



VILLAGE OF DEFOREST

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



JUNE 7, 2011

Executive Summary

A. Plan Purpose

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

To remain eligible for grants through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State Stewardship fund, the *Plan* must be fully updated every five years. Updating the *Plan* once every five years also helps accurately project the Village's future park and recreation needs and allows a fresh look at future park planning.

B. Key Recommendations

Key recommendations within the *Plan* include the following, many of which are depicted on the Future Park and Recreation Facilities Map at the end of this summary.

- **Acquire and develop two new community parks.** One is proposed for development within Conservancy Place in conjunction with a future school site, and would be focused on youth and nature-based activities. At least three site options are proposed for the second community park, including a site within County View Estates on the north side of the Village. This second community park would be focused on athletic fields, particularly for adults.
- **Redevelop Fireman's Park as an improved downtown gathering space.** In conjunction with community park development elsewhere, the Village's intent is that Fireman's Park would be recast as a focal point for downtown activities and community gatherings. Preliminary ideas for new facilities include an outdoor stage and better arrangements for fairs and markets.
- **Develop youth sports fields at multiple sites.** This will include soccer, baseball, softball, football, and lacrosse fields at multiple neighborhood and community parks in the Village.



- **Upgrade and improve existing park facilities.** The Village intends to undertake major projects at Fireman's and Northern Corridor Parks, and minor enhancements to Veteran's, Liberty Land, Dahl, Meadowview, Sunnybrook, and Yahara Parks.
- **Acquire and develop new neighborhood parks and tot lots.** New parks would be acquired mainly via park land dedication when adjacent land develops. Three additional neighborhood parks are planned in the Conservancy Place neighborhoods, two in Savannah Brooks, one in Country View Estates, one in Bear Tree, and one in Three Bridges.
- **Develop a comprehensive trail system.** The system is intended to feature both land and water trails along the Yahara River, connecting the southern parts of the Village to the downtown and DeForest Business Park. Also, the Village intends to work with Windsor on interconnected trails to better link kids to schools and to connect the entire area to Token Creek Park and beyond.
- **Sensitively "develop" Yahara River Special Open Space Areas.** These include lands adjacent to Conservancy Place and in the Northern Corridor Park/Bakke Conservancy area. The focus will be on trails and other opportunities for enjoying and understanding the natural environment.
- **Collaborate on a Northern DeForest Area Conservancy.** Though collaboration with property owners and other governments, DeForest has an opportunity to preserve and enhance over 350 acres of potential parks and environmental corridors at and beyond its northern edge. Both the size and environmental significance is comparable to the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and Token Creek Park.
- **Implement a dog park in the Village.** The Village has identified several site options for a dog park, and charges the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee to establish a dog park.
- **Explore a new or expanded community recreation center and collaborate with private entities for other recreation facilities.** Both recommendations are supported by public feedback and the Village's need for facilities to accommodate recreational programming.
- **Continue to implement park, open space, and recreation projects through a variety of approaches.** This includes using the impact fee ordinance to acquire and improve new park facilities; continuing to pursue public and private grants; and partnering with user groups on planning, development, and funding new facilities.



Map 3

Adoption Record

(Since 2006)

2006 Plan

Recommended by Parks, Recreation, & Natural Resources Committee: July 25, 2006

Recommended by Planning & Zoning Committee: July 25, 2006

Adopted by Village Board: September 18, 2006

2010 Plan Amendments

Amended by Village Board: March 1, 2010

2011 Plan Update

Recommended by Parks, Recreation, & Natural Resources Committee: May 10, 2011

Recommended by Planning & Zoning Committee: May 24, 2011

Adopted by Village Board: June 7, 2011

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Chapter I Introduction

Communities throughout the country are recognizing that park land, recreation trails and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments and economic development. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include helping to meet human needs for outdoor recreation; promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle; enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community; increasing property values; attracting visitors, tourists and economic development; framing and shaping land use development patterns; and protecting the natural environment and opening it up for greater appreciation.

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

Much has occurred in the areas of park, natural resource, trail, and recreational system planning and development over the last five years in DeForest. This includes trail planning and development, detailed park master planning, and numerous efforts focused around the Yahara River. This *Plan* also serves to assemble the results of these various activities under one cover, in hopes of both demonstrating how they fit within a larger whole of park system planning and advancing their implementation.

This *Plan* was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The *Plan* must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. This *Plan* was also prepared as a detailed component of the Village's Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes §66.1001.

Chapter 2 Background Information

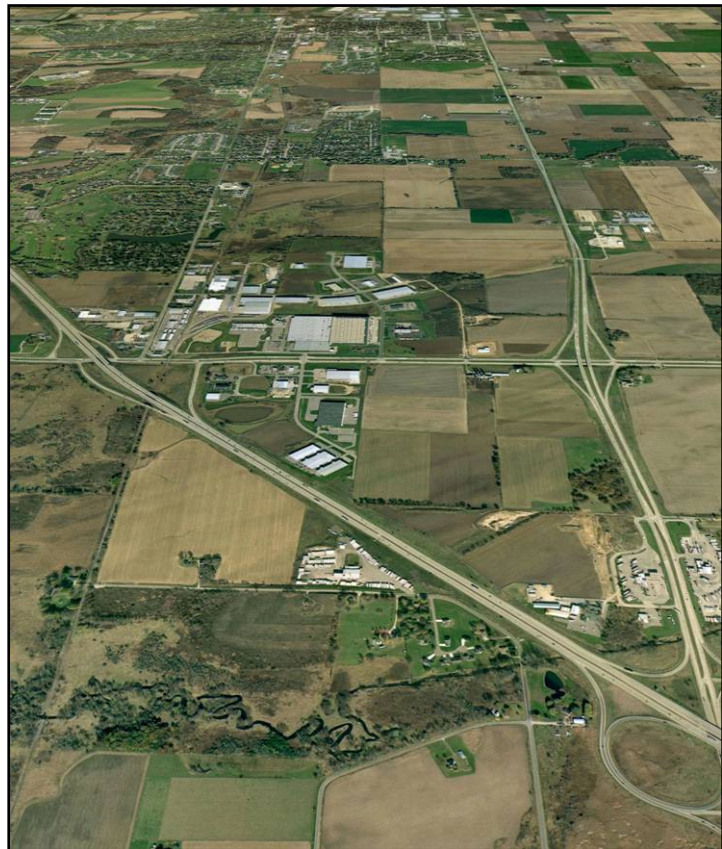
A. Regional Context

Incorporated in 1903, the Village of DeForest is located in northern Dane County, between U.S. Highway 51 and Interstate 39/90/94. The southern extent of the Village is approximately two miles north of Madison, 80 miles west of Milwaukee, and 150 miles north of Chicago.

DeForest is expansive in area—unique in having three portions of the Village that are geographically separated but will one day be joined as a result of municipal boundary agreements. The north and largest part of DeForest is characterized by both historic and recent Village development. The southern two portions of the Village include developing areas near the Highway 51/19 and Interstate/Highway 19 interchanges, planned mainly for commercial, industrial, and office/research development.

The Village is characterized by:

1. Rapid growth starting in the 1990s. The 2010 population was 8,936, nearly doubling its 1990 population of 4,882.
2. Excellent regional access via Interstate 39/90/94, Highways 51 and 19, multiple major interchanges, several county highways, and the nearby airport.
3. An interconnected system of natural resources that features the Yahara River crossing the northern and southern portions of the Village.
4. Exceptional schools, a well-educated workforce, and quality job opportunities in a variety of industries.
5. Productive agricultural land defining the Village's edges.
6. A mixture of high-quality housing types in a variety of neighborhood settings.



With respect to its natural features, DeForest is located with the Yahara River valley on ground moraine created during the last ice age. Glacial deposits dammed large pre-glacial valleys, forming a chain of large lakes and wetlands, including Cherokee Marsh just beyond the Village's south edge. The retreat of the glacier helped form the natural resources the Village enjoys today, including the Yahara River and Token Creek. The fertile soils deposited in the river valley contributed to the establishment of agricultural activities in the DeForest area during the mid-1800s. James Stevenson and Isaac DeForest helped to plat the woodlands that became DeForest in the 1850s.

B. Natural Resources

DeForest—which identifies itself as “Stewards of Our Land and Water”—is uniquely defined by its internal and surrounding open space resources. A survey of DeForest’s natural environment provides an important framework for guiding park and open space planning. Several characteristics of the Village’s natural landscape help direct the development of future park and recreational facilities.

1. Topography

DeForest is located with the Yahara River valley on ground moraine created during the last ice age over 10,000 years ago. The topography in DeForest is characteristic of the rolling moraine terrain in the central portion of Dane County east of the “driftless” (unglaciated) area, consisting of relatively flat or undulating glacial deposits, wetlands, and lakes. Topographic relief ranges from about 1,030 feet above sea level near Campbell Hill Park (near the downtown) to 860 feet above sea level adjacent to Token Creek.

2. Soils

The soils underlying the Village consist primarily of silt loams, including Plano, Ringwood, Otter, Virgil, St. Charles, Batavia, Dodge, McHenry, Hixton, Elburn and Pecatonica. These soils are generally suited for development and have 2% to 12% slopes. Kidder loam soils are found in very limited steep slope areas. These slopes range between 10% and 35% and pose severe limitations to development.

Soils within the floodplain of the Yahara River and Token Creek include Otter silt loam, Houghton muck and Wacousta silty clay loam. These soil types have very severe limitations to development due to high compressibility, very low bearing capacity, seasonal high water table and occasional flooding. Structural development is generally prohibited in these areas.

3. Groundwater

Groundwater resources are plentiful in the planning area at both shallow and deep levels. Water supplies are drawn from both the upper sandstone and unconsolidated aquifers, which provide water for shallow domestic wells in rural areas, and the deep sandstone (Mt. Simon) aquifer, which is a higher-quality source of water for DeForest’s municipal wells.

There are several areas within the Village that function as important locations for groundwater recharge. One important example is the eastern portion of the “DeForest South Area”, which provides the important function of infiltration of cold groundwater to Token Creek—a noted trout stream. Development of that area will be subject to unique standards designed to maximize infiltration of stormwater.

4. Surface Water

The Yahara River, the Village's predominant surface water feature, links the southern and northern portions of the Village. The River flows through the Village from the north to the southwest, and has a relatively low gradient of 4.4 feet/mile. Feeding the Madison area's chain of lakes, the Upper Yahara River is a critical regional resource. The Upper Yahara River and its upper watershed areas (including the headwaters in Columbia County and its tributaries) is one of the Wisconsin DNR's Land Legacy Study priority areas. The portion of the Yahara



within the planning area is classified as a warm water sportfish area; however it does support a small trout population. Portions of the Upper Yahara include cool to cold water trout fisheries. The River corridor through the Village south to Windsor Road includes floodplains and wetlands, some of which are high-quality sedge meadows with rare plant species.

The River suffers from the effects of polluted agricultural and urban surface water runoff. The Wisconsin DNR completed the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed Project study in 1996. Subsequently, state funds were released to control water pollution, mostly by working with farmers to decrease barnyard runoff and cropland soil erosion. In addition to highlighting farm runoff, this study emphasized that the loss of wetlands in the watershed – approximately 1/3 of them have been drained – due to ditching and the straightening of small tributary streams has contributed to excessive nutrients and sediment in surface waters, both of which are key causes of habitat degradation, algae blooms and overabundant aquatic weeds. The study noted that north of CTH V/North Street the River is considered a very degraded warm water sport fishery. However south of CTH V, the River was classified as a quality warm water fishery and was identified as a “priority for enhancement and protection of a warm water sport fishery.” The study also identified large drained wetland complexes throughout the Yahara-Mendota watershed whose restoration could measurably improve downstream water quality. Most of the lands in Northern Corridor Park were part of one such area.

With the southern expansion of the Village, the planning area now includes Token Creek; which has been the focus of a concerted restoration effort over the past two decades, spearheaded by the non-profit Token Creek Watershed Association. The adjacent Town of Windsor has also been active in acquiring land and planning for nature-based recreation along its portion of the Token Creek corridor.

