational component, area for festivals and gardens with additional shade trees**

Recreation Center

- **consider remodeling and converting existing recreation center to a public works/maintenance garage and study the feasibility of a new recreation center**

Boat Launch Ramp (Indiana Avenue Boat Launch) and Municipal Docks (Illinois Avenue Boat Docks)

- **upgrade all dock facilities and provide adequate ADA access**
- **provide boat and fish cleaning station/facilities**
- **evaluate alternatives for additional parking**
- **automate payment for fee collection and place funds in dedicated account for future**

improvements

- consider the addition of security gates and cameras

Fremont Ravine Nature Preserve

- plan trail connection in association with future planned, recreational trail
- install park signage
- evaluate the potential for a small parking area
- manage existing vegetation by removing hazardous trees and selective pruning/removal of others for sledding hill

Prairie Oaks Park

- meet with developer to dedicate park land or fee in lieu
- consider planning and designing improvements when there is adequate population to support use

From this list of improvement projects the city's Park and Recreation Committee developed the following top five improvement priorities:

1. New Restroom Facility at Bowman Park
2. New Recreation Center
3. ADA Upgrades to all parks
4. Traffic flow/parking and enhanced/new maintenance area at Veteran's Park
5. Jenkins Park pavilion and/or gazebo

6.2 NEW PARK FACILITIES

The city should develop new park and recreational facilities in areas that are under served by existing facilities, where future city expansion is expected to occur, or where the acquisition of park and open space will advance the goals and policies of this plan or the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Within Existing Underserved Neighborhoods

Section 4.2 identified several existing neighborhoods that are under served by park and recreation facilities.

- Most residential housing areas covered by

Community Parks within 2 miles of the service area. The exception is a portion of the single family homes off of 9th Avenue and Grouse Court at the northeast side of the city are currently underserved by parks of all sizes. While underserved, Prairie Oaks Park has been set aside for development of a City Park. An addition of a community playfield and/or park in the northeastern region would improve service to this residential neighborhood.

- The future single-family residences at Trappers Turn Golf Club and Mobile Park located on Commercial Avenue will be underseved by Community Playfields, Neighborhood Parks and City Parks; however; they have direct access to a golf course.
- Future Single Family residential development land for the area off of Bowman Road will be underserved by Community Playfields, Neighborhood Parks and City Parks. Future development should require land be set aside for park facilities to better serve future residents in the area.
- Single Family residences along S. Gourse Lane, 9th Avenue, Waubeek Road, State Highway 23 east of State Highway 16 are underserved by Neighborhood and City Parks. Park land should be set aside within the development or off River Road.
- The majority of residences in Downtown Wisconsin Dells are the 0.5-mile radius of a neighborhood Park and/or City Park; however, not all City Parks are created equal, Jenkin's Memorial Lookout is a passive park and is inaccessible to citizens with disabilities.
- A portion of the city is under served with community playfields. However, as previously discussed, the school grounds provide additional community playfields which aid in serving this deficiency.

Within Planned Neighborhoods

The future growth of the city is guided by the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Planned Land Use Map (Figure 2.3, page 12) sets forth the desired development pattern for the city. The planned land use map identifies most of the south eastern portion of the

municipality as residential and pockets to the west of US-12 west. The future land use plans identifies areas for open space protection but does not identify specific locations within the residential areas that should be dedicated for parks. In addition, the comprehensive plan is currently due for an update. When this occurs more details regarding the need for additional city parks may emerge with changes to the Planned Land Use Map. Given the map does not include areas which have been annexed since 2003 it may be more appropriate to refer to the City's Zoning Map when considering locations planned for residential and conservancy uses.

Acquisition projects will be implemented through donation, dedication, purchase, or a combination thereof. Timing of the completion of these projects is difficult to estimate since new park development generally coincides with the construction of adjacent residential development. Most projects have been given a medium to long time frame; however park development should occur as opportunities present themselves, preferably before or at the time new neighborhoods are platted.

6.3 RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The city should conduct a study to define a preferred network of on- and off- road bicycle facilities that would form a ring through the community. Routes should connect residences to city parks, schools, library and commercial districts. Most segments of the route could be established with simple route markers; however, the city should consider additional painted lanes along roads with higher levels of traffic, and where possible, the construction of off-road multi-use paths.

In addition to promote community health and alternative modes of transportation, the network of bicycle routes could serve to promote the city's park facilities. Results from the on-line community survey indicated that many residents were not aware or did not use many of the city's parks. By linking the parks together through a network of bicycle routes the city

can increase awareness and use of the existing park facilities.

The city should brand the network of bicycle trails through a unified system of route markers and route maps within parks, and brochures available through the city's website. Use of the system for physical activity could also be augmented by installing outdoor exercise equipment within each park along the bicycle route.

A multi-use trail should connect Lake Delton CTH A and Clara Drive. A designated route to the park would aid in connecting city residents to this existing resource.

6.4 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Other recommendations include:

- A centralized headquarters for recreation offices and equipment storage and maintenance
- Adding a dog park in the city
- Installation of sand volleyball courts
- Installation of youth soccer/football fields (general purpose athletic fields)
- Complete an ADA study of all city parks to identify barriers to accessibility and a transition plan to address any corrective measures
- Review Section 21.07(10) of the City's Code of Ordinances concerning dedication of public sites and open space to determine if any amendments are necessary to meet the long-terms needs of the city.

CHAPTER 7

IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Tools and Mechanisms to Fund Implementation

This chapter summarizes tools and mechanisms that the city can use to fund implementation of the park and open space recommendations discussed in Chapter 6. It also provides a summary of average facility cost estimates.

7.1 TOOLS AND MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance and operational expenses of the City's Parks and Recreation Department is generally funded

through property taxes and user fees. As the park system grows the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

Grant Programs

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially the

Table 7.1, Park and Recreation Grant Funding Programs

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<p>Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program</p> <p>The Stewardship Program was established in 1989 to preserve Wisconsin's most significant land and water resources for future generations and to provide the land base and recreational facilities needed for quality outdoor experiences. These goals are achieved by acquiring land and easements for conservation and recreation purposes, developing and improving recreational facilities, and restoring wildlife habitat.</p> <p>This is an umbrella program that funds the following grants:</p> <p>Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). <p>Urban Green Space (UGS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land or easements in urban or urbanizing area to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. <p>Urban Rivers (UR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy land on or adjacent to river flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. <p>Acquisition of Development Rights Grants (ADR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. 	50% local match required	1-May	DNR

Funding Programs By Category	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<p>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This fund is used to implement projects that are identified by both the local and the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In general, land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible LWCF projects. LWCF does not include the "nature-based outdoor recreation" restriction that the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs do. 	50% local match required	1-May	DNR
<p>Recreational Trails Program Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails. May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON. 	Up to 50% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Payments are reimbursements on costs	1-May	DNR
<p>Urban Forestry</p> <p>Provides technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan; Communities needing worker training; and Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory. <p>Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for Village tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance</p>	50% local match required. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000.	1-Oct	DNR
<p>Lake Protection and Classification Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of property or a conservation easement Restoration of wetlands Development of local regulations or ordinances Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000). Lake protection projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, or any other projects that will protect or improve lakes. 	25% local match required. \$200,000 maximum per project.	1-May	DNR
<p>Recreational Boating Facilities Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities. Also includes purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemically treating Eurasian water milfoil. 	50% local match required	Established quarterly	DNR

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Table 7.1 provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by municipalities. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in Table 7.1 should be verified with grant providers prior to seeking grant funding.

Community Fund-raising & Volunteer Groups

Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fund-raising efforts to assist with these costs, and they may also be able to marshal volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgement on a plaque or sign at the site.

501(c)3 Foundation

The City could set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund works like a permanent savings account. The amount individuals give, which is the principal, is never spent. Only the interest income is spent, thereby providing a continual source of monies. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to either bequeath money or provide ongoing donations to the city's park system, with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are typically tax deductible under federal and state law. According to the survey completed as part of this project, 77.3% of respondents would support efforts by the city to establish a park endowment fund.

Parkland Dedication and Impact Fees

Continue to use the regulations contained in the City's Code of Ordinances, Section 21.07(10), concerning parkland dedication requirements.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

As part of a broader plan to redevelop an area, the city can use tax increment financing to assist with parkland acquisition and development. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TIF district can be used to pay for, generally the costs of constructing public buildings can not be funded with TIF.

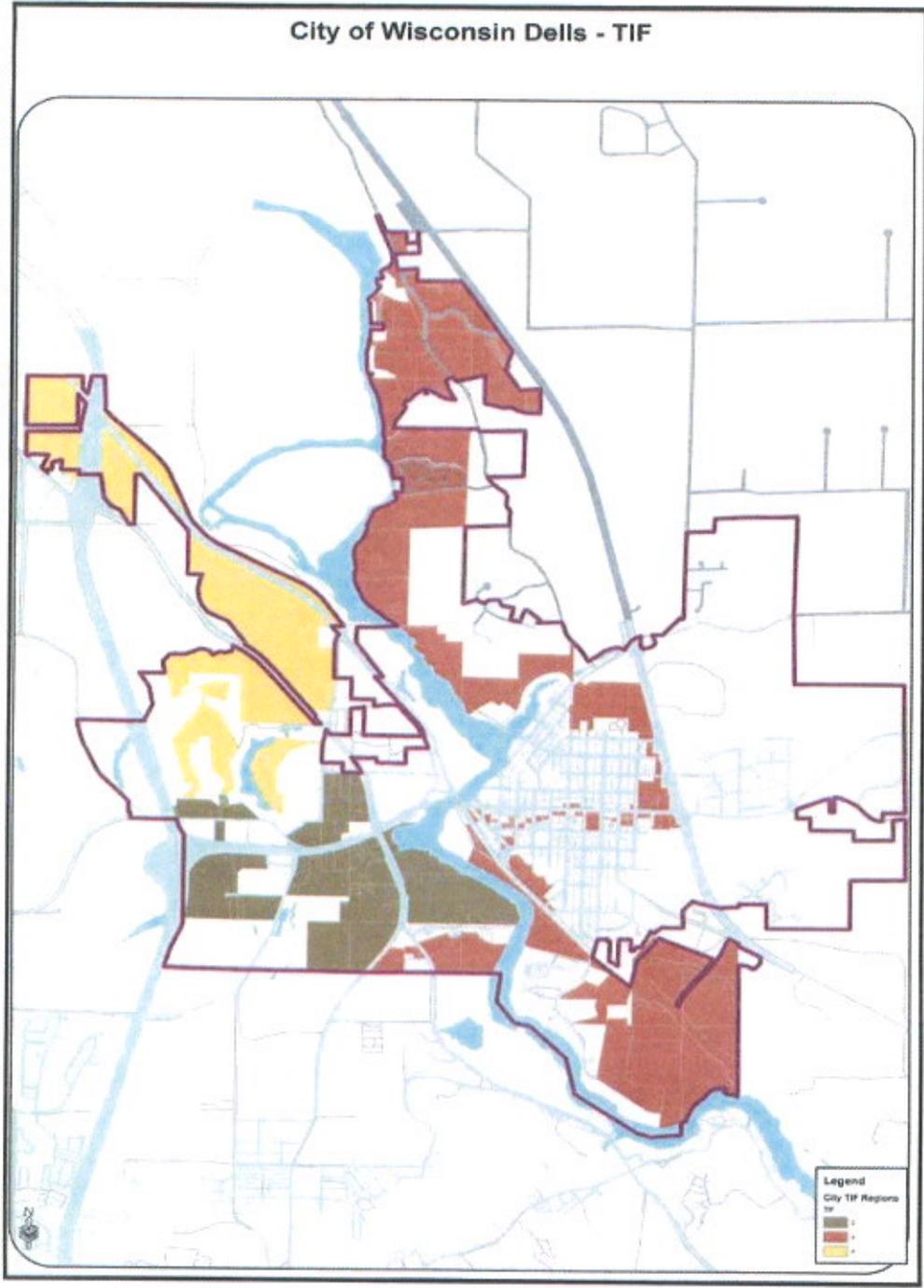
The city currently has three active TIF Districts (refer to Figure 4.1). TID #2, which was created in 2001 and includes many of the commercial properties on the west side of the Wisconsin River, along State Highway 13 and west of State Highway 12. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 11-20-2022.

TID #3, includes a large number of parcels stretching across the community and includes existing parks of Veteran's Memorial and Bowman. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 7-31-2021.

TID #4, includes areas to the north, east and south of Rocky Arbor State Park. The TID's project expenditure period runs through 7-31-2021.

Parkland acquisition or trail development projects must be an approved project expenditure within an already existing TIF district or amended as an approved project expenditures. In addition, under state statute 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as the use of the funds supports and benefits the TID. Regional bike trails that run through and beyond a TIF district are one example of a park and recreation project that could be funded with the use of tax increment both within the district's boundaries and within a 0.5-mile radius.

