

City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2022-2026



CITY OF NEENAH

COMPREHENSIVE

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2022-2026

Approved on December 16, 2021 by Park and Recreation Commission

Adopted on January 19, 2022 by Common Council

Prepared by the

City of Neenah Park and Recreation Commission

and the

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preparation of the *City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan 2022-2026* was formulated by the Park and Recreation Commission with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

CITY GOVERNMENT

The Park and Recreation Board is composed of 9 members that meet monthly. These members include two alderpersons, and four at-large members who also sit on the Commission. Planning parks, trails, and recreational improvements within the City of Neenah boundaries is the main focus.

2021 CITY COUNCIL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND PLAN OVERVIEW	1-1
CHAPTER 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	2-1
CHAPTER 3: RECREATIONAL RESOURCES	3-1
CHAPTER 4: RECREATIONAL NEEDS	4-1
CHAPTER 5: HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....	5-1
CHAPTER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS	6-1
CHAPTER 7: ACTION PROGRAM	7-1
CHAPTER 8: OFFICIAL ADOPTION	8-1

FIGURES

Figure 1-1: Regional Location	1-4
Figure 4-1: City of Neenah Population Estimate, 2000-2040	4-2
Figure 4-2: Future Population Comparison.....	4-2
Figure 4-3: Accessible vs. Inaccessible Parkland Acres.....	4-4
Figure 4-4: Walkshed Illustrations	4-7
Figure 4-5: Neenah Parks – Half Mile as the Crow Files	4-7
Figure 4-6: Neenah Half Mile Walkshed per Sidewalks and Trails.....	4-8
Figure 4-7: Park Acres by Type.....	4-9
Figure 4-8: High Need Sports.....	4-13
Figure 4-9: High Need Amenities	4-13
Figure 4-10: High Need Trail Type	4-14
Figure 4-11: High Need Nature Areas	4-14
Figure 4-12: Top Park Needs by Category	4-15
Figure 5-1: Walkability by Age and Income to a Neenah Park.....	5-5

TABLES

Table 2-1: 7/10 Goal Score Rationales	2-4
Table 2-2: 7/10 Goals Average Results.....	2-7
Table 2-3: S.W.O.T Assessment Results	2-8
Table 3-1: Existing Park and Recreation Facilities and Acreage	3-14
Table 4-1: Population Trends and Projections 1980-2040	4-1
Table 4-2: Population Comparisons 2010-2040	4-2
Table 4-3: Accessible vs. Inaccessible Parklands	4-3
Table 4-4: Dedicated vs. Active Parklands for the Future.....	4-4
Table 4-5: Benchmark Comparisons	4-5
Table 4-6: NRPA Benchmarks Comparison with Neenah Parks System.....	4-6
Table 4-7: Park Service Areas by Type.....	4-8
Table 4-8: Population Distribution by Age Group, 2010.....	4-9

Table 4-9: Park Classification Service Areas by Type	4-10
Table 5-1: County Health Rankings.....	5-3
Table 7-1: Capital Improvement Program Five-Year Summary	7-14

MAPS

Map 1: Parks and Trails, City of Neenah	3-9
Map 2: Environmental Factors, City of Neenah	3-17
Map 3: Existing Woodlands, City of Neenah	3-19
Map 4: Level of Service Areas, City of Neenah	4-19
Map 5: Barriers, City of Neenah	4-21

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Detailed Survey Results	A-1
Appendix B: Preference Perspective.....	B-1
Appendix C: Trust for Public Lands Park Serve Analysis	C-1
Appendix D: Grants and Funding Opportunities	D-1
Appendix E: Park Audit Results by the Park and Recreation Commission	E-1

ABSTRACT

City of Neenah

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2022-2026

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ADOPTION DATE: January 19, 2022

PLANNING AGENCY: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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The 2022-2026 City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the natural environment and at the same time allow residents and visitors alike to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with it. In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, the adopted plan will enable the municipality to compete for matching funds available through the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program if available. Funding components of this program, targets monies for parkland acquisition and development projects as well as for numerous other projects and activities that preserve, protect and enhance important land and water-based natural assets. Collectively, other grants are available through the WDNR Stewardship Program, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, etc. and have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and improvements to other public recreational facilities such as trails. A 50% match is required.



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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1: Introduction

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Broadly defined, parks and recreation are facilities and programs provided for the purposes of leisure, entertainment, and spare time pursuits. These facilities, include but are not limited to parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, pools, nature areas and trails. The City of Neenah Parks and Recreation Department offers many options to recreate and enjoy the outdoors. This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or CORP, will address an inventory of provided facilities and also look at what is needed in the future.

Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, parks offer a significant place in offering quality of life importance. With the lessons learned from the recent COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, outdoor spaces served as free spaces to get fresh air and in doing so, increased the usage of parks. Maintenance of parks and enough staff to accomplish the growing demand is an important issue to look at when offering quality active and passive recreational pursuits.



Herb and Dolly Park shelter

PLANNING PROCESS

Appropriate standards are utilized in conjunction with a detailed inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities. Population and physical area statistics are incorporated to provide the base for recreation space analysis and projections. Individual sites are reviewed as to utilization and potential. The need for specific facilities is based upon current use and capacities, and considered judgments of the demands of the future and is highlighted in Chapter 4, Needs Assessment.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is to provide a guide for acquisition and development of Parks and Recreation facilities, in order to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the current and projected population of the City.

Government at all levels recognizes its responsibility to assist in making recreation opportunities available to every citizen, necessitating a plan. The City of Neenah continues to develop and periodically revise plans to provide these services for its citizens.

This report includes a review and compilation of previous plans. It provides for the development of newly acquired sites, and presents the most recent data and recommendations pertinent to Parks and Recreation planning.

With the acceptance of this report by City Officials and the State Department of Natural Resources, the City of Neenah meets its planning requirements to continue eligibility in the following programs: Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP).

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the five-year Capital Improvement Program detailed in this report are meant to serve as a guide. Yearly projects will be determined through the annual budget process.

10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Realize that the growth of the City in population and area increases the need for open space and outdoor recreation sites.
2. Recognize that more people participate in a broader variety of recreation, particularly outdoor activities. People have a greater concern with their environment and the conservation - preservation of natural, historical and cultural resources.
3. Solicit and encourage wide citizen participation in the plans for the development of parks and recreation facilities.
4. Coordinate the City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with the City of Neenah 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Neenah Trails Task Force Plan, 1997, the Regional Comprehensive 2030 Plan of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the plans of other City of Neenah functions, and the plans of neighboring governmental units.
5. Provide sites and facilities that meet or exceed appropriate recommended standards.
6. Recognize that the plan for a specific site should consider the unique features of the site, community interests and preferences, as well as general development standards.
7. Promote the development of appropriate multi-use facilities.

PLANNING HISTORY

City of Neenah Park and Recreation Plans

2015 City Resolution #2015-14
DNR Approval to 5-15-2019
2008 City Resolution #7260
DNR Approval to 4-1-2013
1999 City Resolution #6898
DNR Approval to 12-31-2004
1993 City Resolution #6681
DNR Approval to 12-31-1998
1987 City Resolution #6455
DNR Approval to 6-30-1992
1985 City Resolution #6377
DNR Approval to 12-31-1990
1981 City Resolution #6159
DNR Approval to 7-1-1986
1976 Council Approved 12-15-76
DNR Approval to 1-1-1982
1971 City Resolution #5436
DNR Approval to 7-1-1976
1969 Commission Adopted

8. Consider the problems of "over-use" and "mis-use" of facilities, especially those facilities with special natural features.
9. Provide an action plan which is reasonable and reflects the community's priorities and resources.
10. Provide for periodic review and evaluation of the plan to keep it current and appropriate.

