

**DRAFT #1**  
**2023 City of Edgerton**  
**Comprehensive Outdoor**  
**Recreation Plan**  
**January 2023**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 City of Edgerton Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) was prepared in accordance with the guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and qualify Edgerton for matching grant funds.

- The City has grown over the past two decades and in 2022 had a population of 5,997. By 2033, it is projected that Edgerton will have a population of 6,596 and by 2043 a population of 7,141. See Chapter 1 and Appendix.
- The City of Edgerton owns and maintains 82 acres of developed parkland in eight total Neighborhood and Community Parks. Including conservancy and special use areas, the City of Edgerton owns 109 acres of parkland in a total of 13 parks. Additionally, there are multiple other municipal, state, and county parks and trails within close proximity of the community. See Chapter 2.
- Multiple forms of public participation were utilized in this planning process including Parks and Recreation Committee meetings, stakeholder interviews, and a community-wide online survey. See Chapter 3 and Appendix.
  - An online survey was utilized to gather over 540 people's opinions on current usage, prioritized park improvements, new facilities, and more.
  - Focus group interview sessions were conducted with school district representatives, local event and interest groups, and local sports league user groups to gather an understanding of existing issues and future opportunities.
  - The Parks and Recreation Committee participated three total meetings throughout the process in reviewing documents, providing key insight and feedback, and recommending the plan for adoption.
- In comparison to other similar sized communities in the region and national averages, Edgerton compares favorably in terms of residents per park and developed park acres per 1,000 residents. See Chapter 5.
- A service area analysis was conducted to explore the geographic distribution of existing facilities in relationship to community residents. The majority of Edgerton is well covered in terms of service areas, but there are a few identified existing gaps within Edgerton, primarily at the edges of the community, as shown on Map 2.
- As of 2022, Edgerton provides approximately 13.7 developed acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The new established standard for the City moving forward will be the provision of approximately 14 acres per 1,000 residents. See Chapter 5.
- To meet the future population demand for developed parks, it is projected that the City will need to acquire 10 new developed park acres by 2033 and 17 new developed park acres by 2043. See Chapter 6.
- A new parkland evaluation tool was developed to assist the City in assessing new parkland acquisition opportunities as they may arise over the planning period. See Chapter 7.
- Several new recommended park locations were identified as part of this planning process (Map 3) and a number of recommended improvements to existing facilities were also established in Chapter 7 and 8.
- Conceptual park development plans were created for the planned neighborhood development area on the east side of the City, near Ladd Lane and Kienbaum Park. These concepts are intended to be implemented with the new development to serve as a new Community Park. See Chapter 7 and the Appendix.
- Parks facility costs, parkland dedication and fee-in-lieu, and park impact fee calculations were completed to assist the City in its implementation of the plan. See Chapter 9.
- A detailed set of action steps were identified to assist the City in advancing the goals and recommendations of this plan through implementation. See Chapter 10.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

## INTRODUCTION

Communities throughout the world recognize that park land, recreation trails, and natural areas are key components of high-quality living environments. Open spaces and outdoor recreation provide a community with many benefits and serve a multitude of functions, including opportunities for recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle, enhancing community aesthetics, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment. The park and open space system of every community should be planned and designed to meet the diverse needs of its population. Proper recreation-based planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the needs of the community as well as the geographic distribution of those facilities relative to those who will use them.

The City of Edgerton's park, recreation, and open space system is one of its many important amenities. The existing system plays a key role in the community's high quality of life, however, there are opportunities for expansion and improvement to serve the City's growing population, protect and maintain its high-quality natural resources, and embrace opportunities for open space preservation and recreation.

This City of Edgerton Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) compiles, reviews, and updates information on the physical facilities and lands that make up the existing City park and open space system, in addition to providing guidance for future improvement and expansion of the system. This Plan serves as an important element of Edgerton's overall community comprehensive planning program. As such, the CORP addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community over the next 10-20 years, with a specific focus on park and recreation action items over the next 5-year period (2023-2028). Five years is generally considered a reasonable horizon in park master planning because social, cultural, and political conditions tend to change enough over five years for the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations that derived from previous plans to be reevaluated.

This CORP has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and qualify the City of Edgerton for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Federal Recreation Trails Act (RTA), and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Programs (State of Wisconsin). The CORP must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. The plan has also been prepared in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 61.35, 236.29 and 66.0617. Furthermore, it will be incorporated as a detailed component of the City's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Plan under Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001.

This Plan is intended to incorporate and refine the previous analysis and recommendations presented in the City's 2008 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan and the 2015 City of Edgerton Comprehensive Plan. Edgerton's public parks and open spaces are operated and maintained by the City's Public Works Department. This CORP was prepared under the direction of City staff, the Parks and Recreation Committee, Plan Commission, and City Council.

## GENERAL REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Edgerton is located in north central Rock County and south-central Dane County, about 30 miles southeast of Madison, 15 miles southeast of Stoughton, 12 miles north of Janesville, and 75 miles west of Milwaukee. Most of the City is located in Rock County, with a portion of the north side in Dane County. The City abuts the Town of Fulton in Rock County and the Town of Albion in Dane County.

Edgerton is a steadily growing community conveniently located halfway between the Madison metro area and the City of Janesville. Historically, the community has developed around the railroad and agricultural economy. However, with Interstate 90 only a mile from the City, many residents take advantage of the location's ease of access to nearby employment concentrations, while also benefiting from Edgerton's small-town character, convenience, and natural amenities.

Because Edgerton is located in both Rock and Dane Counties, it is important to note that the data used throughout this document for the City includes both the Rock and Dane County portions of the community.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Edgerton currently includes just under 6,000 residents. The need for parks and recreational space is driven by the growing population of the City. Predicting how the community’s population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the City. The City of Edgerton experienced significant population growth between 1990 and 2010 (the population grew by 28% during this period), especially between 1990-2000, when the community grew by 16% within a decade. Edgerton has continued to experience steady growth since 2010, maintaining roughly 10% growth per decade since that time.

The communities adjacent to Edgerton, as well as both Rock and Dane Counties, have experienced differing growth trends over the last two decades that vary significantly from those experienced by the City. The only other nearby community that has experienced significant, continuous growth is the City of Evansville. Edgerton’s sustained level of population growth is more consistent with that experienced by Dane County between 2000-2022 than it is to Rock County’s more modest growth trends.

What these communities have in common is that – like many communities throughout Wisconsin – each experienced significant construction and development in the 1990s and the years preceding the Great Recession (2000-2008), followed generally by slower economic recovery that has resulted in much smaller increases in housing development and population growth over the course of the following decade. However, the City of Edgerton has maintained consistent growth levels over this time period, and a number of its surrounding communities and Dane County have continued to see steady population growth in the last several years.

FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION TRENDS

|                         | 1990         | 2000         | 2010         | 2020         | 2022*        | 2000-2010  | 2010-2022  |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| <b>City of Edgerton</b> | <b>4,254</b> | <b>4,933</b> | <b>5,461</b> | <b>5,945</b> | <b>5,997</b> | <b>11%</b> | <b>10%</b> |
| City of Stoughton       | 8,786        | 12,354       | 12,611       | 13,173       | 13,204       | 2%         | 5%         |
| City of Evansville      | 3,174        | 4,039        | 5,012        | 5,703        | 5,821        | 24%        | 16%        |
| City of Milton          | 4,434        | 5,132        | 5,546        | 5,716        | 5,710        | 8%         | 3%         |
| City of Fort Atkinson   | 10,278       | 11,661       | 12,368       | 12,579       | 12,489       | 6%         | 1%         |
| Rock County             | 139,510      | 152,307      | 160,331      | 163,687      | 164,381      | 5%         | 3%         |
| Dane County             | 367,085      | 426,526      | 488,073      | 561,504      | 563,951      | 14%        | 16%        |
| Wisconsin               | 4,891,769    | 5,363,675    | 5,686,986    | 5,893,718    | 5,901,473    | 6%         | 4%         |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 – 2020 Census.

\*WisDOA annual municipal population estimates, 2022.

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that Edgerton’s actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. See the Appendix for more details on the population projection methods analyzed. This set of projections was prepared specifically for this Plan and by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. All are projected through 2040. These forecasts provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

For the purposes of this CORP, the City will utilize the Linear Growth projection between 1990-2022 scenario as a reasonable, conservative estimate that would result in a total projected population of 6,596 residents by 2033 and 7,141 by 2043. The selected population projection forecast will be used to project future parkland and park impact fees needed in the City.

FIGURE 1.2: CITY OF EDGERTON POPULATION PROJECTIONS

|  | 2010         | 2022         | 2025         | 2030         | 2035         | 2040         | % Change<br>2022-2040 | Pop.<br>Increase<br>2022-2040 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| WisDOA Projections*                          | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,210        | 6,465        | 6,655        | 6,755        | 13%                   | 758                           |
| <b>Linear Growth 1990-2020<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>5,461</b> | <b>5,945</b> | <b>6,160</b> | <b>6,433</b> | <b>6,705</b> | <b>6,977</b> | <b>16%</b>            | <b>980</b>                    |
| Linear Growth 2000-2020 <sup>(1)</sup>       | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,142        | 6,384        | 6,626        | 6,868        | 15%                   | 871                           |
| Linear Growth 2010-2020 <sup>(1)</sup>       | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,131        | 6,354        | 6,578        | 6,801        | 13%                   | 804                           |
| Compounded Growth 1990-2020 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,230        | 6,640        | 7,076        | 7,540        | 26%                   | 1,543                         |
| Compounded Growth 2000-2020 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,175        | 6,484        | 6,808        | 7,148        | 19%                   | 1,151                         |
| Compounded Growth 2010-2020 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 5,461        | 5,945        | 6,145        | 6,401        | 6,667        | 6,944        | 16%                   | 947                           |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2020 Census.

\*Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.

1. Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years.

2. Extrapolated based on the average annual percent change over the given years.

In 2020, the City’s median age was 37, lower than the statewide median age and that of Rock County (both at 40), but higher than the median age of residents in Dane County (35). The percentage of the City’s population aged 18 and under was 23 percent. That percentage was higher than both the statewide total (22 percent) and countywide total for Dane County (20 percent), but lower than Rock County’s 23 percent. Fifteen percent of the City’s population was aged 65 and older – a smaller percentage of the population than most surrounding incorporated communities besides Milton and Dane County. While the percentage of residents over 65 has increased slightly since 2000, the median age in the City has also increased. It is important to keep in mind that there may be a larger percentage of residents nearing or over the age of 65 in the next decade, and park and recreation facilities need to provide for this age demographic as well.

The population of Edgerton is predominantly white. This data depicts a relatively homogeneous population, however, there have been small increases in the number of people who identify as some other race, two or more races, or who identify as being of Hispanic or Latino origin. The percentage of residents that comprise these three categories makes up a total of 12.8% of the population and represents a significant portion of the population that identifies as part of a minority group. These findings indicate that care must be taken during the planning process to include and represent these minority groups in the planning for future park and recreation spaces within the community.

The City’s average household size increased between 2000-2020, from 2.43 to 2.5 persons per household. For comparison, the average household size in 2020 was 2.33 in Dane County, 2.45 in Rock County, and 2.38 statewide. Additionally, the percentage of owner-occupied housing units has decreased by approximately 6 percent in Edgerton since 2000 but is still the predominant housing type in the community, making up 59% of the total housing stock.

Utilizing the population projections and methodology, the projected number of households were also calculated. The Linear Growth Projection between 1990-2020 was also selected to forecast future households. In 2030, it is projected that the City will add 228 new households, and by 2040, 439 total new households. This projection methodology utilized a customized average household size projection between 2025-2040 based on analysis of the average household size change in Edgerton between 2000-2020. It was determined that a sustained average household size may occur over the next 20 years based on existing trends. This customized approach factors in the City’s sustained growth in population over the past several decades including younger families, coupled with an increasingly aging population and general trends indicating stagnant household size change or mild household size decreases throughout the state.

A slightly modified future household projection was utilized in calculating the estimated cost projections in Chapter 9 to reflect exactly 10 years from adoption of this Plan (2033). The projected new average household size in 2033 (2.5) and the total number of projected new residents over the next decade (581) were used to generate the projected number of new households in 2033 (291).

Parks and recreation are directly related to the community’s overall public health because they provide opportunities for residents to participate in physical activities, get outside, and improve health education. In comparison, Rock and Dane Counties have drastically different rankings in terms of overall health outcomes. Dane county ranks within the top ten healthiest counties in the state, whereas Rock County ranks 61<sup>st</sup> out of the 71 counties in the state in terms of health outcomes. However, there are still public health areas that can be improved, including the percentage of adults with obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. This information is important for assessing how healthy the City of Edgerton is today, while identifying areas of focus for improvement in the future.

A complete inventory, analysis, and review of Edgerton's natural resource components, data trends, and existing plans can be found in the Appendix.

# CHAPTER 2: EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

The City provides various opportunities for residents to enjoy the outdoors. As provided below, Edgerton's park, recreation, and open space system consists of a range of facilities including passive parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Other publicly owned sites include those owned by the Edgerton School District. In addition, a privately owned, public golf course is located on the east side of the community. In total, the City owns or leases a total of 109 acres of parkland in 13 parks.

The presence of outdoor recreation sites and open spaces add significant opportunities for dynamic activity, social connection, physical exercise, and numerous other health benefits to a community's quality of life. They enhance the attractiveness of the community and foster a sense of civic pride and identity. Furthermore, even small green spaces, playgrounds, or parks create a sense of social cohesion and focal point for the surrounding neighborhood.

The City's park system includes Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Conservancy Areas located throughout the community. Edgerton has a good supply of well-established parks in the existing developed portions of the community and will need to successfully acquire new park areas within planned residential growth areas. A brief description of each of the community's existing park and open space sites is included below.

## DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### Neighborhood Parks

- **Dickinson Park** is an 0.4-acre park located at the corner of Dickinson Avenue, West Hubert Street, and George Street. It includes playground equipment, a basketball court (half court), park benches, and open space.
- **Windfield Park** is an 0.6-acre park located between Hain Road and Stonefield Drive. It features playground equipment, an open-air shelter, a basketball court (half court), open space, and sidewalk connection between the two streets.
- **Kienbaum Park** is a 1.5-acre park located on the northeast side of Edgerton off of Ladd Lane. Playgrounds, open space, park benches, and a sidewalk connection to Ladd Lane are currently provided in the park.
- **Orchard Heights Park** is a 8.3-acre park located on the southern end of the City. It includes playground equipment, playfields, a soccer field, an open-air shelter, open space, and a storm water pond.
- **Winston Drive Park** is 2.1 acres located on the west side of the community and is easily accessible from the High Street Marsh Trail. Today, it features playground equipment and a fenced dog park.
- **St. John's Park** is 1.2 acres located just south of the St. John's Lutheran Church. The park includes playground equipment, a basketball court (half court), and a playfield. The City currently leases this property from the church.

### Community Parks

- **Central Park** is currently 11.2 acres in size and one of the most developed parks in Edgerton. A pedestrian bridge provides connectivity through the park over Saunder's Creek, which bisects the park. The park is also home to the Edgerton Aquatic Center and City Pool, which features a zero-depth pool with slides, diving boards, concession stand, bathhouse/changing rooms, and on-site parking area. In the remainder of the park, existing features include playground equipment, two full-court basketball courts, paved walking path, an open-air shelter, a band shelter stage, open space, pickleball courts, and on-site parking. Additionally, a V.F.W memorial and open space area are located northeast of the Aquatic Center.
- **Racetrack Park**, located in the far northwest corner of Edgerton, is 57 acres in size. The park features a wooded creek area, a disc golf course, playground equipment, soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, festival grounds, walking trails, shooting range, deer pen, open space, and on-site parking.

### Conservancy Areas

- **Fishing Pond Park** is a 7.8-acre site located near downtown between commercial and industrial uses and wetlands. Features of the park include an open-air shelter, fishing pier, fishing pond, historic cabin, and connection to the Hain Road Wetlands/High Street Marsh Trail, as well as on-site parking.