Figure 7.1 Wisconsin Dells TIF District Boundaries

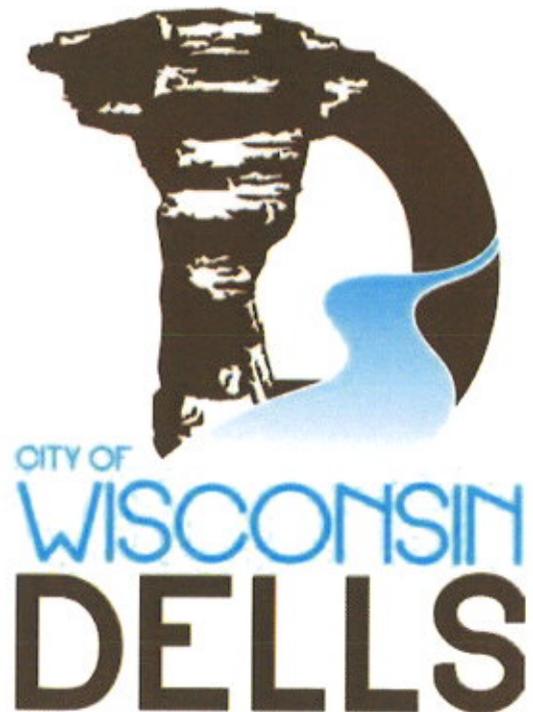


APPENDIX A

SURVEY RESULTS

To encourage public involvement in the update of the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan the Parks and Recreation Department conducted an on-line public opinion survey. The survey was conducted between February 8 - March 22, 2015. The survey was developed by the MSA with input from the Park and Recreation Board. Availability of the survey was accomplished through the following initiatives:

- Links to the survey on the City and Parks and Recreation Department websites
- Newspaper press releases (Wisconsin Dells Events)
- Posts on the Department's Facebook page
- Email blasts to current City mailing list
- Email blasts to local businesses and civic groups
- Link on cover of Summer/Spring Parks and Recreation Guide
- Announcement at Community Supper
- School District automated message
- Article in March newsletters

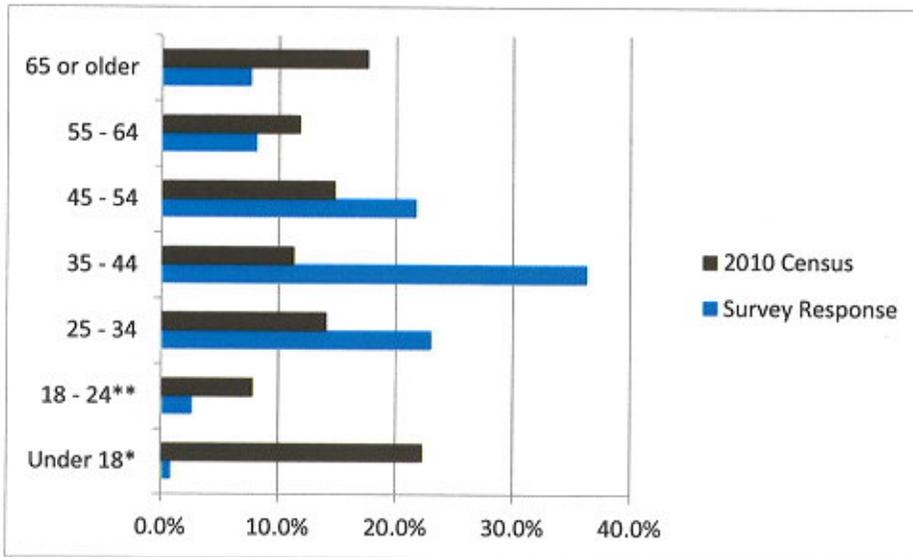


In total, 387 individuals completed the survey representing households with a combined population of 1,298. This is a relatively high response rate given the size of the community; however, 139 respondents (38%) live outside Wisconsin Dells' city limits. This number is significant, though of these 139 respondents, 107 (74%) live in communities surrounding Wisconsin Dells which are served by the Parks and Recreation Department. Thirty-seven respondents (10%) indicated that they live outside of Wisconsin Dells and the communities surrounding Wisconsin Dells.

The survey also represents a diverse group demographically, though certain groups were under- and over-represented. Survey respondents between ages of 25 and 34 made up 81% of responses while this group only makes up 40% of the demographic living in Wisconsin Dells, according to the 2010 United States Census. The figure depicting respondents' answers to their corresponding age group compared to Census data is shown as the response to Question 1 on Page A-2. The figure also shows that those under 24 and those 55 and older were under-represented in survey results.

QUESTION 1:

What is your age?

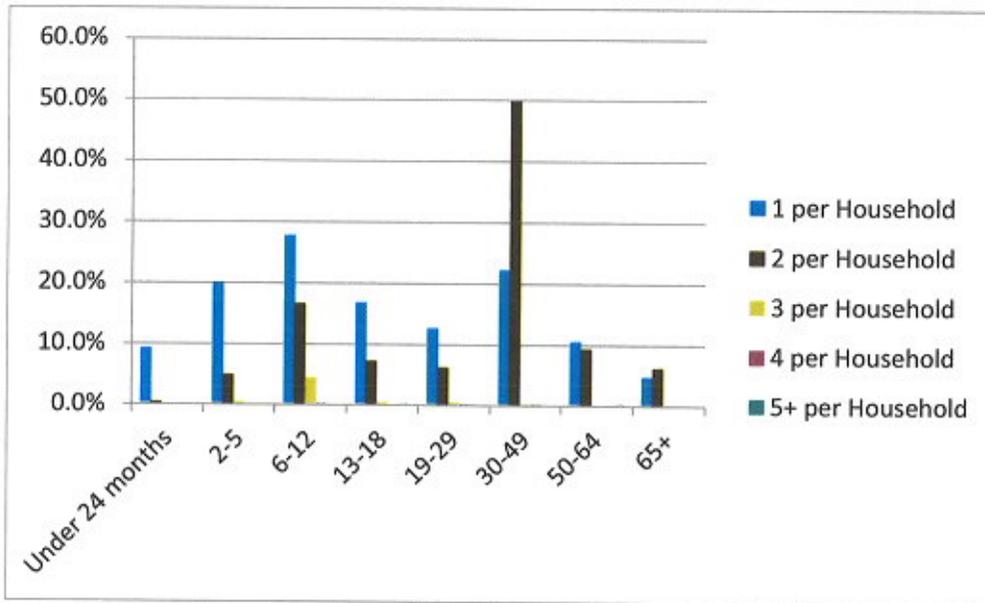


*Age cohorts were different in the survey as compared to the US Census data. The under 18 group from the survey is compared to the under 20 age group from the 2010 US Census.

**The 18-24 age group from the survey is compared to the 20-24 age group from the 2010 US Census.

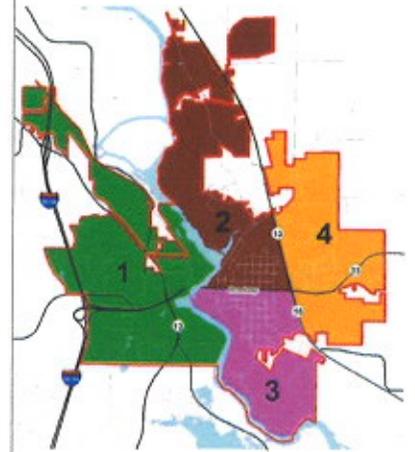
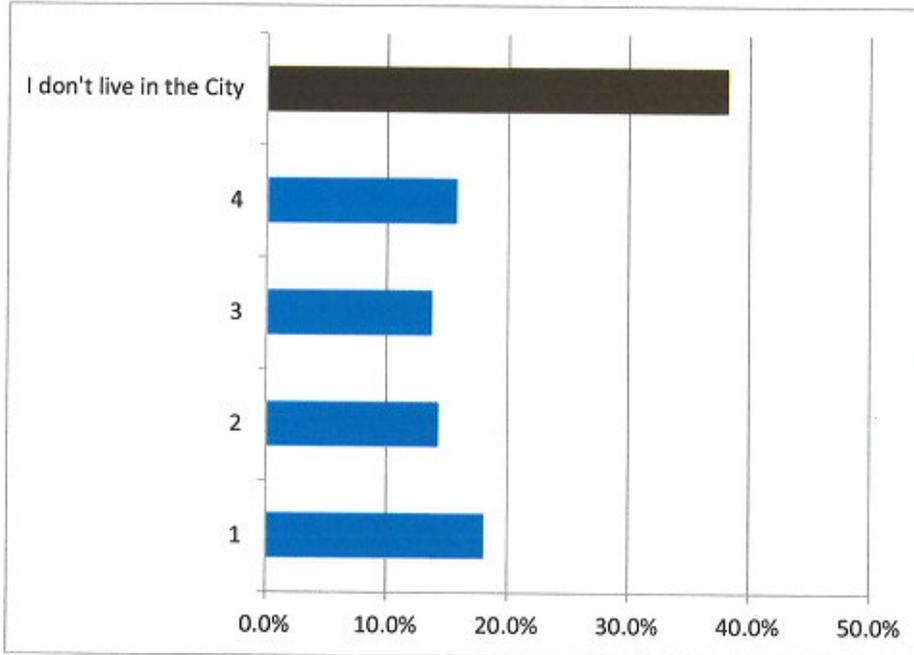
QUESTION 2:

Please indicate the number of people in your household, including yourself, who fall within the following age ranges.



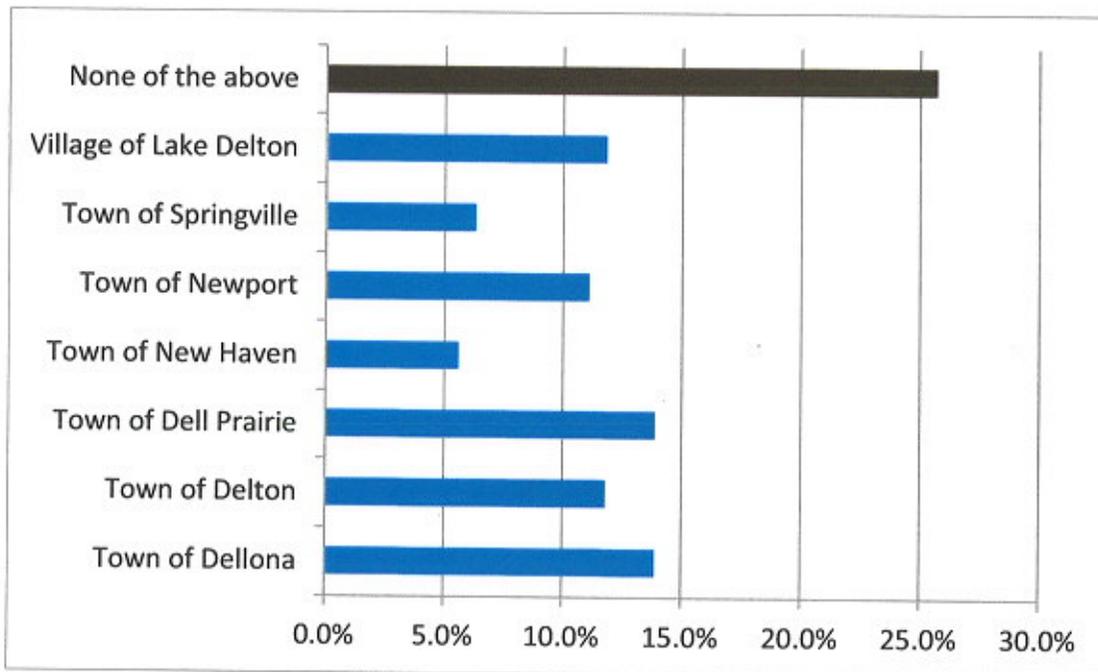
QUESTION 3:

Indicate the location of your primary residence using the image below.



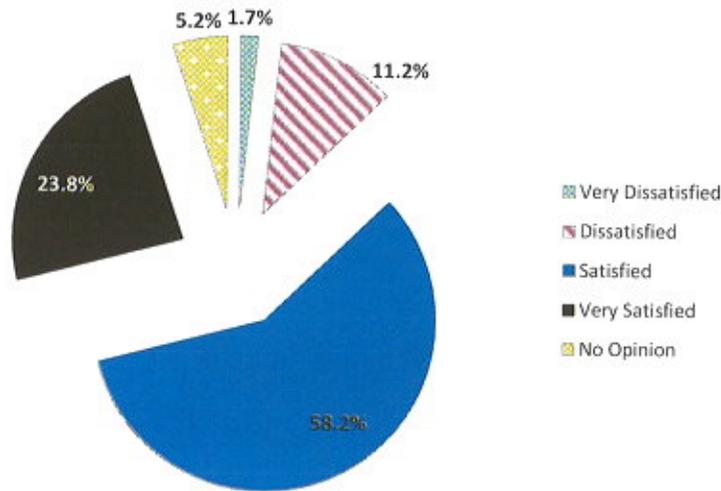
QUESTION 4:

If you answered "I don't live in the City" to question three please indicate the location of your primary residence from the additional choices below.



QUESTION 5:

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the park and recreational facilities (e.g. parkland & equipment) in Wisconsin Dells?



COMMENTS

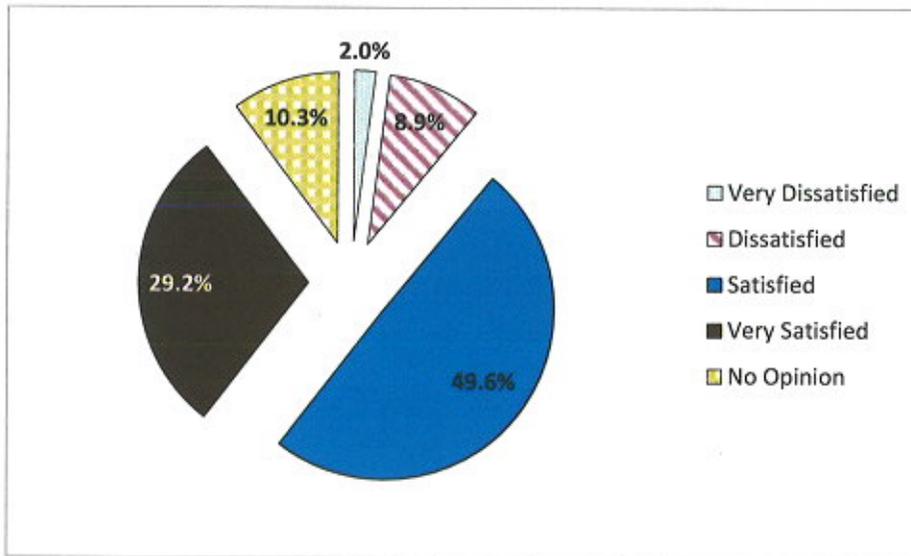
1. We need an indoor swimming pool.
2. The ones that I know of are ok - but it is hard to compete with all the resorts, water parks, and tourist attractions.
3. Some work could go into some of the equipment. As you already know, the outdoor pool, some of the outdoor bathroom could be remodeled. The Bowman bathroom is absolutely disgusting and could use tons of work.
4. Take family uptown to parks, enjoy very much.
5. Love the updates you are doing to the area parks. I especially love the recent updates to Veterans Park. A little more play stuff at Rotary would be nice. Also updating Kaminski would be great.
6. Other than the rec center everything is very nice.
7. We came from Madison and the program here is great! Love it.
8. I wish Parkmaster Flex would organize some adult activities, such as beer pong in the park at dark tournaments.
9. I would love to see more green space to encourage shaded areas/ fresh water/ family community/ pockets of nature/ vertical gardens/ local art on building sides downtown in between buildings.
10. Kids love the summer programs.
11. Some items could use a coat of paint.
12. Don't really use the parkland and play equipment.
13. For many years the pool has been lacking everything.
14. Does not always seem like safe place to go.
15. As one of the original children, my son has enjoyed every aspect of the Kidz Klub program. The counselors are very hands on and quite personable.
16. Need something closer to Lake Delton or in Lake Delton.
17. Need a Dog park.
18. The actual equipment is fine at Bowman Park. Unfortunately, the perceived drug activity and the profanity frequently present on the basketball courts keeps me from taking my kids to this park. We much prefer the park by Pirate's Cove.
19. Would like more softball fields available.
20. Outdated & hidden within the community bowman park is great, but that is really it.
21. We wish there was more inclusive equipment at Bowman Park, or any park, for people with disabilities and more benches around the playground. MORE landscape flower gardens in the park with classes and children involved in planting and maintaining them. A community garden area for vegetables. A portable potty or toilet facility at Weber Park. We live in Oaklawn and walk almost daily to the park but the lack of facilities keeps the visits very short. Added trails through the wooded area there would be fun. There seems to be less attention to maintenance there and it has trash strewn around at times. Lots of spider webs on the playground equipment. A safe place to fly kites.
22. We do have grandchildren that we take to the parks for fishing and picnics.
23. Everything is very aged.