TIMELINE OF THE PLAN

April - May 2021

Initial fieldwork and inventory of existing sites was completed by City Staff and members of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

March 14, 2021

The planning process began with a kickoff meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and ECWRPC.

May 2021 – September 2021

A public survey was initiated via the SurveyMonkey website.

July 2021

A level of service analysis was performed to look at access and walkability from each park. A mile-based buffer, per park type, was used surrounding each park the City maintains. A half mile is typical walking distance. Barriers may be present such as busy streets, railroad tracks, etc. that may make distances greater even the location is close.

September 2021

Survey results were analyzed and a needs assessment was performed from the public comment. First draft of plan was given to the Parks and Recreation Director for review.

September - October, 2021

Parks and Recreation Staff presents Recommendations (Chapter 6) to Parks and Recreation Commission for modifications and approval.

October – November 2021

Preliminary recommendations were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the 5-year Action Plan. The Plan was posted on the City website.

December 2021

Recommendation for Adoption was made by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

December 2021- January 2022

Adoption (Chapter 8) for the CORP was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Services and Safety Committee, and the City Council.

Adoption of 2022-2026 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Target Dates)

Parks and Recreation Commission Approval	<u>December 2021</u>
Public Services and Safety Committee Approval	<u>January 2022</u>
Neenah City Common Council Adoption	<u>January 2021</u>
Capital Improvement Plan UPDATES	<u>Annually</u>

PHYSICAL SETTING

The City of Neenah is 9.6 square miles and was incorporated on March 13, 1873. Neenah was named by Governor James Duane Doty for the Winnebago word for "water" or "running water". It was the site of a Ho-Chunk village in the late 18th-century. The area was first designated as an industrial and agricultural mission to the Menominee Indians in 1835, and early settlement by Americans of European descent began a few years later. Proximity to the Fox River played a major role in lumber and paper production. The major paper mill Kimberly-Clark was established here in 1873.

The city of Neenah is the southwestern-most of the Fox Cities of northeast Wisconsin. It is the smaller of the two principal cities of the Oshkosh-Neenah, Wisconsin Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is included in the Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah Combined Statistical Area. Its population was 25,501 at the 2010 census. Neenah is sometimes referred to as a twin city of the City of Menasha, with which it shares Doty Island.

The terrain in and around Neenah is flat to gently rolling. Elevations within the city range from 754 feet above sea level. Major developed land uses are commercial, residential and industrial.

Figure 1-1: Regional Location



Besides Kimberly-Clark, Neenah hosts significant paper related industries. Some of these include Neenah Paper, Bemis Company and Menasha Corp. Neenah is the headquarters of Plexus, a developer and manufacturer of electronic products, which also has engineering and manufacturing operations in the city. Manhole covers manufactured at Neenah Foundry can be found throughout the central United States and parts of Europe. Also headquartered in Neenah is Theda Clark Hospital, and Alta Resources, specializing in outsourced customer care.

Residential areas are scattered throughout the city, but most recent residential growth has occurred on its perimeter, particularly on the south side of the City near the industrial park and north of CTH G in Liberty Heights and Pendleton Road.

NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Neenah Creek runs through the City from the south end of Little Lake Butte des Morts to CTH G. The waterway flows between Arrowhead and Herb and Dolly Smith Parks, west of Washington and Baldwin Parks where fishing exists, through the Bridgewood Golf Course and down to just east of the Carpenter Preserve. Through this area wetlands, 100-year floodplain and soils with a depth to bedrock less than 60 inches exists. Woodlot areas are also scattered throughout the undeveloped areas.

Neenah means water and is surrounded by a bountiful area of resources. Lake Winnebago is located to the east, the Fox River flows through the northern quarter and Little Lake Butte des Morts southern tip reaches the North boundary of Arrowhead and Herb and Dolly Smith Parks. The south half of Doty Island is also located in the City making it a unique area with the channels of the Fox River dividing the land and forming the Island. The Oak St. and Commercial St. Bridges act as overpasses to connect the Cities of both Menasha and Neenah.



Loop the Lakes Trail – Arrowhead Park Trestle

LOCAL LINKS TO RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Neenah is also associated with various organizations, advocacy groups, and recreational opportunities in the Fox Cities area. The City works closely with these establishments to help promote the continuation of these fore-mentioned benefits.



- *Future Neenah, Inc.* is a community driven non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the economic and cultural vitality of Neenah. Incorporated in 1983, FNI assists the City in economic development projects, facilitates community partnerships, and hosts citywide events. <http://www.neenah.org>



- *Fox Cities Greenways* – “Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. (FCGI) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 incorporated in January 1995. The organization formed in response to a growing need for trails and greenspaces in the rapidly developing Fox Cities region of Wisconsin. Their mission is to foster the development and preservation of trails and greenways in the community. <http://www.focol.org/greenways>



- *Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway* – The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway, a 501(c)3 organization, works with communities along the Fox and Lower Wisconsin rivers to celebrate and preserve our rich and varied river heritage while promoting vibrant and connected riverfront towns and villages.” <http://heritageparkway.org>



- *Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association*- “Founded in 1965, the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association is a statewide voluntary organization dedicated to enriching the professional and educational opportunities available to leisure service personnel in parks, recreation, therapeutic recreation and related fields, so that they may better service the needs of their communities and or participants, and to advocate and promote the benefits of parks and leisure services to the general public. WPRA represents over 2,400 individuals delivering a broad spectrum of services in Wisconsin. Members include Park, Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation professionals in local, county, state, school district, private and agency settings.” <http://www.wpraweb.org>



CHAPTER 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Chapter 2: Goals and Objectives

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals are defined as general statements of desirable ends, where objectives measure statements of those goals to obtain them. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Together, the goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing City policy regarding the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities. Goals and Objectives follow the 2040 Comprehensive Plan guidelines.

The following goals are developed from seven Goal categories:

1. Health & Fitness
2. Variety of Activities
3. Conservation
4. Accessibility & Design
5. Partnerships
6. Cost Effectiveness
7. Quality of Life

Upon adoption of this plan, the following goals and objectives were developed and reviewed by the City of Neenah Parks and Recreation Commission and City staff at the October 21, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission regular meeting. A Goal* visioning session was initiated to develop new ideas and items that can better the overall parks system. They are intended to serve as a guide for creating the type of park and recreation system the City's residents would enjoy.

The Vision of the Neenah Parks & Recreation Department is...

***Creating Community through People, Parks & Programs
by incorporating our mission of:***

- Strengthening Community image and sense of place
- Increasing cultural unity
- Supporting economic development
- Protecting environmental resources
- Strengthening safety and security
- Facilitating community problem solving
- Promoting health and wellness
- Providing recreational experiences
- Fostering human development

**Goal timelines and metrics are discussed in Chapter 6 Recommendations and Chapter 7 Action Plan.*

Goal 1

Maintain, enhance, and establish a community-wide system of parks, open space, and park facilities that will provide all residents of Neenah with adequate recreational opportunities.
(Health, Variety, Accessibility, Quality of Life)

Objectives:

1. Provide active and passive recreational areas and facilities that can be utilized by all without regards to age or ability. Address maintenance, upgrades, ADA requirements, and current needs identified for park and recreational facilities.

Goal 2

Facilitate and support the development of a comprehensive system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes through the City.
(Health, Variety, Accessibility, Partners, Cost, Quality of Life)

Objectives:

1. Identify gaps within the trails system where accessibility can be improved.
2. Undertake city-wide improvements to signage, wayfinding, and connections to destinations.

Goal 3

Preserve the natural resources and areas located within the city such as wetlands, woodlands, and areas threatened by urban development.
(Health, Variety, Accessibility, Quality of Life)

Objectives:

1. The City should take measures to ensure the preservation of natural areas. Where it is feasible, natural areas should be targeted for acquisition and inclusion as part of the park and open space system, particularly when these areas are threatened by urban development.
2. Utilize water resources in the downtown area to increase recreational opportunities.
3. Maintain and expand public access and accessibility to the Neenah Creek and areas along the Lake Winnebago and Fox River shorelines.