- **Hain Road Wetland/High Street Marsh Trail** is a 13.3-acre wetland directly adjacent to Fishing Pond Park. It features an unpaved trail that connects West High Street, Lyons Street, Walker Way, Whitney Way, Hain Road, and Heritage Court.
- **West Meadows Park** is a 1.5-acre site on the City's west side filled with mature woodlands.
- **Whispering Pines Park** is near St. John's Park. It contains 2.3-acres of mature woodlands and steep slopes.

### Special Use Areas

- Edgerton Community Gardens is a 1.6-acre special use area located south of Fishing Pond Park on Lyons Street. It features several community garden plots and water access.

### Private Recreation Facilities

- **Tri-County Center** is located at 116 Swift Street, in a building originally constructed as a high school. The building contains a large gymnasium and various meeting rooms. The gym is available for rent and is used for roller-skating, dances, walking, volleyball, and community gatherings.
- **Edgerton Towne Country Club and Golf Course** is a private 18-hole golf course open to the public. The clubhouse is available for rent for community activities.

### Public School Facilities

The Edgerton School District encompasses all of the City of Edgerton and also provides recreational and open space areas at the shared High School, Middle School, and an Elementary school campus. Other than the rural Yahara Elementary school, the main campus includes all school buildings and facilities as well as open space and land dedicated to recreational facilities. The Edgerton School District maintains approximately 20 acres of recreational land primarily for the use of students, but which are accessible by the public at certain times. The school campus is located only a few blocks north of downtown, providing a unique, interconnected relationship between the school campus and the community.

- **Edgerton Community Elementary, Middle, and High Schools** consist of a joint campus including one full-size football field, a quarter mile track, a full-sized baseball field, 7 tennis courts, and playground equipment.
- **The Yahara Valley Elementary School** contains two acres of lawn area, one large playground, and one small playground. This school is not located in the City.

### County Parks

The City of Edgerton is located within both Rock and Dane Counties. Facilities located near Edgerton provide an important part of the recreational infrastructure and opportunities in the area.

- **Gibbs Lake Park (Rock County):** This 278-acre park is in the Town of Porter located just west of the intersection of West Gibbs Lake Road and North Eagle Road. The park is located 5 miles southwest of Edgerton, is adjacent to Gibbs Lake and Little Gibbs Lake, and includes a picnic shelter, picnic area, restrooms, parking, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, equestrian trails, lake access and dock, water pump, and shelter.
- **Murwin Park (Rock County):** This 38-acre park is in the Town of Fulton at the intersection of West Caledonia Road and North County Road H, approximately 2 miles southwest of the City. It includes a water pump, an access site to the Yahara River, parking, picnic tables, grills, and restrooms.
- **Indian Ford Park (Rock County):** The 1-acre park is located in Indianford at the intersection of North County Road F and West County Road M. This park has a picnic area, parking, canoe/portage river access, and restrooms.
- **Miller Farm Wetland Conservancy (Rock County):** The 59-acre park is located south of Fulton at the confluence of the Yahara River and Rock River. The majority of the property is floodplain and wetlands that were recently acquired by Rock County. At this time, the site is completely unimproved.
- **Koshkonong Lake Access (Rock County):** The 13-acre lake access site is located in the Town of Milton near Lakeside Drive. The site is completely undeveloped.
- **Royce-Allman Park (Rock County):** This 4-acre park is located at the intersection of North Charley Bluff Road and East Thomas Street in the Town of Milton. It has lake access, a fishing pier, water pump, picnic shelter, parking, and restrooms, benches.
- **Silverwood County Park (Dane County):** This 308-acre park is located off of State Highway 106, adjacent to Rice and Swee Lake in the Town of Albion. It features parking, restrooms, the historic Silverwood Stone House, a flower and produce farm, 6 miles of unpaved hiking trails and 6 miles of equestrian trails.

## State of Wisconsin Parks and Trails

State parks and natural areas exist as conservation and recreational areas typically isolated from population centers. These facilities play an important role in providing larger swaths of preserved wilderness that are often accessible for recreational use and encourage regional tourism. Facilities located near Edgerton in both Rock and Dane Counties act as an important part of the regional recreational system surrounding the City.

- **Badfish Creek State Wildlife Area:** This 1,434-acre wildlife preserve consists of 1,147 acres of state-owned land and 287 acres of leased lands. Located in Dane County about 3 miles southwest of Stoughton and 14 miles west of Edgerton, the wildlife area features wetlands, cattail marshes, and prairie grass fields.
- **Lake Kegonsa State Park:** This park, located just north of Stoughton and approximately 19 miles northwest of Edgerton, offers a variety of recreational activities set along the 3,200-acre Lake Kegonsa. The park includes a swimming beach, picnic areas with reservable shelters, a campground, and a boat launch. The park features multiple opportunities for fishing, and there are various hiking trails within the park's woodlands, prairies, and wetlands.
- **Lower Mud Lake State Fishery Area:** Located just north of Lake Kegonsa State Park, the Lower Mud Lake State Fishery Area consists of marshes and wetlands and provides areas for hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, and canoeing.
- **Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area:** Located in an old lobe of Lake Waubesa along its southwest shores, Waubesa Wetlands is one of the highest quality and most diverse wetlands remaining in southern Wisconsin. The area features nine major springs, Murphy and Swan Creeks, and offers opportunities for hiking (no formalized trails), fishing, and hunting. The State Natural Area is located approximately 23 miles northwest of Edgerton.
- **Sheepskin Marsh:** Located just west of Edgerton on Hwy 59 is a 20.7-acre wetland area owned by US Fish and Wildlife. Alliant Energy owns an additional 40.8 acres of the wetland adjacent to the US Fish and Wildlife acreage.

Figure 2.1 below summarizes all amenities offered at each park location described above.

# Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

## Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

- Existing Off Street Trail
- Existing On Street Bike Route

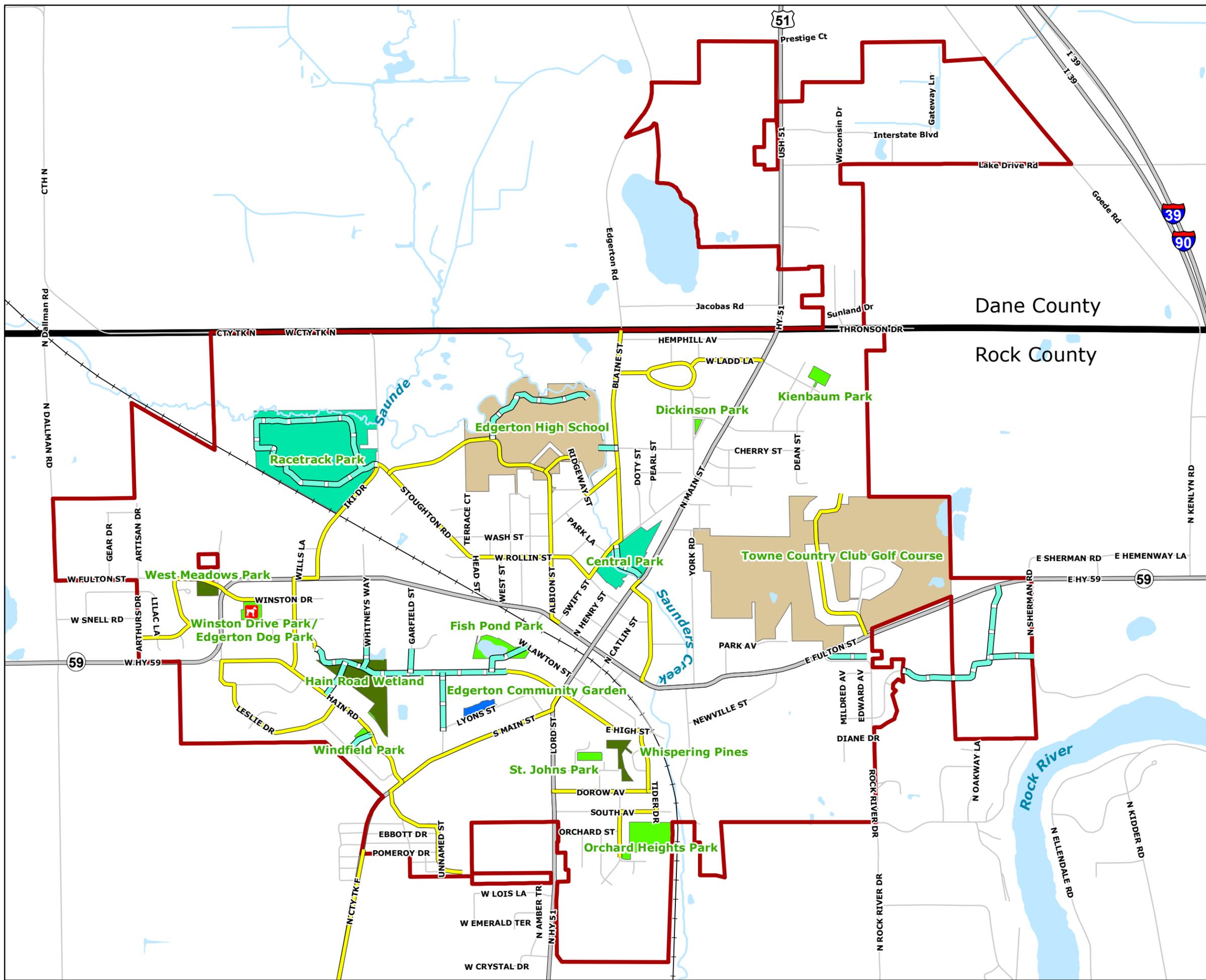
City of Edgerton

Major Roads

County Boundary

## Existing Parks

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Conservation Area
- Special Use Area
- Other Recreation Area
- Dog Park

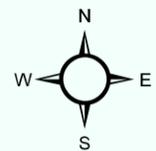


**DRAFT**



0.25 Miles

**VANDEWALLE & ASSOCIATES INC.**  
© 2022



Date: 12/28/2022  
Sources: City of Edgerton, Rock County,  
Dane County, US Census Bureau, WI DNR

FIGURE 2.1: PARK FACILITY MATRIX

| Parks and Facilities Serving Edgerton     | Acres | Drinking Water | Benches / Picnic Tables | Permanent Rest Rooms | Enclosed Shelter | Open Shelter | Concession Stand | Band Shelter/Stage | Outdoor Pool | Play Equipment | Open Play Area/Law | Basketball Courts | Horseshoes | Tennis/Pickleball | Volleyball | Baseball/Softball | Soccer/Football Fields | Disc Golf | Golf | Skatepark | Sledding Area | Ice Skating | Community Garden | Passive Natural Area | Boating (non-motorized)/Canoeing/Kayak | Fishing | Unpaved Paths/Hiking | Paved Paths/Multi-Use Trails | Cross-Country Skiing | Water Access/Boat Launch/Pier | On-Site Parking |   |   |   |
|---|-------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|---------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------|--|---------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Neighborhood Parks</b>                 |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Dickenson Park                            | 0.4   |                | 2/1                     |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 6              |                    | 1                 |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Windfield Park                            | 0.6   |                | 2/2                     |                      | 1                |              |                  |                    |              | 5              |                    | 1                 |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Kienbaum Park                             | 1.5   |                | 2/1                     |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 3              |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Orchard Heights Park                      | 8.3   |                | 2/3                     |                      | 1                |              |                  |                    |              | 2              | X                  |                   |            |                   |            | 1                 |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Winston Drive Park                        | 2.1   |                | 2/1                     |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 3              |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Winston Drive Dog Park                    | -     |                | 3/0                     |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 3              | X                  |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| St. John's Park                           | 1.2   |                | 2/0                     |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 3              |                    | 1                 |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| <b>Community Parks</b>                    |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Racetrack Park                            | 57    | 2              | 20/50                   | 2                    |                  | 3            | 2                |                    |              | 1              |                    |                   |            |                   |            | 5                 | 1                      | 1         |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   | X |   |
| Central Park                              | 11.2  |                | 16/5                    | 1                    | 1                |              | 1                |                    |              | 6              | X                  | 2                 |            | 1                 |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   | X |   |
| Edgerton Aquatic Facility (Central Park)  | -     | 1              | 7/8                     | 1                    | 1                | 1            | 1                |                    | 2            | 6              |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   | X |   |
| <b>Conservancy Areas</b>                  |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Fishing Pond Park                         | 7.8   |                | 7/2                     |                      | 1                |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  | X                    |  | X       | X                    |                              |                      | 1                             |                 | X |   |   |
| Hain Road Wetlands                        | 13.3  |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             | X                |                      |  | X       |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| West Meadows Park                         | 1.5   |                | 1                       |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             | X                |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Whispering Pines Park                     | 2.3   |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             | X                |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| <b>Special Use Areas</b>                  |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Edgerton Community Gardens                | 1.6   |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| <b>Edgerton School District*</b>          |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Elementary, Middle, and High Schools      | 20    |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              | 1              |                    |                   |            | 7                 |            | 1                 | 1                      |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| <b>Private Recreation*</b>                |       |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   |   |
| Edgerton Towne Country Club & Golf Course | 44.3  |                |                         |                      |                  |              |                  |                    |              |                |                    |                   |            |                   |            |                   |                        |           |      |           |               |             |                  |                      |  |         |                      |                              |                      |                               |                 |   |   | 1 |

\*All Edgerton Schools and Private Recreation sites include the entire site total acres (all on-site buildings, parking areas, recreational facilities, and open space).

# CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of Edgerton conducted an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey from October 17, 2022, to November 14, 2022. In total, 541 people provided feedback. Overall, the survey focused on obtaining public opinion and feedback on the current levels of park use, current conditions, and future needs of the Edgerton park and recreation system. All survey results can be found in the Appendix.

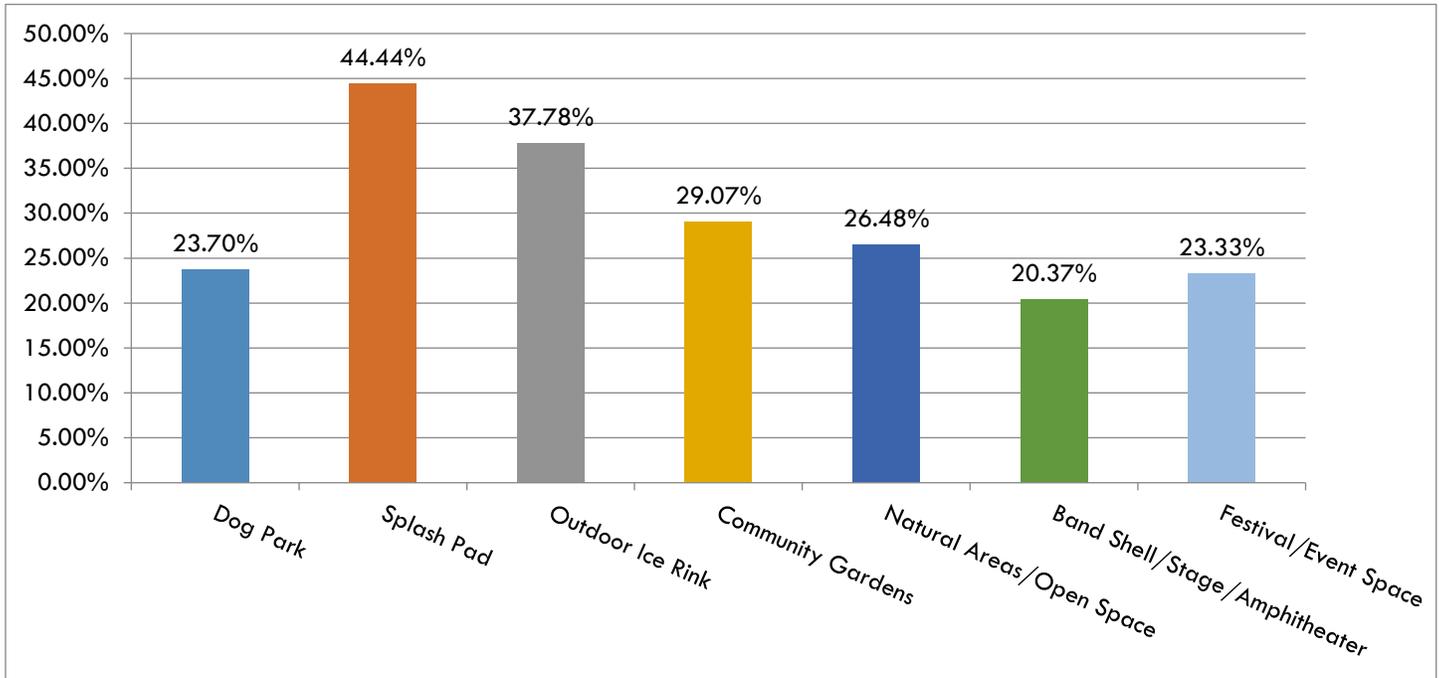
Of the 541 respondents, 67% were City residents and the rest were mainly from neighboring towns and cities. Notably, nearly 28% of respondents indicated that they were residents of neighboring townships, highlighting the important role that Edgerton’s park facilities play in meeting the needs of not only the City’s residents, but also those of nearby communities. Additionally, over 65% of respondents were between the ages of 30-49. The survey also captured responses from nearly 150 members of the public age 50 and older, but only engaged 6 individuals (1% of respondents) under the age of 18. This indicates that the survey reached a wide-ranging age demographic for most segments of the population, but that feedback from the youth – especially those 18 years of age and younger – was significantly underrepresented in the survey.