COMMENTS (continued)

- 24. The overall options for the kids seem to be geared toward the very young. The equipment also seems to be inadequate for the money the City brings in with room tax etc....
- 25. Dog park?
- 26. I wish there were more parks/playgrounds to take young children. I am glad WD uses wood chips on the floors of playgrounds, and not shredded rubber/tires, which is toxic"
- 27. Pool is gross!
- 28. Not enough for kids 2-6.
- 29. This has never seemed to be a priority of the City which is unfortunate. Although we are a tourism-based economy, it is important to prioritize a sense of community through parks, etc. It seems as though the City wants to depend on private support for things that are typically publicly funded. Bowman Park is a good example of this. Why was fundraising on the part of the Girl Scouts required to get the project done? By following the news paper, it seems that the Park and Rec Director tries to prioritize improvement projects only to be denied by the City Council or Committees. The city pool project is a good example of this. For years we have read about proposed improvement efforts for the pool by the Director only to be somewhat denied by the council. Now it is taking a private donation to have serious talks about a new pool facility. Non-baby boomers don't view their tax dollars for such things as poorly spent. They believe in quality life and are willing to pay for it regardless of political affiliation. This belief differs from the previous generation and is a major shift in thinking. When one visits other cities in Wisconsin, ones without the economy of the Dells and ones without PRT monies you can find beautiful and publicly funded park and rec facilities.
- 30. The pool is very outdated.
- 31. Need a pet friendly park!!!!
- 32. There's not enough for the preschool age group.

QUESTION 6:

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with park and recreational programs (e.g. recreational classes) offered in Wisconsin Dells?



COMMENTS

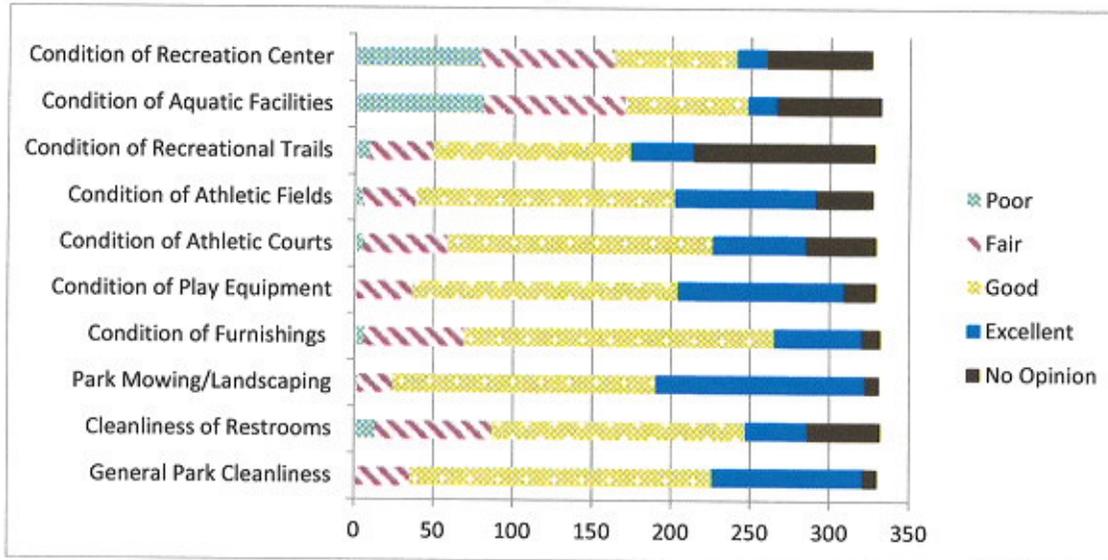
- 1. There should be more activities for older adults...like Tai Chi or yoga, swimming or water aerobics for seniors.
- 2. Wisconsin Dells offers Recreational Program!?!? This is news to me...where would I find out more information on them...
- 3. There is no actual gym for the public to use. Classes don't work for everyone.
- 4. The programs are wonderful with the exception of the cost. I've heard many complaints around town regarding the cost of the programs offered (prices going up continuously).
- 5. I don't think it is fair that because we don't live in the city limits, we have to pay more for some activities. If the kids belong to the Wisconsin Dells School Dist they all should be equal.
- 6. Awesome staff and great communication, the kids love it.
- 7. The program has grown immensely since I was in school. I looked at the book for this year, and it's three times the size it was when I attended Lake Delton Elementary school.
- 8. Have played in Softball leagues since out of high school. Enjoy the people and fields.

Appendix A Survey Results

9. I have enjoyed them all except the 13-14 baseball last year. I also thought some of the basketball stuff was too advanced for the grade 1-3 age group. Since some had no basketball experience more very basic drills should have been done first.
10. Not enough for 5 year old.
11. Would love to see more community members sharing their talents in connecting nature/ art/ fitness/travel/ health/ etc in active lifestyle? Making outings very public and meeting in downtown spaces/ working with local businesses for activities?
12. Lots of choices.
13. I was disappointed that most of the summer programs for 6 year olds are during the day. When both parents work full time there is no way we can attend anything before 5pm. I would like tennis lessons later in the evening for the kids...
14. But to expensive.
15. The variety of programs keeps it fresh.
16. Need to offer more recreational programs for every age group and get the word out on how to sign up for the programs offered.
17. Would like to see more programs offered for younger children at later hours. Challenging to make it to programs that occur during the day because of working full time.
18. They need more adult activities -- such as classes for women (kickboxing, exercise).
19. I would like program to stick with times stated and not be cut shorter than relayed in brochure.
20. I only wish we had more time in our lives to experience more programs.
21. Never seen anyone at the park working.
22. I feel the opportunitis for 2 to 5 year olds is very limited. And we were disappointed with the gymnastics program. One teacher. Too many kids. Arc daughter was hurt two consecutive weeks because the teacher did not have control of the situation. I want to utilize the dells park n rec, but baraboo has better programs for that age range.
23. The soccer last year was a little rough. No refs, organization or leadership. I know it will get better though.
24. We have gone to Baraboo for 3-5 year old summer recreation programs. (Red Ball Nation). The newsletters and sign up sheets on the Dells community web page does not clearly state ages for all activities.
25. I just started tumbling tots and think it's great!
26. I really enjoyed the adult activities but I admit I seemed to have missed a few events: I either did not see the advertising or see the e-mail for the adult activities such as aerobics, etc.
27. Not enough for young kids, almost everything is geared for grade school and up. And the only young programs seem to be offered only during the day when we work...we can't all be stay at home moms who can take our kids to toddler tumbling classes in the morning. We end up paying way more and driving all the way down to Middleton one night every night in order to take both our kids to a tumbling class.
28. In the last few years they offer many more programs and I think it is great because the programs appeal to so many people with different interests
29. Do NOT like the classes being held in the old fire station though.
30. I have only gone to one program at the parks and Rec., which was the free dinner in February 2015 at the middle school. I thought is was very nice, the food was excellent and so was the music was very good. I really enjoyed myself.
31. MORE landscape flower gardens in the park with horticulture classes and parents and/or children planting and maintaining them. This could be combined with a tree city initiative or the sunflower/honeybee initiative. A community garden area for vegetables. Year round ice skating availability. Pottery and ceramics classes with an art studio. It could have an artist in residence program or a co-op schedule for someone to run it. Drop in area for renting sewing machines, pottery wheel, kilns, weaving loom. I often see looms and tools free for organizations on Craigslist. My husband can teach sculpting and ceramics classes. Fiber art classes like spinning yarn, dyeing fiber, knitting, weaving, quilting, crocheting, there is a large fiber community and very little to unite them with classes or yarn stores. I can teach fiber arts. Art classes for kids. Sewing classes and design classes for kids. Gymnastics classes, the private studios are cost prohibitive for most kids in the area and the Tot tumbling class is always the same activities and never advances. For the cost it's not worth it or fun past the first few sessions. Music classes or a community instrumental band or chorus. Adults and children both!!
32. Seems the program is to myopic in the way activities are planned.
33. They need to do more things on a weekly basis.. Putore of the revenue back into the community.
34. I haven't taken a class yet. I do wish there was an Adult Tennis League available.
35. There needs to be more organization. Also, there needs to be explanation of the game! My first grader was in basketball and still, at the end of the session, had NO idea what the point of the game was.
36. I wish some of the programs were a little cheaper or went longer for the price we pay. We pay the non-resident fee because we do not live downtown. We also have four children and would love for them to be in more activities but because of the prices we can't afford a lot of the activities.
37. The department and services have grown much and we appreciate all the options for kids.
38. There's not much my very active 2 year old can take part in other than tumbling tots

QUESTION 7:

How would you rate the following characteristics of the City's park system? Please use the comment box to describe any concerns with the following characteristics.



COMMENTS

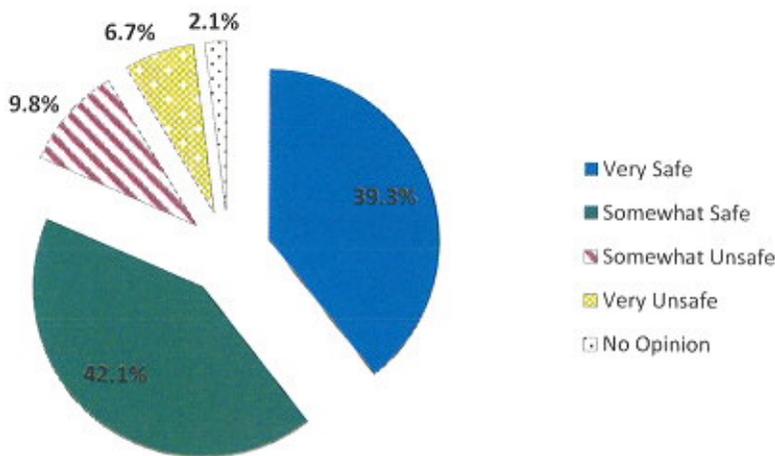
1. The restrooms are smelly, dirty !!inside the center is always cold , the mats are dusty...
2. Veteran's Park is great!!!
3. Wish the bathrooms in Bowman were updated.
4. Outdoor pool is crumbling apart.
5. I really wish there was a dog park and more walking trails. I heard rumor or a walking trail out to chula I would use that all the time. Wish the Canyon would be opened up. Also there is no where to bike. Would be great to have a place for locals and tourists to bike. Biking is huge in Wisconsin.
6. Need better aquatic facility & Rec. Center.
7. I'm not familiar with rec center in town. I would like a list of all the parks & visit them each to further judge on what I think makes park a great park(art/ nature/ fitness/ fresh water access/ bathroom space/ green space/ history/ tree shade/ picnic space/ bicycle & walk friendly/ trails. Would love to see parks/ green space link/ connect together to encourage safety& fun curiosity for increased pedestrians& bicyclers (like islands throughout the town).
8. Need more regulation size baseball fields.
9. Let's take care of the community first and the tourists second please.
10. I was very happy to hear that Mr. Gussel is donating to a pool for the city. It was be a great place to take the kids. I was glad to hear it would be used for swim lessons during the school year to add to the PE class.
11. I am interested in any "dog parks" in the area. I know with all our open space, this may sound silly, but I would love to socialize my dogs.
12. Not sure if the Concrete warehouse on Michigan is the "Rec Center" you are referring to. If it is, then it's not very good overall.
13. What rec center?
14. The condition of the existing pool and recreation center is poor. This is due to the age of both. The department does a great job working with what they currently have with the aquatic facilities and recreation center though, but both are very outdated.
15. I am not aware of any recreation trails that any community member can use nor am I aware of the rec center- which building is that?
16. It would be nice to have a big park with many grilling stations, but its hard when the only time we can use them this town is turned over to the visitors.
17. Kaminski Park is usually very soggy during soccer season-really the only time we are there.
18. The pool needs a MAJOR upgrade, especially the locker room areas, and especially for the price of a season pass. We live in the waterpark capital of the America, yet we have one of the saddest public pools I've ever seen. My family can by season passes to Noah's Ark for the same price as a family pool pass, and there's way more to do at Noah's Ark. The only reason we buy pool passes is so we can all go swimming after swimming lessons if we choose. Otherwise, for the amount of work it is to get both kids ready for an afternoon of swimming, we usually choose Noah's Ark. I'd much rather spend a couple of hours at the public pool with less people, but we could use a much larger/nicer pool.
19. I just moved here from Appleton, WI last year at the end of August. I have not used anything yet.
20. The mowing and maintenance is fine. I used to be a groundskeeper for a town and park district. The outfields where we play soccer are very uneven and needed rolled last year. More plantings and flowers please!
21. Can we get a gym and weight room?
22. Athletic baseball fields in Lake Delton are in poor shape.
23. Rec center is a garage, freezing cold for two to four years old to be without shoes for tumbling. Public pool is way too cold as well but we love having an outdoor pool available. Swim teachers and lessons are great but cold. bowman park always full of rude teenagers and garbage. Need restrooms at

COMMENTS (continued)

- captain bobs, hockey facility not always open.
24. Obviously the pool is something that is being addressed and the park and recreation center is not a modern facility.
 25. Aquatics center could use updating. It would be great to have a place where young and older kids could swim together. It is hard when you have a baby/toddler and a child who wants to swim. You have to be in two separate places to accommodate that and limits it the enjoyment/use for the kids. Also the current recreation center is acceptable for its current use but you could probably have more programs running at once in a larger space or a space with more defined rooms.
 26. It's just a big old warehouse. Pretty cold in the winter. Love that it has the big open space though.