Goal 4

Offer recreational programming and acquire services that meet the needs of all Neenah residents.
(Variety, Health, Partners, Cost, Quality of Life)

Objectives:

1. Promote the City's parks and recreational system, and support new activities and facilities that will meet the diverse needs and interests of all age groups.

Goal 5

Facilitate and support the development of new parks and facilities as growth occurs based on needs analysis. *(Health, Variety, Accessibility, Partners, Cost, Quality of Life)*

Objectives:

1. Select and reserve future park locations now so new neighborhoods will develop around them.
2. Provide park facilities for existing neighborhoods that are under-served, particularly in the northwest and south-central areas of the City. Identify future accessible park land for growth areas.
3. Consider acquiring land/vacant building for a community center (long-term).
4. Implement the recommendations in the Arrowhead Park Master Plan. Encourage "Park Ambassadors" to guide the development.

Goal 6

Encourage cooperation with adjacent municipalities, the Neenah School District, Local Groups and organizations to maximize the cost-effectiveness of providing open space and recreational facilities. *(Partners, Cost, Variety)*

Objectives:

1. Continue to partner with the Neenah public and private schools and community organizations for the use of facilities, including recreational facilities and to explore new collaborative efforts and see equitable ways of sharing the burden for acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and other recreational facilities.
2. Work jointly with local sport / service clubs to improve and expand indoor / outdoor recreational facilities.
3. Solicit the support of community groups and service organizations as a way of funding and/or undertaking improvements benefiting residents of the City.

In formulating goals and strategies, the Park and Recreation Commission provided their input for the next five years, using the seven topic, 1- 10 score system, (with 10 being the highest). In Table 2-1, an overall average of 8.3 for all topics was determined . Conservation ranked the lowest at 6.6 with the rationale of more can be done with the Carpenter Preserve and outlying areas. Variety of Activities scored the highest at 9.2. Table 2-2 gives the overall results and average scores per topic. These are the scores given by the Park and Recreation Commission, not the public.

Table 2-1: 7/10 Goal Score Rationales

7 Topics	Average Assessment Score (1-10)	Reasons for this score
Health & Fitness	8, 7, 10, 9, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key to healthy living and fitness is having connections. Offering opportunities for classes where there is a commitment to a class makes it easier. Working together towards a goal is a good way to get people healthier. I am sure there are a lot of single people that might need this motivation because they are too nervous to join a class without someone. How can we promote this sense of belonging and reinforcing the commitment? • Great playgrounds and athletic fields, trails, new splashpad, more trails and safe bike routes needed. • Multiple soccer fields, baseball demands and softball field and tennis courts (pickleball) • The vast majority of citizens either bike or walk our travel ways in the parks. Where we fall short is having a designated fitness trail. Most of our citizens will use our parks for their running and fitness. • Lots of opportunities to use the parks in all seasons, offering many classes
Variety of Activities	10, 8, 10, 10, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know the variety of activities is not always cost-effective but it is what makes our park and rec so attractive to Neenah people and those in our surrounding community. • For a city the size of Neenah, we do a great job with the variety of activities we offer and continue to look for new ones to add.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff creates multiple activities for both children and adults. • I am very happy with the size of scope of our activities and the creativity of staff to keep abreast of trends. • Many recreational choices
Conservation	5, 8, 10, 5, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be kept in mind but should not drive our decisions. • We do a good job. An unlimited budget would help. • Wilderness Park and Carpenter Preserve • This is an area of need. While the department includes conservation principles in park management. We fall short in placing conservation as a high priority in the overall park structure. • Most people are not aware of conservation work, or potential.
Accessibility and Design	10, 7, 10, 9, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing all those that wish to participate is imperative and should be at the core of who we are. • We have a long way to go making every facility ADA assessible but need to keep going. • Our parks (neighborhood and city-wide) are easily accessible to all residents. • With ADA standards in mind, I think been conscience of making equipment park ADA friendly.
Partnerships	7, 8, 10, 10, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With limited facilities, space and funds it is always important to create efficiencies within our programming. • Work with Appleton and Menasha with Recreational Programs. • Neenah Baseball, Soccer, and Tennis • Neenah Baseball, Paper Valley Soccer with use of our fields for league and tournament play. Yacht Club with sailing, school opportunities. YMCA connections,

		<p>downtown lunches and concerts, Riverside Players and theatre partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think that baseball and soccer users are aware of partnerships, but most of public likely not aware.
<p>Financial / Cost Effectiveness</p>	<p>8, 8, 10, 10, 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost can be a deterrent to those with low incomes. We have to be aware of this and continue to provide assistance to those who need it. Also making it profitable and affordable at the same time for everyone. Our city council is very generous with the percentage of the budget the parks department received. We have increased the number of parks at a minimal increase in cost. (1.5 parks per year approximately) With the goal of having adult programming sustainable and youth programming operating at an acceptable level, we are ok here. Our staff has done great work to keep things going as budgets get squeezed.
<p>Quality of Life (Leisure, Travel, Fun, Material)</p>	<p>8, 8, 10, 10, 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Park and Rec programming are at the core of every community. From young to old it creates the quality of life that keeps and attracts residents. Great parks, water access and recreational activities available for all. Because of the easy accessibility and number of parks, we take great pride in where we live and how we live. Neenah Park and Rec offers a variety of winter and summer fun activities that reach out to all ages. e.g. Band Concerts, plays, athletic events, playgrounds. Everyone I speak to says they love our parks, and many moved to Neenah because of them.

Table 2-2: 7/10 Goals Average Results

7 Topics, 1-10 Score

Topic	Scores						Avg.
1. Health & Fitness	8	9	9	7	8	7	8.00
2. Variety of Activities	8	8	7	8	10	9	8.33
3. Conservation	8	8	6	6	5.5	7	6.75
4. Accessibility and Design	6	9	8	8	8	7	7.67
5. Partnerships	9	9	7	8	9	9	8.50
6. Financial / Cost Effectiveness	7	9	9	7.5	9	6	7.92
						10	10.00
							8.96
7. Quality of Life (Leisure, Travel, Fun, Material)	8	9	8	9	9	10	8.83
Overall Average Score							8.3

The City of Neenah Park and Recreation Commission’s overall assessment score was 8.3 out of 10. The highest standard deviation occurred on the Conservation and Partnership topics. When comparing the City to other communities who have completed this same assessment, the City of Menasha scored a 7.8, City of Waupaca scored an 8.8 and the City of New London a 7.9. Fox Crossing average of 8.3 tied with Neenah and falls slightly above the range of Menasha and Waupaca.

A S.W.O.T (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was also performed by the Park and Recreation Commission to gain insight on additional improvements and recommendations that can be added in as strategies for the next five years. Here are the detailed results showing the pros and cons:

Table 2-3: S.W.O.T. Assessment Results

Strengths

What unique recreational resources does Neenah have?
What do others see as your recreational strengths?

- To be honest I am a little out of practice with older kids and accessibility to programs and facilities at the high school. I am simply in awe of the variety we offer. We do a nice job integrating families and citizens of all ages.
- Love the balance between physical and mental activities.
- Harbor, river, lake, rocket playground, little lake trail, boat launches, Riverside Players, Community Fest
- Great parks and trails, softball, soccer, and tennis programs.
- Location near water for several of our parks draws people to enjoy and partake in the recreation.
- Spacious and abundant athletic fields that are well maintained.
- Accessible park locations, (we fall short in a couple of areas).
- Great park crews and good maintenance schedule to update and upgrade access and equipment needs.
- Generally good recreational programming throughout the year.
- Lots of acres of parks. Lots of water front to enjoy, kayaking, sailing, boat

Weaknesses

What could the city improve upon in its parks?
Where do you have fewer facilities than other communities?
What are residents likely to see as recreational weaknesses?