Survey respondents were asked what types of priorities are needed at various park facilities throughout the community, whether the community’s conservancy areas could use additional trail network expansions, and what types of large-scale, small-scale, and specialized park and recreation facilities are needed to serve City residents, among other questions. For each of these questions, participants were asked to rank options based on a High, Medium, or Low priority.

FIGURE 3.1: TOP THREE PARK FACILITY NEEDS DESIRED

| Top Park Facility Priorities  | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| <b>Community Parks</b> (5+ acres with larger facilities – swimming pools, sports courts and fields, enclosed shelters)                                  | 50%        |
| <b>Passive Recreational and Natural Areas</b> (unpaved trails, wildlife viewing areas, picnic areas, woodlands, wetlands, fishing, etc.)                | 44%        |
| <b>County/Regional Parks</b> (larger, mostly passive recreational facilities with trails, open space, woodlands, wetlands, water access, camping, etc.) | 33%        |

FIGURE 3.2: TOP IDENTIFIED NEW SPECIALIZED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DESIRED



Overall, the results of the 2022 survey provide valuable insights into the perspectives, desires, and needs of the community. Respondents indicated that they would like to see more active community parks with larger facilities such as playfields and courts for various sports. Passive recreational and natural areas with unpaved trails, wildlife viewing opportunities, picnic areas, woodlands and wetlands were also among the highest priorities for new facilities indicated by community feedback. The lowest priority new facility type was reported to be Pocket Parks (52% categorizing them as low priority).

The highest priority new specialized facility reported in the 2022 survey was the creation of splash pads in existing or new park facilities, with 44% of respondents indicating the need for such facilities. Rounding out the top five facilities desired by respondents were outdoor ice rinks (38%), community gardens (29%), natural areas (26%), and dog parks (24%).

Regarding additional active transportation facilities, residents indicated on-street bicycle facilities as the lowest priority addition to the community, expressing a strong preference for the addition of paved multi-use trails for recreation and travel throughout the community (indicated by 37% of respondents as the highest priority). It should also be noted that for the “other facility type,” 75% of survey respondents marked the category “N/A,” when asked about their interests in new active transportation facilities. Of the 129 respondents who marked this category, 30 provided additional comments indicated the desire for safer transportation infrastructure and access around the community for children, bicyclists, and pedestrians in the form of offroad trails and traffic calming treatments.

Additionally, when asked if they would like to see new or expanded trail networks in the City’s conservancy areas, 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed. Survey responses also indicated that efforts on the City’s part to improve access to information about existing parks, trails, facilities, programming, sports, and events are needed. Respondents strongly agreed that the best ways for the City to increase awareness of park and recreational assets and opportunities are through the creation of an interactive online map of all parks, facilities, and trails (69%), through developing a City webpage inventorying all programming, sports leagues, and events (65%), and through social media (54%). Demand for more digitally accessible information amongst respondents indicates that undertaking these efforts could help the community better activate its park and recreation system.

Another important question was how well the City is maintaining its existing park and recreation facilities. Overall, most respondents expressed that the City is doing well in this area, especially related to park cleanliness, safety, and mowing. Just under 50% of responses indicated satisfaction with park maintenance, and 23% were very satisfied.

The survey revealed some important data about the frequency with which respondents visit and use existing parks and which facilities they visit the most. Notably, 69% of respondents use the community’s parks at least once per month, with 43% indicating that they use park facilities more than once per month. The City’s most utilized facilities include:

- Racetrack Park (94% of respondents)
- Central Park (83% of respondents)
- Edgerton Aquatic Center/City Pool (63% of respondents)
- Fishing Pond Park (34% of respondents)

Some of the top needs identified in the open comment questions included:

- Maintaining existing facilities for park users
- Improving, upgrading, or replacing playground equipment
- Improving or expanding on the number of sports courts and playfields
- New splash pad, ice rink, pickleball courts, disc golf facilities, and dog park

## **FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE KICKOFF**

October 12, 2022, focus group interviews were held with key identified stakeholder groups from the City. Focus group meetings took place over the course of four meetings that afternoon. The four focus group sessions were centered around (1) School District Staff and High School Students, (2) the Arts Council, Festivals, and Pickleball, (3) Soccer, (4) Baseball, Softball, Football, and Aquatics. Collectively, 26 people participated in the interviews.

That same day, staff and planning consultants also engaged the Parks and Recreation Committee in a kickoff meeting to discuss the planning process, goals, priorities, and key issues and opportunities. Representatives from the Conservation Club and other interest groups related to bicycling, trails, and disc golf were all present at the Parks Committee Kickoff Meeting.

Additionally, on October 14, 2022, planning consultants and City staff conducted a tour of the community and its various park and open space assets to gain further understanding and familiarity with specific sites, the community's characteristics and values, and recreational opportunities.

Finally, on October 31, 2022, planning consultants engaged representatives from both Dane and Rock County Parks Departments to coordinate the goals, objectives, and recommendations of this plan with overarching County objectives. Consultants gained information on current conditions, and ongoing and future initiatives related to County Park System facilities that are part of Edgerton's regional recreational network.

The feedback received from each of these events informed the development of this Plan and its recommendations.

## **PARKS AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE DRAFT PLAN REVIEW MEETINGS**

## **PLAN COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION AND ADOPTION**

# CHAPTER 4: GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

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

**A Mission Statement** is the overall purpose of the plan in relationship to the parks and recreational system.

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

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

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

The following mission statement and list of goals, objectives, and policies are based on the information that has been presented in the previous chapters of this Plan, including public input and discussions amongst City staff, focus groups attendees, and Parks and Recreation Committee members.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Edgerton's mission is to maintain and improve quality of life, provide high quality athletic, recreational, and leisure activities for all residents and visitors, preserve lands of significant natural beauty, ecological importance, and historic value, and maintain long-term fiscal sustainability.

## GOALS

1. Ensure the provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas that meet the needs of and are accessible to all community members, promote public health, and provide diverse recreational opportunities now and in the future.
2. Preserve and maintain the City's natural resources, park facilities, and recreational amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.
3. Establish a safe, accessible, and interconnected multimodal transportation network to connect the City's park and recreation system to areas of activity and community neighborhoods.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Provide quality outdoor recreation and adequate open space lands and facilities with barrier-free access in compliance with ADA facility requirements for each neighborhood of the community.
2. Integrate park, recreation, and natural resource preservation in land use planning policies and administration.
3. Provide diverse and equitably situated recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages have an equal opportunity to enjoy the park and open space system.
4. Collaborate with other units of government, including Rock County, Dane County, WisDNR, and the Edgerton School District on park and recreation system planning.
5. Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks, pedestrian paths, and bicycle routes in the City that serve neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, and activity centers.
6. Leverage public-private partnerships, local associations and foundations, and other creative funding sources to help improve and meet the long-term park and recreational needs of the community.

## POLICIES

1. Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use to meet future population demands and to protect environmentally sensitive areas. Prioritize the acquisition of land to proactively plan for and accommodate a future community park.
2. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood-gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. Ensure that at least one park and recreational facility is within a safe and comfortable walking distance of all City residents, generally 1/3-mile service areas.
3. Require parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu standards for all new residential subdivisions and require park improvement fees. Ensure that all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities are involved in subdivision review.
4. Explore City acquisition of park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and help facilitate site planning for development. Coordinate land acquisition with state, county, regional, and local agencies to ensure an interconnected system of outdoor recreational facilities.
5. Update applicable components within the City's Subdivision Ordinances to ensure that all new park development requires a minimum right-of-way frontage and access to facilitate multi-modal transportation accessibility to all users.
6. Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Rock and Dane Counties, and the state to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and planning for potential future alternative transportation corridors and transit modes. The provision of safe and convenient bike connections between park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-going City planning and acquisition efforts and should follow State and ASSHTO standards.
7. Master plans should be considered for all future parkland development. These plans should indicate the future use of the facilities, equipment, and park grounds.
8. As opportunities become available, the City should consider purchasing properties adjacent to existing park properties to allow for the expansion of existing parks. The City will need to evaluate each opportunity to determine which properties will sufficiently meet the future needs of the park system.
9. Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities with the Edgerton School District and consider combining City park and recreational facilities with school facilities, where appropriate and feasible.
10. Preservation of environmental corridors in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure the maintenance and integrity of wildlife and fish habitats, natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, steep slopes, woodlands, and reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate.
11. Investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space. Conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure should be preserved. Consider using public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a high priority.
12. Utilize management practices that protect and enhance the natural features of all of its parks. This includes efforts to establish and maintain buffers for sensitive environmental areas, minimize fertilizer and pesticide use, and implement native species plantings and landscape initiative, to the extent possible.
13. Continue to provide recreation facilities that are designed for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them, the effectiveness of supervision, and the quality of the recreation experience.
14. Continue to market the park system's facilities and programs to the community. This effort could include utilizing the City's website, social media, email lists, recreational guides, signage, and developing new informational publications either in print or online. A map identifying park facilities should be included in these materials, and coordination should take place between the City, Visit Edgerton, and the Chamber of Commerce to make these resources widely available.
15. Encourage the creation of a "Friends of the Edgerton Parks" volunteer program to lead private fundraising efforts, assist with park maintenance, and raise awareness about the City's park facilities.
16. Coordinate with the Edgerton School District, community groups, clubs, and associations, the Conservation Club, a "Friends of Edgerton Parks" entity, and other stakeholders to develop recreational, cultural, and arts programming, events, and festivals to activate more community park facilities.
17. Develop trails and other facilities to encourage active winter recreational activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating.
18. Continue to fund the modernization of facilities and equipment in older parks, provide new facilities and equipment in undeveloped or partially developed parks, and monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure longevity and safety.

19. Integrate passive and interactive public art features that celebrate and explore Edgerton’s culture, character, history, and native ecology into existing and new park developments, including interesting architectural or design elements in playground equipment expansion or upgrades.
20. The City should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
21. Participate in future updates to the Dane County and Rock County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans and Parks and Open Space Plans.
22. Adopt a Complete Streets Policy that requires multi-modal elements as part of every roadway infrastructure project. Integrate United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, National Association of City Transportation Officials, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation guidelines, best practices, and performance measures into the policy to facilitate true complete streets.
23. Consider developing and adopting a “Health in All Policies” initiative so that public health is integrated in all decision-making process City-wide.
24. Utilize the City’s 5-year Capital Improvements Plan to pursue and implement the recommendations of this Plan.
25. Pursue becoming a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community.
26. Develop, host, or partner with the Edgerton School District, Police Department, or other local organizations bicycle and pedestrian education programs and other training to increase safety and utilization of trails, paths, sidewalks, and streets.

# CHAPTER 5: PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

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

The following section details the local standards for park and recreational facilities. These standards are a combination of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines and best practice for Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. A calculation of community-specific standards is more likely to identify those park system deficiencies that would not otherwise be captured by universal or national standards. Furthermore, a locally derived standard does a better job of considering the quality of the park system as well as the quantity of park and recreational facilities provided.

For a full description of each park type in the City, see Chapter 2.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPARABLE COMMUNITY'S STANDARDS

To understand the role that the City's Park and Trail System should play in providing park and recreation services, it is useful to understand the role of a municipal park system in the context of national, state, and county services provided.

- **National Parks** are scattered throughout the United States with massive tracts of land that serve as vacation destinations or wilderness areas. They are run by the Department of Interior of the United States government. There are no National Parks in Dane or Rock Counties other than the Sheepskin Marsh Natural Area.
- **State Parks** exist as conservation areas, scenic drives, or as weekend getaways, typically away from population centers. State Parks are often designed to encourage tourism, but their primary purpose is to serve residents of their respective states. Nearby State Park and Natural Areas include Lake Kegonsa State Park, Badfish Creek State Wildlife Area, Lower Mud Lake State Fishery Area, and the Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area.
- **County Parks** function to fill in the gaps that municipal and state governments do not serve. The gaps can include serving a municipal function in portions of a county with municipalities too small to have enough resources to provide parks, conserving large areas of open space that municipalities cannot, or as a tourist venue for people from outside the county. Silverwood County Park in Dane County and Gibbs Lake Park and Murwin Park in Rock County are examples of county parks located in the region.
- **Municipal parks** exist to serve residents of municipalities, sometimes on an hourly basis, as hosts for active athletic or recreation programs. The two most common types of municipal parks are Neighborhood and Community parks. Neighborhood parks are usually 1-10 acres in size and have a 1/3-mile service radius. Community parks are larger (10+ acres) and typically serve larger portions of the community with a 1-mile service radius.

On an annual basis, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) compiles data from around the U.S. on park and recreational departments and services provided. In 2022, the NRPA released its latest version of the Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks. It is important to compare the services that Edgerton provides to the national averages as a benchmark for analysis. A few of the most applicable metrics include:

- On average, 10.4 acres of park land is provided per 1,000 residents in a jurisdiction.
- On a per park basis, there are an average of 2,323 residents per park.
- Per 10,000 residents, an equivalent of 8.9 full-time employees on average are employed in each park and recreation department.

Another method in evaluating the existing Edgerton Parks System is comparing it to other similar sized municipalities. In Figure 5.1, four other communities were selected that ranged in size between 5,710 – 13,204 in total population. Generally, Edgerton has less total developed municipally-owned parks than most other neighboring communities, outside of the City of Evansville. However, the City of Edgerton compares favorably with other municipalities in terms of the total number of residents per park.

In terms of the number of developed park acres per 1,000 residents, Edgerton exceeds both the national benchmark standard and has more developed parkland per 1,000 residents than almost all comparable communities. Community parkland comparisons are based only on neighborhood and community parks. Conservancy and special use lands are not included in the following calculations.

To note, some communities have significant amounts of their existing total park acres that are constrained by environmental factors such as rivers, streams, steep slopes, natural areas, floodplain, and wetlands. Many do not account for that factor in their park planning, thus total acres shown below could include both constrained and unconstrained land totals for comparison communities.

FIGURE 5.1. COMPARABLE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS

| Municipality                      | 2022 Population | Number of Municipal Owned Parks | Residents Per Park | Total Acres* | Acres Per 1,000 People        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>City of Edgerton</b>           | <b>5,997</b>    | <b>8</b>                        | <b>750</b>         | <b>82.3</b>  | <b>13.7</b>                   |
| City of Stoughton                 | 13,204          | 15                              | 880                | 130.6        | 9.9                           |
| City of Evansville                | 5,821           | 7                               | 832                | 76.6         | 13.2                          |
| City of Milton                    | 5,710           | 10                              | 571                | 95           | 16.6                          |
| City of Fort Atkinson             | 12,489          | 14                              | 892                | 98           | 7.8                           |
| Average of Comparable Communities | 8,644           | 11                              | 785                | 97           | 12                            |
| <b>NPRA Standards (2022)</b>      | <b>-</b>        | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>     | <b>National Average: 10.4</b> |

\*Some communities listed in this analysis have a significant number of constrained acres that make up the total parkland acres documented in their respective Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Not all communities listed distinguish constrained from unconstrained acres, so both were considered in this analysis to provide a consistent data point for all communities. Only Neighborhood and Community Parks are included in the total number of parks and acres shown above.