QUESTION 8:

How safe do you feel when visiting a City park? Please use the comment box to describe any safety concerns, particularly if you mark "Very Unsafe".



COMMENTS

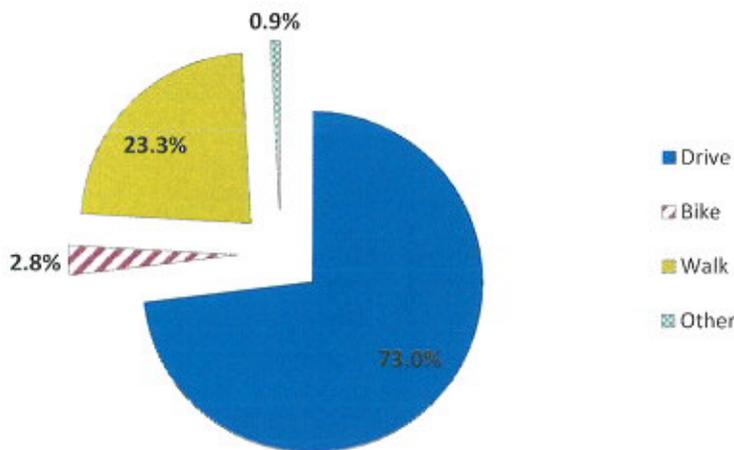
1. Especially during the day.
2. It should be no smoking at the family park, close to playground!!!!
3. The shelter at Bowman Park is often a meeting place for people that are not there for park & rec purposes and makes me uneasy sometimes when there with my child.
4. Too many people come here to smoke weed. Especially Bowman. In high school, people would show up to Bowman park for fights, to smoke, to trade for things that are illegal for the high schoolers, and smoke weed.
5. Can be some shady people on the basketball courts.
6. It all depends on the season, time of day and what else is going on at the park
7. I need to visit more but I would look for safe lighting/ proper way finding signage/help call notice for those that notice suspicious behavior or maintenance needed
8. Not safe in evening. Would not want kids going unsupervised even during daytime hours. Have heard nasty language and witnessed inappropriate behavior especially around basketball courts at bowman.
9. The known drug dealers around Bowman Park is enough for me to stay away.
10. Bowman Park gets a little scary in the summer.
11. The type of people that hang out @ Bowman Park is scary on occasion.
12. I don't like to take my kids to Bowman Park because of all the teenage thugs that seem to hang around there.
13. Because of the older kids that sit and hang out at the playground.
14. Bowman.
15. Depends on what park. Bowmen not so much, Captain Bob's Very. I live 2 blocks from Bowman and will drive to Captain Bob's'
16. Basketball courts can make families with younger children feel unsafe depending on what kind of crowd is there.
17. Bad teenagers hang out here. Lots of transcend people around.
18. It depends on what kind of crowd is playing basketball at bowman park.
19. This doesn't have so much to do with YOU; this is a crazy world and you have to be prepared.
20. A lot of older kids who interrupt the play of younger kids, especially at Bowman Park. Witnessed more than a few fights and a lot of swearing from the pavilion where they hang out.
21. Bowman Park = Needs policeman walking thru it. What do you think the guys on the basketball court are doing? And why do you think the older kids hang there? Duh!

COMMENTS (continued)

- 22. Drug sales in park.
- 23. Depends on the time of day. Afternoon is great. Anything at night...no way
- 24. Young clowns are starting to accumulate there again.
- 25. Several bad experiences with teenagers and young adults using profane language, overtaking play equipment, fights, possible drug activity.
- 26. I frequent Bowman Park. There have been groups of older kids screwing around there. It didn't seem like a real safety issue, but I tried to keep my 2 yr old soon away since they were acting and talking inappropriately.
- 27. I feel very comfortable in all of the parks except for Bowman.
- 28. People lingering near and around the play structure that don't have children always gives me the creeps, doesn't matter what park.
- 29. Seems like a group of teenage kids like to hang near the shelter at Bowman Park in the Summer. They should be moved along rather than allow them to sit and trash talk and carve up the tables and posts.
- 30. During the day is always good. In the evenings, especially Bowman Park, is usually occupied by teenagers-young adults often acting loud, swearing, congregating and making it a less than pleasant experience for families and children.
- 31. Night time can be scary because of teens hanging out at the park.
- 32. Police need to keep a better eye on what's going down in the parks and the times !! After hour drug deals and underage drinking ...
- 33. Bowman park after dark is very scary. Even during the day sometimes, it seems unsafe.
- 34. Bowman park has some rough kids playing basketball and loitering in the shelter after school. Deters many locals from using that park.
- 35. There are many non-Dells people that utilize the parks in the summer time which I know intimidates some residents but that is part of having public facilities.
- 36. Seems to be a hangout for a crowd who uses inappropriate language, drinks, and does drugs.
- 37. Drug deals going on in bowman park make me feel somewhat unsafe.
- 38. Rotary park makes me nervous to play at when there are baseball games going on. I think there is a net back there but when you are walking out to the playground there isn't much protection against flying balls. And making a smoking ban in parks. I hate being on the swing and having people smoke in the awning and having it all around you while the kids are playing.

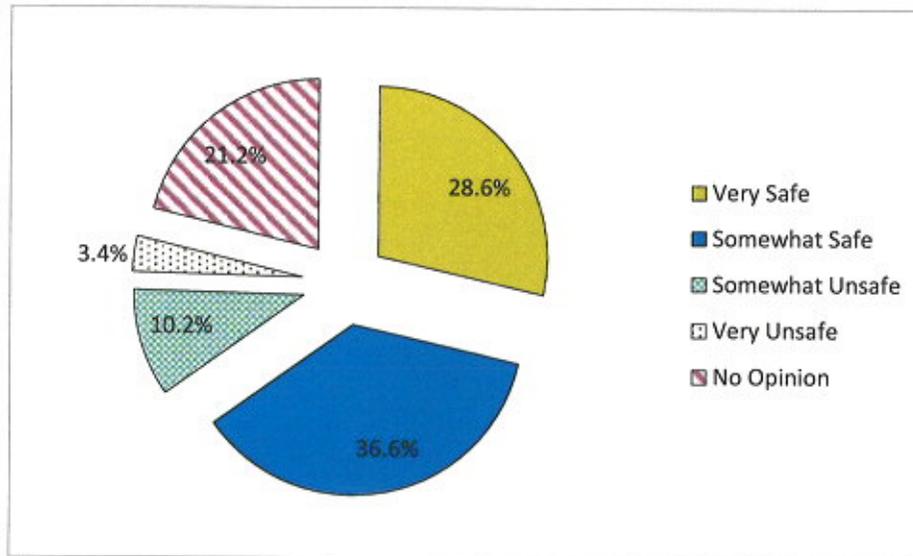
QUESTION 9:

How do you most often get to the parks in Wisconsin Dells?



QUESTION 10:

How safe do you feel walking or biking to City parks? Please use the comment box to describe any safety concerns, particularly if you mark "Very Unsafe".



COMMENTS

1. Some of the drivers don't obey the traffic rules, but it usually seems that is during the tourist season.
2. When working, I walked to the Bowman Park and back every lunch hour. Never felt unsafe.
3. When ever I bike or walk to city parks, people think I am a foreigner and yell at me. I once had a J1 student start circling me like a shark on his bike asking to give me a ride and what country I am from and wouldn't go away.
4. Accessing most City parks requires crossing Broadway.
5. Safe if downtown. We live on ninth very Unsafe no where for kids or dogs to bike or walk. Wood side is great for the kids to play soccer wish they sold season passes for kids to practice.
6. Lake Delton's roads are very narrow & don't often have sidewalks. I won't let my kids walk or ride their bikes to the park.
7. Need to test it further with your help we should do a test walk/ bicycle outing & invite locals on a "walk& bicycle to your city parks scavenger hunt"?! Start& finish map to follow/ partner up& build teams/ involve all ages& pets/donated fresh local& seasonal produce + water donated for start& finish park locations... To inform/ educate/ encourage local contribution/ share city park goals/ needs/ learn locals gifts/ resources/ assistance/survey local's opinions further.
8. Would Never let my kids walk to the park!
9. Tourists are always a concern as you never know who is visiting.
10. City needs more sidewalks.
11. Too far.
12. Live just outside official city limits, so walking/biking not effective for small children.
13. We don't walk but I would not have safety concerns
14. With all the traffic that comes through the Dells especially in the summer time, I have a concern with kids on bikes riding on the road.
15. There aren't any sidewalks to some of the parks in Lake Delton!
16. No sidewalk access from Oaklawn subdivision to downtown Dells without going through the cemetery. No biking access from Oaklawn subdivision to the nearest sidewalk past the cemetery. The sidewalk should extend in front of the cemetery down to the nearest road. Foot traffic and biking through the area is pretty heavy and we have to ask on the side of the highway for awhile. A trail from Oaklawn subdivision through to the schools or Deerwood Glen would be amazing. We could walk to school or the park if there was a safe way through the area without walking the highway.
17. The City is not very bicycle friendly
18. Except at evening/night.
19. Never have.
20. Wouldn't want to walk to rotary park, bad neighborhood with the rentals and loose dogs.
21. Busy roads to cross to get to bowman.
22. There really is not a lot of places to bike or walk except for in the city.
23. No bike trails. No sidewalks.... This is the reason for driving!
24. I use a trailer for my bike and with not being able to bike on the sidewalk I have to use the bike lanes and for using a trailer with my kids bike lanes on the main street are very narrow. and then when cars are parked crooked it makes me have to go into traffic to get around them. Also having those pedestrian signs closer to parks. I have to cross Broadway to get to Bowman park and there is always tons of traffic out there in the summer and a lot of people still don't stop to let you cross. Or maybe those flashers like they have by the river walk would be more visible.
25. Feel unsafe due to lack of bike trails

QUESTION 11:

Do you, or any member of your household, have any accessibility concerns within any of the following park or recreational facilities? Please use the comment box to describe.

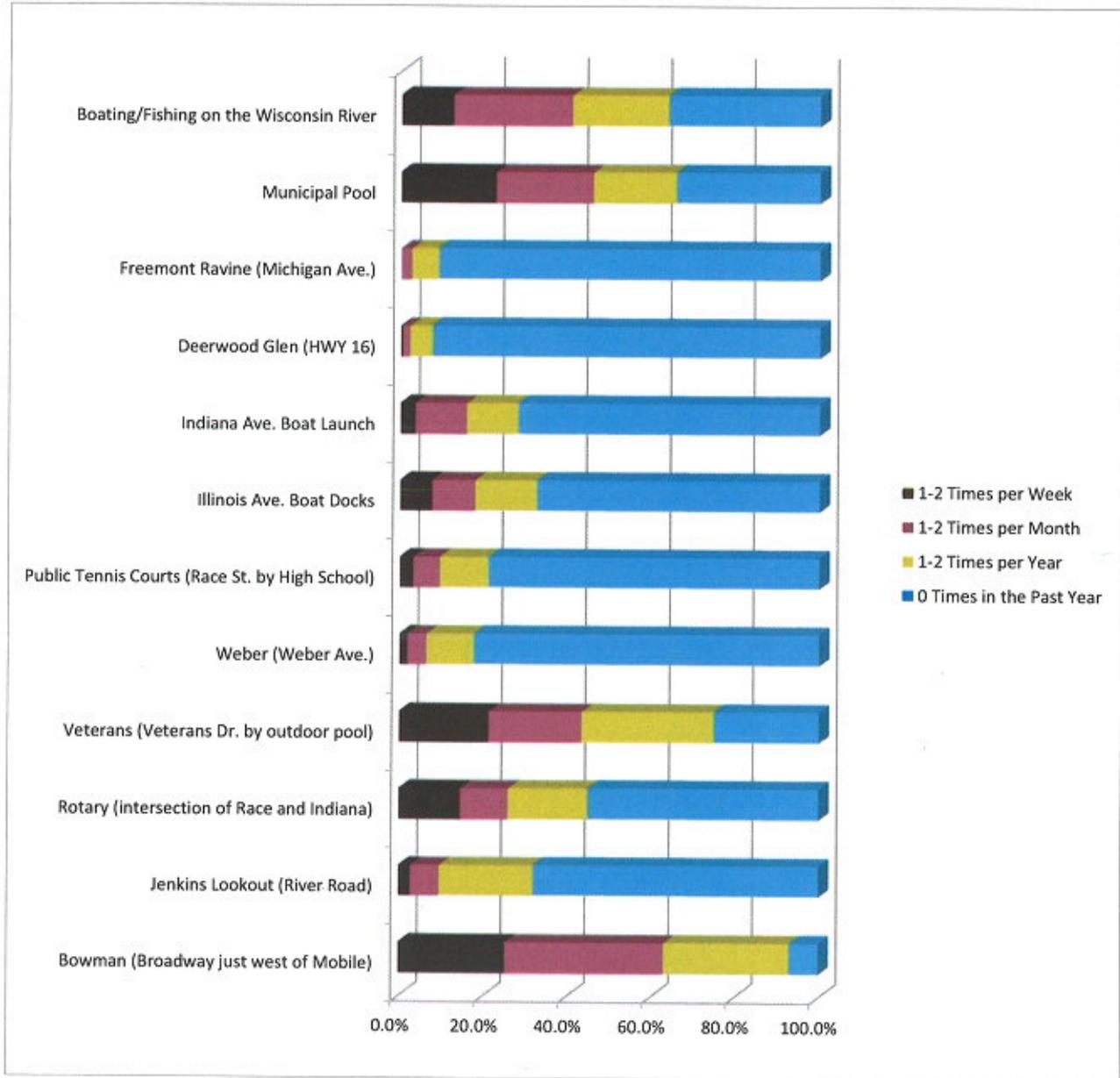
Park Space/Recreational Facility	Respondents who answered "yes"
Veterans (Veterans Dr. by outdoor pool)	9.4%
Illinois Ave. Boat Docks	7.1%
Municipal Pool	6.4%
Rotary (intersection of Race and Indiana)	6.2%
Recreation Center	5.6%
Freemont Ravine (Michigan Ave.)	4.3%
Weber (Weber Ave.)	4.1%
Deerwood Glen (HWY 16)	3.9%
Indiana Ave. Boat Launch	3.8%
Public Tennis Courts (Race St. by High School)	3.1%
Bowman (Broadway just west of Mobile)	2.7%
Jenkins Lookout (River Road)	1.4%