- It would be great to have a multipurpose building like the YMCA to center all of our activities. Something visual. Something separate from city hall. Something at Arrowhead park or centered at one of our parks.
- Need longer bike trails, a larger skate park needed, no community building.
- We need more funding to develop and maintain our parks.
- We could do more to increase accessibility to some neighborhood parks. (e.g. Douglas)
- Some past deficiencies are being addressed. In the past with no dog park which is presently being addressed.
- We could have more aesthetically welcoming floral and landscaped entrances.
- Review when restrooms can be open for the public, May 10th or 15th still seems late. The threat of deep frost us really gone by then.
- Look at programming that would be attractive to high school kids.
- People want trash removal.
- People want Fresh Air Park improved.
- The balance of court usage might be a challenge in some parks.

Opportunities

What recreational opportunities does Neenah promote?
What recreational trends could you take advantage of?
How can you turn your rec strengths into opportunities?

- Partnering with the YMCA, Brigade, Youth Go. We should have a park and rec app. The website is good and the flyer is good but we could reach even more people. It could have reminders/notifications. Calendar features that inform you of events and activities. Sign-up times can be as a touch of the app. Could we combine with Menasha to offer more things? Could we work with the school district to combine efforts?
- Programs for all ages, staff already does a great job.
- Great Leadership can only do so much with time and budget issues holding back creating new programs or expansion of current ones.
- Pickleball has arrived and introductory classes would be welcomed.
- Promotion of programming thru our activity booklet is a good way to promote Neenah Park and Rec with new recreational interests.
- Having a savvy staff that sees and knows what is happening in other geographical areas is key in presenting new programs so they don't get stale.
- We promote our access to water, and the trees and greenspaces we have.
- Trends? Cross country skiing/ maintained trails/ making snow? To draw people to our area?

Threats

What threats are harming Neenah's recreational areas?
What is your competition doing better? i.e. Menasha, Fox Crossing, Appleton, Oshkosh
How are the City's weaknesses being a threat to the parks and rec department?

- That depends on what we want to be. Club sports continue to creep into the younger ages. That might take away a certain segment but that also leaves more opportunity, I have not been on the commission long enough to look at the surrounding issues that may be a threat.
- Keeping up with the pickleball demand, maintaining trails, available budget to maintain the current parks and programs along with finishing projects that are planned.
- The biggest threat to our parks system is lack of money. Every year the park commission and staff are required to care for more and more assets with an unreasonable limit of resources to care for them. I don't think this helps when we are required to use bond aide to fix major problems.
- Competition from outside interests for summer and fulltime staff. We must keep ahead of the trends. Better pay and benefits to keep valuable staff.
- We need to keep vigilant on the use of our parks for unsanctioned activities. e.g. protests are potentially threatening to other park users.
- City must be aware of societal demands for workforce and potential shortages. The City must be aware that with new housing, new parkland may be required. Perhaps a shift from small parks to larger park areas.
- If parks are added, additional staff will be required.



CHAPTER 3

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Chapter 3: Recreational Resources

INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

The City of Neenah recognizes its responsibility to provide adequate, safe, attractive and varied facilities through the Parks and Recreation Department with a focus on families. It is also important, however, to recognize the existence of other facilities in the public and private sector that help meet the needs of the citizens of Neenah.

This section contains an inventory and evaluation of existing parks and facilities and notes facilities that should be considered for the future. Facilities assessed include resources in the City of Neenah and school district that are accessible to the public for use. Accessibility to various facilities differs, based on location, jurisdictional standards and fees. This is taken into consideration in the evaluation of the following specific facilities.

All facilities listed are public and outdoor unless otherwise noted.

- Indicates parks and facilities maintained by the City of Neenah
- ◇ Indicates facilities maintained by the Neenah Joint School District

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES

Archery Range

Located adjacent to the city's municipal garage, the range offers at-grade or raised shooting options.

Arrowhead Park (26.65 acres)

The current park land was originally lake bed filled in beginning in 1952. The paper sludge land fill was closed in 1975 at which time the land was dedicated as a park. Four Conceptual Master Plans have been developed for the park in 1952, 1973, 2008 and again in 2017. Current development includes a portion of the Loop the Lake Trail and a parking lot that is shared with a local business. Continued development per the 2017 Conceptual Master Plan is ongoing.

Baldwin Park (2.9 acres)

A neighborhood park located along the Neenah Creek provides water access for fishing and quiet water launching. The park consists of open space, a full-size basketball court and play equipment. Play equipment is scheduled for replacement.

Bill Miller Park (6.22 acres)

Located in the Mahler Park subdivision, the neighborhood park consists of an open-air shelter, play equipment, backstop and open space.

Carpenter Preserve Park (102.13)

Largely made up of natural areas of upper woodlands and marsh. Currently the park has a tot lot play area and a wood-chipped nature path following the stream. A master plan has been developed for the park (2008). The city should develop the park in accordance to that master plan and consider acquisition of the land north of the play area should the school district divest its interest in the property.

Castle Oak Park (3.0 acres)

A fairly new neighborhood park, this is located in the south side of the city and consists of open space and play equipment.

Cook Park (2.4 acres w/new area)

Cook Park is located along the Loop the Lake Trail on Doty Island. Recently, the city acquired 2-3 residential lots enlarging the access and visibility of the park from the street that was listed in the CORP Plan. A fourth lot as indicated in the CORP should be acquired. Facilities include a play area, a shelter with restrooms with an overhang and a sledding hill. The park is scheduled for redevelopment within the next couple of years.

Community Gardens (3 acres)

Along with the land donation for the dog park. There are approximately 3 acres of current community gardens. The current non-profit organization will continue to operate and be responsible for the gardens.

Dog Park (4.25 acres)

Newly acquired land will be developed in to a dog park facility over the next couple of years. It will be located on the corner of Byrd and Brooks Ave next to the Police Station and Community Gardens.

Doty Park (9.25 acres)

Doty Park is located along the north side of the Neenah Channel of the Fox River. It is home to the historic Governor James Doty cabin. The park consists of 2 dedicated tennis courts and pickleball courts with 4 pickleball court and a half-court basketball court overlays, a unique shelter, play equipment, 2 architecturally unique stone bridges that cross the channel leading to a rentable gazebo and 2 boat launches with 21 trailer parking stalls. The park has historically been used as backdrop for weddings, senior or homecoming pictures. The park seawall is scheduled for redevelopment.

Douglas Park (4.3 Acres)

A relatively obscure neighborhood park, this park has limited access via two points off of Douglas Street. The park consists of an open space, a shelter and play equipment. Continue to evaluate access points.

Fresh Air Park (1.68 acres)

Fresh Air Park is the only park not located within the city of Neenah boundaries. It is located adjacent to Lake Winnebago in the Town of Neenah with a parking facility, a beach and winter access to the lake. The plan for improvement includes replacement of the park drive and includes the possibility of a vault single toilet and changing facility.

Great Northern Park (10.5 acres)

Great Northern is located in the southeast section of the city with a large open space that is used by the local soccer club. The park also consists of a play area and shelter. No current improvements are planned.

Green Park (1.60 acres)

“The Green” is the oldest park in the city. An ice rink with a warming shelter, two tennis courts with two pickle ball court overlays, and a play area are located in the park. The shelter is available for rent from April through October.

Herb & Dolly Smith Park (2.5 acres)

This park is located on the southwest shores of Little Lake Butte des Morts with a portion of the Loop the Little Lake trail running through it. The park supports shore fishing, quiet water launching activities and provides access to Arrowhead Park and the downtown. There is an open shelter for rent and a parking lot.