Source: V&A and City of Edgerton, City of Stoughton, City of Evansville, City of Milton, City of Fort Atkinson, and the National Park and Recreation Association.

While it is important to evaluate Edgerton based on both national averages and neighboring Wisconsin municipalities, it is difficult to do a one-to-one comparison between parks departments. This is because of the variability in department structure, amenities, distribution of county and state parks, and the number of natural resources in the area. Since there are so many variables, this plan will use customized local standards established for this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans to determine its existing service gaps and future needs.

## EDGERTON PARK STANDARDS

Overall, the City currently maintains a standard of approximately 14 park acres per 1,000 residents. Because of the projected future increase in the population over the next 10-20 years, the acres per resident standard is expected to decrease over the planning period. If the City wishes to maintain or increase the standard, additional park land will need to be acquired. Below, in Figure 5.2, is the breakdown of the developed park acres per 1,000 resident's standards using Edgerton's 2022 total population. Currently, the City meets its parkland standards developed through this plan.

FIGURE 5.2 FUTURE CITY OF EDGERTON PARK STANDARDS

|                                  | 2023 Total Active Park Acres | 2023 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents | 2023 Standard Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents | 2023 Total Acres Needed to Meet Standard | 2023 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standard |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Neighborhood and Community Parks | 82                           | 14                                   | 14   | 82                                       | 0   |

Note: Active acres are defined as the total land area within all existing Neighborhood and Community Parks. All figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A and City of Edgerton

There may be opportunities to acquire key pieces of land to augment the park system as the community grows and develops. Some of these future opportunities should not be discounted and could include natural resource protection opportunities, public greenspace to support downtown and neighborhood functions, areas to serve future residential development, expansion opportunities for existing facilities, and trails to connect existing or future parks and wildlife habitats.

## SERVICE AREAS

Map 2 depicts the service areas of Neighborhood and Community Parks based on their location within the community. This analysis is utilized to determine the existing service coverage of the City Park System, in addition to forming the basis of the recommended new park locations as discussed in Chapter 7.

Park service areas were divided into two different distances based on the size, number of amenities, and ability to serve multiple recreational functions:

- Neighborhood Parks: 1/3 Mile Service Area
- Community Parks: 1 Mile Service Area

In most municipalities, service areas range between 1/4 – 1/3 mile because of the need to accommodate all modes of transportation access, especially people who may not own or be able to operate a vehicle (children, handicapped individuals, the elderly, etc.). 1/4 – 1/3 mile is seen as representative distance of mobility or how far most individuals can walk comfortably depending on age, health, and other factors. An additional consideration in the service areas provided by each Neighborhood and Community Park are access barriers (large roadways, natural features, bridges, etc.) and general development density. Edgerton's service areas were modified to reflect the limited access for an individual walking or biking due to high-traffic volume streets. Those roadways included: North Main Street, Fulton Street, and Lord Street.

Using these service areas, Map 2 identifies a service gap on the far north side of Edgerton and several smaller gaps in the southwestern and southeastern areas of the City. These include the future development area in the southwest portion of the City along Pomeroy Drive and North County Trunk Highway F, as well as areas on the east side of the City south of East Fulton Street/Highway 59 out to the intersection of Highway 59 with Sherman Road. To note, the existing service area gap on the north side of the City is primarily comprised of manufacturing and business uses, and the service area gap on the east side of Edgerton is a combination of open space and the Hospital. Collectively, each of these portions of the City are not currently densely developed, though they may be in the future. In total, the existing park locations are well distributed throughout the community and provide service to most existing neighborhoods and residents within 1/3 mile.

## PROGRAMMING AND STAFFING

As of 2022, the City of Edgerton does not formally offer any recreational programming, however City staff does assist in coordinating with the various other local organizations to provide recreational activities in various parks throughout the year. All other recreational programming is provided by School District and local sports groups and leagues.

The parks are staffed by 2 full-time equivalent Department of Public Works staff persons, which includes 5 seasonal employees. In order to provide the high level of service that the City desires, it is recommended that at a minimum the existing ratio of full-time to part-time staff, in addition to the ratio of programming to maintenance staff remain the same over the next five years. However, if new or expanded programming, facilities, or land acquisition takes place, additional staff should be considered, and is recommended to maintain the existing level of service. According to the National Recreation and Park Association's 2022 Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks Field Report, the national average of full-time park employees per 10,000 people in a jurisdiction is 8.9. This translates to approximately 5.3 parks and recreation staff needed to meet the national benchmark based on Edgerton's existing population.

## Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

### Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

-  Existing Off Street Trail
-  Existing On Street Bike Route

### City of Edgerton

-  City of Edgerton
-  Major Roads

### County Boundary

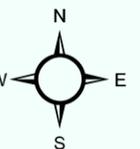
### Existing Parks

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Conservation Area
-  Special Use Area
-  Other Recreation Area
-  Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/3rd Mile)\*
-  Community Park Service Area (1 Mile)
-  Dog Park

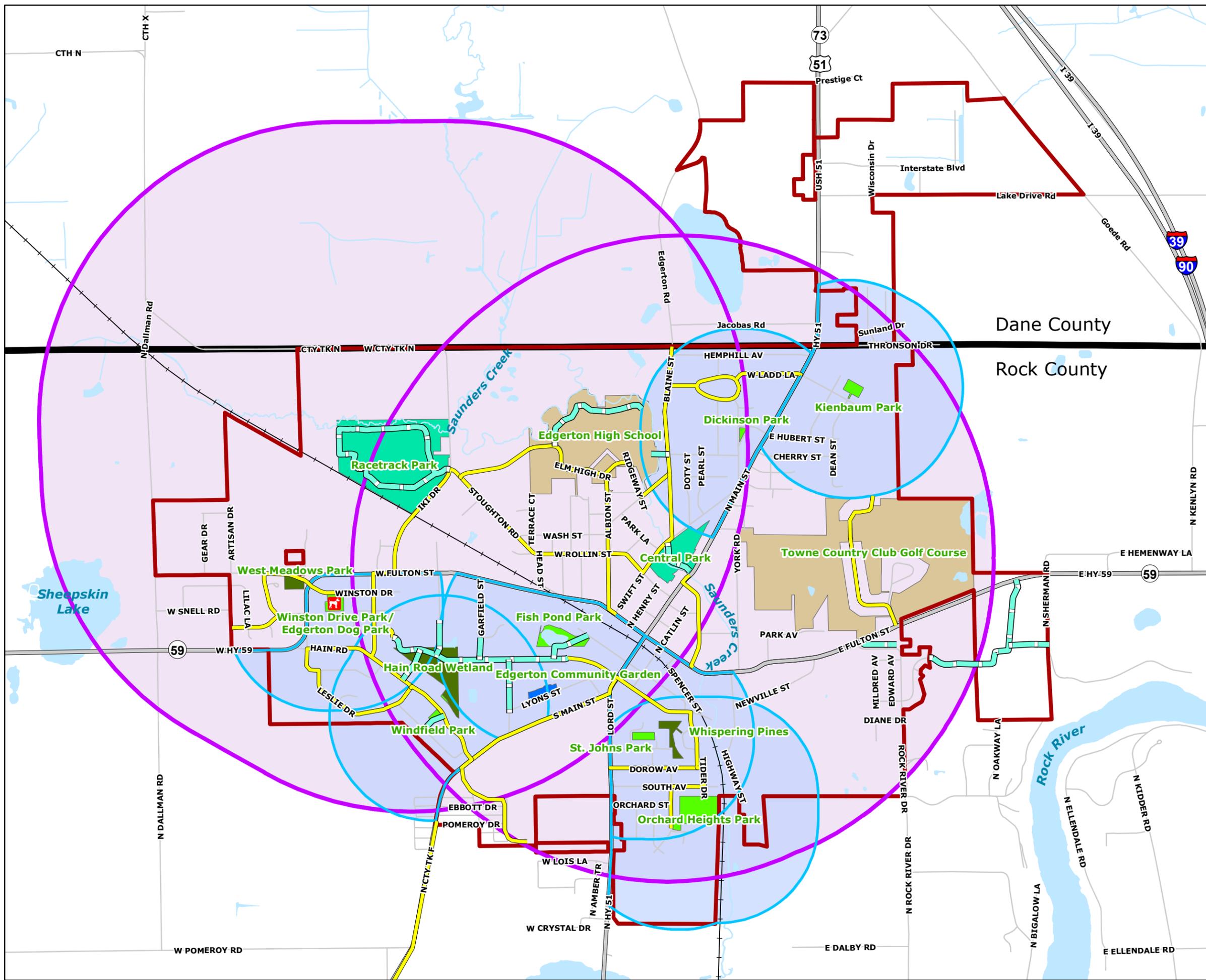
\*Neighborhood Park Service Areas are clipped to barriers such as Major Roadways.



0.25 Miles



Date: 12/28/2022  
Sources: City of Edgerton, Rock County, Dane County, US Census Bureau, WI DNR



# CHAPTER 6: ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

This Chapter presents an analysis of how well Edgerton’s existing park and recreational facilities meet community needs, evaluating the following components:

- An application of established local and national park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the City (Chapter 5).
- A qualitative analysis of the City’s park system based on both an understanding of the City’s goals and objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities.
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of each park location.
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the City’s park and open space system.
- A review of the Wisconsin’s State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in Chapter 7.

## QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

### Existing Facilities

As documented in Chapter 5, Edgerton’s existing park acres meet the established local standard for a total of 14 active acres of municipal parkland per 1,000 residents (Figure 6.1). However, within Conservancy and Special Use areas, there are significantly more environmental constraints including WisDNR wetlands and floodplains, steep slopes (greater than 12%), drainageways (75’ buffer around perennial streams or 50’ buffer around intermittent channels), and woodlands (combined 80% cover area). In calculating and analyzing the future park acres needed to accommodate the City’s growing population, the active parks areas of all Neighborhood and Community Parks were separately determined.

FIGURE 6.1: TOTAL PARKLAND BY TYPE

| Park Type    | 2023 Total Acres | 2023 Total Acres Per 1,000 Residents |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Neighborhood | 14               | 3                                    |
| Community    | 68               | 11                                   |
| Total        | 82               | 14                                   |
| Conservancy  | 25               | 4                                    |
| Special Use  | 2                | 0.25                                 |
| Total        | 109              | 18                                   |

Note: Active acres are defined as the total land area within all existing Neighborhood and Community Parks. All figures used in this table are rounded. The City of Edgerton’s 2022 population was used to calculate the above (5,997).

Source: V&A and City of Edgerton

### Future Park System Needs

The future recreation needs of the City are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the City in future years. This type of needs assessment is a critical component of this Plan. It is included in part to satisfy Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617 and 236.29 regarding the collection of fees, and also to assist the City with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks.

For the purposes of this Plan, Edgerton will utilize the standard of 14 acres per 1,000 residents. Based upon the analyses provided in this Chapter and in Chapter 5, the City chose to pursue this standard because it most accurately represents its existing provision of active parkland per 1,000 residents, which is intended to be maintained moving forward. Figures 6.3 and 6.4 show the minimum additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the City’s projected population in 2033 and 2043.

Figure 6.3 presents the 2033 park acreage needs projection which is a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure of impact fees. The 2033 projection will be used to estimate future costs in Chapter 9, and to determine parkland

acquisition and improvement recommendations based on what the City can reasonably expect to accomplish in the ten-year timeframe. Based upon the analysis presented below, Edgerton will need an approximate total of 10 additional acres of parkland by 2033 to accommodate the future population and increase the intended level of service.

FIGURE 6.3: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2033

| 2023 Total Active Acres | 2023 Acres Per 1,000 Residents | Edgerton Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents | 2033 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards* | 2033 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards* |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 82                      | 14                             | 14   | 92  | 10  |

Note: Active acres are defined as the total land area within all existing Neighborhood and Community Parks. All figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

\*Population projection in 2033: 6,596

Figure 6.4 shows that, based on the population projections in Chapter 1 and local standards, Edgerton will need to add approximately 18 acres of neighborhood and community parkland to the current park system by 2043.

FIGURE 6.4: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS, 2043

| 2023 Total Active Acres | 2023 Acres Per 1,000 Residents | Edgerton Park Acreage Standard Per 1,000 Residents | 2043 Total Acres Needed to Meet Projected Population Standards* | 2043 Additional Acres Needed to Meet Standards* |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 82                      | 14                             | 14   | 100   | 18  |

Note: Active acres are defined as the total land area within all existing Neighborhood and Community Parks. All figures used in this table are rounded.

Source: V&A

\*Population Projection in 2042: 7,141

## QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations, a thorough assessment of the City’s existing facilities must include an analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Edgerton unique from other communities. This includes:

- Identifying those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards.
- Ensuring that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of City residents.
- Allowing for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the City can plan its future park system.

Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this Chapter does not include outdoor school recreational facilities because the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does not consider these areas in the calculation of total parkland within a community. Additionally, they are prioritized for school district-based activities and can be closed to the public on occasion. While they do offer additional recreational facilities in many neighborhoods throughout the community and accommodate some of the local demand, they are not considered in the calculations and analysis of this Plan.
- While there are no county or state outdoor recreational facilities within Edgerton, nearby amenities offered by state, county, or other municipalities also contribute to the area’s overall parks, recreation, and open space system. Each helps serve Edgerton residents, although most are only accessible by vehicle or bicycle.
- City residents have access to many recreational facilities, however, the survey results (see Appendix) indicated there is interest in some additional facilities and amenities such as:
  - Splash pad
  - Ice rink
  - New Community Park
  - Passive recreational space and trails in conservancy areas
  - Playfields, pickleball courts, and disc golf facilities
  - Multi-use paths and trails

## GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The location and distribution of the park and open space facilities in relation to a community's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. Map 2 illustrates how effectively the City of Edgerton's parklands serve the various developed areas of the community. These service areas are based on the local standards identified in Chapter 5.

The area served by a park is influenced by several factors. These include the size of the park, location, transportation accessibility, and natural or manmade barriers. Displaying park service areas based on these factors suggests locations where additional park facilities might be necessary to serve residents.

The development pattern in Edgerton is relatively compact, a product of the community's long history and historic development practices. Many neighborhoods and the community's Main Street exhibit characteristics more like traditional neighborhood development than sprawling suburban style construction. In the older neighborhoods of Edgerton, parks are well distributed, and the school district sites are within close proximity to much of the existing community. However, there are a few existing service area gaps south of the intersection of Hain Road and South Main Street and to the east of County Trunk Highway F. The eastern side of Edgerton is more isolated in terms of geographical distance from downtown. Existing service area gaps are located on the south side of Highway 59, around the Edgerton Hospital.

As the City continues to grow, existing and future gaps in park and recreation facility service areas will need to be addressed. The large area of the City north of the intersection of Highway 51 and Thronson Drive, as well as portions of the eastern part of the City extending south from Highway 59, though not heavily developed at this time, are not serviced by any neighborhood or community parks within close proximity. If the community continues to grow in both areas, there may be opportunities to fill these existing gaps with the addition of new parkland. Overall, as Edgerton continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands, open space, and recreational opportunities.

## REVIEW OF THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2019-2023 (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's 2019-2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Some of the key issues, concerns, and factors influencing the future of outdoor recreation include:

- Demographic shifts in age, urbanization, and diversification
- The declining overall maintenance of infrastructure, especially recreational facilities
- Technology advances effecting the way we travel, use parks, and distribute information
- Equitable distribution of public lands
- Declining habitat quality and invasive species maintenance
- Increasing extreme weather events and weather pattern shifts
- Funding opportunities and increasing cost

# CHAPTER 7: PARK FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations to expand and improve Edgerton’s existing park and open space system based on current deficiencies and opportunities identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan, and new park and facilities needs as indicated by future population growth. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

Based on the City’s projected population in 2033 (6,596 residents) and 2043 (7,141 residents), and its local standard of 14 acres per 1,000 residents, Edgerton will need to provide approximately 10 additional acres of active parkland by 2033, and 18 new acres of parkland by 2043. It is also recommended that various additional improvements to existing parks also be made. In addition to active recreation areas, it was also prioritized through this Plan’s public participation events, that more passive, “nature-based”, and trail recreation opportunities were also desired. This Plan recommends that additional acreage in passive, nature-oriented parks is developed in addition to active park development acreage. This recommendation assumes that Edgerton will continue to grow at a moderate rate, and that park and open space planning will be oriented toward serving a steadily growing population. The timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the City’s developed and newly developed areas.