COMMENTS

- When there are out-of-town/state baseball games at Veterans Park, it is difficult to park for using the pool.
- Veterans Park needs night security cameras!!
- Boat launch is a bit difficult to use. Need a better way to direct boats to get in and out. Parking gets tight on busy days.
- Bowman - The bathrooms - The kids coming to smoke and trade illegal items. Veterans - The bathrooms - They should be open more often! During the family race thing in the Dells last year, I took some kids to the park, one had to pee and the bathrooms weren't even available. We had to go back to Zinke's (which is a far walk with a 2 and 4 year old). Public Tennis Courts - When I played tennis in high school, the cracks in the courts were horrible. There is a giant slant and it makes it hard to play. The wall could be fixed, too. The trash cans are never replaced there and it stinks during hot practices and people leave their liquor hanging around. Pool - You already know. Recreation Center - It's just an open gym and an office. There should be more! It should be bigger, maybe a meeting room for people to use, more organized storage spaces, outdoor activities. At the new center, we should put an outdoor basketball court and a play set, or something. Or an outdoor volleyball court would be awesome!!
- The only time I have trouble is when I bring my Mom to games at the far field at Veteran's Park. She can't walk that far. Paved access for wheel chairs would help. Then I could just push her back there easily.
- All the ice from water off the roof. Terribly unsafe.
- Hard to get to didn't even know we could use any of those didn't even know they were public.
- Now I have the list of parks to follow! Although I put no concern for accessibility, I need to evaluate more.
- Traffic flow at the pool and Rotary Park is dangerous with kids running all over between cars.
- Access to back ball field is not good for the elderly or injured person.
- Parking is poor.
- Bowman park needs blacktop walking pathways.
- Poor parking.
- Security at the boat docks is sketchy. I would like to see the piers upgraded and the stairs leading to the boats redone. I would pay more for the rental per year to keep the area updated if necessary.
- Better entry steps or zero depth entry needed
- Love the music in the park at Bowman and I do take my grandchildren to the Pool and park and they enjoy it.
- ICE at the Rec center.
- Bathroom or port a potty at Weber Park and benches near playground. One area of access to walk through instead of having step up on the playground area. It's a high step up with spine injury or little short legs. Ramp to bathroom facilities at Bowman. One area into the playground without stepping up and over the side. It's painful to "climb" up into the playground area with spine injury and for short little legs. Walking access from downtown Dells and from Oaklawn subdivision to Deerwood Glen.
- Softball fields are hard to have family members attend that aren't physically able to make the long walk from the parking lot to the field.
- Parking is bad for people with disabilities. Need family restroom to help people with disabilities. So that it would be easier to help them.
- Disabled accessibility questionable in all.
- Not all ada.
- Stroller/wheelchair access closer to and throughout the park would be greatly beneficial to young families. Ex) bowman park is difficult to access with a stroller. It would be a huge benefit to have a paved path running from one sidewalk to the other through the park (between the basketball court and playground)
- Some of the parks/ areas i didn't even know existed. Maybe there would be a way either at the park or in a brochure to highlight each of the park/ parke areas and there intended use or ways to utilize and access them. I.e. I think I know maybe where freemont ravine is but I don't think it is marked on the actual site.
- Pool, poor parking. Rec center poor parking next to building. Bowman park, lack of safe biking on Broadway from Oak Lawn neighborhood. Veterans, poor parking.

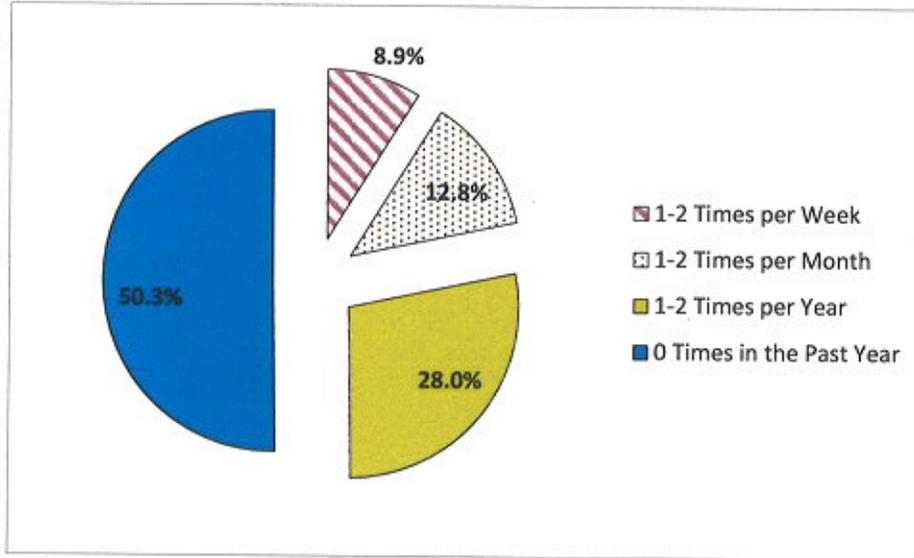
QUESTION 12:

Excluding winter months, on average how often do you or members of your household visit or use the following park and recreational facilities?



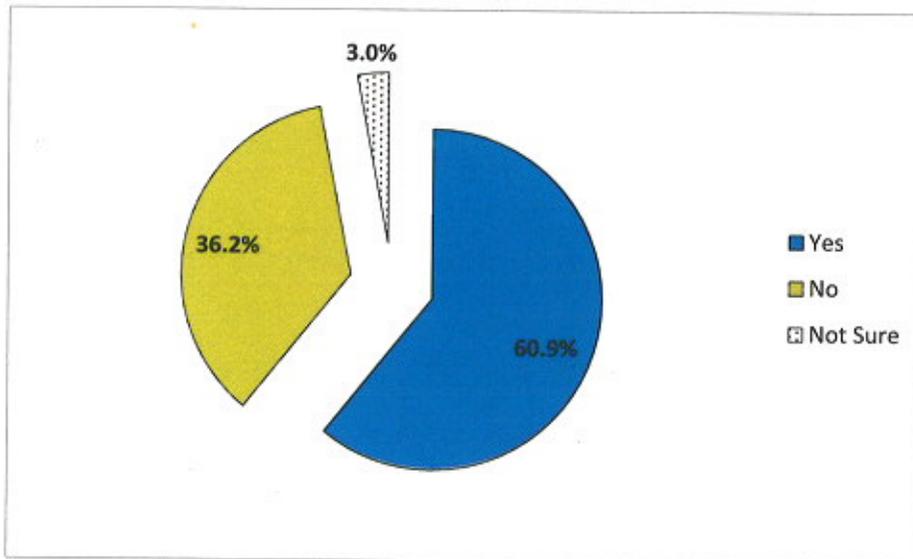
QUESTION 13:

Including all months, on average how often do you or members of your household visit or use the City's Recreation Center?



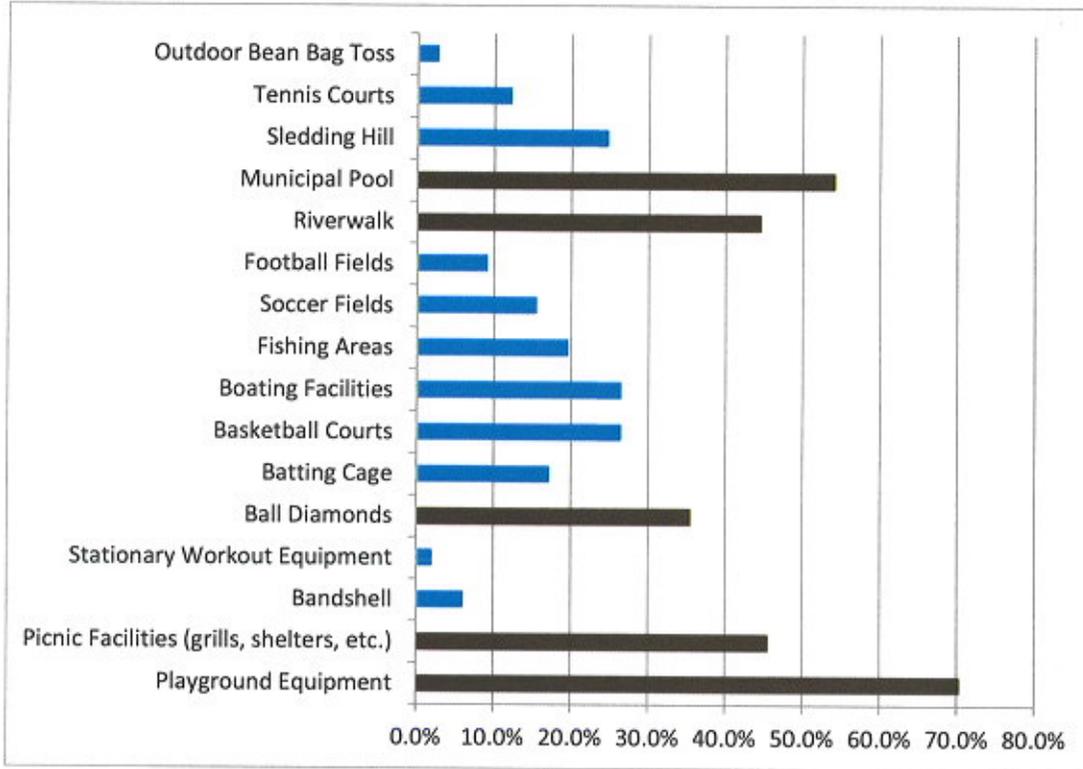
QUESTION 14:

Have you or a member of your family signed up for a recreation class or program through the City in the past 12 months?



QUESTION 15:

When visiting City parks which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly use? Please mark up to six answers.



COMMENTS

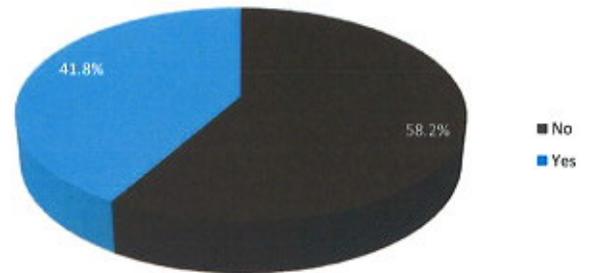
1. Hope to try pool this summer. Didn't know there is stationary workout equipment available.
2. We never use the pool. Membership costs too much.
3. Grass/green space. Garden/ plants/ flowers. Trees. Water.
4. New port park, we use a lot in the summer.
5. Also Riverwalk.
6. Riverwalk. Library park for play and leaf collecting.
7. Where is the outdoor bean bag toss ?????
8. Basketball courts get crowded. Often times there are older teenage kids and adults who use bad language, etc. Hard for younger children to utilize on a regular basis

QUESTION 16:

Do you or members of your household commonly (an average of at least once per month) drive somewhere outside of Wisconsin Dells to use recreational facilities not available in the City? If yes, please specify where you go and for what activities?

COMMENTS

1. We use the hiking trails and beaches at Mirror Lake and Devil's Lake State Parks.
2. House of Wellness Member- average 3x/week and Water Aerobics by Dawn Stoede-Ambassador Inn next to Denny's, Wisconsin Dells.
3. State Parks - Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor.
4. Last summer had softball league in Baraboo.
5. Ski at local hills.
6. Baraboo parks for playground equipment, they are closer to my house.
7. Devils lake.
8. Baraboo Open gym for tots. It's only \$1 per kid for three hours of running around a gym with a few balls, mats, slides, scooters. Much more economical for the little ones than a structured tumbling class (in my opinion). Also enjoy the splash pad in Portage.
9. An indoor pool (that doesn't cost \$40 to use).
10. Devil's Lake.
11. State Parks hiking.
12. Baraboo Devil's Lake.
13. I use the Wellness center to swim laps and do water aerobics.
14. Poppy Waterman Ice Arena for skating.
15. We like to go hiking so we are heading out of town to different state parks to enjoy.
16. Devils lake, mirror lake, kayaking, fishing, hiking.
17. Hiking or Biking on Elroy Sparta trail Devils Lake, Train Ride.
18. Devils lake state park
19. Baraboo H.S. indoor pool, House of Wellness indoor pool.
20. Oeschner park, Baraboo - zoo/ long river walk connecting town to nature! Baraboo on the square- downtown farmers market/ music on the square/ other local events/fundraising walk/ run/bicycle events. Madison- Olbrich gardens/extensive local farmers market/ cultural events offered/ water frontage park space/ river walk/ etc.
21. State parks and biking trails.
22. Away ball games.
23. Swimming travel to Portage indoor and warmer. Also cheaper since we don't live in the city limits.
24. State parks, hiking or swimming.
25. Better pools.
26. Dog park.
27. Baraboo Parks and Zoo. Family picnics there.
28. Have gone to other areas to use their municipal pool as it had more activities for the kids.
29. Baraboo - our children love playing lacrosse.
30. Indoor pool.
31. We go to all the State parks around.
32. Devils Lake, Rocky Arbor.
33. Lake Delton Playground next to Lake Delton Elementary. Pirates Cove Playground. Reedsburg area playgrounds.
34. Ho chunk wellness center for pool and work out.
35. Ho chunk.
36. Swimming - once per week.
37. Devils lake.
38. State parks which offer camping and boating and hiking.
39. Devil's lake.
40. Tamarack facilities.
41. Devils lake- hiking, fishing. Mirror lake- kayaking, hiking fishing.
42. Soccer, music, indoor swimming classes.
43. State Parks or Oschner Park.
44. Lake delton playgrounds. They are less crowded.
45. We like to go hiking at Devil's Lake. We would like to see more hiking trails here.
46. Dog Parks.
47. Mirror Lake for hiking, kayaking.