Island Park (2.5 acres)

Located at the base of the Neenah Dam, Island Park has a parking lot and small restroom. The park is used heavily in spring for fishing. The park was identified in a 2001 Waterfront Design and Development Master Plan for improvement.

Kimberly Point (3.5 acres)

“The Point” provides amazing views of Lake Winnebago with over 830 feet of shoreline. The park is used throughout the day by park guests for early morning coffee breaks, snack lunches and reflection. Fishermen can be found along the shoreline from predawn until well after sunset. The historic Kimberly Point Lighthouse with restrooms is located on the property. Improvements include extending the Lakeshore Drive bike and pedestrian pathway through the park, and shoreline & pier improvement.

Laudan Park (2.0 acres)

This park is used as a site for summer recreation programs with play equipment and an open field that has been used for soccer and flag football. The play equipment is scheduled to be updated within the next couple of years.

Liberty Park (2.65 acres)

Liberty is a relatively new park located in the southwest corner of the city. Currently, the park consists of play equipment, a half-court basketball area and open space.

Memorial Park (105 acres)

The city’s largest park consists of many active and passive recreational opportunities. Active recreation includes five designated soccer fields, three designated ballfields, a volleyball court, two separate play areas, an ice rink and a sledding hill. Passive recreation includes asphalt and wood-chipped trails, open space and a hardwood urban forest. The Tullar play area is scheduled to be replaced to meet current safety and ADA requirements. There are four different rental facilities located within Memorial Park.

Quarry Park (5 acres)

A neighborhood park, Quarry Park consists of open space, a sledding hill and play equipment.

Recreation Park (8.33 acres)

“Rec” Park is located on the west shore of Lake Winnebago and provides access to the Lake Winnebago for boaters with 5 launches and 53 boat/trailer parking stalls, including a power wash station. The Neenah Pool is also located at Rec Park and can host 699 guests with a supporting parking lot.

Riverside Park (19.85 acres)

Lovingly referred to as “Rocket Park,” this park’s play area represents a space shuttle that replaced the historic rocket ship play area. Riverside consists of a mature urban forest, shoreline access to the Neenah Harbor and a connecting asphalt path. Also located in the park is the city’s largest pavilion which is used for large community/regional events and a band shell that hosts the historic Riverside Players Theater and the Neenah Community Band.

Shattuck Park (1.6 acres)

Adjacent to the downtown, Shattuck Park provides access to the Neenah Harbor and boat rental slips, a quiet water launch with an architecturally unique shelter and open space. Summer concerts in the park and the Saturday Farmers Markets are sponsored by Future Neenah.

Skate Park (1.5 acres)

Recently updated in the 2017, the Skate Park is an all-concrete ramp system designed for beginners and intermediate boarders/bikers. There is space available for future expansion.

Southview Park (27.4 acres)

Southview is a community park that consists of 4 ballfields, a batting cage, 1 basketball court, 1 soccer field, 6 lighted tennis courts, and a mature hardwood urban forest with asphalt trails and supporting facilities. There is an outdoor shelter available for rent.

Washington Park (11.5 acres)

Washington Park recently underwent redevelopment that was completed in 2019. The redeveloped park includes 2 tennis courts, 2 dedicated and 4 overlay pickle ball courts, a discovery ballfield, a fully ADA accessible play area, splash pad, basketball court, a repositioned ice rink, asphalt trails and supporting facilities. A rentable indoor shelter is available.



Scheels Field, Washington Park

Wilderness Park (19.45 acres)

Located on the east side of Neenah, this natural area consists of wood-chipped nature trails.

Whiting Boat House (.5 acres)

An historic rental facility, this building is used mainly for weddings, graduation parties and holidays. The boat house stores the Coast Guard Auxiliary and WI-DNR boats during the boating season.

PRIVATE SERVICES

Boys and Girls Brigade offers programming for middle school to high school students. The indoor facility is near downtown and offers many specific programming rooms, a gym and auditorium. The Parks and Recreation Department rents the facility in Summer for the successful Operation Recreation program.

Bridgewood Platform Tennis. Year-round, heated court facilities use to play what is a combination of tennis, pickleball and racquet ball. More recently the facilities have been sponsoring pickleball court times.

The Neenah/Menasha YMCA offers recreational programs for infants to older adults at an indoor facility located near downtown Neenah. The Y has historically focused on physical fitness and sports. A summer Y day camp is currently held at Memorial Park. At times, the Park and Recreation Department has offered cooperative recreational programming.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

ARCHERY RANGE - 1

The permanent range at the City Services Building was rebuilt in 2014 and includes a raised shooting platform, 6 targets and has a handicapped accessible route.



BASEBALL / SOFTBALL DIAMONDS - 13

Baseball/Softball popularity has increased in recent years. Baseball diamonds are used by youth leagues through Neenah Baseball, Inc. (NBI) and NPRD instructional programs. The Southview Park facilities have been developed with funding assistance from NBI and Scheel's.

Diamond use includes: NPRD, church leagues, a high school interscholastic league and neighborhood use. Since the last writing, there are no longer adult leagues. This is due to a historical / regional downward trend of participation in adult leagues and programs.

Facilities are currently adequate.

• Memorial	#1	Softball	260 ft		
	#2	Softball	280 ft		
	#3	Softball	260 ft	Lighted	
• Washington		Discovery (ADA)	115-136ft		2019

• Southview	Scheels #1	Baseball	240 ft		
	Scheels #2	Baseball	200 ft		
	Scheels #3	Baseball	200 ft		
	Pederson	Baseball	200 ft	Lighted	
	Mueller	Baseball	200 ft	Lighted	
◇ Neenah High School		<i>Baseball</i>	<i>350 ft</i>		
		<i>Softball</i>	<i>210 ft</i>		
◇ Shattuck Middle School		<i>Baseball</i>	<i>350 ft</i>		
		<i>Softball</i>	<i>No fence</i>		

- Indicates City of Neenah parks and facilities.
- ◇ Indicates Neenah Joint School District facilities.

• Baldwin Park	1 court
• Coty Park	½ court
• Liberty	½ court
• Memorial Park	1 court
• Southview Park	1 court
• Washington Park	1 court
◇ Coolidge Elementary	2 courts
◇ Hoover Elementary	1 court
◇ Horace Mann	2 - ½ courts
◇ Lakeview Elementary	2 - ½ courts
◇ Neenah High School	2 courts
◇ Roosevelt Elementary	1 court
◇ Shattuck Middle	1 court
◇ Taft Elementary	1 court
◇ Tullar Elementary	1 court
◇ Wilson Elementary	½ court

BASKETBALL COURTS - 14 full courts, 7 half courts

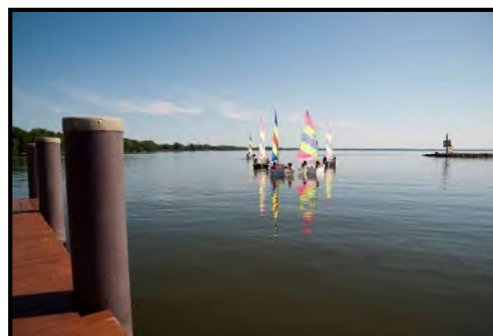


BOATING FACILITIES – 5

Access and use of the water have always been important to the City of Neenah. City facilities are well used throughout the year. The Fox Valley Sailing School maintains a teaching facility at Rec Park.

The Rec Park launch is used year-round for motor boats, ice boating and ice fishing access in the winter.

Accessible quiet water launches are located at Shattuck and Herb and Dolly Parks.



• Doty Park	2 launch ramps	21 car / trailer stalls	Rebuilt 2004
• Fresh Air	Ice Access/Quiet water launch		
• Herb & Dolly Smith Park	1 ADA Kayak Launch	17 car stalls	Built 2012
• Recreation Park	5 launch ramps	53 car / trailer stalls	Rebuilt 2009
• Shattuck Park	2-rental boat piers; 3-piers and 1 - ADA Kayak Launch	32 boat stalls (public)	Rebuilt 2005

FISHING FACILITIES – 6

Accessible shoreline and piers are available for fishing at Doty, Herb & Dolly, Island, Kimberly Point, Rec Park, Riverside and Shattuck Parks.