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

Additionally, an evaluation tool was created to help score and compare proposed parkland when it is presented to the City during the plat review process. The tool utilizes nine different criteria to evaluate proposed parkland and can be used to evaluate a proposed subdivision plat to determine if there is proposed to be enough parkland, the proposed parkland is the right type of land, and if there is other land that may be better suited for park and open space in the area. It is recommended that the evaluation criteria be used in all future discussions and reviews of subdivision plats and potential parkland acquisition.

## RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS

Recommended park improvements were developed through feedback from the Parks and Recreation Committee, City staff, and the public, a review of the goals, objectives, and policies of existing plans, and the inventory and analysis of existing park and recreation system conditions within Edgerton. This comprehensive analysis led to the following list of existing park recommendations.

Over the next 5 years, it is unrealistic to think that all projects for each park and trail will be implemented. To account for this, the recommendations provide a broad range of projects that can be implemented incrementally in the short, medium, and long term as deemed feasible by the City.

FIGURE 7.1 RECOMMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SITE IMPROVEMENTS

| Existing Neighborhood Parks             |   |
|---|---|
| Site Name                               | Recommended Site Improvements   |
| <b>General Overarching Improvements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage and trail connections between parks</li> <li>• Security upgrades, including establishing electricity and lighting at all park facilities</li> <li>• Establish uniform shelter rental options including signage for noticing when shelters are rented</li> <li>• Add bicycle racks</li> <li>• Add benches, shade trees, and native plantings</li> <li>• Add pickleball courts, where possible</li> <li>• Implement ADA accessibility features in parks, from playground equipment to shelters and restrooms</li> <li>• Establish paved connections between park facilities and the adjoining right-of-way</li> <li>• Perform systematic routine maintenance of the existing facilities in each park</li> </ul>     |
| <b>Dickinson Park</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stripe basketball court to allow for alternative uses, such as four square or gaga ball</li> <li>• Add additional playground equipment with unique design and upgrade it to include ADA accessible ground covering</li> <li>• Develop sidewalk connections from the street to park facilities</li> <li>• Add an accessible swing and trash receptacles</li> <li>• Install a shelter and additional shade trees</li> <li>• Develop community gardens in underutilized space</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Kienbaum Park</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and enhance on-site wetlands</li> <li>• Integrate the park into the future community park</li> <li>• Replace existing playground equipment and benches</li> <li>• Add a basketball court or sport court</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Orchard Heights Park</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the subdivision to the south is established, create a trail connection to the park</li> <li>• Integrate additional landscaping and trees</li> <li>• Improve and expand the soccer playfield</li> <li>• Create sidewalk connections to the playground and soccer field area for ADA accessibility</li> <li>• Create a sidewalk connection to South Avenue</li> <li>• Install additional benches and soccer standards</li> <li>• Install permanent bathrooms and explore developing off-street parking</li> <li>• Develop a trail around the stormwater facilities and provide connections to the future trails planned for the surrounding neighborhood, especially along the natural area on the east side of the neighborhood</li> </ul> |
| <b>Windfield Road Park</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand playground area and install ADA accessible ground covering</li> <li>• Plant additional shade trees and install shaded seating areas</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Winston Drive Park</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add water access and shelter structure to dog park area</li> <li>• Create a tall grass area in the dog park with mowed paths</li> <li>• Develop a sidewalk connection along Winston Drive and to existing facilities</li> <li>• Replace existing playground equipment and install ADA accessible ground covering</li> </ul>  |
| <b>St. John's Park</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace or upgrade existing basketball court</li> <li>• Replace or upgrade existing playground equipment and benches, including ADA accessible ground covering</li> <li>• Increase connectivity to the surrounding neighborhood through sidewalk and trail connections</li> <li>• Establish easements or purchase property to connect park to Whispering Pines Conservancy Area and develop passive trail connections between the two</li> <li>• Replace backstop and improve baseball diamond to be a tee-ball field</li> <li>• Establish sharing parking agreement with church to provide on-site parking for baseball fields during off-peak hours</li> </ul>   |

FIGURE 7.2 RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY SITE IMPROVEMENTS

| Existing Community Parks                |   |
|---|---|
| Site Name                               | Recommended Site Improvements   |
| <b>General Overarching Improvements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve wayfinding signage and trail connections between parks</li> <li>• Security upgrades, including establishing electricity and lighting at all park facilities</li> <li>• Establish uniform shelter rental options including signage for noticing when shelters are rented</li> <li>• Add bicycle racks</li> <li>• Add benches, shade trees, and native plantings</li> <li>• Add pickleball courts, where possible</li> <li>• Implement ADA accessibility features in parks, from playground equipment to shelters and restrooms</li> <li>• Perform systematic routine maintenance of the existing facilities in each park</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Central Park</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand Saunders Creek Trail corridor to connect with Randolph Street, linking Central Park to the Edgerton School District campus</li> <li>• Create water access points along Saunders Creek to allow for kayaking, canoeing, and other water-based activities</li> <li>• Construct a rentable shelter and passive walking trails with native plantings adjacent to VFW Memorial</li> <li>• Develop an ice-skating rink to activate the park during winter months adjacent to VFW Memorial</li> <li>• Expand and improve pickleball courts or convert existing basketball court to pickleball</li> <li>• Plant more shade trees and install shaded seating areas</li> <li>• Conduct a streambank study to determine streambank stabilization measures needed to improve Saunders Creek</li> <li>• Improve and upgrade open air shelters</li> <li>• Add a splashpad within the Aquatic Center</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Racetrack Park</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfigure the northern access point to be only accessible by bicycles and pedestrians, outside of major events</li> <li>• Replace or upgrade existing playground equipment, including ADA accessible ground covering</li> <li>• Pave and stripe existing gravel parking areas along northern drive isle and add dedicated paved sidewalk on north side of parking areas</li> <li>• Install speed bumps along northern drive isle</li> <li>• Reconfigure west side soccer fields to accommodate larger on-site parking area and full-size field</li> <li>• Redevelop the trail throughout wooded areas on the west and north sides of the park and connect trails to existing multi-use paths within the park. Explore feasibility of expanding disc golf course into this area</li> <li>• Implement the Racetrack Park performance space concept plans in the festival groups area (see Appendix Part 8 for concept plans)</li> <li>• Upgrade storage buildings with electricity</li> <li>• Improve playfield drainage</li> <li>• Install netting around baseball/softball fields bleachers</li> <li>• Develop a Park Master Plan to determine the future of the deer pen and prioritize the community's solutions to resolving the many different constraints identified in Figure 7.3</li> <li>• Create sidewalk connections to playground equipment and deer pen</li> <li>• Create sidewalk connections from IKI Drive to parking areas with wayfinding signage about on-street parking availability</li> <li>• Add new wayfinding signage throughout the park, especially where off-street and on-street parking options exist</li> <li>• Relocate existing skatepark equipment to south end of park adjacent to railroad</li> </ul> |

## RACETRACK PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

As the largest and most developed Community Park in Edgerton, Racetrack Park is the most utilized facility within the City’s park system. The park has evolved over the years to the point where there are very limited future opportunities available for more recreational features, in particular active playfield space. It was identified through this planning process that special attention is needed to address existing issues, plan for improvements, and take into consideration the many different users of the site.

This tool helps inform the park-specific recommendations listed above and to provide the City with a greater understanding of potential impacts related to each issue and possible solution. It is recommended that this tool be the reference source for short-term improvements and for a full park Master Plan to determine the long-term programming, development, and evolution of the park.

As shown below, the scale of general anticipated costs is a simplified measurement of the potential implementation costs of the solution, in comparison to the other solutions listed (i.e. 1 = least expensive, 5 = most expensive). It is intended to be used for comparison and prioritization purposes and not to represent a proportionate or total cost amount. More in depth design and study of each solution will yield accurate cost estimates.

FIGURE 7.3: PARKLAND EVALUATION SUMMARY

| Overarching Existing Issue   | Possible Solutions   | Potential Solution Impacts  | Scale of General Anticipated Cost |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Lack of on-site parking  | Pave and stripe existing gravel area along northern drive isle   | Provides more defined parking spaces near playfields, but increases stormwater runoff in an area with existing stormwater issues  | 3                                 |
|  | Double the size of existing parking area adjacent to Conservation Club building  | Provides more defined parking spaces near fields and new vehicle turnaround option, but increases stormwater runoff in an area with existing stormwater issues and lose of green space                                | 4                                 |
|  | Add wayfinding signage to parking areas and fields, in addition to paved path connections to existing on- and off-site (IKI Drive) parking options and new bicycle racks on-site | Provides more accessibility to existing parking areas*, but requires walking greater distances to vehicle parking areas   | 1                                 |
|  | Develop a new 50+ car parking lot  | Provide new off-street parking option, but increases stormwater runoff, results in a loss of one or more playfields, and will not solve peak parking demand on-site   | 5                                 |
| On-site transportation circulation, safety, and site configuration | Reconfigure northern access drive (at the intersection of IKI Drive and Stoughton Road) for bicycle and pedestrian use only, outside of major events                             | Provides increased safety at this location and promote alternative transportation modes, but limits vehicle access during regular use periods   | 4                                 |
|  | Reestablish drive access loop around baseball/softball complex   | Provides greater on-site vehicle connectivity, but reduces the size of the existing trail system, doesn’t allow for a full-size soccer field on west end, and creates vehicle/pedestrian conflicts with festival area | 5                                 |
|  | Add speed bumps along drive isle   | Provides greater safety along drive isle, but could impact stormwater runoff  | 2                                 |
|  | Expand paved trail network and connections throughout the park   | Provides greater bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, but lose of some green space  | 1                                 |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Increasing demand for more soccer fields            | Reconfigure west side Conservation Club area soccer field to accommodate a full-size field                              | Provides more field space in response to demand in the short-term, but limits other potential uses in this area   | 2 |
|   | Develop the former tractor pull area for new soccer fields  | Provides more field space in response to demand in the short-term, but limits other potential uses in this area   | 2 |
|   | Establish new soccer fields in other existing parks or new parks (distribute facilities throughout the City)            | Provides more field space in response to demand in the short-term, but doesn't allow for all users to be in the same location   | 3 |
|   | Establish a new soccer complex in a new park developed by the City  | Provides more field space in response to demand, but takes a considerable amount of time and land   | 5 |
| Increasing demand for more baseball/softball fields | Add netting to existing fields  | Provides increased safety, but requires long-term maintenance   | 1 |
|   | Develop the former tractor pull area for new baseball/softball fields   | Provides more field space in response to demand in the short-term, but limits other potential uses in this area   | 2 |
|   | Establish new baseball/softball fields in other existing parks or new parks (distribute facilities throughout the City) | Provides more field space in response to demand in the short-term, but doesn't allow for all users to be in the same location   | 3 |
|   | Establish a new baseball/softball complex in a new park developed by the City   | Provides more field space in response to demand, but takes a considerable amount of time and land   | 5 |
| Limited and outdated performance space              | Establish new performance space in another existing park or new park  | Provides new performance space in response to demand, but requires developing new conceptual performance space plans  | 5 |
|   | Establish new performance space in the existing festival grounds on-site  | Provides an opportunity to utilize existing festival space and facilities already in place, but potentially exasperates the circulation and parking issues listed above | 4 |
| Increasing demand for more disc golf space          | Establish new disc golf course/holes in other existing parks or new parks (distribute throughout the City)              | Provides more course space in response to demand in the short-term, but comes with significant costs and doesn't keep all users in the same location                    | 3 |
|   | Establish new disc golf course/holes on-site  | Provides an opportunity to build on existing disc golf course and facilities already in place, but limits other potential uses in the park                              | 3 |

\*On-site parking (gravel parking area and paved parking lots) = approximately 170 spaces

Off-site parking along IKI Drive (from Stoughton Road intersection to railroad tracks) = approximately 100 spaces

## RECOMMENDED NEW PARKS

Future infill and new development throughout the City will likely result in the need for Neighborhood and Community Parks. In response to this identified need, Map 3 shows alternative locations for seven Neighborhood Parks and three Community Parks in the City’s residential growth areas. Specific park facility boundaries in these general locations will be determined when the lands are platted or acquired. The following is a description of these general park recommendations. Models for Neighborhood and Community Parks can be found in the Appendix.

### Neighborhood Parks

Several new Neighborhood Parks are recommended to provide service for developing areas. These parks are for intense recreational activities serving areas that are currently developing or areas that will be developing in the near future. They should be easily accessible to the surrounding neighborhood with safe walking and bicycling access, and approximately 5-10 acres, serving an area within a 1/3 radius, or a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons.

To accommodate the City’s projected population increases, additional neighborhood parkland acquisitions are recommended. The City should add new neighborhood parks to the north, west, and southeast to serve the City’s future residential growth areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. Recommended general locations for seven future neighborhood parks are identified on Map 3, however, the timing and precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs, or land is acquired or platted

FIGURE 7.4 RECOMMENDED NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

| Recommended Neighborhood Park | Conceptual Location  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Neighborhood Park 1           | Far northeast side to serve the City’s future growth area near or connected to future multi-use trail network.   |
| Neighborhood Park 2           | Far northwest side to serve the City’s additional future growth area or provide expansion areas for Racetrack Park.  |
| Neighborhood Park 3           | Far west side location northwest of West Fulton Street and West Meadows Park. This park would serve the current and future residential neighborhoods on the far west edge of the community.  |
| Neighborhood Park 4           | Far west side on the former industrial site parking area that is current underutilized.  |
| Neighborhood Park 5           | Far north side of the City, west of USH 51 to serve the City’s future residential population west of the highway.  |
| Neighborhood Park 6           | Far southeast side in the City’s future growth area on the west side of Rock River Drive and connected to a future multi-use trail network planned along Rock River Drive.   |
| Neighborhood Park 7           | Southeast side of the City, just southeast of Newville Street to serve the future residential development in this area from a central location.  |
| Neighborhood Park 8           | Southeast side of the City, between Main Street and Lord Street to serve the future residential development in this area. This park should highlight and incorporate the existing densely wooded area with potential connections to the City-owned cemetery and planned passive recreational area along Lord Street. |

### Community Parks

Community Parks are large-scale facilities that may include recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, swimming pools, a community center, tennis courts, and others. They may also contain areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, bicycling, sitting, viewing, and picnicking. It is important that these parks be located on or near a major thoroughfare, have adequate off-street parking, that they are also accessible by foot and bicycle. These parks should be 10+ acres in size and serve an area within a 1-mile radius.

To accommodate the City’s projected population increases, additional community parkland acquisition is also recommended. Edgerton should add new Community Parks as growth occurs to the northeast and southwest to serve the City’s future residential growth areas and those neighborhoods currently underserved by park facilities. Recommended general locations for three future community parks are identified on Map 3, however, the timing and precise boundaries of these sites may not be decided until development occurs, or land is acquired or platted.