COMMENTS (continued)

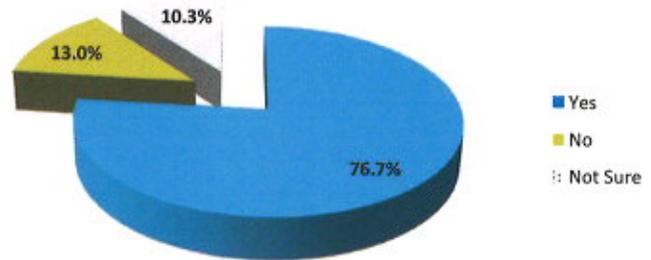
48. Play N Wisconsin (Middleton).
49. Mirror Lake State Park.
50. Hiking trails in other area cities and parks.
51. The Little Gym of Middleton - toddler tumbling / grade school gymnastics. Hybrid Athletic Club (Fitchburg) - small group workouts/training.
52. Reasons for using facilities outside WI Dells is more related to schedules than lack of equipment available. Swimming lesson availability comes to mind. I use Swim Reedsburg because of flexible scheduling. Nights and weekends specifically cater to a single working parent looking to provide activities to their children.
53. Walking trails Mirror/Devils lake.
54. Baraboo.
55. Mauston park and rec for golfing at castle Rock golf course.
56. Mirror lake, Devils lake.
57. Poynette WI spray grounds/park.
58. Devil s Lake.
59. I live in Baraboo, and pay to do indoor swimming at the Baraboo Middle School/HighSchool pool.
60. Year-round swimming lessons at indoor pool in Baraboo, gymnastics in Baraboo and Reedsburg, open gym at House of Wellness, Flag Football for 4 year old with Red Ball Nation in Baraboo.
61. Raquetball - house of wellness.
62. Sheboygan, WI for inclusive disability park and for fishing in their public parks. Frisbee golf at Lime Kiln Park. Baraboo for the little zoo park. Madison parks. Indiana for canoeing and camping. Illinois for camping, boating, fishing.
63. We love the hiking trails at Devil's Lake, especially with the beach right there. Anything you guys can do to put in a public beach that is nice with good quality sand, would be wonderful!
64. Lake Delton walking paths, Mirror lake hiking, Devils Lake hiking, Portage levee.
65. No hunk.
66. Poppy Waterman arena, skating.
67. Ice rink.
68. Madison, boulders climbing gym.
69. Ice rink, Knuckleheads indoor play area.
70. Indoor pool house of wellness.
71. Baraboo dog park. Devils lake. Mirror lake. Ice age trail. Granite peak. Baraboo river walk.
72. Baraboo zoo Parks in Mauston are more local.
73. Red ball nation toddler sports (tball, soccer, flag football, basketball) in Baraboo, splash pad in portage, zoo in baraboo, Haskins park baraboo, sledding pauquette park portage, ice skating portage, portage McDonald's indoor gym, play n Wisconsin Middleton.
74. Baraboo dog park.
75. River park by Rivers edge.
76. We do use lake delton poppy waterman park.
77. Devils Lake or Mirror Lake.
78. Swimming lessons at better times for working families...swim Reedsburg. Zoo at oschner park.
79. Dog park.
80. Madison for splash park, ice skating, zoo, public parks.
81. Hiking. Walking trails would be nice.
82. Cascade Mountain.
83. Portage, for the water spray park, fun and free for the little ones!
84. Baraboo dog park so we can include our dog in our daily activity and help him get exercise also.
85. Not that its not available, but the park and pool in Reedsburg is much nicer.
86. Newport park/beach. State parks.
87. Hiking at Devil's Lake and Mirror Lake. Ochsner Zoo in Baraboo.

QUESTION 17:

Does the City currently have enough parks to meet the needs of your household? If no, please explain in what ways the park system is not meeting the needs of your household.

COMMENTS

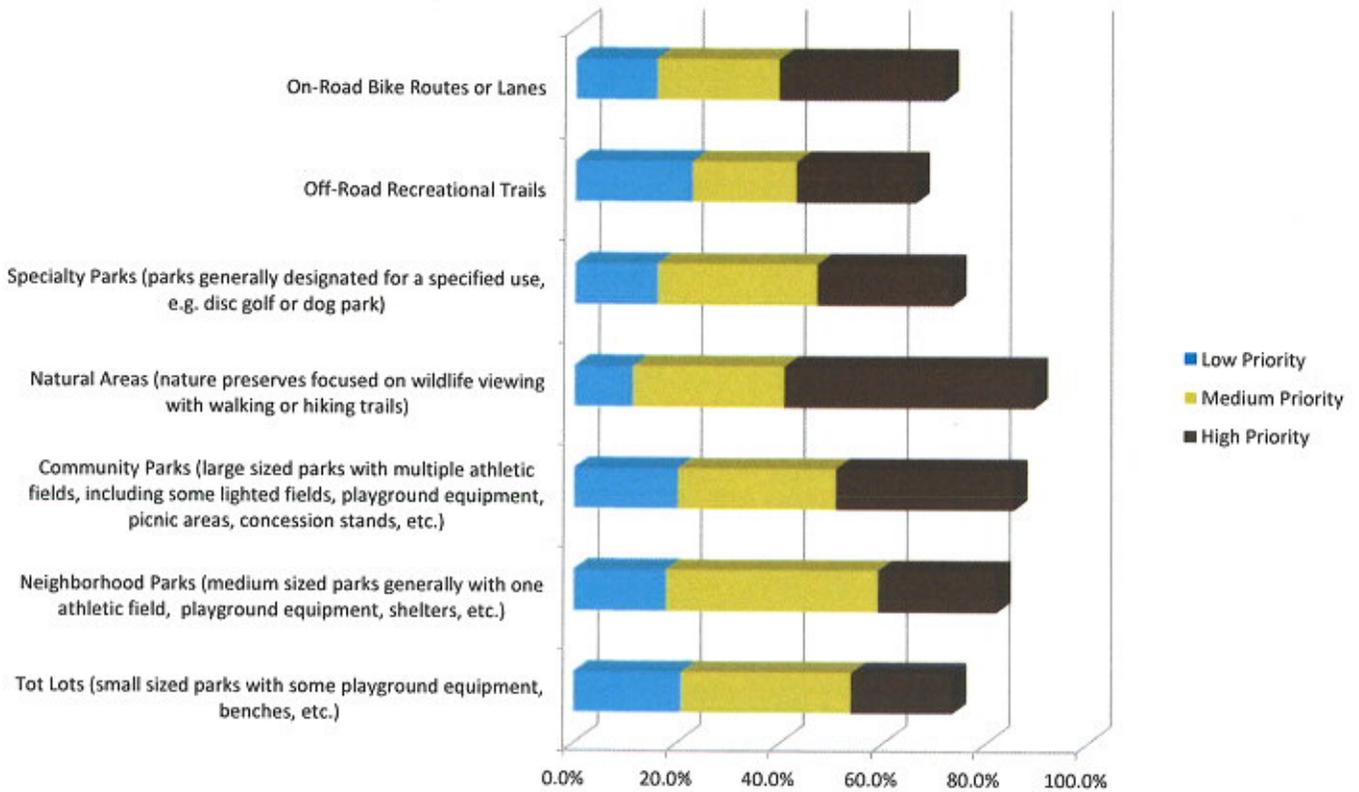
1. Dog Park.
2. An indoor pool with kiddie area would be great, updated Rec Center as well for the long winter months.
3. Would love to see a splash pad such as the one in Portage.
4. Would like to see an indoor pool. :(
5. In summer so many people outsiders use park equipment they abused equipment and leave or throw they garbage everywhere and are rude
6. Would love place to ride bike or take dog or I desperately miss walking on trails like in Madison also we go disc golfing would love a disc golf park.
7. Good. More pockets of green space/Local Art/ local student art/local history/local culture/ city activities/local city charm opportunities/horticulture/victory gardens/ community gardens/ river walk/ trails to connect green space safely to each other & guiding to our downtown to encourage local businesses.
8. Would love to see a dog park.
9. Need a dog park.
10. Make a lacrosse field
11. We need a dog park.
12. I would love a forest.
13. Enough qty but not enough variety.
14. Need one closer to lake Delton or upgrade the one by the lake delton elementary school.
15. Dog park is necessary.
16. Indoor pool.
17. There is an ok variety, but there could be more. Especially for younger Kids.
18. More tables or benches to accommodate busy times such as Wha Zow wa.
19. I wish there were more indoor play options for winter.
20. Wish we had a spray ground for kids
21. Where are the parks in Baraboo,WI?
22. Not enough green space, no biking trails.
23. We love Bowman Park with the bball courts and playground, trees etc. Wish the green space was a little flatter so we could do more with soccer/ football stuff.
24. Dog park, hiking trails and city gym.
25. Dog park.
26. Dog park.
27. More green space and athletic fields needed.
28. Dog park, better sledding hill.
29. Need a place for our dog to run!
30. The soccer fields we use for the kids are good. But it would be a nice thing to have better fields to play on. There are sprinkler heads in the current fields and it would good to have a safer playing surface. Possibility or other parks. With all the new housing being built, there is a large need for a community park around the sunset & LL area. Secondly there aren't enough places for older kids to play at. The kids end up playing at parks designed for the ""under 10 yo"" age group. TOO MANY PARKS



Note: This graph includes responses of those that had an opinion.

QUESTION 18:

For each category below, indicate the level of priority for the development of new City park and recreational facilities.

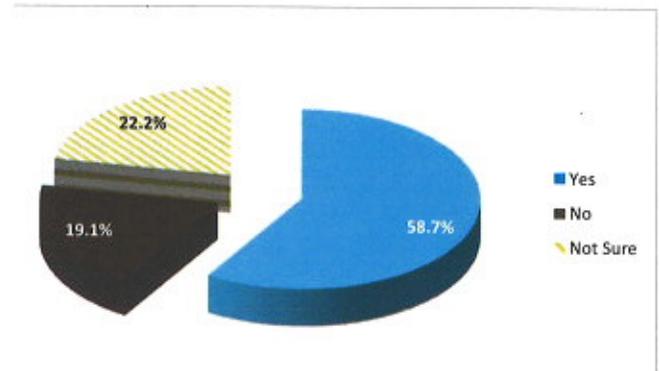


QUESTION 19:

Does the City's current variety of recreational programs and classes meet the needs of your household? If no, please explain in what ways it is not meeting your needs.

COMMENTS

1. We would like indoor swimming classes for seniors or water aerobics. Also strength training, Tai Chi, or yoga for seniors. We are in our 60's and there doesn't seem to be anything for us at the Park and Rec.
2. Had no idea there were classes or programs until I took this survey.
3. The current baseball program for youth (13-15) seems to be all about "winning" vs teaching the ins and outs of the game. Our son will not be attending another season with the rec department. Last season our son played approximately 5 plays the entire season because it was about winning the game vs letting the kids play and learn. Practices consisted of normal play as if they were experienced players.
4. I would love to give my daughters swimming lessons, but we can not afford the membership cost. Its too high for our income.
5. Very nice programs.
6. It would be nice to have more options for high schoolers and adults.
7. Indoor swim classes/activities
8. Very poor quality of the existing classes for toddlers, terrible dirty building where is the gym located, cold during the winter gym, dirty mats, very poor equipment, and not very attentive teacher. And all this for 35\$! I find it expensive for a quality of these classes.
9. We travel to Baraboo to play lacrosse and Reedsburg to play hockey. There is no mention of gymnastics for anyone older than a toddler in your program.
10. I would love to see gymnastics in the area for older than the tot age group. We go to Baraboo for it in the summer and sometimes Pardeeville for the rest of the year. I would also love to see us utilize the Woodside Sports Academy people. They are such a wealth of info. for baseball/softball and right in our back yard.
11. Not enough programs for 5 yo.
12. It would be cool if we added more events though like sometimes in Madison they have pontoon rides or bonfire parties.
13. More community offering free classes like Chris draper at local library(art/ food/ fitness/health& wellness/other).
14. Program times are hard to meet due to work schedules.
15. Need to check upcoming schedule.
16. Not much for teenagers.
17. You have a good variety but we are not able to get our children to most programs during the day. All the programs at the library are during the day except for Saturdays.
18. Classes are very early, we work.
19. Would like more low-impact activities for 55+ age group.
20. Would really like to have a girls gymnastics for ages 4-10.
21. Times offered are challenging to meet due to a full time daily work schedule. More opportunities offered later would provide the ability for our children to participate.
22. I would be nice if kidz klub offered before school care, school breaks and over the summer months stayed open until 6 like during the school year. Just because it's summer doesn't mean work hours change.
23. Very little offered for younger kids and what is offered is offered during 4K hours at school.
24. Need kids general fitness and planned activities, year round swimming lessons and family swim, more adult fitness and swim.
25. We need different and safer playgrounds for small kids.
26. I would like more sports and music programs durning school years specially in winter when kids spend more time inside home.
27. More programs for younger families. With multiple coaches (even high school helpers or parents) so that it is safe And worthwhile.
28. Could be organized a little better.
29. I'd like to see some programming that allows single working parents to access exercise and activity programming DURING classes their children are enrolled in. I spend a lot of my time (single parent of 2 young children) ensuring my children are able to participate in activities they have an interest in, and due to that have very limited time to incorporate activities for my own health. Scheduling dual-training opportunities (for example an adult Martial Arts session offered separate from yet during the children's session) would encourage parents to engage in the same activity their children are learning.
30. Having Kidz Klub on days with no school would be VERY helpful
31. I really liked the aerobic classes for adults. Do you offer golf classes for adults (if so can equip. be rented?). Would love water aerobics evenings/weekends. Yoga.
32. Younger activities, more co-ed young adult leagues (volleyball - sand or court), maybe offer onsite areas for supervision of children while parents can play/workout, more times (after work) for small group training (not just spinning classes or yoga).
33. Not everyone is into sports. There are other activities besides chasing a ball.
34. Tumbling tot class needs better leadership or programming changes. It rarely changes and isn't really advancing or holding kids interest. We need gymnastics classes. More art and music classes. Community garden or landscaping classes that improve softscape of existing parks.
35. I wish there were more programs specifically for seniors like fitness, wellness, enrichment, socialization.
36. Would like to have more senior activities such as bus trips, fitness classes.
37. Ice rink no open skating unless we drive to Delton no pool for school season use.
38. Times hard to meet with work schedule.