5. Vegetation

Native vegetation includes prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadows. Many fragments of these species remain within developed portions of the Village. More significant concentrations remain in publicly owned lands near Cherokee Marsh and Token Creek. Small wooded areas are scattered throughout the Village and the surrounding area,

particularly within the Upper Yahara River Corridor, especially adjacent to the Conservancy Place mixed use neighborhood, in the Village and Town of Windsor east of Highway 51, around Cherokee Marsh, and in the Town of Vienna west of CTH I.

6. Rare Species Occurrence and Wildlife Habitat

Species of wildlife that are common to the southern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, deer, rabbits, raccoons, and muskrats. Common bird species include: turkeys, cardinals, robins, wood thrushes, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, red-wing blackbirds, and killdeer. Pheasants are also present in the area, however are not common.

There are several species or ecological communities that are sensitive or of special concern that are found in and around DeForest. These include one bird, four species of invertebrate, five types of plants, five types of ecological communities. The Blanding Turtle which is also considered threatened is present along the Yahara River. For most of these, locations are considered to be sensitive, and, therefore, cannot be disclosed at a detailed level. The Endangered Resources Planning and Protection Specialist at the WisDNR can provide further information.

C. Population Trends and Forecasts

DeForest experienced significant population growth during the 1990s in particular—increasing by 51% over that decade. Population growth in DeForest slowed somewhat between 2000 and 2010, but was still considerably higher than the County or State growth rates for this period. The neighboring towns of Windsor and Vienna—which together with the Village make up the majority of the DeForest Area School District area—also grew during these periods. Population growth in the School District area has a significant effect on DeForest’s park facilities and recreation programs.

Figure 1: Population Trends

| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | Population Change* | Percent Change* |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Village of DeForest | 3,367 | 4,882 | 7,368 | 8,936 | 1,568 | 21% |
| Town of Windsor | 3,812 | 4,620 | 5,286 | 6,345 | 1,059 | 20% |
| Town of Vienna | 1,314 | 1,351 | 1,294 | 1,482 | 188 | 15% |
| Dane County | 323,545 | 367,085 | 426,526 | 488,073 | 61,547 | 14% |
| Wisconsin | 4,705,767 | 4,891,769 | 5,363,675 | 5,686,986 | 323,311 | 6% |

Source: US Census

*Change from 2000 to 2010

Since future population growth is so dependant upon variables such as market conditions (extremely unpredictable in 2011), attitudes towards growth, and presence of absence of development regulations, accurately predicting the future population of the Village can be challenging. Figure 2 presents three possible growth scenarios: low, medium, and high. The medium growth scenario was used in this *Plan*.

Figure 2: DeForest Population Growth Scenarios

| Rate of Growth | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Low | 8,936 | 10,415 | 11,545 | 12,654 | 13,715 | 13,857 |
| Medium | 8,936 | 10,110 | 11,439 | 12,942 | 14,643 | 16,567 |
| High | 8,936 | 10,613 | 12,605 | 14,971 | 17,781 | 21,118 |

Source: WisDOA and Vandemalle & Associates

D. Demographic Trends

1. Age and Gender Distribution

General trends in age distribution are an important factor when considering the future demand for park and recreational facilities. DeForest clearly has young and family-oriented population, fueling the community's growth in the 1990s and early 2000s. In 2000, the median age of DeForest residents was 32.6 years, younger than the state or Dane County median ages (36 and 33.2, respectively). Also in 2000, the percentage of the Village's population under 18 was 31%, higher than the percentage in Dane County as a whole (22.6%). Detailed 2010 Census data on this subject was not yet available at the time of writing. With a prolonged life expectancy and a trend toward declining birth rates, DeForest's median age will likely continue to rise over the early part of the 20-year planning period. Clearly, the elderly population in the area will continue to rise, suggesting the need for more passive recreational opportunities.

Based on ESRI Business Information's "Community Tapestry" data from 2006, nearly 30 percent of the population within a 5-mile radius of downtown was younger than 18 years old. This suggests opportunities for youth- and family-oriented activities. Additionally, about 17 percent of the population in this area is considered "middle-aged" (35 to 45 years old). Further analysis of the "Community Tapestry" of DeForest suggests that married-couple families are the predominant household type.

Figure 3: Age and Gender Distribution, DeForest, 1990-2000

| | Median Age | % under 18 | % over 65 | % Female |
|------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 2000 | 32.6 | 31.1% | 8.1% | 51.9% |
| 1990 | 30.2 | 31.3% | 6.2% | 51.4% |

Source: U.S. Census, 1990 and 2000

2. Household Characteristics

Figure 4 presents household characteristics for DeForest, partially updated with recently released 2010 Census housing unit data. Consistent with regional and national trends, the average household size in the Village is declining, median home values and rents are increasing, and the total number of housing units and households in the Village has increased at a high rate over the past two decades.

Figure 4: Housing Characteristics, DeForest

| | Total Housing Units | Total Households | Average Household Size | Median Value | Median Rent |
|------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| 2000 | 2,725 | 2,675 | 2.74 | \$136,700 | \$664 |
| 2010 | 3,499 | 3,400 | 2.63* | NA | NA |

Source: U.S. Census, 2000 and 2010 *Estimated; does not account for non-household population, minimal in DeForest.

Based on ESRI Business Information's "Community Tapestry" data, the estimated median household income in 2006 was \$74,069, with over 66 percent of household earning between \$50,000 and \$149,999 per year. After taxes, households in this area have a median disposable income of \$52,744, suggesting significant spending power.

E. Labor Force and Employment

A community's labor force is the portion of the population that is employed or available for work. According to the 2000 Census, the Village population aged 16 and over was 5,284, with 4,266 of those engaged in the labor force. Of persons 16 years and over, 48.6% were female, 51.3% were male. The Village labor force is predominately employed in management, professional, sales and office occupations (see Figure 5). Understanding the Village's labor force is important to park planning in that it provides some insight into schedules and availability. For instance, the fact that a majority of the Village's workforce commutes out of the Village for their jobs impacts recreational program scheduling.

Figure 5: Occupation and Labor Force (Population 16 and over), DeForest

| Occupation | Number | Percent (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Management, Professional, and Related Occupations | 1,250 | 30.0 |
| Service | 596 | 14.3 |
| Sales and Office | 1,190 | 28.5 |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry | 25 | 0.6 |
| Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance | 470 | 11.3 |
| Production, Transportation, and Material Moving | 639 | 15.3 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

F. Review of Existing Plans

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

I. Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan (last amended 2011)

The Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted in 2006 and has been amended annually since then. The Comprehensive Plan allows the Village to guide short-range and long-range growth, development, and preservation, by:

- Identifying areas appropriate for development and preservation over the next 20 years;
- Recommending types of land use for specific areas in the Village;
- Identifying needed transportation and community facilities to serve future land uses;
- Directing private housing and commercial investment in the Village; and
- Providing detailed strategies to implement plan recommendations.



The Comprehensive Plan includes several recommendations that are pertinent to this *Park and Open Space Plan*, including those related to the Village's growth patterns in general:

- Plan for new residential and non-residential uses for the 20-year planning period consistent with the Future Land Use Map, identifying appropriate locations for development of various types.
- Develop a residential growth phasing plan to ensure that housing does not outpace the ability to provide utilities and services, particularly school district and transportation system capacity.
- Encourage “planned neighborhoods” that incorporate logical connections, natural area and recreational space, commercial and services opportunities, schools, and pedestrian facilities.
- Identify and protect environmental corridors.
- Enforce high-quality landscaping standards and protect heritage trees.

The Comprehensive Plan also makes recommendations that are specifically related to parks and recreational systems:

- Maintain greenspace systems as a link between different parts of the DeForest community, and as separation areas between DeForest and Madison.

- Create a trail system that corresponds with the Village's greenways, such as paralleling the Yahara River.
- Plan for new parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities in all new development areas, in collaboration with neighboring communities and the DeForest Area School District.

The recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan are complimentary to those in this *Park and Open Space Plan*. This *Plan* provides detail on parks and recreational systems beyond that provided in the Comprehensive Plan.

2. *Village of DeForest Downtown Redevelopment Concept & Implementation Strategy (2009)*

A high priority in the Village has been to fill vacant or underutilized parcels and space in the Village with an appropriate mix of uses to stimulate economic activity, particularly in the downtown. The Downtown Strategy identifies numerous goals to accomplish this objective, as well as specific opportunities and an implementation strategy. The Downtown Strategy also includes proposals for the following parks and recreational related projects and activities:

- Redevelopment of Fireman's Park, including sidewalks and wayfinding sign improvements.
- Improvements to Veterans Memorial Park, including a canoe launch, interconnected river pathway system, vegetative shoreline restoration and native plantings, picnicking site, and an interpretive structure.
- Downtown path connections linking the downtown to the Yahara River and the rest of the community. Path segments would connect Bakke Conservancy/Delkamp Trail with Western Green Park, downtown to Veterans Memorial Park, and the west end of Holum Street with the Western Green Park.
- Installation of kiosks and interpretive structures to spotlight the Yahara River and downtown amenities.
- Gathering place enhancements near the DeForest Library and Town Square, such as an attractive courtyard and a more logical and defined sidewalk connection between Market and Library Streets.

3. *Yahara River Large Woody Debris Inventory Report (2008)*

In April 2008, the Village and The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc. —a newly created non-profit organization spearheaded by the Village—commissioned an inventory of the Yahara River corridor to provide recommendations and management options for woody debris structures in the River. Based on this report, the Village determined that the six miles of the Yahara River corridor running through DeForest provides a unique opportunity for a community-based ecological and recreational enhancement. The inventory of large woody debris provides an initial step toward developing a Yahara River water trail and opportunities to enhance in-stream stability and habitat.

4. *Yahara River Large Woody Debris Management Primer (2008)*

As a companion document to the Yahara River Large Woody Debris Inventory Report prepared in April 2008, the Village and The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc. commissioned the preparation of the Management Primer, completed in May 2008. The Primer identifies what constitutes large woody debris; how and where it is likely to get trapped and accumulate; its role in river ecology and fluvial geomorphology, and how to

assess and manage large woody debris. It is a priority of the Village to substantially clear the River of woody debris.

5. *Upper Yahara River User Analysis, Future Opportunities, and Priority Projects (2008)*

The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc. commissioned a report to analyze current use, access, and users of the Upper Yahara River and to identify opportunities for advancing river health and expanding river-related activities. The report suggests several geographical areas of opportunity for future activities and improvements associated with the Upper Yahara River, including Conservancy Place, Lake Windsor Golf Course in the Town of Windsor, trails and trailheads, and Downtown DeForest. The report includes detailed recommendations for downtown river projects/activities, including downtown path connections, improvements at Veterans Memorial Park, path connection and trailhead at Holum Street, and a kiosk/interpretive structure at either Veterans Memorial Park or the proposed Holum Street trailhead area. Many of these ideas were transferred to the Downtown Strategy, described above. In addition, a potential rain garden was proposed for the Village Community Center; however, this location was determined to be infeasible and the rain garden was instead installed in front of Village Hall in 2009.

6. *Ecological Assessment & Management Plan (2007)*

In 2007, an ecological assessment was conducted of the Village of DeForest's conservation parks, which include Western Green, Veterans Memorial Park, Bakke Conservancy and Northern Corridor Park. The Ecological Assessment & Management Plan records results of the field visits describing the natural communities in the conservancies and providing a plan to guide management actions necessary to preserve and enhance diversity of plant and animal species in these parks. The following action items were identified as high priority:

- Create wider un-mowed buffers on sloping river-side land in Veterans Memorial Park and surrounding pond in Western Green Park.
- Kill the small, isolated crown vetch and spotted knapweed colonies.
- Eradicate all invasive species found.
- Diminish the abundance of reed canary grass.
- Plant scattered trees and wildlife shrubs in a random pattern.
- Establish native prairie and restore marsh, wet prairie, woodlands, and oak savannahs.