FIGURE 7.5 RECOMMENDED NEW COMMUNITY PARKS

| Recommended Community Park | Conceptual Location  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Community Park 1           | On the northeast side of the City, this land is a planned residential neighborhood and represents a prime opportunity for the development of a new community park. Conceptual park development plans have been prepared for this site and are detailed later in the Chapter. The park would serve the northeast side of the community and its future growth area. This park should be connected via planned future multi-use trails to adjacent Kienbaum Park and future Community Park 2. |
| Community Park 2           | Northeast side to service the City's future growth area. If the planned residential neighborhood continues to the east of the City's existing municipal boundary, this park is planned to adjoin Community Park 1 into a larger overall facility serving the entire new neighborhood.  |
| Community Park 3           | Southwest side, south of Leslie Drive and west of CTH F to serve the future neighborhood growth area in this part of the City. If development occurs in this area, the future park should be connected via multi-use trails to both STH 59 and CTH F.  |

### Future Park and Recreation Facilities

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Passive Recreation/Open Space

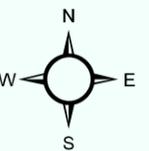
-  Existing Off Street Trail
-  Existing On Street Bike Route
-  Long-Range Proposed Off-Street Trail
-  Proposed Off Street Trail
-  Proposed On Street Bike Route
-  City of Edgerton
-  Major Roads
-  County Boundary

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Conservation Area
-  Special Use Area
-  Other Recreation Area
-  Planned Residential Development
-  Dog Park

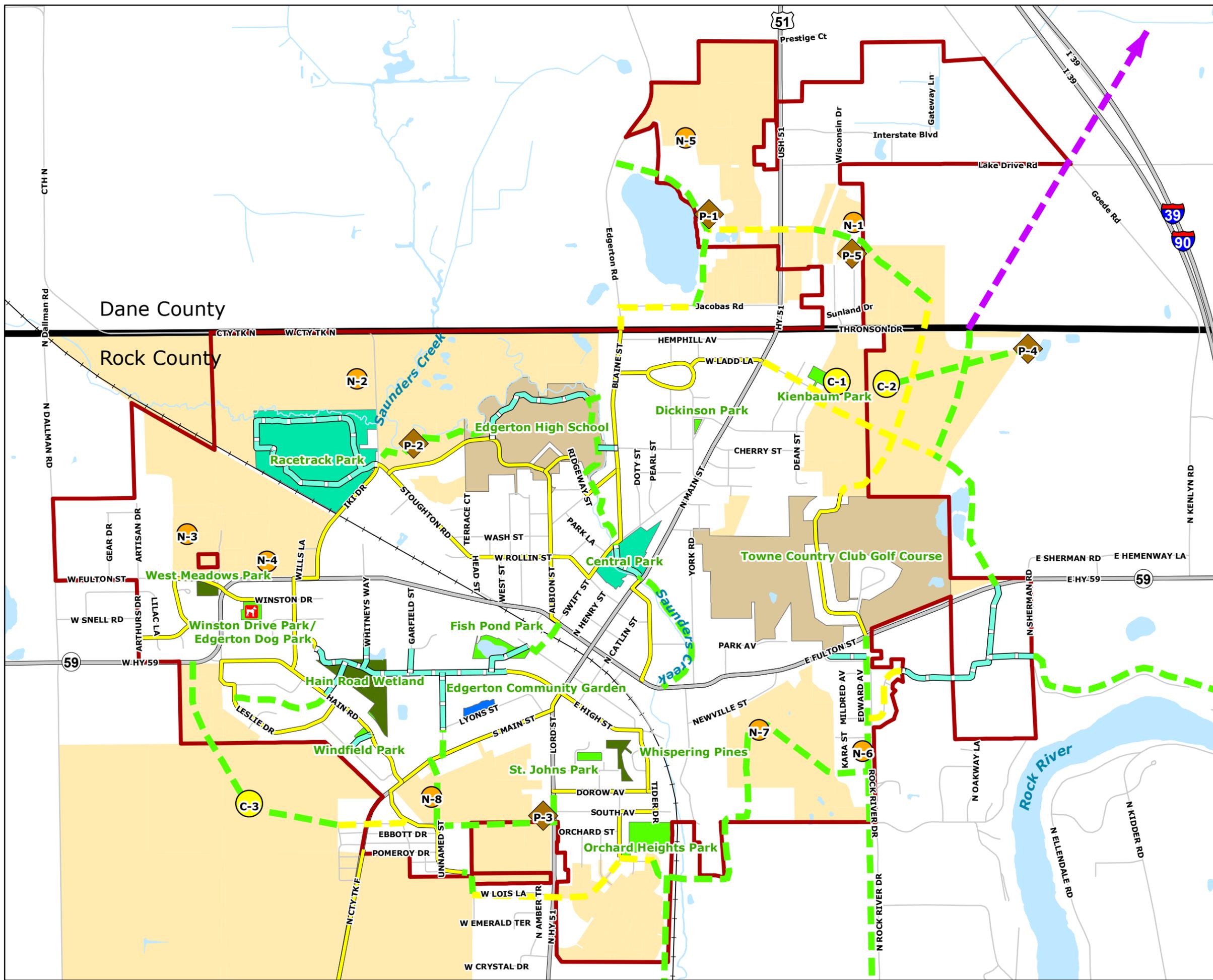


0.25 Miles

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Date: 1/16/2023  
Sources: City of Edgerton, Rock County, Dane County, US Census Bureau, WI DNR



## NEW PARKLAND EVALUATION TOOL

A method is needed to evaluate a subdivision plat to determine if there is proposed to be enough parkland, if the proposed parkland is the right type of land, and if there's other land that may be better suited for park and open space. Staff and policy makers alike need a method of analyzing a site prior to making any formal determinations. Through the review of best practices, in addition to information provided by the City staff, Parks and Recreation Committee, Plan Commission, City Council, and the public, the following Parkland Evaluation Tool was created. The tool utilizes nine different criteria to score a given site during the subdivision plat review process. It is recommended that this matrix be used in all future park or trail acquisition determinations at the Plan Commission level. It is also recommended that the table be reevaluated and adapted on an annual basis to most accurately reflect the needs of the community as the City's needs change over time. Figure 7.6 presents each Evaluation Criteria and the Site Score associated with each attribute of the park or trail being proposed.

FIGURE 7.6: PROPOSED PARKLAND EVALUATION TOOL

| Evaluation Criteria |   | Scoring System   |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 1                   | Identified on Map 3: Future Park Facilities and/or Chapter 7  | 0 = Parkland is not directly stated or inferred in Chapter 7 or on Map 3<br>10 = Parkland is not directly stated, but inferred in Chapter 7 or on Map 3<br>20 = Parkland is directly stated in Chapter 7 or on Map 3   |
| 2                   | Percentage of Constrained Lands (WisDNR wetlands and floodplains, steep slopes (greater than 12%), drainageways (75' buffer around perennial streams or 50' buffer around intermittent channels), and woodlands (combined 80% cover area) | 0 = Parkland consists of between 50%-100% constrained lands<br>10 = Parkland consists of between 1%-49% constrained lands<br>20 = Parkland has no constrained lands  |
| 3                   | Stormwater Retention  | 0 = Parkland is made up of over 50% lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention.<br>10 = Parkland is made up of between 1-49% lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention.<br>20 = None of the parkland will be made up lands that will be used for on-site stormwater retention.  |
| 4                   | Accommodates Active Playfield Space   | 0 = Parkland could only function for an entirely passive recreational use in the future.<br>5 = Parkland could accommodate some active recreational uses, but not enough space for at least one full size playfield.<br>10 = Parkland could function for both an active and passive recreational use in the future and can accommodate at least one full size playfield. |
| 5                   | Provides Right-of-Way Frontage  | 0 = Parkland provides less than 100' of right-of-way frontage.<br>10 = Parkland provides greater than 100' of right-of-way frontage.   |
| 6                   | Meets a Service Area Gap (Map 2/Chapter 5)  | 0 = Parkland already covered by a service area in Map 2<br>5 = Parkland not covered by any service areas in Map 2  |
| 7                   | Provides a Connection to an Existing State, County, or Municipal Park or Trail  | 0 = Parkland will not connect to any future or planned State, County, or Municipal park or trail<br>5 = Parkland is an opportunity for a future connection or is directly adjacent to an existing or planned State, County, or Municipal park or trail   |
| 8                   | Addresses a Goal, Objective, or Policy (Chapter 4)  | 0 = Parkland or future uses are not directly stated Chapter 4<br>5 = Parkland or future uses are directly stated in Chapter 4  |
| 9                   | Protects a Valuable Natural Resource (environmental corridor as shown on the Comprehensive Plan's Natural Resource Map)   | 0 = Parkland includes no land within an environmental corridor<br>5 = Parkland is adjacent to or a portion of it resides in an environmental corridor  |

The maximum score for a given site, if all nine of the Evaluation Criteria were entirely satisfied would be 100. While it is highly unlikely any future potential parkland will score a perfect 100, it is recommended that a tiered system to be utilized to categorize site scoring. Figure 7.7 displays the tiers within which a proposed parkland can fall. It is recommended that the following corresponding approach be taken based on the park's evaluation score.

- Any site score of 49 or under should not be pursued at this time because it does not meet enough of the evaluation criteria and needs improvement.
- Any site score between 50-79 should be pursued, however additional evaluation and determination based on the details of the situation may be necessary before accepting the land.
- Any site score of 80 or above should be pursued and meets or exceeds nearly all evaluation criteria.

FIGURE 7.7: PARKLAND EVALUATION SUMMARY

| Site Score | Land Acquisition Approach           |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0-49       | Does Not Meet Needs                 |
| 50-79      | Recommend (With Further Evaluation) |
| 80-100     | Highly Recommend                    |

It should be noted that each individual situation presents unique circumstances that may fall outside of this evaluation. Figures 7.6 and 7.7 are recommended to be used as supporting information in the determination of any future proposed parkland, not the sole source of determination. A case-by-case approach is the most effective method to factor in all aspects of a particular situation.

## LADD LANE SITE: CONCEPTUAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Through this planning process, a more in-depth analysis was done for site and facility improvements within the planned new residential neighborhood adjacent to Kienbaum Park and the future extension of Ladd Lane. Today, the site is an agricultural farm field, but a developer is seeking to continue the newly constructed residential neighborhood to the north. A new park and stormwater facility will be constructed as part of the project on the north end of the site. Following development, the land will be dedicated to the City.

The following conceptual park development plans were produced as part of this process to proactively plan for a future park in this location. For a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs for each facility identified in the conceptual park development plan, see the Appendix.

### Chosen Conceptual Park Design

## SPECIAL USE FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Through the planning process, additional unique recreational opportunities were identified. In the future development and upgrades of existing and new parks, it is recommended that the City consider the following unique opportunities and partnerships as population and demand increases:

### Active Playfields

As illustrated in the public feedback gathered through this planning process, there is an increasing demand for active playfield space and limited opportunities within existing parks to accommodate more space. In particular, there are competing demands for space available to play soccer, football, and baseball/softball. There are two potential solutions to this existing issue, but each requires more land, funding, coordination with volunteer programming groups, and time.

- Distribute new active playfields within existing parks and through the acquisition of new Neighborhood Parks.
  - Pros: provides new playfield space in the short-term and requires less land and costs compared to a large-scale playfield complex.
  - Cons: doesn't keep active playfield users concentrated in one location and many existing parks are too small to accommodate new active playfield space.
- Develop a new active playfield complex through the acquisition of a new Community Park.
  - Pros: keeps active playfield users in a centralized location and can help alleviate competing land demand issues within existing parks for active playfield space.
  - Cons: requires a considerable amount of land and costs and doesn't solve the existing issues in the short-term.

It is recommended that the City of Edgerton take a hybrid approach to the potential opportunities as described above – seeking both short-term and long-term solutions. This can be accomplished through the addition of new active playfield space in existing parks (where suitable) and one or more fields being incorporated into new developing Neighborhood Parks to help solve short-term demand. It can also be accomplished by establishing a coordinated effort to develop a large-scale Community Park active playfield complex in the long-term.

### Outdoor Ice Rink

The addition of an outdoor ice rink at an existing or future park facility would provide a flexible space for several different winter activities, creating an opportunity for year-round recreational opportunities within the community. In considering the incorporation of such an amenity into the parks and recreation network, an ice rink would be ideally located in a central, easily-accessible park location. Thought should be given to establishing a facility that can still function as a different use during the warmer months as well, such as an open playfield, open space area, or similar facility.

### Splash Pad

A splash pad has become a very popular alternative to community swimming pools because they are far less expensive to build and maintain, and because they are safer and do not require constant lifeguard supervision. Splash pads also function as interesting features of community civic spaces.

When planning for a new splash pad, it is important to consider the intended size of the facility, its proposed location in relationship to water and stormwater infrastructure, and long-term operating expenses. There are two common types of splash pads, flow-through and recirculation. A flow-through facility brings new water each day through the features and then drains that water into stormwater sewers. This type of facility is less expensive to construct and operate (\$350,000-\$400,000), but is limited in size to 2,400-3,000 square feet because the maximum water capacity of a flow-through is 50,000 gallons per day. A recirculation facility brings water through the features, collects the water used, filters the water, and then recirculates it through the features. This type of facility is more expensive to construct and operate long-term (\$600,000-\$700,000) because it is required to meet state pool code and requires regular County and City staff inspections. However, it does provide greater flexibility in overall size and number of features. Most often, a recirculation splash pad makes the most sense for a larger planned facility with lots of infrastructure, such as an aquatic center or existing community pool. Flow-through splash pads are commonly used in smaller settings such as a Neighborhood Park.

The City should consider adding a splash park within the existing Aquatic Center at Central Park because of the advantages this location presents in terms of existing infrastructure, utilities, operations, and potential revenue generation from entry fees.

## **Pickleball Courts**

Pickleball is an increasingly popular recreational pastime across the country. The game is becoming a popular alternative to tennis and the nature of the gameplay allows it to be accessible to many different age groups. Pickleball is particularly popular with middle-aged and older recreationists, who make up a large segment of Edgerton's population. Several pickleball leagues, and groups have already been established throughout Dane County and Rock County. Public input in the planning process identified significant interest in the installation of additional courts throughout the community. Developing dedicated courts with wind barriers, permanent nets, and high visibility markings could allow Edgerton to become a prominent destination for play and tournaments. There is one pickleball facility in the community today at Central Park. Opportunity for increasing the existing pickleball courts at Central Park or within future parks is highly recommended.

## **Permanent Outdoor Events & Performance Venue**

To provide space for community programming and further activate the City's park and recreation system, the City should consider the creation of a permanent outdoor events venue. Popular around the country for creating space for active community use, a dedicated event space could be designed to host summer concert series, food truck events, festivals and celebrations, and facilitate community gathering. Edgerton currently hosts several events and festivals at Racetrack Park and Central Park. The survey conducted among City residents as part of this planning process confirmed that residents desire to have more formalized facilities for festivals and more meaningful gathering opportunities. In considering the incorporation of such an amenity into the parks and recreation network at these sites, the City should recognize the facility's potential to further activate the park within which it is located. Creating a formalized performance and events space in conjunction with efforts to regularly activate it with diverse programming options could be an excellent way to draw more activity to the site and foster community connections. In Racetrack Park, such a facility could provide much needed formalized space to accommodate existing and future events and festivals.

## **Planned Racetrack Park Performance Venue**

The City of Edgerton has identified the festival grounds area of Racetrack Park as the best fit location for a new performance venue. In 2022, the City hired an architecture firm to develop conceptual plans to explore how the existing festival grounds could be adapted into a new venue. Working with local interest groups and other fundraising entities, it is recommended that the redevelopment of this portion of Racetrack Park take place over the planning period. The conceptual plan has been adopted as part of this plan and can be found in the Appendix.

## **Community Gardens**

Community gardens provide benefits to both the environment and the health and wellbeing of community members. Community gardens increase the availability of nutritious food, providing increased access to fresh produce to help residents create healthier lifestyles. They also strengthen community ties, reduce environmental hazards and water runoff, and contribute to the creation of more sustainable food systems. Opportunities to grow food locally reduce the environmental and financial costs of transporting foods to stores, helping to improve air quality. The installation of gardens creates additional habitat, increasing local biodiversity of both plants and animals. Community gardens also play a role in waste reduction, allowing neighborhood residents to compost their food waste. Establishing community gardens in existing or future Edgerton parks is a great way to activate underutilized park areas. The City should consider establishing several community gardens throughout its park and recreation system or expanding the existing facility at Edgerton Community Gardens.

## **Disc Golf**

Disc golf has become an increasingly popular hobby and recreational pastime over the course of the last decade. Many communities across the state have enjoyed the benefits of increased recreational tourism due to their established disc golf courses, as enthusiasts often travel outside of their own communities to play on professionally designed courses of varying difficulty. The City currently has a growing population of residents interested in the sport, including a formal disc golf group at the high school. Community feedback indicates the desire for an expanded, professionally designed 18-hole course, as many local players leave the community to play at more challenging facilities in other municipalities. Developing a full-length disc golf course takes up approximately 10 acres of land, which could only be accommodated within a new park. However, there may be opportunities to expand the existing course at Racetrack Park.