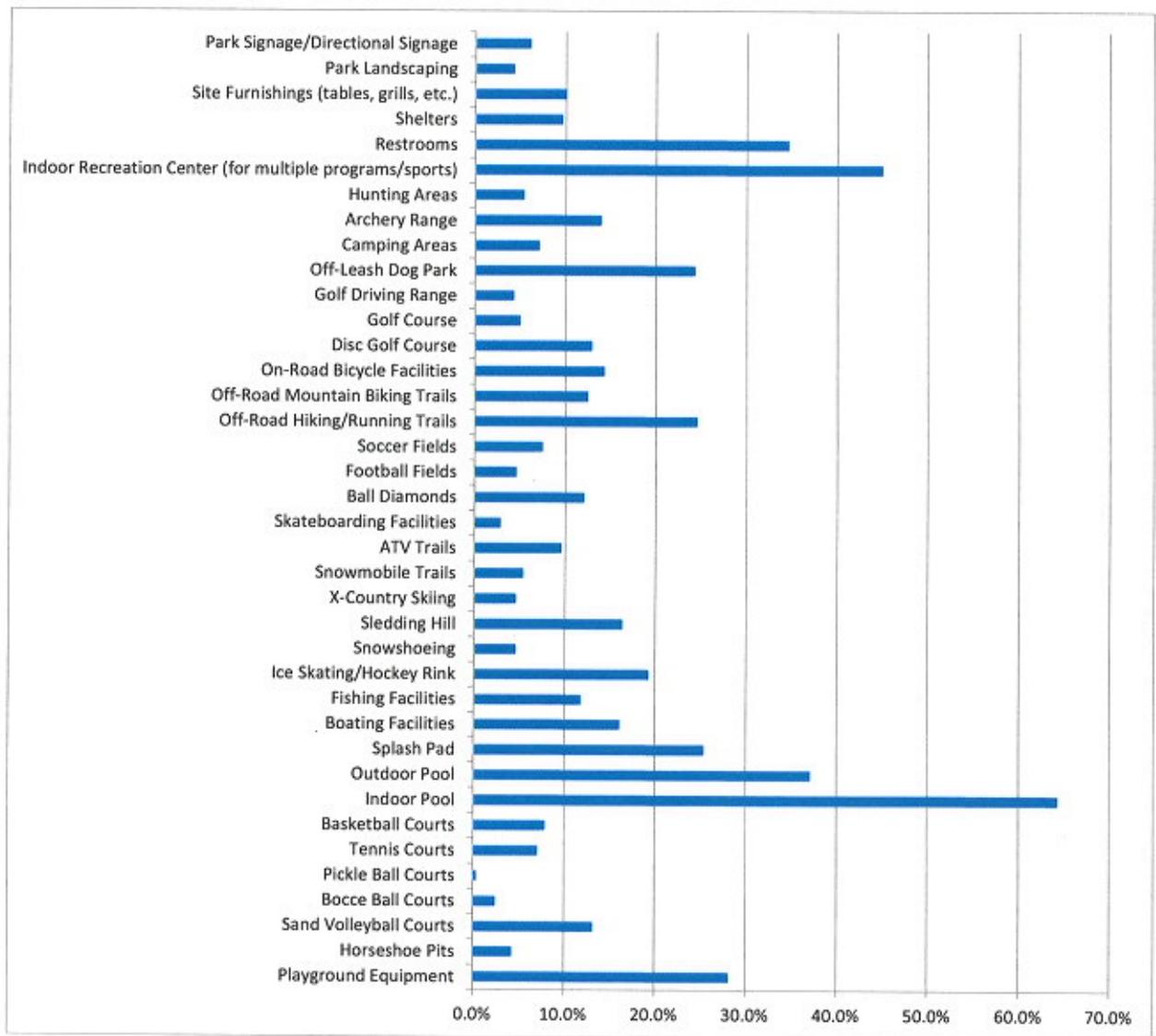


COMMENTS (continued)

- 39. No class for older swimmers especially in winter.
- 40. Could we have candle lit hike/snowshoe/cross country ski events like those held a mirror lake?
- 41. I would love to have a nice workout/fitness facility with an indoor aquatic area (for kids in the winter), and on-site child care, indoor tennis facility, nice, new fitness equipment and a variety of classes like boot camp and yoga.
- 42. Would love gymnastics for older kids, like tumbling for tots.
- 43. Parent/tot class and summer class selection is poor.
- 44. Would love to see a little more than just the tumbling for toddlers.
- 45. More selection for ages 2-5 yrs. And at times for working families...le 5 or 6 pm.

QUESTION 20:

How would you prioritize future investment in the maintenance and development of the City's park and recreational facilities? Please mark your top six preferences.

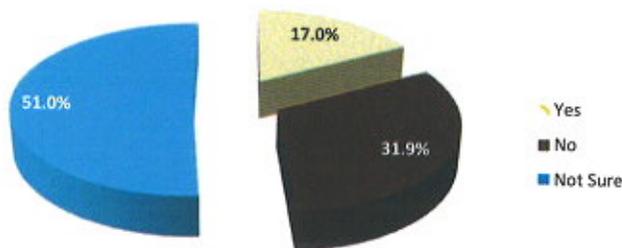


COMMENTS (Question 20)

1. The Tennis Courts, Basketball courts and Outdoor Pool should all be maintained as is - they are perfectly fine, and maintenance should be minimal compared to actually future investment, I use them and they are fine. As far as future investment goes, Xcountry skiing and snowshoeing can be done at the state parks in the area...I would like to see more running trails. My husband said ATV trails, but I don't know how viable a solution that is...an off leash dog park would be fun. I think, especially, if WD is going to upgrade anything, update the signs, half the time people don't know that there are parks..Restrooms should always be a priority at these locations, otherwise they will get gross and people won't want to use them, and then they won't use the parks. Also, I think for indoor activities, a rec center would be nice for things other than basketball, sort of like a YMCA.
2. Definitely need a new place for tumbling tots!
3. I can't click more than 6, so, along with my 6 options, I think working on the outdoor pool is necessary because it's nice having somewhere outdoor to swim that doesn't have too many tourists running around, and isn't humid from being inside. I would definitely use the outdoor pool more than the indoor. The indoor would be nice in the winter! More camping areas would be cool, too. Park landscaping would be nice, too, because some places look a little sad.
4. It's very difficult to limit to six because I find so many of the nature variety important between the different seasons...Also concerning on road bicycle/ walking trails throughout city& safely connecting to lake delton... It's a must to work together with our sister city parks/ trails/ transportation... City walking / bicycle trails separate from road to maneuver through town/ nature combo safely(I can further share city examples from my research & travels throughout USA).
5. A paved trail to roller blade on would be amazing!
6. Lacrosse field.
7. Children's Museum would be a great success!
8. Camping areas that need proof of residence to take advantage.
9. I think the rec center should be incorporated with the indoor pool and park to be better managed and utilized as a recreation facility.
10. Roller skating area. Art studio classroom area. Weber Park bathroom. More bench seating near playgrounds. Stationary exercise equipment for adults near playgrounds. Art and music studio room or facility. Year round ice rink.
11. A swimming pool complex should be built in Lake Delton.
12. Bus trips to casino or mall of america.
13. City gym with cardio equipment and weight lifting area as well.
14. Would love to see an outdoor ice-skating rink too.
15. Need a new rec center and pool.
16. We want this to be a snowmobile friendly town!! We can't get over the bridge half the time or through town because they do not leave a good trail for us with some snow on it! We could bring alot of money to town if they would let us.
17. I think lanscaping makes the parks look that much more attractive and welcoming to people wishing to use it. Including signs and shrubs etc..

QUESTION 21:

Do you think the Parks and Recreation Department is adequately funded?

**COMMENTS**

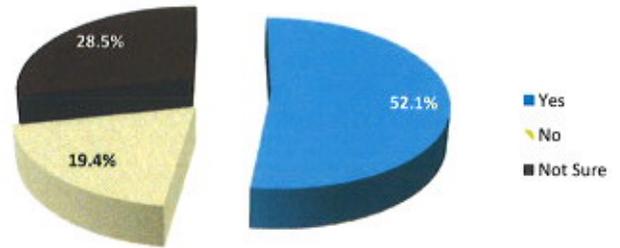
1. I would have to review the city budget...
2. Waterpark capitol of the world and it takes the donation from a failed school project to get a pool for our local kids?
3. Would love to see more on funding.
4. Probably not.
5. No idea how city funds are allocated.
6. Additional funding should come from the users of the facilities. New trails (biking, hiking), dog park, driving range could be funded by the users with trail passes and usage fees. Youth sports programs needs to provide funding for the fields (parents). Presently, boating facilities are paid for by the users. Initial funding could come from private donations and fund raising. I am concerned that the population in this area does not have enough financially stable families to supporter new facilities. My experience is that too many people expect someone else to pay for something they use. It would be great to develop facilities that would attract ""tourist"" money. Trails, golf driving range, activities, etc could be partially supported by the ""tourist"" money. I would be willing to support improvements as long as the plans include facilities that I would use.
7. There needs more money put back into the community ..
8. Seems to be issues at the Council level when funding priorities are discussed.

QUESTION 22:

Would you support an increase in park and recreation user fees to cover the cost of maintaining or building park and recreational facilities?

COMMENTS

1. There are SO many different taxes this city collects; resort taxes and all that crap. I would hope that there would be an area that could easily be used for parks and recs; if you raise fees no one will use the locations. Although, I see a lot of people using the pay stalls in the winter when they aren't enforced, so maybe some of that additional revenue could be used...
2. Depends on what is improved.
3. Absolutely not. We are considering not joining softball and volleyball this year because of the increases. We can drive to Baraboo or Reedsburg and pay a fraction of the cost.
4. Being a "non-resident" I feel I pay too much already.
5. In addition I believe more of our tax dollars (PRT) should be put into the Park system.
6. We live in a very small area surrounded by the city but not in the city. Our fees are \$10 more per child per activity. With three kids if they each want to do an activity that's \$30 extra on top of the already high prices. Just not economical for our family of 5 on a single income.
7. I believe fees are adequate.
8. It would depend on how much.
9. But if fees get to high we would not be able to sign kids up.
10. Important to offer balance for all classes of city's people(free/ low cost/ higher cost) maybe fundraising events put on by local artists/ businesses/ other(2-4x yr?).
11. It is already a lot for what the out of city cost is. Cheaper in Portage for most items even if you live out of their city limits.
12. If they are brought up to par and family events held by Park and Rec are more safe.
13. You would have to be more specific regarding park use fees.
14. Boat launches seem very spendy in town.
15. I think we already overpay for the pool passes for the quality of the facilities, but I would be happy to pay more for other classes and programs if it improved the selection/availability and/or improved the facilities.
16. I personally would not mind if fees were increased a little bit but overall I think you may lose some that can not afford to participate (especially the fees for kids activities). I would not have a problem raising for boat launching, etc where many tourist use that.
17. Swimming pool.
18. On some activities, yes I would! Some activities the value isn't there for what is paid versus what is delivered in the activity or class. I would love to see more coach development classes and/or parent involvement in activities. The lack of participation beyond dropping off your child or sitting on the sidelines and never speaking with other parents or kids...never encouraging kids and no team spirit is sad. I hope it improves as they advance through the programs. I would love to see photo packages offered for team and individual for activities. I would love to see a team parent for each team or group selected or volunteered at the beginning if each activity for phone tree, snack coordination, team party, newsletter, etc.
19. It would be nice to keep something relatively low in cost for families that come to the area. Everything else already has a cost that many families need to.
20. Depends on areas and what there is to do . And how much of a fee.
21. Small increase.
22. Members of the community should embrace parks and rec as a priority. Even if they don't utilize the programs and facilities, they need to acknowledge the importance of them to a community.
23. I think that there could be more funding coming directly from the city budget. Raising user fees would definitely work as long as they are reasonable. With having a large low income community in the area I would be afraid of scaring families away from participating in sports/activities that would be beneficial to them. I already have a hard time paying for activities and if it meant groceries or activities i would have to cut the activities.

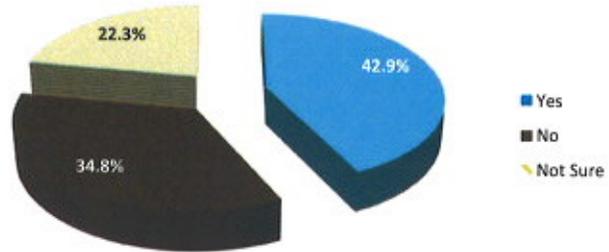


QUESTION 23:

Would you support an increase in property taxes if the additional taxes were used to cover the cost of maintaining or building park and recreational facilities?

COMMENTS

1. Property Taxes are way to high for this area already and the school system isn't that good, so the ROI for property taxes isn't there...if they were going to be raised you better have a very clear picture to present to the taxpayers and property owners and give them a referendum to do so.
2. Depends on what it is for.
3. PRT.
4. Taxes are high enough coupled with increases in utilities, absolutely not.
5. It would depend on the project.
6. Or offer locals volunteer program sign up/contribution/commitment option encouraging youth/ families/ elder homes/ school class projects/ etc.
7. Wisconsin Dells needs a School first.
8. If we had a pool.
9. If it's allocated to the facilities in our area.
10. Why should I pay higher taxes when I'm already forced to pay "non-residence" fees for sports when I only live 3 miles "out of town". I have a Dells address, Dells Zipcode & Dells phone number, but by your "rules" I am not a Dells Resident for fee purposes??
11. See previous response. Depends on which facilities were selected.
12. Ha, good luck. If people aren't willing to support a new school you can bet that maintaining costs will be even more difficult. Sad...hopefully I am wrong.
13. But we live outside the city limits
14. We pay a park and rec director to the best he/she can within a given budget.
15. Need to figure out how to work within current budget.
16. I wouldn't be paying since I'm out of the city.
17. If u do year round swimming lessons and at times where working families can attend!! 4:30 pm is not late enough.
18. I would support this if it would lead to improvements.
19. Our taxes are already higher than other cities that have many more offerings of public facilities and programs.
20. Having nice parks around your house effects property value. I would be willing to pay more in that area if It meant that the community would look nicer and have high quality options for my kids.

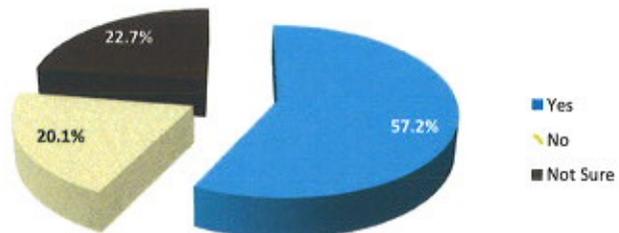


QUESTION 24:

Would you support an increased percentage of your existing property taxes allocated for park and recreational facility maintenance and development?

COMMENTS

1. Hell no, see above.
2. For development in our immediate area.
3. See above comment.
4. But we live outside the city limits.
5. Robbing Peter to pay Paul does not work.
6. With corporate matched donations.
7. Same as above.
8. Schools and other things need money more than parks.