7. *Yahara River Planning Committee Strategic Plan (2004)*

The Village received a River Protection/Planning Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to create a Strategic Plan for the Upper Yahara River Corridor. This report was completed in October 2004 and will continue to be referenced to develop strategies to improve water quality, restore habitat, and initiate streambank restoration and protection projects. Key recommendations from the report include the following:

- Focus on efforts to reduce non-point pollution through continued dialogue and cooperative efforts with contributing Drainage Districts, agricultural landowners, the towns and Dane County Land Conservation Department, other watershed groups (such as Token Creek Watershed Association, The Friends of Yahara River Headwaters, Inc., Friends of Lake Wingra) in primarily agricultural areas.
- Implement no-mow buffer zones to reduce sedimentation and the flow of nutrients into the River. The Village will lead by establishing buffer ones along Village-owned parkland and property. Education and cooperation of adjacent riparian property owners in residential and urban areas will also be necessary.

- Establish and operate a Village stormwater utility, which has since been created. The stormwater ordinance will be reviewed and modified as necessary to incorporate new technologies and water quality improvement technologies.
- Promote voluntary efforts such as creation of properly designed and maintained rain gardens, reduced use of lawn chemicals, and proper disposal of yard waste.
- Implement an environmentally sensitive development at Conservancy Place that protects and rehabilitates the river corridor; emphasizes natural streambanks and wetland areas; and provides a benchmark for protection and restoration for the Village.

8. *Safe Routes to School Plan and Sidewalk Policy (2011)*

Working with the DeForest Area School District and the Town of Windsor, the Village was in the process of completing a Safe Routes to School Plan at the time of writing. That Plan identifies ways to improve bike and pedestrian access to the three elementary schools and one middle school in the DeForest-Windsor urban area. For off-street trail recommendations, the Village closely coordinated that Safe Routes to School Plan with this Park and Open Space Plan.

Based in part on the recommendations of both plans, and recent community discussions about sidewalks, the Village is also beginning to develop a sidewalk policy and map. The policy will particularly focus on which streets may warrant sidewalks as part of street reconstruction projects.

9. *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan (2012-2017)*

At the time of writing, Dane County was in the process of updating its Parks and Open Space Plan. The Village collaborated with the County during its park planning process. The Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan 2006-2011 seeks to identify significant cultural, historical, and natural resources that should be considered for possible protection, preservation or restoration over the five year planning period. That County Plan identifies countywide recreation needs and Dane County's role in providing facilities to meet anticipated demands, and identifies projects such as a Yahara River trail as a regional priority.

Since 2006, the County also commissioned a master plan for the redevelopment of Token Creek Park, to the Village's immediate south. That master plan advises a reconfigured access plan (relocating auto access from Highway 51 to Anderson Street), additional parking lots, picnic areas, multi-use trails, and expansion of the campground and disc golf areas. The existing large and small dog parks will remain as is. The planning process also identified trail opportunities between Token Creek Park to the developed DeForest area and particularly along the Token Creek corridor northeast of the park.

10. *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, local park and recreation plans, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions.

Within the SCORP, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. The Village of DeForest is located in the Southern Gateways Planning Region.

In the Southern Gateways Planning Region, the SCORP identifies the following nature-based supply shortages: backcountry/walk-in camping; carry-in boat launches; parks; natural areas; public water access; and hiking and horseback riding trails. The SCORP also includes the following developed recreation supply shortages: trailerable boat launches; educational camps; dog parks, ice skating rinks; nature centers; picnic areas; sailboat clubs and rentals; tennis courts; tennis programs; and bicycle trails.

Several recreation needs are common throughout the state. Common deficiencies within the nature-based category include a shortage of parks, camping, carry-in boat launches, and certain trail types. These elements are, for the most part, provided at a federal, state, or county level of development. Within the developed setting category, local shortages such as basketball courts, ice skating rinks, trailerable boat launches, and dog parks are the most common.

At the time of writing, the State Department of Natural Resources was in the process of preparing the 2011-2016 SCORP. The Village will review the updated SCORP after adoption to understand how it can address state-wide recreational needs at the local level.

Chapter 3 Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

The following is a summary of existing park and recreational facilities within DeForest, also depicted on Map 1. A complete list of the facilities within each Village park is provided in Appendix A.

A. Community Parks

Western Green Park: This 34-acre park stretches from Main Street to River Road with additional access located at Seminole Way and Trailside Drive. Because much of it is in the Yahara River floodplain, passive recreational uses dominate the park. Park facilities include playground equipment, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a sand volleyball court, a soccer field, and a natural prairie area. A 2-mile multi-use trail winds through the park.

Firemen's Park: This 11-acre park is located between Jefferson Street and DeForest Street in downtown DeForest. The park offers 2 lighted softball fields, 1 lighted youth baseball field, horseshoe pits, basketball hoops, playground equipment, 2 picnic shelters, 2 restroom facilities, an enclosed concession stand/meeting room, and a skating rink in the winter. This park is home to the DeForest Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Fourth of July Celebration.

B. Neighborhood Parks

Conservancy Commons Park: This 3-acre park off of Innovation Drive, within the Conservancy Place neighborhood, includes a popular splash pad that operates from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day each year as well as a playground, restrooms, and a picnic shelter.



Dahl Park: This 4-acre park is located on Halsor Street. The park currently functions primarily as an open play area with a small pond.

Liberty Land Park: This 10-acre park extends from Yorktown Road to Vinburn Road, with access on Constitution Lane. The park facilities include playground equipment, restrooms, a picnic shelter, a large open play area, and a 1-mile multi-use trail, which will eventually connect with Token Creek Park.

Sunnybrook Park: This 4-acre park is located off Riverside Drive. The park currently offers a picnic shelter and a 0.6-mile trail, half of which is paved.

Veterans Memorial Park: This 3.5-acre park is located on North Main Street. The park offers a gazebo, water fountain, and a large open play area. In the past, the park also accommodated ice-skating in the winter months.

Yahara Park: This 8-acre park is located on Trailside Drive, with a second access point located at Seminole Way. Park facilities include two youth baseball/softball fields, a batting cage, and a picnic shelter/concession facility.

C. Tot-Lots

Hank's Hollow Park: This 0.3-acre tot-lot is located on Hank's Hollow trail. Park facilities include playground equipment and picnic tables.

D. Special Open Space Areas

Meadowview Park: This 3-acre open space area is located off of Pheasant Lane containing small stormwater management ponds. There are no active recreation facilities.

Yankee Conservancy: This 25-acre conservancy area is located across Highway 51 from the DeForest Business Park. This land serves as an environmental research station for area schools.

Bakke Conservancy: This 12.5-acre conservancy area is located on North Stevenson Street.

Northern Corridor Park: This 52.4-acre conservancy area, adjacent to the Bakke Conservancy, is located on North Stevenson Street.

Upper Yahara River Corridor: This 142-acre conservancy area is located along the regionally-significant Upper Yahara River, adjacent to the Conservancy Place neighborhood. This 2010 acquisition brings into public ownership the only remaining large block of land along the Yahara River within Village's borders. At the time of plan drafting, the Village was in the process of constructing a 2.85-mile trail within the Corridor.

E. Public Schools

The DeForest Area School District has several facilities in the Village that provide additional recreational opportunities. Several recreational programs have historically used school facilities for practice and/or play, including youth soccer, football, and baseball/softball. However, as both school and community demand for these facilities has increased, so have challenges with scheduling and overuse.

Yahara Elementary School is located adjacent to Yahara Park. The elementary school offers play equipment and open field space.

Eagle Point Elementary School functions as a neighborhood park, offering playground equipment and open field space.

Both the *DeForest Area High School* and *DeForest Area Middle School* offer 4 baseball/softball fields, a football field, several general/practice playfield areas appropriate for soccer, and four tennis courts.

F. Trails

The Village's trail system will eventually connect to Windsor's emerging system and the Dane County trail system at Token Creek Park. Currently, the following trail segments have been built: DeForest-Windsor Trail (1 mile through Liberty Land Park and Antique Acres subdivision); Delkamp Trail (.4 mile along North Stevenson Street); Mayapple Trail (.5 mile along the Yahara River and Mayapple Circle); Western Green Trail (2 miles through Western Green Park); and

Conservancy Place Trail (2.85 miles within the Conservancy Place neighborhood—construction is planned for 2011 and 2012).

G. Other Facilities Near the Village

Token Creek Park: Token Creek Park is owned and operated by the Dane County Parks Department. The 427-acre park is located south of STH 19 adjacent to the southern edge of the Village. The park features a sedge-meadow trail. This is a popular location for large group gatherings. The park also offers several recreational amenities including walking and equestrian trails, disc-golf, fishing access, a dog exercise area, and a campground.

Cherokee Marsh: The largest wetland in Dane County, Cherokee Marsh consists of over 4,000 acres of protected wetlands, fen and cattail marsh, woodlands, fields, prairie, glacial drumlins, kettle lakes, oak savannah, and a section of the Yahara River. The central wetland area was created by glacial Lake Mendota. The park is managed by the City of Madison. Cherokee Marsh is located southwest of the Interstate and south of STH 19, directly adjacent to the Village.

Town of Windsor Parks and Trails: As depicted on Map 1, several existing Windsor parks are located in close proximity to the Village limits. Most of these are neighborhood parks and tot-lots. The Windsor Sports Complex-Linde Fields, located at the northeast corner of Highway 51 and North Street/Mueller Road, includes several soccer fields. Windsor also has an emerging trail network of its own, focused in particular in newer neighborhoods.

Audubon Goose Pond State Natural Area: This State Natural Area is just south of Arlington near the intersection of Highways 51, 60 and 22. Goose Pond is a small, isolated, prairie pothole located within a marshy basin in ground moraine. The area was designated a bird species preserve because of the 243 bird species that have been sighted on the property.

Greater Madison BMX Track: This brand new facility, located on approximately 10 acres along Hickory Lane in the Town of Vienna, is owned and operated by a non-profit entity. BMX (Bicycle Motocross) is an “action sport” in which participants race bikes around a dirt track that includes jumps and berms. The facility is being designed for both area residents and for potential special events attracting regional and national participants.

H. Accessibility-Universal Design and ADA Compliance

Park and recreational facilities must be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users whenever possible to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Furthermore, universal design standards serve as guidelines for complying with federal ADA regulations, and are required for most grant-in-aid programs.

Map 1: Existing Facilities

Chapter 4 Public Participation

A. Public Participation - 2006 Plan Development

The results of public participation associated with the *2006 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan* provide insight into recommendations included in that plan and now carried forward to this updated plan.

The Village held a visioning workshop in 2006 to provide Village residents an early opportunity to identify key goals for the park system and to prioritize initiatives for future park and recreational facilities. The results revealed strong support for the acquisition of a new community park to address unmet demands, reduce scheduling conflicts and overuse of existing facilities, and allow for the repurposing of Fireman's Park. Attendees also voted for the types of facilities and/or equipment that they would like to see incorporated into the park system. It is important to note that each individual was given ten opportunities to vote and several categories may be weighted toward attendees casting several of their votes for one facility-type.

Figure 6: Facilities and Equipment Exercise Results, 2006

| Facility | Votes |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Football fields | 33 |
| Fitness center | 23 |
| Dog park | 22 |
| Baseball fields (lighted) | 22 |
| Ice skating rink | 21 |
| Walking trails | 20 |
| Multi-use paths | 13 |
| Water trail | 12 |
| Natural parks | 12 |
| Band shell | 11 |
| Nature study area | 10 |

B. Focus Groups - 2011 Plan Update

In 2006 and again in 2011, the Village desired to reach out to additional recreation and user groups to better understand their needs and desires for future parks and recreational facilities. The Village conducted the following focus group meetings in February 2011 to gather input on future needs.

1. Baseball Group

- High School field is inadequate – no lights, restrooms, concession, water, or storage; no maintenance during the summer months. Parking is also a challenge.
- The JV field at the High School will be eliminated when the school expands in the future.
- For baseball, a multi-field complex with lights, dugouts, concessions, bleachers, open air indoor/outdoor batting cages is desired. At least two fields would be desired for tournaments.