Unimproved shorelines exist at Baldwin, Washington and Arrowhead Parks.



FOOTBALL FIELDS - 6 Facilities are adequate. Area schools have football facilities on their grounds.

◇ Neenah High School	1 full size, lighted stadium; 2 practice fields
◇ Shattuck Middle School	1 full size field, 1 practice field
◇ Horace Mann Middle School	1 full size field

ICE SKATING RINKS - 3

Facilities for outdoor recreational skating are adequate, and fairly well distributed throughout the City. Indoor facilities include: Tri-County Ice Arena, Appleton Ice and the new Community First Champion Center. A new recreational refrigerated rink is scheduled to open in 2022 in downtown Neenah in Gateway Plaza. The NPR Department may need to reconsider the number of ice rinks needed in the future.



• Green Park	Lights, Supervision, Warming shelter
• Memorial Park	Lights, Supervision, Warming shelter
• Washington Park	Lights, Supervision, Warming shelter



PICKLEBALL COURTS – 4 dedicated and 6 overlays
 Pickle ball continues to gain in popularity. The NPR Department has offered 101 lessons with drills and skills and offers league play. Additional dedicated courts are needed.

• Doty Park	2 dedicated, 4 overlays	2021
• Washington Park	2 dedicated; 4 overlays	2019
• Green Park	2 overlays	2018

PLAYGROUNDS – 24

Playgrounds are well distributed throughout the City. It is also important to note that while park playgrounds are open to the public from 4:00 AM – 10:00 PM, school playgrounds are not open to the public when school is in session.

New play areas are being upgraded to meet all current playground and ADA standards. Washington Park is the city’s first fully accessible play area including surfacing and ramps from ground level to elevated play components.



The City will continue to upgrade playgrounds to meet all current playground and ADA standards.

• Baldwin Park 1999	◇ Coolidge Elementary
• Bill Miller Park – Neighborhood 2006 / 1995 (2-5)	◇ Hoover Elementary
• Castle Oak Park – 2017	◇ Horace Mann
• Carpenters Preserve – 2018	◇ Lakeview Elementary
• Cook Park –1998	◇ Roosevelt Elementary
• Doty Park 1997	◇ Taft Elementary
• Douglas Park 1997	◇ Tullar Elementary
• Great Northern –2004	◇ Washington Elementary
• Green Park –2000	◇ Wilson Elementary
• Laudan Park 1999	
• Liberty Park 2019	
• Memorial Park Appleblossom –2008	
• Memorial Park Tullar 1996	
• Quarry Park 1999	
• Recreation Park (pool) 1997	
• Riverside Park –2007	
• Southview Park 2019	
• Washington Park 2019	

SHELTERS – 6 year-round and 9 Seasonal

Year-round Facilities	Capacity	Seasonal Facilities	Capacity
• Green Park	30	• Bill Miller Park	20
• Memorial -George Scherck Large	120	• Doty Park	50
• Memorial George Scherck Small	30	• Doty Park - Gazebo	10
• Memorial Tullar	50	• Great Northern Park	20
• Washington Park	150	• Herb & Dolly Park	20
• Whiting Boat House	70	• Memorial Park Open	50
		• Riverside Park	200
		• Shattuck Park	90
		• Southview Park	20

A variety of shelters are available throughout the city for recreation programming and private rentals. Overall shelters are adequate for rentals however there is need for additional appropriate indoor programming space. Some shelters/parks are more heavily used than other and a plan to diversify should be considered. Neenah should review the condition of facilities to determine if updating is needed.

SKATEPARK - 1

The skate park was redeveloped in 2017 with a full concrete surface and ramps. The park is considered appropriate for beginners and intermediates. There is room to expand and add a few ramps from the previous system that were kept for future use.



SLEDDING HILLS - 5

Sledding hills continue to be popular for sledding, tubing and snow boarding.

• Washington Park	Warming shelter
• Memorial Park	Warming shelter
• Quarry Park	
• Cook Park	
• Island Park	

SOCCER FIELDS - 42

Permanent fields are heavily used in the summer. NPRD sponsors an instructional soccer program. The Department maintains a successful partnership with Neenah Soccer Club (NSC). The Club runs youth leagues, tournaments and camps utilizing the NPRD facilities. Temporary fields are added for major tournaments.



The High School Stadium Field is lighted.

• Great Northern	8 Fields	120' x 150'	
	14 Fields	90' x 120'	
• Memorial Park	#1 Kelderman	225' x 345'	
	#2 Van Geffen	240' x 360'	Lighted
	#3 Semrad	210' x 330'	
	#4 Smead	240' x 360'	
	#5	210' x 330'	
• Southview Park	#1	210 x 330'	
◇ High School	Conant East	195' x 330'	Lighted
	Stadium Field	225' x 360'	Lighted
◇ Lakeview School	#1	220' x 150'	
	#2	220' x 150'	
◇ Tullar School	#1	220' x 150'	
	#2	120' x 180'	
◇ Taft School	temp	90' x 150'	
◇ Hoover School	#1	150' x 220'	
◇ Coolidge School	#1	150' x 220'	
* Mahler Park (Town)	#1	210' x 345'	
	#2	210' x 320'	
	#3	210' x 320'	
	#4	210' x 320'	
	#5	210' x 300'	

SPLASH PAD - 1

An interactive splash pad was installed in Washington Park. The splash pad is just under 2,885 sq. ft and is a flow system which does not require fencing and supervision. The City may want to consider another splash pad as this facility sees a lot of use during the summer months.



SWIMMING POOLS - 2



The Neenah Pool is an outdoor facility, designed primarily for recreation and instruction. It features a zero-depth area, a 131' flume slide, a deep well with drop slide and one-meter diving board, four lap lanes, concession stand, sand play area, volleyball court, tetherball and park ping pong table. The Department runs a comprehensive swim lesson program.

The high school pool is an indoor facility designed primarily for instruction, competition and exercise.

	Surface Area	Volume	Bather Load
• Neenah Pool - Outdoor	11,263 sq. ft.	271,390 gals.	699 swimmers
◇ High School Pool - Indoor	5,432 sq. ft.	246,332 gals.	286 swimmers

TENNIS COURTS - 31

Existing courts are well used. The Park and Recreation Department runs an extensive summer instruction / tournament / league program, using both Park and School courts. Current number of courts is adequate but redevelopment is needed at Doty and Southview Parks.



• Doty Park	2	Rebuilt 2021
• Washington Park	2	Rebuilt 2019
• Southview Park	6 Lighted	Rebuilt 1998
• Green Park	2	Rebuilt 2000
◇ Neenah High School	8 Lighted	
◇ Ivy Williams	6	Rebuilt 2017



TRACKS - 3

Facilities are adequate. Primary use of the hard surface tracks is interscholastic activity. Facilities are accessible to the public during off school hours.

◇ Neenah High School	◇ Shattuck Middle School	◇ Horace Mann Middle School
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Road and trail running remains popular. Cross country meets are held at Riverside and Memorial Parks. NPRD sponsors a successful Summer Fun Run Series at Memorial Park. The Fox Cities Marathon and numerous 5k

walks and runs utilize Neenah Parks, trails, and streets.

TRAILS (off-street)

The *Neenah Access Trails System* is made up of on-street trails (Map 2) and paved off road trails. The paved trails are designed for use by bicycles, in-line skaters, runners and walkers. These trails are also listed on the *Trails of the Fox Cities* map.