### **Other Potential Opportunities for Special Use Areas**

- Community feedback indicated the desire for more modern, unique park facility designs for playgrounds and neighborhood park spaces. Opportunities to upgrade parks so that they integrate native plantings, interactive or multi-functional stormwater management facilities, unique playground equipment, and thoughtful design that incorporates art, history, or the natural sciences can help the City build unique and compelling identities for each of its parks and draw more use to specific park locations.
- The City is near the Rock River, which lies to the southeast of the community. As Edgerton continues to expand into its future growth areas, opportunities to connect the community to the Rock River should be explored. Providing access points to the river would expand the community's recreational options, harnessing the river as another source for both active and natural, passive recreation. Any future facilities at or connections to the Rock River should be developed so that they are integrated into the community's continuously developing trail network.
- Public comments indicated the desire for the City to reestablish a skatepark within the community. The City currently retains equipment from a previous skatepark facility and could reintegrate this into an existing park or at a future new park location.

# CHAPTER 8: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides detailed recommendations on other key components that play a role in the community’s park and open space offerings including natural resources, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and programming. These recommendations are also guided by the goals, objectives, and policies outlined earlier in this Plan.

## NATURAL AND OPEN SPACE AREAS RECOMMENDATIONS

Edgerton residents prioritized more natural recreation areas in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan process and once again in 2022 during the creation of this plan. The City should consider accepting any quality land donations for conservancy or natural and open space uses; however, these lands will not count toward the land dedication requirements in Chapter 9.

FIGURE 8.1 CONSERVANCY AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

| Existing Conservancy Areas              |  |
|---|--|
| Recommended Site Improvements           |  |
| <b>General Overarching Improvements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish more passive trails and acquire adjacent properties to expand connections to existing parks and to provide an expanded trail network</li> <li>Remove invasive species, restore native species, establish ongoing maintenance programs</li> <li>Develop a tree management system</li> <li>Establish identification signage for each conservancy area consistent with uniform signage used for the City’s active park locations</li> <li>Leverage the construction of minimally intrusive boardwalks as key network facilities to connect and activate wetland conservancy areas to the community’s overarching park system and trail network, in particular between Racetrack Park and School District campus</li> </ul> |

FIGURE 8.1 SPECIAL USE AREA GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

| Existing Special Use Areas        |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Recommended Site Improvements     |   |
| <b>Edgerton Community Gardens</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve soil conditions for gardening utilizing the City’s existing compost</li> <li>Install a fence surrounding the garden plots to keep animals out</li> </ul> |

FIGURE 8.3 RECOMMENDED NEW PASSIVE RECREATION & OPEN SPACE AREAS

| Recommended New Passive Recreation and Open Space Areas | Conceptual Location   |
|---|---|
| Passive Area 1  | North side of the City to provide dedicated preservation and passive recreational space adjacent to the existing wetland and pond west of USH 51. This recreational area should be connected via proposed on-street bicycle routes and multi-use trails to the greater planned multi-use trail system, connecting it to additional community parks, schools, and bicycle routes.  |
| Passive Area 2  | Northwest side between Edgerton High School and Racetrack Park around Saunders Creek. Developing this area for passive recreational uses will preserve the natural ecology of Saunders Creek and a wooded area between two prominent and well-activated locations within the City. This recreational area should feature a boardwalk trail connection along the Saunders Creek corridor to connect Racetrack Park to Edgerton High School. This preservation area would preserve natural habitat and provide an active transportation connection between these facilities, giving the high school access to preserved wildlife areas that could be used as living |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
|                | laboratories for school lessons while also providing a safe trail connection to key facilities at racetrack park for recreational use.   |
| Passive Area 3 | South side of the City in the future growth area immediately west of the intersection of Highway 51 with South Avenue. The City has planned regional stormwater facilities in this location that could feature passive recreational opportunities and trail connections, including multi-use trails. |
| Passive Area 4 | Northeast side located outside of the City’s current municipal boundaries at the east edge of the Edgerton’s future growth area, south of Thronson Drive extended. This recreational area should be connected via proposed trails, highlighting the unique kettle features in this location.         |
| Passive Area 5 | North side of the City north of Thronson Drive and east of Highway 51 to serve the north side of the community. This area consists of densely wooded forests that should be preserved for future recreational and natural resource protection purposes.  |

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2015, the City of Edgerton completed an update to its Comprehensive Plan that identified, analyzed, and prioritized future recreational trail network connections and improvements. Outside of the recommended trail connections to future planned parks on Map 3, this Plan recognizes and furthers the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

### Proposed Paths and Trails

This Plan recommends several off-street paths and trail segments within the community’s existing boundary and growth area. These trails and paths are essential to linking existing and future neighborhoods to on-street bicycle routes, parks and environmental corridors, existing school sites, community amenities and destinations, and expanding the regional trail network.

Unpaved natural trails serve to connect facilities within developed parks and can serve as the main recreational element of an undeveloped park or passive recreation area. This type of trail is most appropriate for natural conservancy areas such as Hain Road Wetland/High Street Marsh Trail, West Meadows Park, Whispering Pines Park, and other similar environmental corridors.

Paved paths serve developed parks to connect on-site park facilities or connect multiple recreational locations together. This type of trail is recommended along Rock River Drive, Saunders Creek, and to connect new parks as they are developed in the City’s growth areas to strategically link new residential developments with each other and create connections between recommended new community and neighborhood parks. Recommended off-street trail segments are depicted on Map 3.

### Rock River Drive Trail

Rock River Drive is developed as a rural, thirty-foot wide cross section with no shoulder, but serves as a key north-south connection from STH 59 to a small neighborhood in the City of Edgerton and many more homes in the Town of Fulton along the Rock River. Right now, any pedestrian or bicyclists attempting to utilize the roadway must share the narrow right-of-way with on coming and passing vehicles, presenting considerable safety issues. The long-term vision of the City and Town are to improve this right-of-way to provide a dedicated off-road multi-use trail connection, serving residents of both municipalities.

When Edgerton Hospital relocated to the eastern side of the City, a small trail network and connection to the existing neighborhood to the west along N. Rock River Drive were established. This provided the first piece of infrastructure needed to begin the development of an interconnected trail network in this area. As shown on Map 3, a planned off-road trail network extends the length of Rock River Drive, which would provide a connection between the City’s existing and developing network to the north, the Hospital campus and botanical gardens to the east, Town residents to the south, and planned future City neighborhoods, parks, and trails to the west. The eventual goal is to continue extending the trail network to the west to Orchard Park and beyond, including downtown Edgerton.

Throughout this planning process, increasing and improving the multi-use trail network throughout Edgerton was a highly prioritized objective. The Rock River Drive Trail is a key component of this plan’s recommendation in advancing that objective. The City and Town should continue to collaboratively focus efforts to establish this trail over the planning period.

## Saunders Creek Trail

A primary goal of the City is to implement the recommendations within its Comprehensive Plan and this document, which collectively advocate for the creation of an established multi-use trail running north-south along the east and west banks of the Saunders Creek Trail corridor. Establishing a connected trail system along the Creek will provide a key north-south active transportation corridor within the City, will help activate Saunders Creek as a recreational resource, and will preserve and protect sensitive riparian environment from the encroachment of future development. Establishing this section of the transportation network as a continuous multi-use trail route will create a key network connection from Central Park in the heart of the City to Edgerton's public-school facilities.

Another opportunity exists to further establish the Saunders Creek Trail network. Creating the recommended Passive Recreation Area depicted on Map 3 as "P-2" and the associated proposed off-street trail segment would continue the trail from the public-school grounds along the Saunders Creek corridor west to Racetrack Park. It is recommended that boardwalks be used in this area to traverse the wetland habitat.

## Proposed On-Street Bicycle Routes

This Plan also recommends continuing to develop an on-street bike route system along existing and proposed City streets. Today, there is an existing on-street bicycle route network through Edgerton with prominent sections that run along parts of High Street, County Trunk Highway F, Hain Road, across West Fulton Street and up to Racetrack Park along IKI Drive, along Stoughton Road, and Blaine Street. Many of these segments currently connect to one another. Further additions to solidify connections between existing major routes will provide Edgerton with a robust bicycle network. Building on the existing route, it is recommended that additional on-street sharrows, bicycle lanes, and buffered bicycle lanes be added. Proposed on-street bicycle routes are shown on Map 3.

## Community-Wide Benefits of Trails

Trails provide tangible benefits to communities across the county as they promote physical and mental health, offer inclusive and equitable outdoor recreation opportunities, stimulate economic development, and provide sustainable transportation infrastructure. Together, these benefits increase the local quality of life for all residents and visitors of the community.

Physical and Mental Health: A 2014 study by the American Journal of Public Health found that there is a direct and significant measurable correlation between how close people live to bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure and the amount of weekly exercise people get. Additionally, a 2011 study by the American Heart Association found that every \$1 invested in building trails is a direct correlation to \$3 of saved medical costs. Finally, a 2019 study by University of Exeter published in the Scientific Report found that 2 hours a week in the outdoors has a measurable impact on mental health. Proximity also matters, as most people studied lived within 2 miles of trail.

Equity: Trails promote social, racial, gender, and economic equity through strengthening the community, building sustainable interactions and outdoor recreation opportunities, and improving quality of life. Trails are the most potent tools in maintaining and improving urban viability and appealing to a broad range of demographic groups in choosing where they live, work, and play.

Economic Development: The outdoor recreation economy generates over \$887 billion dollars in consumer spending each year across the United States, including over \$59 billion in state and local tax revenue. Beyond just tax revenue, other economic benefits include property value increases and creation of jobs. In fact, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects create 8-12 jobs per \$1 million of spending. (Garrett-Peltier, 2011)

Sustainable Transportation: Trails are truly infrastructure that enhances quality of life through connecting communities and destinations, spurring economic development locally and regionally, reducing our collective carbon footprint, and preserving the natural environment.

Source: *American Trails, 2022*

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

## Sport and Fitness Industry Association Sports, Fitness, and Leisure activities Topline Participation Report, 2022

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association conducted a national survey in 2021 of a random sample of over 20,000 Americans. The findings help to provide large trends related to inactivity, demographics, and participation. A few data points that are important for the City to consider over the next five years are:

- 22% of the US population is inactive, meaning that they do not participate in any level of calorie burning activities in an average week, which is a decrease since 2013.
- Class-based (yoga, karate, etc.), fitness (cardio, lifting, swimming, etc.), and outdoor activities (hiking, trail running, etc.) have all increased in overall participation since 2013.
- Pickleball has become the fastest-growing sport over the past two years, with participation seeing a 39.3% growth.
- The most popular activities by age group:
  - Baby Boomers focus on low-impact activities
  - Gen Xers participate most in team sports
  - Millennials prefer to participate in the most diverse set of activities across many different types
  - Gen Zers focus on high calorie burning/more intensive activities

The survey conducted among City residents as part of this planning process confirmed the need for more recreational programming and the desire of residents to have festivals and more meaningful gathering opportunities. It is recommended that Edgerton explore opportunities to expand recreational programming.

One of the first steps is the creation of a database of all existing recreational facilities and associated activities within the community. This would include the City, School District, local sports leagues, and other recreation-based groups. The database could be utilized to develop a recreational programming guide. Much of this information is currently siloed by group, and the City and School District are currently taking a leadership role in undertaking this effort to combine programming schedules. A new City of Edgerton recreational programming guide can increase access to and participation in various recreational activities, festivals, and events in the community, while also helping to inform residents and potentially attract tourists. It is likely that this effort would require additional staffing to build the database, coordinate with the various stakeholders, and develop the recreational programming guide itself. The City should consider the use of newsletters, local media, websites, social media, and email lists to distribute information about events and programming taking place throughout the community.

As Edgerton's population continues to grow and the desire for more recreational programming increases, it is also recommended that the City explore opportunities to develop new programming. This could include educational, skill building, and arts classes, fitness or exercise classes, new local events or festivals, and sports leagues. However, in exploring this opportunity it is recommended that the City consult with various other established community organizations to avoid any future duplication of offerings. Additionally, this would also require additional staffing resources that may not be attainable within the planning period. At some point in time, the demands for recreational programming will exceed the capacity of volunteer-based groups to handle on their own. Efficiently coordinating the community's various sports leagues and recreational programming offerings should be a priority goal within the City. Creating a singular entity, such as a Parks and Recreation Director, that controls and coordinates the management of all leagues and programs available in Edgerton would provide many benefits to the community and greatly strengthen the City's park and recreation system. Such oversight would decrease scheduling conflicts, increase coordination and the effective use of facilities by establishing a higher level of organization in program scheduling, and would allow for better strategic programming of park and recreation facilities that are currently under and overutilized. Additionally, establishing a formal Parks and Recreation program that offers classes, leagues, and activities centered around learning, exploration, and community building would help support physical activity for community members of all ages and increases the quality of life for the residents of the City of Edgerton.

One way that this could be accomplished is through coordination with the School District. There are populations of park and recreation users in Edgerton who do not live within the municipal boundaries, but reside within the greater extent of the School District. A proportionate cost sharing agreement between the City and School District to support a Parks and Recreation Director position could be one approach to resolving this issue and funding the position. School Districts in Wisconsin have the ability to use Fund 80 to support community recreation programs for all ages. This would require the

district to adopt a separate tax levy to support this fund, but is a method that should be explored further in collaboration between the School District and City. To note, all existing volunteer groups and leagues that control, operate, and coordinate recreational programming today should be consulted prior to any change taking place.

## COLLABORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to implement the recommendations of Chapter 7 and 8, it will take a collaborative effort between the City and its local partners. This includes the School District, Dane and Rock Counties, state and regional governments, local associations and recreational groups, nonprofits, volunteer groups, and the private sector.

The City has several opportunities to collaborate with local partners in planning for park and outdoor recreation facilities over the planning period. These opportunities include the following:

- Work with the Edgerton Rotary Club and other stakeholder groups to develop a permanent performance space at Racetrack Park.
- Continue to work with local sports leagues and programming groups to provide recreational program opportunities in local parks.
- Coordinate with Visit Edgerton and promoting the community's recreational offerings and driving economic development opportunities through tourism.
- Increase coordination with the Tri-County Center on expansion of community programming.
- Work with the WisDNR on coordinating park, open space, and environmental corridor protection and use activities.
- Work with Dane and Rock Counties on any potential park expansion areas within proximity of the City that could benefit interconnectivity and access to park and recreational opportunities.
- Work with the Edgerton School District to determine ways to work together to provide needed and innovative park and recreational facilities that encourage community use and environmental education.
- Continue to participate in regional park, open space, multi-use trail, and bike route planning efforts, particularly when Dane and Rock Counties update their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans or when regional jurisdictions update their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans.
- Partnering with local medical providers, such as Edgerton Hospital on public health initiatives. In particular, the expansion of the City's multi-use trail network and resident use of the Hospital's botanical gardens.

# CHAPTER 9: ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE FACILITIES

This chapter contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in Chapter 7 and 8. It is intended to assist the City with the budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy §66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding the opportunities to collect fees, if desired. However, the adoption of this Plan does not commit or require the City of Edgerton to collecting these fees through an impact fee ordinance.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING

The following projects and cost estimates correspond to those site-specific projects listed in Chapter 7 and 8. Each overarching project has a wide variety of variables associated with its implementation in each individual site where it is planned to be completed. To estimate budgeting for each project, it is recommended that more detailed analysis related to the individual park site be completed to determine a cost estimate for that specific project which is most accurate.

To note, the estimated cost ranges are based on project bids collected in 2021-2022 dollars. It is reasonable to expect that an inflation metric of at least 1%-2% or more be applied based on these figures and the year in which the project is being pursued. Building materials, labor, and overall construction costs have been highly variable over the past two years. As such, the inflation metric listed above could increase significantly over the planning period. Overall, these tables have been developed with the intent of providing benchmark estimated costs figures for planning purposes only.