- For little league, a facility with grass infield, skinned paths, and irrigation is desired. Baseball leagues would not use fields with skinned infield.
- The ability to sell alcohol at games is important to raise money.
- New fields would be used Thursday through Sunday; 30-35 games a season, by the DeForest Home Talent team (Home Talent is Wisconsin's largest adult amateur baseball league)

2. Softball Group

- Existing facilities are not meeting needs and demands; at capacity for field usage.
- Lack of parking and congestion when teams are switching is a serious issue.
- A facility with four dedicated softball fields with lights, irrigation, drainage, storage space, and maintenance storage space that are entirely fenced and have a minimum distance of 275 feet from home plate to outfield fence is desired. Lockers would be great for tournaments.
- A new facility should also have a warm-up area and green space with no trees near the field
- An unbounded field is preferred.
- Softball can share facilities with little league baseball.
- Fields should include multiple stems for bases in the fields to accommodate different users.

3. Lacrosse and Football Group

- High School field is inadequate – no bathrooms, concessions, or storage. Parking is also an issue.
- Lacrosse would like a facility for tournaments with 3-4 fields. Separate fields for games and practice are desired.
- A new facility with bathrooms, concessions, lights, and parking is desired.
- Lacrosse and soccer are more complementary than lacrosse and football since those sports require smooth playing fields. Also, the rest time needed to restore the fields after a football season is challenging to a lacrosse league whose season start immediately in spring.
- The Recreation Department is considering offering a camp/clinic for lacrosse.

4. Soccer Group

- The Village Recreation Department primarily uses school facilities for its leagues.
- Scheduling at Windsor Sports Complex-Linde Fields is becoming a challenge; the facility is being used to its maximum capacity.
- There are no plans to expand Windsor Sports Complex-Linde Fields.
- A second location in the Village for tournament games is desired—ideally 10+ acres of level open space near Windsor Sports Complex-Linde Fields.
- Lighting and a large parking lot are desired.

C. Email Input - 2011 Plan Update

As part of the 2011 *Plan* update process, the Village sought input through the Department's email list about the existing park system and future needs. Responses are summarized below.

- Trails should be complemented with supporting retailers, service providers, and restaurants along them.

- The Village should “think big” in parks and recreation planning.
- Consider closing Stevenson Street through Fireman’s Park.
- Consider putting portable restrooms in parks that have no permanent bathroom.
- Maintenance of existing parks should be a priority before new parks are added.
- Consider the following new facilities:
 - Warming house for ice skating at Fireman’s Park
 - Outdoor pool
 - Dog park
 - Skate park
 - Off-street trails
 - Another splash pad
 - Sand volleyball courts
 - More youth athletic programs

D. Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission Meetings - 2011 Plan Update

The Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee discussed the 2011 *Plan* update at three meetings to accept public comment, discuss key issues and directions for the *Plan* update, and finally recommend the draft *Plan* to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Village Board held a public hearing prior to adoption.

Chapter 5 Park and Recreation Standards

A set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities serves as a benchmark for evaluating the adequacy of DeForest's park system. They provide a quantitative measure how well existing facilities are meeting the needs of current and future residents, based on projected population growth. Park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that for every 1,000 residents, a community should provide 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood park space. While such national standards provide useful benchmarks, the analysis of DeForest's park system must emphasize the *local* demand for parks and other recreational resources.

A. Tot-Lots

General Description: Tot-lots offer limited park facilities that generally serve young children and families. Such parks are usually characterized by playground equipment, small open space areas, and picnic areas.

Service Area: Less than ¼ mile in residential areas

Desirable Size: 2,500 square feet to 2 acres

Acres per 1,000 Population: 0.25 – 0.5 acres

Basic Facilities and Activities:

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

Desirable Site Characteristics:

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

B. Neighborhood Parks

General Description: Neighborhood parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as baseball and soccer fields, but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature-study, particularly when the unique landscape of the park supports such activities (e.g., adjacent to river).

Service Area: ¼- to ½-mile radius uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers, with the radius dependant in part on the size and amenities in the park

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

Acres per 1,000 Population: 3 -6 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

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

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking or biking

C. Community Parks

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

Service Area: ½ to 3 miles

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

Acres per 1,000 Population: 6-10 acres

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park
- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow
- Community center-type building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use (optional)
- Special use facilities, such as a dog exercise area or disc golf course (optional)

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- May include natural areas, such water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking, biking, and automobile

D. School Parks

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

the Village or the School District, but are open to all residents. Occasionally the boundary between school parks and adjacent Village neighborhood or community parks can blur.

Service Area: Variable – depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable – depends on function

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

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms
- Lighting for security at night
- Off-street parking

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Accessible by walking, biking, and automobile

E. Special Open Space Areas

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

Special Open Space Areas may be owned by the Village, some other public entity, a non-profit conservation organization, or a private entity. Examples include golf courses, sledding/skiing hills, marinas, beaches, display gardens, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for active recreational use. These may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Service Area: Variable—depends on function

Desirable Size: Variable—depends on function

Acres Per 1,000 Population: Variable—most Special Open Space Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons

Basic Facilities and Activities: Variable, but some may include:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms
- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths
- Lighting for security at night (except where interfering with natural resource)
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area

F. Recreation Trail Routes

General Description: Recreation Trail Routes accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, skating, nature study, and potentially horseback riding or cross-country skiing. Water trails, particularly along the Yahara River, are possible and desirable in the DeForest area for paddlers and fishers. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space lands, between neighborhoods and other destinations like the downtown, and between developed areas and the surrounding natural environment. Recreation Trail Routes can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities. While most Recreation Trail Routes are separated from motor vehicle traffic (i.e. off the road), on-road facilities may be critical places where off-road trails are impractical. The types of Recreation Trail Routes considered in this *Plan* are as follows.

1. On-Street Bicycle Facilities

General Description: There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders. They are the preferred bicycle facility for streets that carry more than 2,000 vehicles per day.

Bicycle lanes are areas of an urban (curbed) road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, roadways that are 32 feet or wider allow for bicycle lanes. Shared bicycle/parking lanes generally function adequately where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high.

Paved shoulders on rural roads are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes.

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* does not include recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bike facilities, except where providing short links along an off-street recreation trail route. More formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the Village's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.

Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:

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

Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:

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

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: N/A

2. Off-Street Recreation Trails

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

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

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

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* presents recommendations for the location of future off-street recreation trails. However, the design and type of such facilities is not identified in this *Plan*, but is instead subject to more detailed analysis and decision making on a trail-by-trail basis.

Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:

- In urban areas, paths should ideally be 10 feet wide (8 foot minimum in developed areas) to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, walking, running, and skating.
- In rural areas, paths should be a minimum of 8 feet wide, and minimally surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Minimum 20 mph design speed.

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

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: The provision of trails is best related to an analysis of supply versus demand and the size of the community, rather than a single quantitative standard.

3. Water Trails

General Description: Water trails are in-water routes along rivers, streams, and lakes. They are designed primarily for paddlers, but also serve fishermen. They may or may not parallel a land-based trail, but do require occasional access to the local road network and adjacent neighborhoods.

Treatment in this Plan: This *Plan* presents recommendations for a water trail within the Yahara River.

Desirable Design Criteria for Water Trails:

- Navigability of the water body during most times of the year is key, including the maintenance of sufficient water flow.
- The cleaning of woody and other debris may be necessary to establish and maintain the water trail, balancing debris clean-up with habitat preservation.
- Potential barriers, such as bridges and underpasses, need to be considered in water trail design and maintenance.

- Water trail drop-ins should be designed to acceptable standards including:
 - A firm surface for launching, despite changes in sedimentation levels.
 - A launch area of 15-25 feet long and 6-12 feet wide.
 - Slopes of not more than 8.33 percent to meet ADA accessibility standards; slopes should not exceed 15 percent.
 - Water level deep enough to enable launching without damaging boat (preferably at least 2 feet); kayakers may want at least 4 feet to permit rolling.
 - Handrails or other support structures, including step-down designs or ropes, help paddlers balance their weight during put-in and take-out.

Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population: N/A

4. Trailheads

General Description: Trailheads can provide visible access points to major Off-street Recreation Trails, both land and water trails. They generally provide a parking area and information about the trail system, such as locational and directional maps. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to both the trail system and road network (to enable people to access by car).

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

Desirable Design Criteria: Include visible and vandal-resistant kiosk or other marker.

Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population: N/A

Chapter 6 Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter presents an analysis of how well DeForest's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the Village's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of quantitative park and recreational facility service standards presented in the previous chapter to reliable population projections for the Village;
- A qualitative analysis of the Village's park system;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the Village's park and open space system.

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

A. Quantitative Analysis of DeForest Park and Recreation System

I. Existing Level of Service

The following charts present a comparison of park and recreation standards (NRPA and locally developed) to the Village's existing facilities. To conduct this analysis, park standards per 1,000 persons were applied to the Village's 2010 population of 8,936.

The Village intends to maintain its 2011 parkland dedication standard 1 acre per every 20 residential units, which translates into a general standard of 15 park acres per every 1,000 residents. This can also be translated to 2,178 square feet of parkland per residential unit. The Village's preferred balance of active to passive park and recreation areas is that at least 10 acres of active use lands be provided per 1,000 population, with the balance (5 acres per 1,000) for open space and other passive recreation uses.

Figure 7: Village's Park and Recreation Standards

| Type of Park | Standard (acres per 1,000 persons) |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Neighborhood Park | Maintain range of 1 to 4 acres/1,000 |
| Community Park | Maintain range of 6 to 11 acres/1,000 |
| Special Use Areas | Maintain range of 1 to 5 acres/1,000 |
| Total | Achieve minimum of 15 acres/1,000 (10 acres/1,000 for active use) |

Service standards in this *Plan* have been informed by NRPA standards, but developed for the Village's unique future park and open space desires.

Figure 8: Current Performance Against Village Park and Recreation Standards

| Name of Park/ Open Space | Acres (2011) | Active Acres | Passive Acres | Trails |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| Community Parks | | | | |
| Fireman's | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Western Green | 46.8 | 32.8 | 14 | 2.0 |
| Total Community Park | 57.8 | 43.8 | 14 | 2.0 |
| Per 1,000 Population | 6.47 | 4.90 | 1.57 | 0.22 |
| Neighborhood Parks and Tot Lots | | | | |
| Veterans Memorial | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Yahara | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hanks Hollow | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 |
| Liberty Land | 8.6 | 8.6 | 0 | 1 |
| Dahl | 4 | 0.8 | 3.2 | 0 |
| Meadowview | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Sunnybrook | 4.2 | 0 | 4.2 | 0.6 |
| Conservancy Commons | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Neighborhood Park and Tot Lot | 30.1 | 19.7 | 10.4 | 1.6 |
| Per 1,000 Population | 3.37 | 2.20 | 1.16 | 0.18 |
| Special Use Areas | | | | |
| Bakke Conservancy | 12.5 | 0 | 12.5 | 0 |
| Yankee Conservancy | 16 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Northern Corridor Park | 52.4 | 0 | 52.4 | 0 |
| Upper Yahara River Corridor | 142 | 0 | 142 | 2.85 |
| Total Special Use Area | 222.9 | 0 | 222.9 | 2.85 |
| Per 1,000 Population | 24.94 | 0.00 | 24.94 | 0.32 |
| Total | 310.8 | 63.5 | 247.3 | 6.45 |
| Per 1,000 Population | 34.78 | 7.11 | 27.67 | 0.72 |

At the time this *Plan* was written, the Village was meeting its standards for neighborhood parks and tot lots. The existing acreage of conservancy or special use areas is in excess of what Village standards suggest may be needed. In terms of community park land, the Village is on the lower end of the range, and significantly below its standard when passive recreational components of existing community parks are subtracted from the acreage total. Overall, there is a deficiency in active recreation lands compared to the Village's standards. The implications of these findings, particularly the need for additional community park land, are discussed later in this *Plan*.