The city completed the Neenah trestle connecting Arrowhead Park to Doty Island in 2018. This connection along with trail work completed in the city of Menasha and Village of Fox Crossing allowed for the development of the 3.5-mile Loop the Little Lake. This “Loop” permits trail users to pass through 3 communities and over four trestles.

Location	Feet	Mileage	Surface
• Arrowhead / Herb & Dolly	3696' x 10'	.7	Asphalt / Composite decking
• Neenah Trestle	969' x 14'	.18	Asphalt / Composite decking
• Doty Park	1654' x 6'	.31	Asphalt
• Bill Miller Trail	4600' x 8'	.87	Asphalt
• Carpenter Preserve	2800' x 6'	.53	Woodchip
• Great Northern Park	550' x 10'	.1	Asphalt
• Laudan Park	200' x 8'	.03	Asphalt
• Memorial Park	13,200' x 10'	2.5	Asphalt
	700' x 10'	.13	Woodchip/Nature
• Riverside Park	4000' x 10'	.76	Asphalt
• Southview Park	4000' x 8'	.46	Asphalt
• Washington Park	2100' x 8'	.40	Asphalt
• Wilderness	300' x 10''	.06	Asphalt
	1246' x 8'	.24	Woodchip
• Bridgewood Golf Course	6860' x 10'	1.3	Asphalt
Total Asphalt		7.8	Asphalt/Composite
Total		.9	Natural Surface
Overall Park Trail Total		8.7	
City Access Trails		16.65	On-Street / Bike Lanes

TRAILS (on-street connections and bike lanes)

The *Neenah Access Trails System* is made up of a series of on-street connections with more recommendations in the works. The City participated in the 2013-2014 Fox Cities Bike and Pedestrian Planning process being done through the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.



VOLLEYBALL COURTS - 6

The Neenah Pool lighted court is used for NPRD summer leagues and informal play by pool patrons.

• Neenah Pool	1	Sand, Lighted
• Memorial Park	1	Sand
◊ Neenah High School	4	Sand



Table 3-1: EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION ACREAGE



211 Walnut Street, 920-5050







Park and Recreation Facilities																									
DATE ESTABLISHED	ACRES	FEET OF SHORELINE	SHELTER	PUBLIC RESTROOMS	PICNIC TABLES	GRILLS	FLOWER BEDS	PAVED TRAILS	WOODS/NATURE AREA	OPEN SPACE	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	BICYCLEBALL	BALL DIAMONDS	SOCCER FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	BASKETBALL COURTS	ICE SKIING	SLEEPING HILLS	BOAT LAUNCH	BOAT STALLS	FISHING			
ARROWHEAD - 355 Milway Dr	1975	36.59	2400																			X	X		
BALDWIN - 255 Baldwin St.	1974	2.90	980		X					X	X												X	X	
BILL MILLER - 345 1/2 8th St.	1988	8.25		X	X		X			X	X														
CARPENTER - 1590 Breezewood Ln	1996	102.13							X		X														
CASTLE DAM - 2096 Marathon Ave.	2007	3.00								X	X														
COOK - 427 W. Water St.	1941	1.80		X	X	X	X			X	X														
COMMUNITY GARDENS & NEENAH DOG PARK - Brookland Byrd Avenues	2019 2021	3.00 4.25																							
DOTY - 701 Lincoln St.	1922	9.25	1000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2			2					X			X		
-----Doy Cabin			Holds home of Governor James Duane Doy - One thru Labor Day Noon-4PM																						
-----Dwight Barnhouse - 95 Fifth St.	1988	3.50	85	X			X	X																	
DODIGLAW - 721 Douglas St.	1948	4.30		X	X	X					X	X													
FRESH AIR - 405 Maple Ln	1921	1.32	150			X					X														
GREAT NORTHERN - 728 Kensington Rd	2001	19.50		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			1											
THE GREEN - 337 Columbian Ave.	1893	1.50		X	X	X	X			X	X	2			2			1							
HERB & DOLLY SMITH - 167 N. Lake St.	2006	2.50	900	X	X	X		X	X											X			X		
ISLAND - 200 First St.	1931	2.50	563							X	X									1			X		
WIMBERLY PT - 250 Lakeshore Ave.	1929	3.50	950	X	X	X				X														X	
LAUDAM - 225 Loudon Blvd.	1858	2.00						X		X	X														
LIBERTY - 1201 Highland Dr.	2006	2.65									X														
MEMORIAL - 2731 Duane Rd	1922	105.00		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		3	5	4	1	1	1							
QUARRY - 650 Cedar St.	1972	5.90								X	X														
RECREATION - 370 S. Park Ave.	1988	5.33	650		X	X	X																X	X	
-----Neenah Pool			Water Slides, Concession Area, Sand Volleyball Courts - 902-8050																						
RIVERSIDE - 500 E. Wisconsin Ave.	1872	19.85	3080	X	X	X	X	X	X		X													X	
SHATTUCK - 217 E. Wisconsin Ave.	1915	1.90	400	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													X	X	
SKATEPARK - 2121 Madison Ave.	1996	1.50		Skate Boarding, Biking, 3 in Line Skating																					
SOUTHVIEW - 300 W. Benson	1965	27.40		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		3	3	6	1	1								
WASHINGTON - 321 W. Wisconsin Ave.	1931	11.50		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	1	2				1	1					X	
WILDERNESS - 940 S. Park Ave.	1971	9.45								X	X														

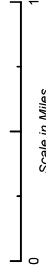
Public Restrooms are open from May thru September

391 total acres, 10,088 feet of shoreline

Map 1 Parks and Trails City of Neenah

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|---------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Archer Range | 11 | Doby Park | 21 | Memorial Park |
| 2 | Arrowhead Park | 12 | Double Park | 22 | Quarry Park |
| 3 | Baklavin Park | 13 | Fresh Air Park | 23 | Recreation Park |
| 4 | Bill Miller Park | 14 | Great Northern Park | 24 | Riverside Park |
| 5 | Bill Miller Trail | 15 | Green Park | 25 | Shattuck Park |
| 6 | Carpenter Preserve | 16 | Herb and Dolly Smith Park | 26 | Skate Park |
| 7 | Castle Oak Park | 17 | Island Park | 27 | Southview Park |
| 8 | Community Gardens | 18 | Kimberly Point Park | 28 | Washington Park |
| 9 | Cook Park | 19 | Laudan Park | 29 | Wilberness Park |
| 10 | Dog Park | 20 | Liberty Park | | |