FIGURE 9.1: Estimated Facility Costs

| Projects Estimated Between \$0 and \$100,000 |   |
|--|---|
| Proposed Project Type                        | Estimated Cost Range  |
| Park Master Plan                             | \$10,000-\$20,000   |
| Playground Equipment (new or replacement)    | \$70,000-\$300,000  |
| Playground Surface (replacement)             | \$50,000-\$150,000 (\$5/sf EWF, \$22/sf PIP)                                      |
| Open Air Shelter (new or replacement)        | \$50,000-\$75,000   |
| Outdoor Lighting on Courts                   | \$100,000/4 courts  |
| Paved Trail                                  | \$25/lf (assumed 10' width)   |
| Unpaved Trail                                | \$15/lf (assumed 10' width)   |
| Boardwalk Trail                              | \$250/lf (assumed 10' width)  |
| Stormwater or Environmental Restoration Plan | \$25,000-\$45,000   |
| Upgrades to Baseball/Softball Fields         | \$50,000-\$125,000 (not including lighting)                                       |
| New Soccer Fields                            | \$25,000-\$50,000 (not including lighting or stands)                              |
| Disc Golf Course                             | \$5,000/hole equipment and tee box (does not include earthwork and hole clearing) |
| On-Site Parking (replace or expand)          | \$1,800/parking stall   |
| Fencing                                      | \$55/lf (assumed 6' tall)   |
| Benches and Picnic Tables                    | \$1,200/each  |
| Wayfinding Signage                           | \$800/each  |

Source: Vandewalle & Associates and Parkitecture + Planning, 2022

## Projects Estimated Between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000

| Proposed Project Type   | Estimated Cost Range   |
|---|--|
| Splash Pad  | \$350,000-\$500,000 (flow through)<br>\$600,000-\$700,000 (recirculation)                              |
| New Baseball/Softball Fields  | \$180,000-\$250,000  |
| Permanent Bathrooms (new or replacement)                            | \$250,000-\$500,000 (\$250/sf)   |
| Permanent Bathrooms and Showers (new or replacement)                | \$350,000-\$700,000 (\$280/sf)   |
| Concession Buildings (new or replacement)                           | \$350,000-\$700,000 (\$280/sf)   |
| Sport Court, Tennis Court, or Pickleball Court (new or replacement) | \$50,000 per court w/ lighting<br>\$180,000 (4 courts no lighting)<br>\$250,000 (4 courts w/ lighting) |
| Pedestrian Bridge   | \$500,000-\$1,000,000  |

Source: Vandewalle & Associates and Parkitecture + Planning, 2022

## ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Based on a projected growth of 599 residents by the year 2033, applied to the City’s projected need of 10 acres of new parkland, the City would need to spend a minimum of \$315,000 in 2023 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 303 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of \$1,040 per new household would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 1,437 square feet per household would satisfy the projected demand, if land dedication were preferred. However, any future land dedication must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The City will continue to accept conservancy areas as donations to the park system; but these lands will not count toward this land dedication calculations. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

FIGURE 9.2: PROJECTED PARKLAND DEDICATION AND FEE-IN-LIEU OF LAND DEDICATION

| Calculation | Value   |                   |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| A           | Projected Population Growth in 2033                         | 599 residents     |
| B           | Projected Household Growth in 2033                          | 303 households    |
| C           | Additional Acres Needed in 2033 (Figure 6.3)                | 10 acres          |
| D           | Land Dedication Requirement per HH (Row C/Row B)            | 0.03              |
| E           | Land Cost Per Acre (average cost per acre listed)           | \$30,000          |
| F           | Projected Cost of land acquisition (Row C + Row E)          | \$300,000         |
| G           | Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*5%)             | \$15,000          |
| H           | Total land acquisition costs (Row F + Row G)                | \$315,000         |
| I           | Fee-in-lieu of land dedication per household (Row H/Row B)  | \$1,040           |
| J           | Land Dedication per Household in square feet (Row D*43,560) | 1,437 square feet |

## ESTIMATED COST PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Each new park should have a minimum amount of playground equipment and opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of users. However, state law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community may collect impact fees. Figure 9.2 outlines the playground costs associated with each future park type in Edgerton.

FIGURE 9.3: PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS BY PARK TYPE

|  | Neighborhood            | Community                 |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pavilion with Restrooms  | -                       | \$50,000 (1)              |
| Open Air Shelter   | \$25,000 (1)            | -                         |
| Playground   | \$75,000 (Small)        | \$150,000 (Large)         |
| Seating/Picnic/Rest Area   | \$5,000 (Small)         | \$15,000 (Large)          |
| Little League Baseball Field                                       |                         | \$200,000 (1)             |
| Full Sized Soccer/Play Field (without lights or nets)              | \$50,000 (1)            | \$200,000 (4)             |
| Sidewalks and Bike/Walking Path                                    | \$50,000 (1)            | \$150,000 (1)             |
| Signage  | \$5,000 (1)             | \$15,000 (1)              |
| Miscellaneous Landscaping and Lighting                             | \$10,000 (1)            | \$40,000 (1)              |
| Site Work  | \$50,000 (5 facilities) | \$100,000 (10 facilities) |
| Parking Lot  | \$18,000 (12 stalls)    | \$72,000 (48 stalls)      |
| <b>Total Cost of Facilities</b>                                    | <b>\$578,000</b>        | <b>\$2,587,000</b>        |
| <b>Typical Park Size</b>   | <b>5 acres</b>          | <b>20 acres</b>           |
| Total Playground Costs per Acre                                    | \$57,600                | \$49,600                  |
| Adjacent Road and Utility Improvements Costs Per Acre (Figure 9.3) | \$37,335                | \$18,668                  |
| Average Improvement Cost Per Acre                                  | \$94,935                | \$62,268                  |
| Prioritized Development of Each Park Type                          | 50%                     | 50%                       |
| <b>Average Improvement Cost Per Acre (weighted)</b>                | <b>\$81,601</b>         |                           |

FIGURE 9.4: ROAD AND UTILITIES IMPROVEMENTS CALCULATION

| Calculation   | Neighborhood | Community |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| A Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards) in Acres                                    | 5            | 20        |
| B Typical Park Size in Square Feet (Row A * 43,560)                                       | 217,800      | 871,200   |
| C Conceptual Road Frontage on Two Sides in Linear Feet ( $\sqrt{\text{Row B} \times 2}$ ) | 933          | 1,867     |
| D Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot                                     | \$400        | \$400     |
| E Parkland Portion (Half) of Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Linear Foot          | \$200        | \$200     |
| F Road and Utilities Improvement Cost for Typical Park (Row E*Row C)                      | \$186,676    | \$373,352 |
| G Road and Utilities Improvement Cost per Acre for Typical Park (Row F/Row A)             | \$37,335     | \$18,668  |

Figure 9.4 shows what would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements. It should be noted that this figure is approximate and subject to significant change associated with economic fluctuations and the rapidly rising cost of construction materials such as wood, steel, concrete, and asphalt.

FIGURE 9.5: PROJECTED RECREATION FACILITIES FEE

| Calculation  | Value     |
|--|-----------|
| A Projected Additional Population in 2033 (individuals)        | 599       |
| B Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2033 (dwelling units) | 303       |
| C Calculated Additional Acres Needed (Figure 6.3)              | 10        |
| D Average Park Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Figure 8.2) | \$81,601  |
| E Projected Cost of Improvements (Row C*Row D)                 | \$816,014 |
| F Calculated Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)  | \$2,693   |

## TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

The adoption of this Plan does not compel the City to change its existing impact fees. The purpose of this analysis is to provide a methodology for how impact fees could be calculated in the future. It is an exercise in exploring costs related to population changes and new park development, if the City were to solely take on the responsibility of funding new parks and their improvement. Impact fees are not imposed upon existing residents and, if established, are only required for new construction of housing units in the City.

Impact fees are imposed on each new household unilaterally. In instances where development has dedicated lands, it will only be necessary to collect the improvement costs, or \$2,693 per dwelling unit. However, where land dedication does not take place, the total identified impact fee is \$3,732 per dwelling unit. This represents approximately 2.3 percent of the cost of the median existing owner-occupied home in Edgerton.

In general, parks should provide both active and passive features in one area. Therefore, where possible, neighborhood parks with intense recreational activity should be located near environmental corridors (which ultimately may carry trail facilities). More care is required in the design of regional and community-wide facilities due to the need for parking lots, lit athletic fields, and courts. For such parks, extensive on-site landscaping and berming may be desired to mitigate adverse traffic, sound, and lighting impacts.

As of 2023, Edgerton currently imposes a parkland dedication requirement (1,300 square feet per dwelling unit) or fee-in-lieu of land dedication requirement (\$339 per dwelling unit) for new residential development, as well as impact fees for park development (\$552 per dwelling unit).

FIGURE 9.6 TOTAL IDENTIFIED IMPACT FEES

|                                    | Traditional Residential Dwelling Unit |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Identified Land Dedication         | 1,437 square feet                     |
| Identified Fee in Lieu of Land     | \$1,040                               |
| Identified Improvement Fee         | \$2,693                               |
| <b>Total Identified Impact Fee</b> | <b>\$3,732</b>                        |

## IMPACT ON NEW HOUSING COSTS

Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing park impact fees on housing costs within the municipality. The following assumptions were made in this analysis:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment are no more than 30 percent of a household's gross income
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2½ times the City of Edgerton's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2020 was \$65,183 according to 2015-2020 American Community Survey data)
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2½ times the City population's median household income for a home mortgage (\$162,958), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in Edgerton costs approximately \$171,105 (according to U.S. Census 2020 data, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in Edgerton is \$163,300).

Assuming a single-family detached housing price of \$162,958, a 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of \$171,105, the typical monthly mortgage payment is \$875.

Fees for parkland acquisition and park improvements would impact the cost of new housing construction in Edgerton. When adding this Plan's identified park impact fee of \$3,732, the mortgage amount for a single-family detached home would increase to \$66,690. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would increase to \$895 per month. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the identified park impact fee is \$20 per month, or a 2.3 percent increase.

Therefore, using the assumptions for a typical single-family home in the City of Edgerton, park impact fees would have some impact on the cost of new housing.

# CHAPTER 10: IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

In striving to achieve the vision and goals of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, specific follow-up actions will be required. This final chapter is intended to provide a roadmap for these implementation actions by identifying priority programs and actions. This Chapter, in combination with Chapter 7 and 8, should be utilized to help guide project implementation by the City of Edgerton over the next 5 years.

## PLAN UPDATES

The Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) and will qualify the City for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and State of Wisconsin Stewardship Funds. In order to remain eligible, the Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its WisDNR certification. Based on this deadline, Edgerton will update this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2028 (i.e. five years after 2023), at the latest. The City should continue to monitor any changes to state or federal regulations related to grant eligibility over the next five years.

## ACTION PLAN MATRIX

Figure 10.1 provides a detailed list and timeline of the major actions that the City intends to complete in implementing this Plan. Often, such actions will require substantial cooperation with other City Departments, state and local governments, non-profits and volunteer groups, and local organizations and entities throughout the area. The list of recommendations is divided into four different categories—based on different implementation tools or Plan elements. This list is not exhaustive. It includes the recommendations that are likely to be actions taken over the next five year. The City Council may choose to pursue additional actions or prioritize other actions as conditions change.

The table has three different columns of information, described as follows:

**Action Item:** The first column lists the actual steps, strategies, and actions recommended to implement key aspects of the Plan.

**Potential Partners:** The second column assumes the City staff will take the lead on each action item, but also lists City committees, agencies, or other groups who would be a great partner in the pursuit of accomplishing the Action Item.

**Implementation Timeframe:** The third column is the suggested timeframe for the completion of each recommendation. It reflects the priority attached to the recommendation. Each timeframe is defined as follows:

- In Progress means that the Action Item has already started to be addressed at some point and it is still a priority moving forward. These Action Items should be continuously reevaluated to make sure that progress is being made.
- Short means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 1-2 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
- Medium means that the Action Item should be pursued over the next 3-5 years, following the adoption date of this Plan.
- Long means that the Action Item should be pursued 5+ years, following the adoption date of this Plan.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation, including state and federal grant programs. These funding sources are included in the Appendix. It should be noted that funds from many of these grant programs are subject to change due to fluctuations in federal, state, and local budgets.

Figure 10.1 Action Plan Matrix

| Action Item   | Potential Partners                                | Timeframe |
|---|---|-----------|
| Participate in any future updates to the Dane or Rock County Park Plans or Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans.  | Counties  | Ongoing   |
| Work with the School District to implement the Safe Routes to School Plan and participate in future School District planning efforts and updates to the Strategic Plan.                             | School District                                   | Ongoing   |
| Work with the state and counties on any future plans for parks, recreation, and bicycle and pedestrian planning in and around the City.   | WisDNR, WisDOT, Counties                          | Ongoing   |
| Utilize the City Capital Improvements Plan to implement the recommended improvements to each existing facility as detailed in Chapter 7 and Figure 9.1.   | Common Council                                    | Ongoing   |
| Annually review the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan at a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to track progress and set priorities for the upcoming year.                                   | Parks and Recreation Committee                    | Ongoing   |
| Update and maintain the City's online Park and Trail Map.   | City staff  | Ongoing   |
| Evaluate any new parkland acquisition using the evaluation matrix in Chapter 7.   | Parks and Recreation Committee                    | Ongoing   |
| Actively pursue grant opportunities as they arise that align with the recommendations of this Plan.   | City staff  | Ongoing   |
| Enforce the City's land dedication or fee-in-lieu required for all new residential neighborhoods. Require the inclusion of a new Neighborhood Park with any new residential neighborhood developed. | Parks and Recreation Committee                    | Ongoing   |
| Update the Subdivision Ordinance to require minimum right-of-way frontage in all new parks.   | City Council                                      | Short     |
| Implement the chosen alternative park concept for new Ladd Lane neighborhood (see Chapter 7).   | Parks and Recreation Committee and City Council   | Short     |
| Implement the Racetrack Park performance space concept plan (see Appendix Part 8).  | Parks and Recreation Committee and City Council   | Short     |
| Establish a Parks Friends Groups or other volunteer initiative to assist with park fundraising.   | City Staff, local recreational organizations      | Short     |
| Develop relationships and information sharing between local economic development and tourism groups to highlight events, programming, and recreational opportunities in Edgerton.                   | Visit Edgerton, Chamber of Commerce, Counties     | Short     |
| Work with the School District and local recreational groups to develop, maintain, and distribute information on a City of Edgerton recreational programming database.                               | School District, local recreational organizations | Short     |
| Develop a local business sponsorship program to assist in funding park improvements.  | Local organizations and employers                 | Short     |
| Establish a parks donation program where residents can donate money to assist in the future park improvements.  | Local organizations and employers                 | Short     |

| Action Item  | Potential Partners                | Timeframe |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Partner with local employers to connect people looking to volunteer with opportunities to assist in the maintenance of City parks.   | Local organizations and employers | Short     |
| Develop an online park shelter rental system on the City website.  | City staff                        | Short     |
| Reevaluate and consider updating the City’s land dedication and fee-in-lieu ordinance based on the recommendations in Chapter 9.   | City Council and Plan Commission  | Short     |
| Establish a park visitor count program to monitor park usage, capacity, and inform future decision making, especially at Racetrack Park.   | Parks and Recreation Committee    | Short     |
| Create and adopt an Official Map that reflects Map 3 and aligns with the City Comprehensive Plan to proactively plan for future parks and trails within Edgerton’s growth areas. | Plan Commission                   | Medium    |
| Adopt a Complete Street Policies and pursue becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community (League of American Bicyclists).   | City Council                      | Medium    |
| Complete a Racetrack Park Master Plan and Central Park Master Plan.  | Parks and Recreation Committee    | Medium    |
| Develop a Playground Management Plan and ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan to monitor infrastructure and plan for maintenance and upgrades needed.                             | City Staff                        | Medium    |
| Become a designated Wisconsin Healthy Community.   | Counties, City Council            | Medium    |
| Develop a public art program/initiative to increase public art installations in local parks.   | Local arts groups                 | Medium    |
| Update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.  | Parks and Recreation Committee    | Medium    |