2. Projected Additional Park and Open Space Acreage Needs

The overall future recreational land need of the Village is determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the Village in the years 2016 and 2035.

Using the standards in Figure 8, the following are projected park and open space needs for the year 2016.

Figure 9: Projected Park Acreage Needs in 2016

| Park Type | Standards (acres per 1,000 people) | Acreage Required to Meet Standard in 2016* | Total 2011 Acreage | Minimum New Park Acres Needed by 2016 to Meet Standard* |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total | 15 | 155 | 310.8 | 0 |
| Community | 6 - 10 | 62 - 104 | 57.8 | 4 - 46 |
| Neighborhood | 3 - 6 | 31 - 62 | 30.1 | 1 - 32 |
| Special Use | 1 - 5 | 10 - 52 | 222.9 | 0 |

* Based on a projected 2016 population of 10,363.

Using the standards in Figure 8, the following are projected park and open space needs for the year 2035.

Figure 10: Projected Park Acreage Needs in 2035

| Park Type | Standards (acres per 1,000 people) | Acreage Required to Meet Standard in 2035* | Total 2011 Acreage | Minimum New Park Acres Needed by 2035 to Meet Standard* |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total | 15 | 249 | 310.8 | 0 |
| Community | 6 - 10 | 99 - 166 | 57.8 | 41 - 108 |
| Neighborhood | 3 - 6 | 50 - 99 | 30.1 | 23 - 72 |
| Special Use | 1 - 5 | 17 - 83 | 222.9 | 0 |

* Based on a projected 2035 population of 16,567.

Figures 9 and 10 suggest that the Village should plan for additional neighborhood and community parks to meet future needs of its growing population. Also, the Village should provide additional facilities within existing parks.

B. Distribution of Park and Open Space Facilities

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities provides another indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of Village residents—particularly neighborhood parks and tot-lots need to be close to where people live to meet service area standards.

Maps 2a and 2b depict the service areas of the DeForest area's existing parks. This analysis includes parks within the Town of Windsor, which also serve Village residents to some extent. These service areas are based on uniform radii applied to parks within specified size ranges, with larger parks serving a broader radius. Service areas are constrained by major barriers to movement, such as busy streets, or by natural features.

Map 2a depicts the service areas of community parks and neighborhood parks, considering service radii between ¼-acre and ½ -acre for different neighborhood parks depending on their size and amenities. The map illustrates that the northern portion of the Village is fairly well-served geographically. Map 2b shows ¼ to ½ mile service radii for school sites, which help to fill in any remaining neighborhood park service area gaps in the northern part of the Village and near Windsor Road. There remain significant service area gaps in the southern part of the Village, and in the central portion of the DeForest-Windsor area.

Given this analysis, it will be important that underserved portions of the DeForest area be provided with a sufficient number and acreage of neighborhood parks, community parks, and special open areas to meet future needs, particularly as the central and southern portions of the DeForest-Windsor area develop.

Map 2a: Neighborhood and Community Park Service Areas

Map 2b: School Facilities Service Areas

Chapter 7 Vision, Goals, and Policies

The vision, goals, and policies in this chapter will shape the future look, feel and function of DeForest's park and recreation system.

A. Park and Open Space Vision

The Village's vision provides the overriding direction that the Village will follow in planning for its parks, recreation, and open space system. All goals, policies, and recommendations of the *Plan* should reflect and advance this vision.

The Village's park and open space vision is to provide of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of Village residents and visitors, including populations with special needs. The Village will also serve as a steward to the DeForest area's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.

B. Goals

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

1. Provide all residents with an opportunity for engaging in recreational activities.
2. Provide a range of park and open spaces to meet both active and passive recreational needs within visible and accessible locations.
3. Provide a range of recreational opportunities to adequately serve different age groups, including youth, teenagers, and senior citizens, and to serve residents with special accessibility needs.
4. Provide an adequate supply playfields and other athletic facilities to meet the needs of league sports teams and other organized recreational users, and to serve broader community development goals.
5. Preserve and where possible restore environmental corridors as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as for stormwater and flood management.
6. Develop an interconnected system of recreational trails to provide safe and efficient pedestrian and bicycle connections among neighborhoods, public parks and open spaces, schools, the downtown, and other commercial and job districts.
7. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to improve, maintain, and renovate existing park sites and facilities.

C. Policies

Policies are more specific rules and courses of action used to ensure *Plan* implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of goals.

1. Provide at least one park and recreational facility within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Village residents.
2. Maintain a service standard of at least 15 acres of public park land per 1,000 residents, with at least 10 of those acres per 1,000 being active use areas.

3. Identify, preserve, protect, and enhance Special Open Space Areas along environmental corridors, particularly the Village's waterways.
4. Continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
5. Provide neighborhood parks within safe walking distance of all residential neighborhoods. One-quarter mile is a preferred walking distance, with maximum distance of one-half mile between residences and neighborhood parks.
6. Develop neighborhood parks that are sufficiently large to provide informal playfields, playground areas and sufficient buffering so that adjoining residences are not adversely impacted by park users.
7. Site and design tot-lots and neighborhood parks in settings that enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place.
8. Integrate parks into future neighborhood designs, linked by a network of safe and convenient trails, bike routes, and open space corridors
9. Assure that all parks have multiple access points and visibility from the surrounding neighborhood and community. Generally require that 50% or more of park frontage is publicly accessible and visible, rather than lined by residential lots. For parks where access is otherwise constrained by natural or physical barriers less of the frontage should be occupied by residential lots.
10. Establish well-defined edges where residential lots are created adjacent to dedicated public park. Suggestions to accomplish this are through development of a neighborhood facility (paved bike/pedestrian paths), a landscaped buffer edge installed at the time of development, or fences.
11. Take measures to ensure that existing park facilities comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
12. When possible, acquire park and open space lands in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning.
13. Require that all new residential developments meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the Village of DeForest Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Development Ordinance.
14. Regularly update the Village Park Impact Fee ordinance as park needs assessments determine. The Village's parkland dedication and fee-in-lieu of dedication (impact fee) ordinances should continue to reflect the current demand for parkland, as well as recently adopted state law changes.
15. Require developers wishing to establish specialized parks and facilities beyond those advised in this *Plan* to establish an endowment fund or otherwise ensure the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of such specialized parks and facilities.
16. Explore alternative means to both preserve environmental corridors as permanent open space features and minimize public expenses, including collaboration with non-profit preservation organizations and possibly conservation easement acquisition.
17. Consider allowing designated snowmobile trails in the northern portion of the Village as part of the design of future parks and open space.

18. Encourage public awareness of the local parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, and other materials.
19. Keep participant recreational activities fees affordable to allow broad participation and enjoyment of park facilities.
20. Enter into working partnerships for planning of park and recreation facilities with the DeForest Area School District, Windsor, and Dane County, and where feasible locate facilities so that there can be joint use.
21. Collaborate with Dane County on multiple initiatives including land and water based trails, Token Creek Park master plan implementation, and a potential major regional conservancy area at or near the Village's northern edge.
22. Collaborate with other groups and organizations, such as the Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc., Token Creek Watershed Association, Youth Council, Linkages, and DeForest Area Friends of the Arts on programs and facility planning of mutual interest, including planning for parks and open space facilities and educational activities.

Chapter 8 Recommended Park and Open Space Improvements

This chapter provides detailed recommendations for new, expanded or improved park and recreational facilities. These recommendations are based on existing deficiencies and new parks and open space needs determined by future population growth, as well as changing conditions and new opportunities. These recommendations expand on the goals, policies, and recommendations overview in the previous chapter.

Based on the Village's projected population in 2035 (16,567 residents) and its desired park standard of 15 acres per 1,000 residents, the Village will need to provide about 180 acres of parkland. In addition to active recreation areas, Village residents have identified continued passive and "nature based" recreational opportunities as priorities. This *Plan* suggests that a substantial acreage of passive, nature oriented parks be appropriately developed in addition to the recommended active park facility acreage. The actual timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the demand for recreational facilities in the Village.

A. Acquire and Develop a New Community Park

Description: The goal for a new community park is to provide for diverse recreational opportunities and natural areas to serve the community as a whole as a gathering place, gearing athletic fields and facilities to adults and older youths.

The park should provide the following facilities: lighted adult ball-fields (3-4) with bleachers, a soccer/multi-use field, volleyball, courts (tennis, basketball), play areas, trails, shelters, picnic areas, concessions, and restrooms. Depending on the space available, this park could also provide other specialized facilities, such as a dog park, swimming pool, or disc golf course. An example community park concept plan is as follows.



Rationale: Fireman's Park currently serves as the Village's primary community park and location for recreational leagues, the 4th of July Celebration, and other events. Recent growth and popularity of recreational programs have resulted in more extensive use and concerns regarding adequacy of the space and sufficient parking to continue to serve the DeForest area as it grows. As the Village continues to emphasize downtown revitalization, there is also interest in shifting the focus of Fireman's Park to complement the downtown. A collaborative effort between the Village, one or more landowners, and neighboring communities could result in a community park that not only serves the Village, but the greater DeForest-Windsor-Vienna community.

Location: There are two new community parks planned for the future. CP 2 is the joint elementary school/community park site planned as part of the Conservancy Place development. The Village has

identified three potential locations for the other new community park. These potential park locations are shown on Map 3 and labeled CP 1a through CP 1c. Although precise locations have not been finalized, the potential sites include the following areas:



1. **CP 1a:** Area south of the Heritage Gardens subdivision and east of the Holland Fields (Windsor) subdivision, incorporating small park areas that have already been dedicated as part of these subdivisions. The balance of the necessary lands in this area to meet community standards, part of the “Ripp property,” are scheduled to come into the Village at time of development. Another sub-alternative for the CP 1a site would be further to the south (north of the Windsor Elementary School). Some of this area is currently owned by the School District, and is scheduled to remain in Windsor upon future development.
2. **CP 1b:** East of Interstate 90/94/39 along the west side of River Road, between the KOA campground and Chapel Green neighborhood. These lands offer good accessibility and possibility visibility from the Interstate. There are low areas that may be challenging to develop.
3. **CP 1c:** Area to the north of North Street, east of Morrisonville Road and ponds, and south of a major environmental corridor area. Site CP 1c would be ideal from an accessibility and visibility perspective, and it provides an extraordinary opportunity to connect to a much broader open

space system of regional significance discussed in greater depth later in this *Plan*. This site has been the focus of conversation since the 2006 *Park and Open Space Plan* first proposed these four options for a community park site. Approximately 40 acres of “upland” park have been identified and approved by the Village as part of the Country View Estates subdivision. The developer would dedicate this land for park use as part of the subdivision approval. At the time of writing, however, it was unclear when this Country View Estates subdivision would move forward towards development, based at least in part on lingering concerns with the sluggish residential real estate market. While this remains the preferred site, clearly the Village must keep other options on the table at this juncture.

Implementation: The Village must first identify whether and when the community park proposed within the Country View Estates neighborhood would be dedicated to the Village. If the Village expects that this site will be available within a reasonable timeframe, the Village can then focus attention towards implementing the community park at this site. Once the land is assured for dedication, this would include pursue completion of a detailed park master plan for this site via a public process. The detailed park master plan should include a phasing component. Next, the Village could begin budgeting, fund raising, and grant writing for park development.

If the Village does not anticipate that the Country View Estates’ site will be available within the foreseeable future, a feasibility analysis of the other three suggested potential sites could occur. This should include each site’s availability, development potential for park versus other purposes, unique opportunities collaboration and cost sharing and range of potential park uses that could be accommodated. Once the preferred site was identified, the Village should then:

- Negotiate a First Right of Refusal or option to purchase the selected property(ies) for the park
- Negotiate cost-sharing arrangement for park acquisition and facility developments
- Explore potential outside funding sources to supplement local government cost-sharing arrangement
- Purchase land and/or pursue dedication of acreage as part of development proposals in the recommended area.
- Develop a master plan for the park, involving the public, user groups, and other stakeholders
- Develop the park, in phases if necessary

Finally, in the event that acquisition or development of a park at any of the potential locations (CP 1a through CP 1c) is not feasible, additional alternative sites may considered based on the following factors.