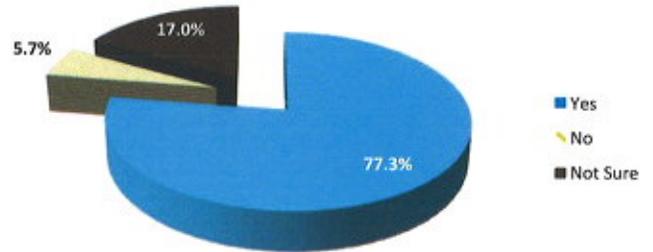


QUESTION 25:

Would you support efforts by the City to establish an endowment fund dedicated to assisting with the maintenance and development of the City's park and recreational facilities through tax-deductible charitable gifts?

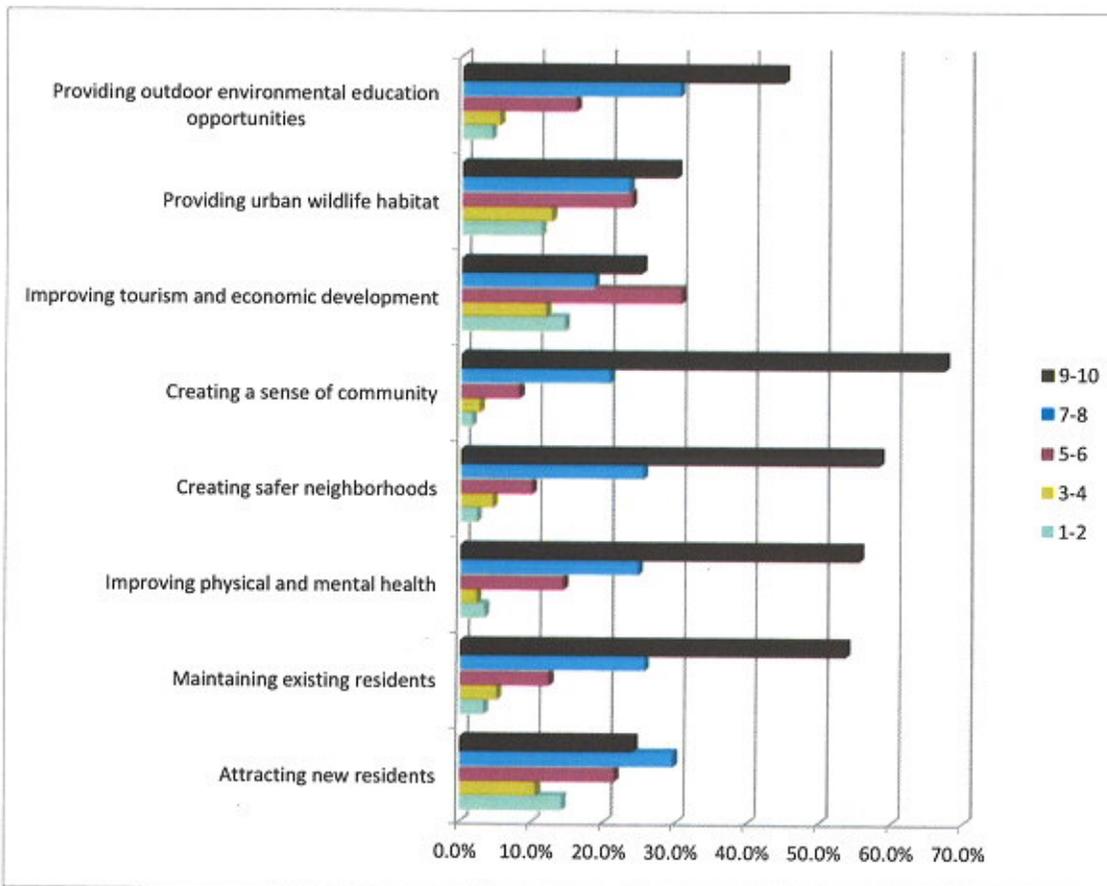
COMMENTS

1. Yes, b/c that way the people who really want the parks and give to them. It might be good to entertain property auctions, as in we need a bench, whoever supports the bench gets their name on it...or buy a brick type fundraiser - with different sizes at different amounts, to cover some of the costs.
2. Take it from the premier resort tax.
3. Good idea!!!
4. Good idea.
5. The water parks could probably give a little bit more back to the people of the city and town of delton. Donate a certain percentage of earnings.
6. This would assist with large projects and make people feel good about contributing rather than trying to organize individual fundraisers for projects.



QUESTION 26:

Rate the importance you place on the City's parks and recreational facilities/programs with regard to the following (1 = not important, 10 = very important):



QUESTION 27:

Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to park and recreation services or facilities in Wisconsin Dells.

COMMENTS

1. I feel like there are a lot of jobs that could attract people from outside of the dells to come here, that are decent paying, but the community doesn't really try to hard to attract these people b/c it is just easier to get the kids from over seas. I think if there were rec programs and a good department, it would be easier to attract families. A community that I lived in before was Oshkosh and they had a wonderful Rec Department - I think it might be nice for The Dells to look at what they do and try to mirror that as best they can. I also think we have a unique opportunity to engage with the business community in doing so. Best of Luck!
2. I appreciate all that you do. I have never studied your operating budget, but it wouldn't shock me if you were underfunded. Keep up the good work.
3. Improving Tourism and Economic Development - Down town Dells is EMBARRASSING! That needs a lot of improvement. The Dells in general is kind of embarrassing, even run down motel is a hideous white and blue.
4. The Dells needs a community! Should not be all about the tourism. A complete shame new school did not pass. My mother whom is 74 attended the current high school. What a loss of a great opportunity. But maybe Park & Rec can pick up some of the loss. Thad is fantastic and an asset to P&R and the community.
5. I wish smoking in the parks would be prohibited, at least in Bowman Park. All we see is smoking teenage parents with their babies. I wish restrooms would smell better, it makes it impossible to have a diapers change in the restrooms.
6. The Parks department does an outstanding job with the funding they receive! Great job and keep up the good work!
7. I like knowing there is a place for the residents of this city to go and enjoy our community. I feel that the resorts are for the tourists.
8. None.
9. I understand the Dells is a tourist town but it would be nice to have a place to bring the kids where some unsavory tourists won't/can't go.
10. We have great indoor basketball courts to use. However not much space for fitness class or other indoor activities. I believe an indoor rec center is very high priority for Wisconsin Dells.
11. You guys do a great job...Improving every year.
12. Bathroom are always BAD up town and lake delton by the school.
13. Great idea to have a survey. Great recreational facilities will improve the community. Our two older children enjoyed fantastic facilities in Crystal Lake Ill. We paid a higher "tax" but it was well worth it. Our youngest son was 9 when we moved here. He did not have the same facilities enjoyed by his older siblings. We are very impressed with the leadership provided by the park district staff here in the Dells and the programs that they have completed. The lack of facilities is not in any way due to their efforts or expertise. It is simply the result of a community with limited support. With are children grown, and us approaching retirement, it is more difficult for us to support programs that would be focused only on youth programs. The programs that we selected in the survey would be programs that we would support enthusiastically and if these programs were included, we would support all programs.
14. You guys are doing great. Leaps and bounds from 10 years ago.
15. As a parent of toddlers, I know a decent amount of other parents with toddlers. There isn't a niche for us in the Park and Rec department. Weekday morning classes or early evening exclude working parents. We need sports/classes on Saturday mornings, summer evenings, and events geared towards joining these families who then will have kids in the Park and Rec program for the next decade.
16. I think an centrally located Recreation Center with adequate meeting/activity rooms is essential and it should be located within a park area that includes adequate parking. Yes the rec. center if fully utilized - creates community bonds with new residents. Rec events at the library, municipal pool and Bowman park have been great. I am glad this community supports that and the events I have attended have been worthwhile.
17. As far as environmental education opportunities, we live in a very unique are with a rich culture. Many tourists get lost in the "new" attractions of the Dells, but Wisconsin Dells has a lot to offer in terms of its environment and culture. I would love to see the occasional program that offers this education to our children.
18. Yes, I recently moved here. I would like a place to take indoor Yoga and Zumba dance classes.
19. Onward and upward! Thanks for all you do. I'm excited to be a part of this community and excited to help grow the parks and recreation department. Community is so important in every aspect of human life and your programs are vital in helping to unite community.
20. Thad and Adam are the hardest working guys in the city! Thanks for all you do!
21. Would love to see a new rec center and indoor pool.
22. Think the city waste money on certain parks/Dpw employees. Thad does a great job and puts a lot of effort in. The expense of the Abba pissese off. I love seeing 3 lineman driving around doing what one Alliant worker can do. Watching city employees come into zinkies daily is a burdon. Treat the municipal jobs as private sector? No wonder the city is broke!!!!' Management should be ashamed bottom line it pissed me off as a taxpayer.
23. I don't live in Wisconsin but travel to the Dells often to visit family and I absolutely love it there and how beautiful everything is. Parks are always wonderfully maintained! Thank you for caring so much for your community!
24. They do well with what they work with. But with some help from community and its people there is a endless possibilities. You get what you put in !!
25. Do we have a park and rec facility currently? If so it is not utilized very well. Being the water park capital of the world our public pool facilities are pathetic.
26. Need a new rec center, keep outdoor pool with new indoor pool.

COMMENTS (continued)

27. Parks and rec is vitally important when trying to attract and retain residents. Many in the Dells are myopic in their thinking and don't see very far beyond the geographic borders of our city. A fundamental question in all planning projects should be: how will this increase our sense of community and improve our community as a whole? Many residents don't want to fund parks, programs, and schools. They rely only on their past experience and memories when debating the future of projects, etc. Potential new residents don't care about the past. This is an expensive community to live in compared to other surrounding communities (taxes, PRT, etc). What do we get in return for a high cost of living compared to surrounding communities? As previously stated, people of my generation don't mind paying for such things if it leads to a better quality of life (parks, programs, schools). When planning we cannot look to the past or the present but must think proactively about the future needs of the community. I appreciate the opportunity to state my opinion in this survey.
28. Overall park n rec does great given the facilities and lack of funding it receives.
29. Parks are sooo important!! I have met a vast majority of my friends through meeting randomly at the park or pool or through the different activities. It has helped me feel connected to the community and provided outdoor opportunities that I would not have at my house.
30. Safer bike route from east to west..bike lane under railroad bridge unsafe.
31. I love what's currently offered, I just want more my active tot can take part in amid make new friends.

APPENDIX B

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS/STANDARDS

B.1 Classifications B.2 Standards

Listed within the appendix are descriptions of the various types of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces applicable to the City of Wisconsin Dells. Definitions used in this plan are modifications of definitions found in the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016. They are used to classify the existing parks and recreation system and to guide plans for its future development.

B.1 CLASSIFICATIONS

Mini-Park

Also sometimes referred to as a "Tot Lot" or "Pocket Park" typically located on a small lot, generally a ¼ acre or less, within a residential neighborhood or commercial business district. Often these sites were originally intended for residential use, but due to various factors (e.g. poor lot design, environmental concerns, etc.), have been converted to a park. Mini-parks generally lack any active recreational facilities and may be limited to gardens, benches, gazebos, fountains, or other small social gathering facilities. Mini-parks typically do not have off-street parking or restroom facilities. Overtime they may develop into neighborhood playgrounds.

- **Desirable size:** 1.5 acres or less
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** 0.25 to 0.5 acres
- **Service Area:** 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius

Neighborhood Playgrounds

A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. Neighborhood playgrounds typically consist of one or more playground apparatus, small green space/general purpose fields, and associated benches. Some neighborhood playgrounds may develop overtime to include additional amenities to become neighborhood parks. Neighborhood playgrounds typically do not have off-street parking, shelters, or restroom facilities.

- **Desirable size:** 1 to 3 acres
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** 0.5 to 1.5 acres
- **Service Area:** 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius

Neighborhood Parks

In addition to neighborhood playground facilities, neighborhood parks often include shelter facilities, grills, basketball courts, ball diamonds, lighting, and toilet facilities. In general, neighborhood parks offer a more complete range of recreational facilities, for a wider range of age groups, in a larger setting than neighborhood playgrounds. Off-street parking and permanent restroom facilities are not as commonly found as within community parks.

- **Desirable size:** 3 to 10 acres
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** 1.0 to 2.0 acres
- **Service Area:** 1/2 to 1 mile radius

Community Playfields

The community playfield provides for the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. It provides more unique facilities than a neighborhood park but less facilities as compared to a community park. Examples include parks designed specifically for court games (tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.), field games (soccer, football, ultimate frisbee) or ball games (softball, baseball). A community playfield might adjoin a public junior or senior high school. Community playfields usually include off-street parking for vehicles and bicycles, concessions and restroom facilities.

- **Desirable size:** 5 or more acres with 10 to 40 acres being most common
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** 5.0 to 8.0 acres
- **Service Area:** 1 to 2 mile radius

Community Parks

The community park is intended to serve the active and passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium-sized municipality. Community parks can be thought of as a combination of a neighborhood park and community playfield. However, community parks usually also offer areas for passive recreation use such as wood areas and walking trails, scenic lookouts, botanical gardens, multiple shelters, grills, and picnic areas. Unique active use facilities may include band shells and aquatic facilities. Off-street parking areas for vehicles and bicycles, permanent restroom facilities, shower facilities, and lighting are common.

- **Desirable size:** 25 or more acres
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** 5.0 to 8.0 acres
- **Service Area:** 2 to 5 mile radius

Special Use Parks

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource. Certain recreational facilities such as disc golf courses, golf courses, race tracks, municipal pools and waterparks, fishing areas and marinas might be considered special purpose parks. Less active uses may include community gardens or veteran memorials. Special use parks may be combined with community parks. Supporting facilities (off-street parking, restrooms, etc.) will vary based on the user needs.

- **Desirable size:** Varies - depends on function
- **Acres / 1,000 population:** Varies - depends on function
- **Service Area:** Varies - depends on function

Nature Preserves

Nature preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, prairies, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Such areas are usually provided by county, state, or federal governments and have the primary function of wildlife and resource protection. Nature preserves usually include large tracts of land that are undeveloped or have limited development, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the property. Improvements are usually located in one section on the property so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers, and restrooms. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, and bird watching.

- **Desirable size:** Varies - depends on function