- Good access for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Located near major transportation thoroughfares.
- Adequate land available—30+ acres.
- Relatively level topography.
- Buildable site for athletic fields.
- Minimal land use conflicts.
- Accessible location within community.

B. Develop Youth Sports Facilities at Multiple Sites

Description: The Village’s (and Town’s) youth sports programs are currently largely served by facilities dispersed throughout the community. This *Plan* includes recommendations that will help to achieve some consolidation of youth facilities, particularly a new community park, but scattered-site delivery

of youth team sports programs will continue. The primary youth sports programs that occupy park and field space in the Village include soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and football.

Rationale: Dispersing youth sports facilities in the DeForest area achieves the following:

1. Creates a positive separation between adult league facilities and youth sports facilities. This helps ensure that fields and facilities are sized appropriate to the age group that they are serving. This also helps establish the necessary tone for youth recreation, buffering youth areas in a positive way and resulting in a more controlled environment. Finally, it minimizes youth sports as feeling dominated by adult sports.
2. Designating particular areas (in some cases new facilities) for organized youth sports frees up some neighborhood park space for non-organized recreational play (e.g. pick-up games).
3. Allows each site to serve unique needs of the sport.
4. Easier to acquire smaller land areas.
5. Some use of existing Village park land and school sites may be possible.
6. Allows for individual identify for different organization; pride in ownership creates care and maintenance.

Locations for Youth Sports: Since existing Village parks cannot accommodate new formal sports fields, the Village will consider including fields in the following future parks:

- Future Neighborhood Parks: Youth sport fields for soccer, softball, and T-ball could be incorporated into several of the future neighborhood parks including NP 5 (Savannah Brooks), NP 6 (Bear Tree), NP 7 (Country View Estates), and NP 11 (Heritage Gardens). These proposed parks are described later in this chapter and are depicted on Map 3.
- Future Community Park: The future community park CP 1 described earlier in this chapter should include fields for a variety of sports, mainly built and programmed for competitive leagues. Still, depending on the space available, this space could also provide a multi-use practice field for soccer, lacrosse, and/or football.

Implementation:

1. As new parks are proposed, consider whether sports fields can be incorporated into the space.
2. Work with area youth sports organizations on master plans for new parks, including improvements, site layout, and design.
3. Work in collaboration with area youth sports organizations on ongoing management, programming, and maintenance of the park.

C. Redevelop Fireman's Park as an Improved Downtown Gathering Place

Description: With the recommended development of new community park space, Fireman's Park will be recast as a centerpiece for the downtown and a key community gathering place for civic type uses. Fireman's Park will be a place for gathering, continuing to provide a venue for the Library's Concerts in the Park, Fire Department Movies in the Park, summer-school/after-school programs, and other activities linked to arts and theatre.

Rationale: The recommended redevelopment of Fireman's Park is based on the following factors:

- Need for a larger, more centralized community park space elsewhere, geared toward active recreation given the growth of the Village.

- Opportunity to build on the downtown redevelopment through recreating Fireman's Park as a civic attraction and downtown redevelopment centerpiece.

Facilities: An outdoor stage and gathering place ringed with clusters of picnic areas would provide a central focal point for the park. Expansion of the existing trail network through the park would provide an improved location for fairs and markets. A well-designed public sculpture garden would also provide a unique amenity, suggested near the entrance of the park closest to the downtown area. The concept plan on the following page illustrates some of these ideas.

This downtown location is an appropriate location for specialized park facilities, given its visibility and proximity to public safety. Skate park and splash park facilities are possible. The park will continue to provide some opportunity for active recreation, including a multipurpose ball field, sport courts, and horseshoe pits.

Implementation:

1. Prepare a detailed park facility master plan with public participation that includes cost/facilities phasing with involvement from the community, including the recommendations in the Downtown Revitalization Concept & Implementation Strategy.
2. Relocate the existing ball fields to a new location(s).
3. Study community and traffic impacts of closing Stevenson Street to enhance park continuity, and possibly provide an alternative location for parking.
4. Encourage an organized effort to promote and maintain a skate park. A "Friends of the Skate Park" type group might be a logical group to promote such a park.



Fireman's Park Concept Plan

D. Upgrade and Improve Existing Park Facilities

The Village's existing parks and open space facilities are in good condition, but have some need for new facilities and equipment updates over time. The Village will continue to assess needed updates and renovations in existing park areas on an annual or bi-annual basis.

An idea that applies to many of the existing parks is exploring opportunities to integrate small natural areas within existing parks. Management of designated sites within existing parks to “transform” to natural vegetation would require some intensive active management at the outset to establish the appropriate mix of vegetation. Once established, these small pockets of natural areas (meadow, savannah, etc.) would protect natural habitat areas, minimize mowing requirements, and provide an attractive variation to the park landscape.



The following list presents facility and equipment recommendations for each of the Village's existing parks. Improvements may change based on community desires and available resources.

Fireman's Park (Improvements may change based on the final park master plan.)

- Multi-use pathway
- Skate park
- Basketball courts
- Skating rink
- Splash park
- Outdoor stage
- Picnic shelters and tables
- Play equipment
- Landscaping
- Sculpture/public garden
- Restroom (upgrade) and concession

Veterans Memorial Park

- Multi-use pathway
- Native/meadow plantings
- Grill

Western Green Park

- No improvements planned

Conservancy Commons

- Ice skating rink (or use nearby basin)

Yahara Park

- Drainage swale improvements
- Scoreboards
- Trails, per Safe Routes to School Plan

Hank's Hollow Park

- No improvements planned

Liberty Land

- Trail improvements

Northern Corridor Park (to be renamed for the Schweers family who donated the land)

- Pavilion/overlook
- Trail map kiosk
- Trailheads
- Potential dog park
- Mown, mulch, or boardwalk trails
- Upland forest, prairie, and wetland restoration
- Pedestrian bridges
- Parking lots
- Canoe launch

Dahl Park

- Multi-use pathway

Meadowview Park

- Explore whether improvements to stormwater management areas are warranted

Sunnybrook Park

- Riverbank enhancements
- Explore recreational opportunities, including possible connector trails

Implementation

1. Consider necessary or desired improvements to existing parks and recreational facilities on an annual basis, for potential inclusion in the Village's Capital Budget. This effort will be led by staff and presented to and considered by the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee.
2. Incorporate and regularly update the Village's capital improvement program to include improvements to existing park facilities.

E. Acquire and Develop New Neighborhood Parks and Tot-Lots

Future neighborhood development in the Village will result in the need for new neighborhood parks and tot-lots. In response to this identified need, Map 3 shows approximate locations for future neighborhood parks in the DeForest planning area. Particular locations for smaller tot-lots are not identified, but should generally be sited to fill in smaller gaps in facility service areas or address a particular need in a particular location.

Specific park facility boundaries in the general locations presented on Map 3 will be determined when the lands are actually platted or acquired. In general, neighborhood parks should be easily accessible to the surrounding residential areas with safe walking and bicycling access. They should be approximately 5 to 10 acres in size, and include a range of facilities such as those listed in Chapter 5 of this *Plan*.

The following are recommended future neighborhood park sites. For each of these facilities, park plans should be prepared and recommended for approval by the Village's Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee:

- NP 1: (4 acres) Located in the southern portion of the Conservancy Place development, near the planned senior residential and office components of the development. This park is planned for open space that features benches, picnic tables, shelters, landscaping, and a path. A trail should be developed from the park through the stormwater management area to access the Upper Yahara River Corridor.
- NP 2: (4 acres) Located off Innovation Drive in the Hawthorne Point neighborhood, this park features steep slopes that are planned for a sledding hill and fitness equipment. The park may also include a canoe launch or playground. The park is adjacent to the Upper Yahara River Corridor and should contain signage and connections to the trail.
- NP 3: (4.6 acres) Located in the northern portion of the Conservancy Place development (the Knolls) and connected to the Upper Yahara River Corridor. Facilities should include signage, trail/path, trailhead for Village walking paths, play equipment, and a shelter.
- NP 4: Reigstad Park (10 acres): Located in the Savannah Brooks development in the southern expanse of the Village, this park is directly adjacent to Token Creek County Park. The park includes wooded areas, natural springs, and a portion of Token Creek. Due to this high concentration of natural amenities, this park is intended for primarily passive recreation use and low impact trails and facilities development should be emphasized. Reigstad Park is located west of an adjacent conservancy area that will be maintained as part of the Savannah Brooks development, or potentially transferred to a public or non-profit entity for long term preservation. This larger area is shown as a planned Special Open Space Area on Map 3.
- NP 5: (acreage to be determined based on standards) Also located in the Savannah Brooks development, this future neighborhood park will incorporate active recreational facilities, such as play equipment and/or a youth athletic fields.
- NP 6: (acreage to be determined based on standards) Located at the nexus of the "Bear Tree Farms" and "Bear Tree Windsor" components of the larger planned Bear Tree neighborhood, this neighborhood park would serve the recreational needs of several hundred homes in the surrounding neighborhood. The park should be on the larger end of the recommended



Neighborhood parks should offer a variety of facilities to serve residents of all ages.

neighborhood park size range. A variety of neighborhood park facilities should be provided, with a particular emphasis on play fields, playground equipment, and other active park space. A special or unique park facility that may also be attractive to users outside the neighborhood might also be considered, much like the splash pad in Conservancy Commons has appealed to residents from beyond that neighborhood. This neighborhood park may be developed in collaboration with the Town of Windsor.

In addition, an area of isolated wetlands, a pond, and uplands woodlands is located in the center of the Bear Tree Office and Research Park and identified as a proposed Special Open Space Area on Map 3. This natural resource area will be protected by both common ownership and protection under the Village's mature woodland protection ordinance. It is likely to include more passive recreational opportunities like a trail and possibly a shelter, benefitting the surrounding planned office park and larger community.

- NP 7: (5+ acres) Recommended for the northern half of the planned Country View Estates neighborhood, between the main east-west environmental corridor and Hahn-Smith Road. This park should be located in a place to connect with a trail system, and potentially adjacent to protected environmental corridor space. Play equipment, multi-use courts, and picnic areas are recommended. In addition, a tot lot (2 acres) is recommended in the northwestern portion of the same neighborhood to serve younger residents in that more distant location.
- NP 8: (acreage to be determined based on standards) A neighborhood park is recommended in the future neighborhood to the north of Chapel Green, and west of River Road. It is recommended that this neighborhood park connect to the trail system, offer open play areas, play equipment. Other alternatives for this site include consideration for a future community park here (CP 1b). This park may also be developed in tandem with a community health care center. The good access and visibility from the Interstate would make this a desirable site for such a use
- NP 9: (acreage to be determined based on standards) A neighborhood park is recommended in the future neighborhood area northwest of Morrisonville Road and south of Hahn Road. This park and surrounding neighborhood development is perhaps one or two decades away.
- NP 10: (5+ acres) Located within the planned Three Bridges neighborhood, this future wooded waterfront park will serve as the southern trailhead of the initial phase of a Yahara River water trail, incorporating a canoe landing, and uniquely connecting this site to other planned launch sites, including one Downtown. Multi-use paths will connect the park with the Village's broader planned trail network.
- NP 11: (4.5 acres) This neighborhood park already platted in the southern portion of the Heritage Gardens development, but currently undeveloped and inaccessible. This park is adjacent to dedicated parkland in Windsor's Holland Fields subdivision. Collaborative planning between DeForest and Windsor for these park sites is recommended. This area should be



New parks should be designed to connect with regional trail networks.

considered for inclusion in a larger community park if this area is selected for community park development (CP 1a).

- NP 12 & 13: (acreage to be determined based on standards) These neighborhood parks will likely be developed in and maintained by the Town of Windsor.

Implementation

1. As development proposals are considered, consult the recommendations of this *Plan* to guide planning for parks, recreation and open space facilities. Proposed plats and CSMs should be consistent with the recommendations of this *Plan* with respect to new parks, trails, and other recreational facilities.
2. Continue to utilize park impact fees and land dedication to acquire and develop new parks and recreation areas as defined in Village's subdivision ordinance.
3. Require developers to establish endowment funds or pursue other means for the ongoing maintenance of specialized park and recreation facilities.

Map 3: Future Park and Recreational Facilities

F. Develop a Comprehensive Trail System

While the Village presently has over 42 miles of streets, there are only 6.45 miles of recreational trails. This represents both a barrier to pedestrian and bicycle movement through the Village, and an opportunity for broader development of a predominantly off-street trail system.

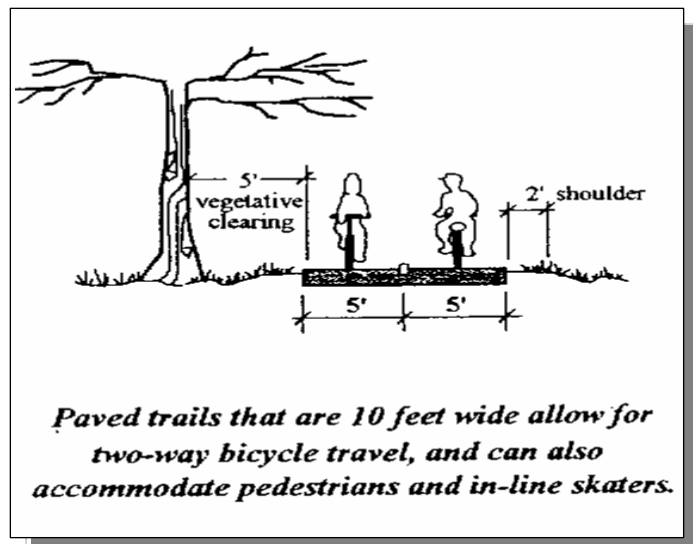
Through this *Plan*, the Village intends to pursue several off-street paths and trail segments to link existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks and environmental corridors, including the Upper Yahara River Corridor.



Map 3 shows both existing and planned off-street recreational trails, with appropriate on-street connections where necessary. Map 4 depicts a broad vision of for the land-based trail network in the DeForest area. Additionally, the Village is partnering with the DeForest Area School District and the Town of Windsor on a Safe Routes to School Plan, which will build from and contribute to the implementation of the Village's trail vision.

The following recommendations apply to installation of planned trails in the Village's emerging system:

- Major roadway crossings should generally be located at controlled intersections.
- At trail crossings consider bike/pedestrian crossing signs, well defined crosswalks, or flashing light signals to improve user safety.
- Urban trail standards include 10 feet of paved surface width within a 20 foot wide easement or dedication; some areas may be appropriate for trails with natural or gravel surfaces and a slightly narrower width.
- ¼ mile markers to indicate location on trail for longer trails and regular extended right-of-way bulb outs for emergency access vehicle turn-arounds.



Trailhead areas suggested on Map 3 will provide access to the trail system. These areas should be well-signed, and include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, bicycle parking, and in some cases automobile parking.

Implementation:

1. Continue to work with neighboring communities, Dane County and the State in planning for and funding new trails, connections, and improvements.
2. Collaborate with the DeForest Area School District and Windsor to implement the recommendations of the adopted Safe Routes to School Plan including applying for project

funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School grant program and Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant program.

3. Require trail systems and easements on development plans (plats, CSMs, site plans) to be consistent with this *Plan*.

G. Develop a Yahara Water Trail

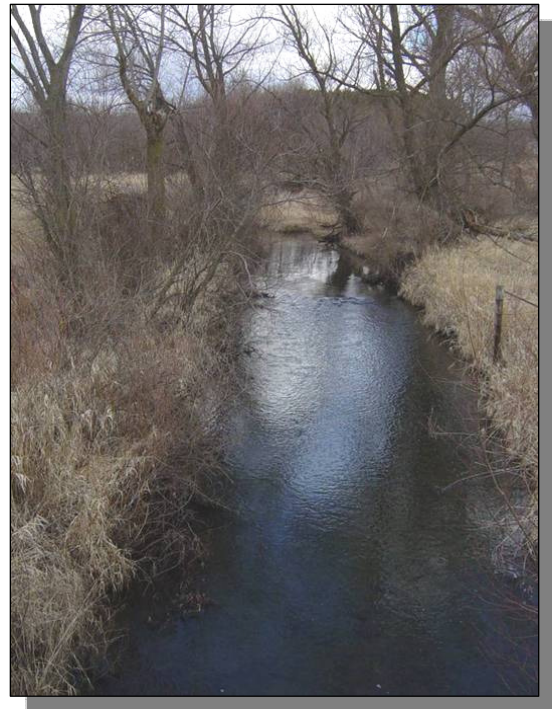
The Village will work to designate the Yahara Water Trail to connect with existing portions in Dane County, including the Yahara Headwater Trail and Yahara Lakes Trails segments. Land based trail development and long-term preservation are prioritized for the Yahara in the DeForest planning area. A water trail would be a natural complement to these efforts and provide an outstanding amenity to the Village. A water trail is also a unique way to develop increased awareness and enjoyment of this resource, and establish connections with the greater region as defined by the Yahara River watershed.

In collaboration with other units of government, the Village intends to develop a water-based trail with access, signage and educational opportunities. Suitable access points are illustrated with "W" on Map 3. These locations (from north to south) include:

- In the Bakke Conservancy
- At the west end of Holum Street or from Veterans Memorial Park
- In Western Green Park, on the eastern edge of the park and another where the River turns south into The Knolls
- In the Three Bridges development
- Near the southern River Road crossing
- Off Innovation Drive in the Hawthorne Point neighborhood
- At the southern end of Conservancy Place development

Implementation:

1. Partner with The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc. to implement the recommendations of the Yahara River Large Woody Debris Inventory Report including monitoring and partial or full removal of debris jams that have formed within the River and currently impede stream flows and hinder recreational activities
2. Work with The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc., Capital Water Trails, the County and neighboring units of government on a water trail brochure map.
3. Explore grant or conservation funding for this project individually or with other potential collaborators listed above.
4. Rally local business to support this idea with programs like "Adopt a Water Trail."



The Yahara River is a regionally important watershed. A water trail would help increase access, awareness and enjoyment of this resource.

Map 4: Land-Based Trail Vision Map

H. Collaborate on a Northern DeForest Area Conservancy

Through this and other recent planning processes, the Village has identified an opportunity for a broader open space system of regional significance at and beyond the Village's northern edge. The graphic on the following page represents a concept for a Northern DeForest Area Conservancy—a potential open space system of 350+ acres of contiguous parks and passive recreational areas. Already included in this area are the current Northern Corridor Park and Bakke Conservancy in the Village. This area could be enhanced by a new northside community park (site CP 1c on Map 3) and adjacent environmental corridor lands (shown as a planned Special Open Space Area on Map 3). The preservation of other Yahara River corridor lands further to the north—outside the Village—would only enhance this regional system near the River's headwaters (also shown on Map 3).

Both this size and the environmental significance of this system are comparable to other regional parks and conservancies, such as Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton (353 acres) and Token Creek County Park just south of DeForest (427 acres). Given this scope and the fact that the proposed open space crosses over into Windsor suggest that a collaborative effort would be necessary for preservation. That effort would minimally involve partnership with the Town and Dane County.

Implementation:

1. Encourage a new effort to partner with Dane County and the Town of Windsor on open space planning in this area in the near future and incorporate the concept in the County Park and Open Space Plan.
2. Continue to implement Village initiatives to carry out portions of that broader plan within the Village limits, such as the implementation of the Northern Corridor Park & Bakke Conservancy Master Plan including potential southerly expansion depicted on Map 3.

I. Sensitive "Develop" Yahara River Special Open Space Areas

Description: The Village has a wealth of passive recreation and open space facilities, particularly focused in and around the Yahara River. The two largest Special Open Space Areas— Upper Yahara River Corridor and Northern Corridor Park—are both along the Yahara River. While these two areas are currently in public ownership, lack of access and environmentally-sensitive and compatible improvements dramatically limits their use and value to residents. This inaccessibility also restricts restoration efforts by the Village and service groups.

Rationale: Improving these two Special Open Space Areas in the Village will:

1. Expand nature-based recreational opportunities for Village residents, employees, and visitors, promoting personal and community health.
2. Build awareness and educate park users about the Yahara River and the regional importance of the watershed.
3. Provide physical evidence of the Village's commitment to recreation and stewardship as a way to market and brand the community.

Implementation:

1. Pursue development of a multi-use trail in the Upper Yahara River Corridor through the Village's trail fund and public and private grants.

2. Pursue the implementation of the Northern DeForest Open Space and Development Concept, including implementation of the Northern Corridor Park & Bakke Conservancy Master Plan. See also the “Create a Northern DeForest Open Space and Conservation System” recommendation in this chapter.
3. Continue to work with private groups to establish a wetland mitigation bank in Northern Corridor Park.
4. Implement the recommendations of the Ecological Assessment & Management Plan, including eradication of invasive species and establishment of native prairies and other natural communities such as marsh, wet prairie, woodlands, and oak savannahs.
5. Pursue land and water trail connections within and connecting the Upper Yahara River Corridor and Northern Corridor Park, including through the Village’s downtown area and Western Green Park.

Northern DeForest Open Space and Development Concept

Northern Corridor Park Master Plan

J. Implement a Dog Park in the Village

The Village intends to develop a dog park within the Village. These types of facilities are becoming very popular in several communities. Recommended sizes for dog parks range from 5 to 40 acres. For the Village, an area of 5 to 10 acres would be sufficient (mostly likely as one component of a neighborhood or community park), particularly since there are small and large dog park areas within Token Creek Park. Enclosure of the park's perimeter, as well as the dog running area from the parking area, are both highly recommended.

Location: Through this *Plan*, the Village has identified five potential locations for a new dog park.

1. Future Community Park in Conservancy Place: The Conservancy Place development includes a planned elementary school/community park site. This site has several advantages for a Village dog park including short term availability, location in the northern portion of the Village, access to the future trail network, and a large site with design options. The Village would need to work with the School District and the developer on this project.
2. New Community Park: The Village has identified three potential locations for another new community park labeled CP 1a through 1c on Map 3. These sites could also include a dog park and since they are intended to be 30+ acres, there would be design flexibility.
3. Western Green Park: This existing park's ideal location in the northern portion of the Village also presents challenges associated with siting a dog park near homes. In addition, there may be conflicts with the park's current passive recreational uses.
4. Bear Tree: There are two options for siting a dog park in the future Bear Tree development north of Highway 19: the future neighborhood park (near the nexus of the Bear Tree Farms and Bear Tree Windsor neighborhoods) or the planned special open space (in the Bear Tree Office and Research Park). These sites have the disadvantage of close proximity to the existing dog park in Token Creek Park.
5. Northern Corridor Park: While the master plan for this park includes a future 4-acre dog park, this location is not ideal since it is unable to be fenced on all sides due to floodplain restrictions.

Implementation:

1. Engage the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee on this issue to explore location options and select a preferred location for a dog park and design the facility.
2. Encourage formation of a Friends of the Dog Park group to assist with planning, procurement of funds, and ongoing maintenance of a facility (especially organizing clean-ups at least four times a year) to help ensure the long-term success and minimize the impact of this facility.
3. Develop a plan for cooperative management and maintenance of the park.

K. Explore Opportunities for a Disc Golf Course

A typical disc golf course occupies 6 to 10 acres in area. Disc golf facilities can be relatively easily incorporated into existing developed parks, utilizing the existing topography, vegetation and layout to mark the course; however use conflicts should be avoided. Disc golf courses should avoid high use areas such as playground and picnic areas, active athletic fields, and locations proximate to homes or other private property.

While it is recommended to locate the course in one park area where holes are designed to be (generally one tee should be no more than 50 feet from the preceding hole), this *Plan* proposes that the Village start by developing a disc golf course that makes use of existing and planned park facilities. The first holes in the circuit could be developed at Liberty Land Park. All of the proposed holes should be connected by off-street bicycle and pedestrian paths or designated on-street routes to ensure safe passage between all segments. Given the opportunity to evaluate the level of use and popularity of the trail system, future park areas could be considered to be developed as a dedicated course.

Implementation:

1. Encourage formation of a disc golf organization to spearhead planning of the disc golf circuit.
2. Evaluate use of the disc golf facilities when considering master plans for larger new community and neighborhood parks to consider incorporating a larger area dedicated to disc golf in these facilities (e.g. new community park).

L. Explore a New or Expanded Community Recreation Center

While there is a community and senior center that serves the Village, Windsor, and Vienna, space and programming capacity is limited and is geared toward older residents. A new recreation center or expanded community center could include programming for teens and include multi-purpose rooms, fitness equipment, a kitchen, and other facilities to accommodate community activities including recreational, educational and cultural programs and events. There are a variety of potential locations for this type of center including:

- Fireman's Park: As the master plan for Fireman's Park is refined, the Village should consider incorporating a new community recreation center at that site.
- One of the future community park sites: A new community recreation center could be incorporated into a future community park site depending on other needs.
- Expanding the existing community and senior center, for example into the soon to be vacated UW Health Clinic site to the south.
- Working with the School District to use existing facilities for recreation programming or collaborating on a new facility.

Implementation:

1. Explore options for a new or expanded community recreation center with the School District and surrounding Towns to further analyze need and potential locations.
2. Develop a construction and operational plan for the proposed center including consideration of potential costs and funding sources.
3. Bring these ideas to the Park Committee and Village Board for further direction and if directed to proceed establish task force to develop idea and build community support.

M. Collaborate with Private Entities for Recreation Facilities

The Village intends to collaborate with private groups to provide additional recreation facilities to complement the Village's park system. For example, at the time of writing, the Village was working to facilitate the siting of a BMX bicycle racing track in the DeForest area. The Village will continue to work with the group spearheading this effort, and other private groups to bring other privately-run recreational facilities to the area. The Village will consider offering locations for such facilities

within its parks where compatible with its park standards, surrounding land uses, and other current and potential uses for the particular park under consideration.

Additionally, there is a lack of indoor multi-purpose recreation facilities in the Village of DeForest. A variety of private facilities could meet this need including:

- Indoor sports complex: This type of facility could include a variety of indoor sport courts and fields, locker rooms, concessions, and meeting rooms. Due to the expense and complexity of building and operating these facilities, the Village does not intend to provide such a facility independently. The Village could, however, support private development of such a facility through development approvals and even financial support if within a Tax Incremental Financing District. This can be an effective way to get state of the art facilities, with reasonable access to Village residents. Co-locating with a regional health care provider could be another option. Some locations to explore include:
 - The “Yahara River Sports Core” within Conservancy Place.
 - The Highway 51/19 area.
 - The area west of River Road and south of CTH V/North Street.
- Fitness center: Private gyms and health clubs can also help address the need for indoor recreation space for certain user groups. The Village supports new business to meet residents’ needs and encourages a partnership to use fitness space for recreational programming.

Chapter 9 Implementation

The recommended improvements to DeForest's park and open space system described in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be guided, in part, by private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use, Village initiatives and directives, and funding available to the Village to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

For many of the key recommendations provided in the previous chapter, detailed implementation strategies are suggested. This chapter provides a general implementation framework, as well as a recommended time-sequence.

A. Pursue External Funding Sources and Partnerships

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation. These funding sources are included as Appendix B. The Wisconsin Stewardship Program is a good opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to acquire land and develop parks. The federal Recreational Trails Act program is the best opportunity to apply for matching grant funds to develop the proposed off-street paths and trails throughout the Village. It should be noted that funds from many of these programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.

The Village should also pursue partnerships with user groups on planning, development, and funding new facilities.

B. Intergovernmental Coordination

The Village should also coordinate efforts and actively partner with other units of government (e.g., Towns of Windsor Vienna, Dane County), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g., DeForest Area School District, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and private and non-profit agencies (e.g., The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc.) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

C. Activate the Community

Although not a prerequisite for many of the recommendations of this *Plan*, activating the community will assist and expedite the implementation. Engaging new or existing community advocacy groups or recreational organizations (e.g. Friends of the Dog or Skate Park, Youth Football Association) is instrumental in the planning, fundraising and long-term success of parks and facilities. Engaging these groups from the start instills a sense of ownership that is necessary to maintain parks and facilities as valuable parts of the community.

D. Village Directives

Ongoing decision making and activities of the Village will be one of the most important determinants of how this *Plan* is implemented. Several important and ongoing implementation steps include:

- Incorporate the recommended park and open space facility improvements in the Village's regular capital improvement plan and program. Improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities listed in Chapter 8 as well as new park and recreation facilities.
- Follow the recommendations of this *Plan* when advising developers and reviewing development proposals, including plats, planned unit developments, CSMs, and site plans.
- Prepare and approve park master plans for new community and neighborhood parks in advance of their. The Village has the opportunity to most efficiently shape the development of new parks and facilities through the review and approval of master plans. Various groups should be consulted in the preparation of park master plans, including the key users of the park as well as other community interest groups. Larger community visioning or design charrettes may be of value, particularly for the park master plans for the new community park and the redevelopment of Fireman's Park.

Appendix A: Existing DeForest Parks

| DeForest Parks Location | Acres | Softball | Baseball-Youth | Basketball | Horseshoes | Ice Skating | Picnic Tables | Playground | Restrooms (pair) | Shelter | Soccer | Splash Pad | Concessions | Parking | Trail | Volleyball |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|------------|
| Community Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fireman's Park <i>Jefferson Street</i> | 11 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ✓ | 1 | ✓ | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 49 (G) 1 (D) | ✓ | |
| Western Green Park <i>Acker Parkway</i> | 34 | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | | | | ✓ | 1 |
| Neighborhood Parks and Tot Lots | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conservancy Commons <i>Innovation Drive</i> | 3 | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Dahl Park <i>Halsor Street</i> | 4 | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| Hank's Hollow Park <i>Hank's Hollow Trail</i> | 0.3 | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| Liberty Land Park <i>Yorktown Road</i> | 10 | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Meadowview Park <i>Meadowview Lane</i> | 3.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunnybrook Park <i>Riverside Drive</i> | 4 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Veterans Memorial Park <i>N. Main Street</i> | 3.5 | | | | | | ✓ | | | 1 | | | | 33 (G) 2 (D) | | |
| Yahara Park <i>Trailside Drive</i> | 8 | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |

G = General parking stall

D = Disabled parking stall

Appendix B: Outside Funding Sources

| Program | Purpose | Funding Details | Deadline | Notes | Admin. Agency | Contact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) | To provide funds for land acquisition or development of public nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities (e.g. trails, fishing access, park support facilities). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds are allocated on a regional basis with 70% distributed on the basis of each county's proportionate share of the state population and 30% distributed equally to each county. | July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority given to projects that implement state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Zickermann South Central Region (608) 275-3218 |
| Urban Green Space Program (UGS) | To provide funds for land acquisition in urban or urbanizing areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis | July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority given to projects that implement state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Zickermann South Central Region (608) 275-3218 |
| Urban Rivers Grant Program (UR) | To provide funds for land acquisition on or adjacent to rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental value of rivers for nature-based outdoor recreation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">The UR has a cap per applicant based on 20% of the total funds allocated to the program each fiscal year.Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis. | July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority for land acquisition or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways. | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Zickermann South Central Region (608) 275-3218 |
| Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) | To provide funds for acquisition of development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry lands to enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis | July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priority given to property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, or estuaries. | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Zickermann South Central Region (608) 275-3218 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | To create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat, and enhance recreational opportunities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">50% local match per project. | May 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Land acquisition, development, and renovation projects for public outdoor recreation purposes are eligible projects. | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Zickermann South Central Region (608) 275-3218 |
| Recreational Trails Act (RTA) | To provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maximum \$45,000 funding limitEligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the total project costs. | June 15 | Projects are ranked in order of funding priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rehabilitation of existing trails.Trail maintenance.Trail development.Trail acquisition. | Wisconsin DNR | Mary Rothenmeier South Central Region (608) 275-3322 |
| Urban Forestry Grants | To provide funds for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$1,000 to \$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match.Match may include in-kind services and donations | October 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects may include (but not limited to) development of urban forestry plans, community tree inventories, vegetation ordinances, and urban forestry tree boards or tree action groups | Wisconsin DNR | Jeff Roe Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator (608) 267-3338 |
| Safe Routes to School (SRTS) | To provide funds for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, planning and promotional projects near schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% federally funded. | Projects solicited in even numbered years | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects must be within two miles of a kindergarten to 8th Grade school. | WisDOT | Renee Callaway (608) 266-3973 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Transportation Enhancements Grant Program (TE) | To increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%. | Projects solicited in even numbered years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects costing \$200,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. | WisDOT | Marilyn Daniels WisDOT SW Region (608) 246-3864 |
| Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP) | To provide funds to construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal funds will provide up to 80% of project costs, while the sponsor must provide at least the other 20%. | Projects solicited in even numbered years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects costing \$200,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are bicycle and pedestrian planning projects costing \$50,000 or more. | WisDOT | Marilyn Daniels WisDOT SW Region (608) 246-3864 |
| Surface Transportation Program—Urban (STP-U) | To improve transportation in Wisconsin’s federal aid-eligible roads and streets in urban areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual allocations are made to the two groups of urban areas (5-20,000 and 20-50,000 population) based on population. | Projects solicited in odd numbered years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can be used on a variety of improvement projects including bicycle and pedestrian projects. | WisDOT | Michael Erickson WisDOT SW Region 608) 246-5361 |
| Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program | To provide funds to improve air quality and reduce congestion in air quality non-attainment communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% local match per project. Limited to Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Walworth, and Door Counties. | Projects solicited in odd numbered years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects costing \$200,000 or more that involve construction are eligible for funding, as are non-construction projects costing \$50,000 or more. | WisDOT | John Duffe (608) 264-8723 |
| Wisconsin Main Street Program | To support comprehensive downtown revitalization. | | No specific date | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General downtown program. May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping. | Wisconsin Department of Commerce | Jim Engel (608) 267-0766 |
| Madison Community Foundation | To provide funds for initiatives that impact lives and communities for the long-term. Several focus areas including the environment and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program grants average \$35,000, while capital grants average \$55,000 | January 18 and July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally become involved after 50% of the project funds are collected. | Madison Community Foundation | Tom Linfield (608) 232-1763. |

ORDINANCE 2011 -019

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN OF
THE VILLAGE OF DEFOREST, WISCONSIN.**

The Village Board of the Village of DeForest, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Village of DeForest to review and report on the need for parks and open space periodically; and

WHEREAS, such review and report provides a base for determining investment priorities and management practices; and

WHEREAS, the Village of DeForest desires to maintain its eligibility for grant funding for the acquisition and development of park and recreational facilities through the State Stewardship and Federal LAWCON programs; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that the Village update its Park and Open Space Plan every five years to maintain such eligibility and to assure that park planning goals, objectives, and policies are current; and


WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of DeForest, by a majority vote of the entire Commission recorded in its official minutes, has adopted a resolution recommending to the Village Board the adoption of certain amendments to the Village's Park and Open Space Plan (a detailed component of the Village's comprehensive plan) as reflected in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the Village of DeForest has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and provided other opportunities for public involvement per its adopted public participation strategy and procedures, including an additional public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board held a public hearing on the proposed amendments on June 7, 2011, considered the public comments made and the recommendations of the Commission and staff, and has determined to approve the recommended amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of DeForest, Wisconsin, does ordain that the text and map amendments set forth in Attachment A are hereby adopted as amendments to the Village's Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to section 66.1001(4)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes.

Enacted this 7th day of June, 2011.



Judd Blau, Village President

Attested By:



LuAnn Leggett, Village Clerk

Vote: 6-0

Attachment A: *Village of DeForest Park and Open Space Plan*