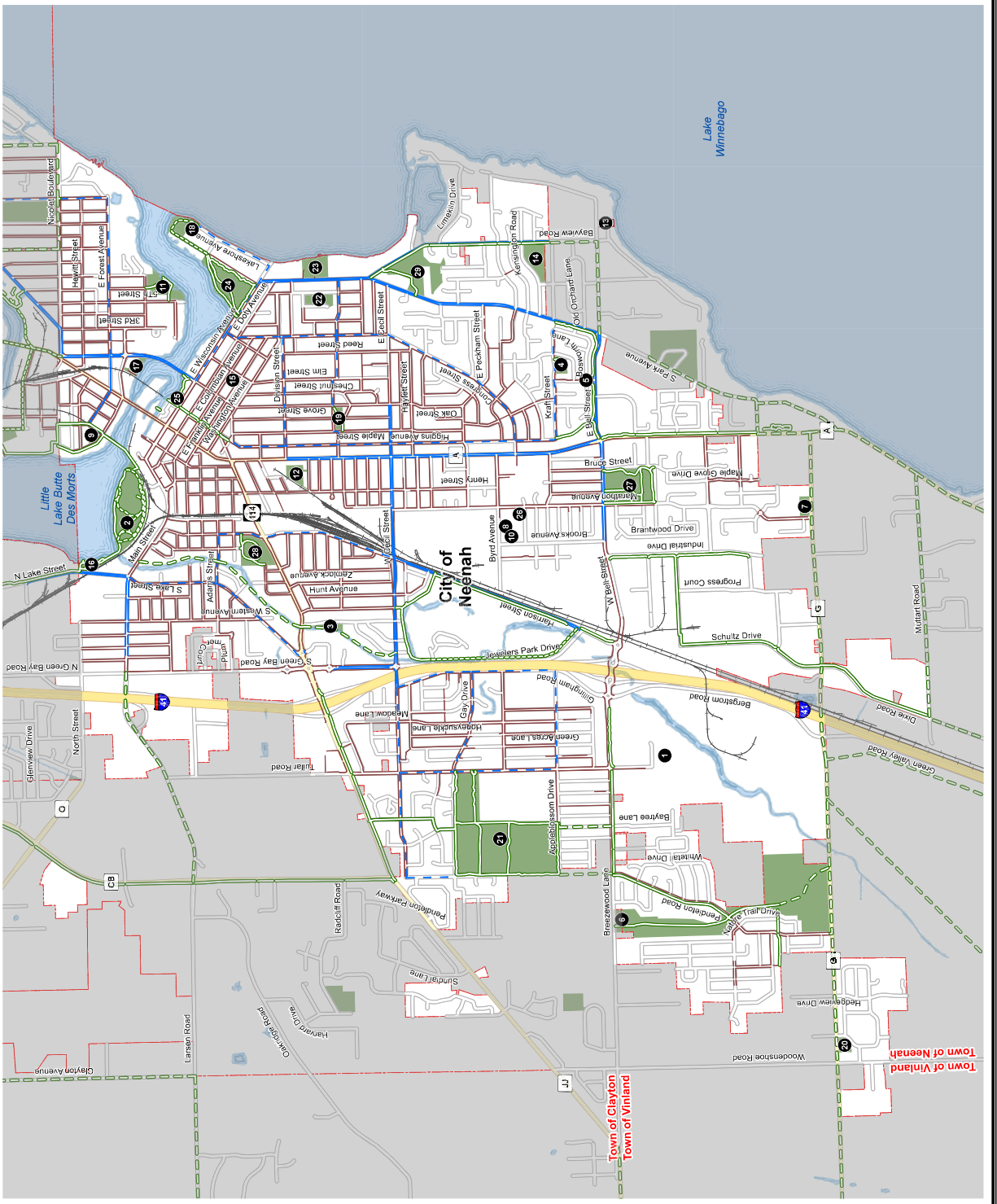
-  Existing Trail
-  Planned Facility
-  Bike Lane
-  Signed Bike Route
-  Sidewalk
-  Park



Source: Base data provided by Winnebago County 2020.

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PREPARED JANUARY 2022 BY:

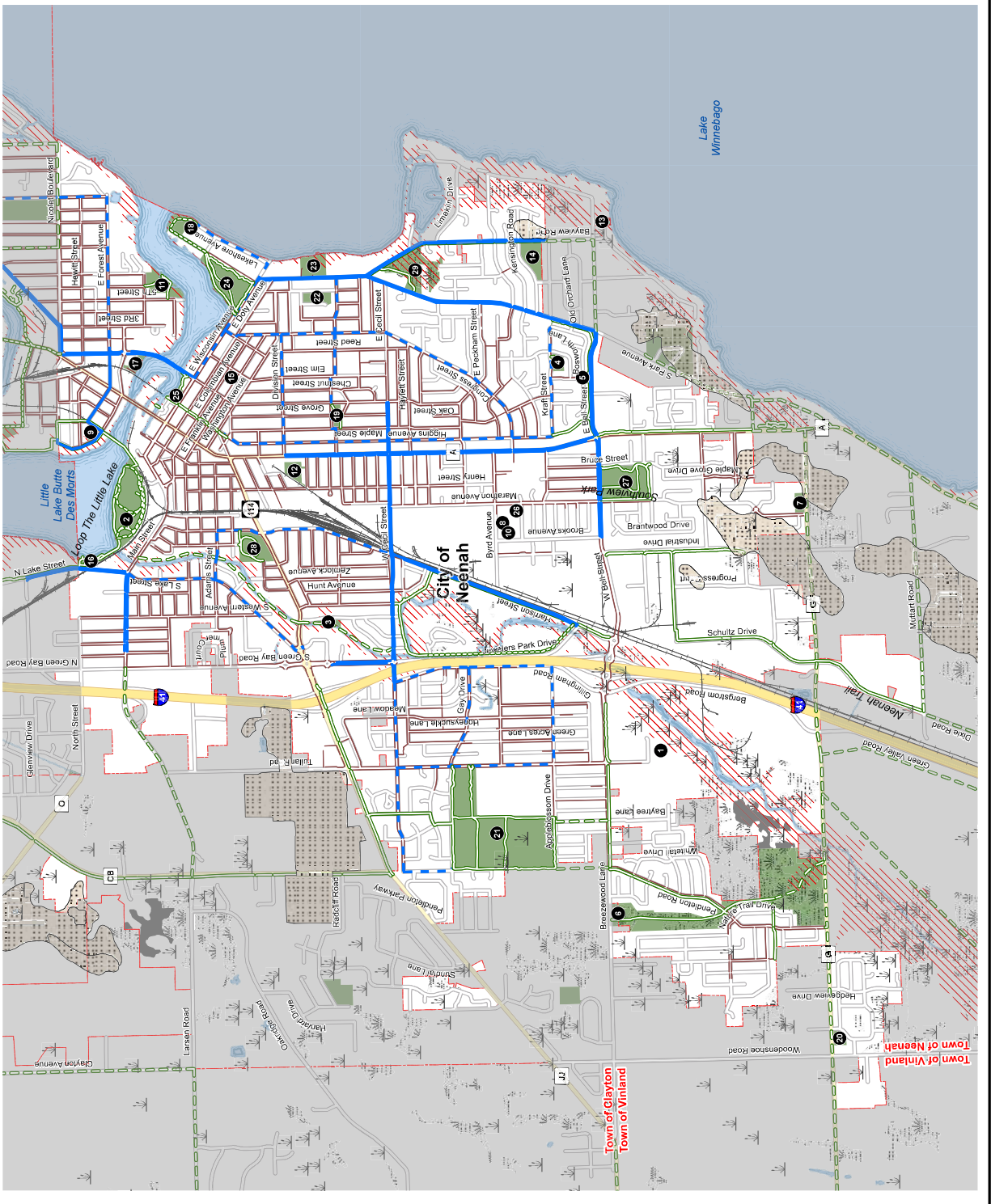
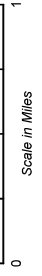


Map 2 Environmental Factors City of Neenah

- 1 Archery Range
- 21 Memorial Park
- 2 Arrowhead Park
- 22 Quarry Park
- 3 Bakkevin Park
- 23 Recreation Park
- 4 Bill Miller Park
- 24 Riverside Park
- 5 Bill Miller Trail
- 25 Shutluck Park
- 6 Carpenter Preserve
- 26 Green Park
- 7 Castle Oak Park
- 27 Herb and Dolly Smith Park
- 8 Community Gardens
- 28 Island Park
- 9 Cook Park
- 29 Kimberly Point Park
- 10 Dog Park
- 30 Laudan Park
- 31 Liberty Park

Wetlands (< 5 Acres)

- Bike Lane
- Existing Trail
- Signed Bike Route
- Planned Facility
- Sidewalk
- Wetlands (> 5 Acres)
- 100 Year Floodplain
- High Bedrock (< 5 feet)
- Park



Source: Parks created from parcel data and trails provided by the Winnebago County. Soil data provided by NRCS-SDA Web Soil Survey (WSS), accessed 2013. Wetland Data, VDNR 2015. Floodplain Data, FEMA 2007. Base data provided by Regional Commies 2019.

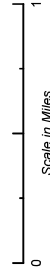
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Map 3 Existing Woodlands City of Neenah

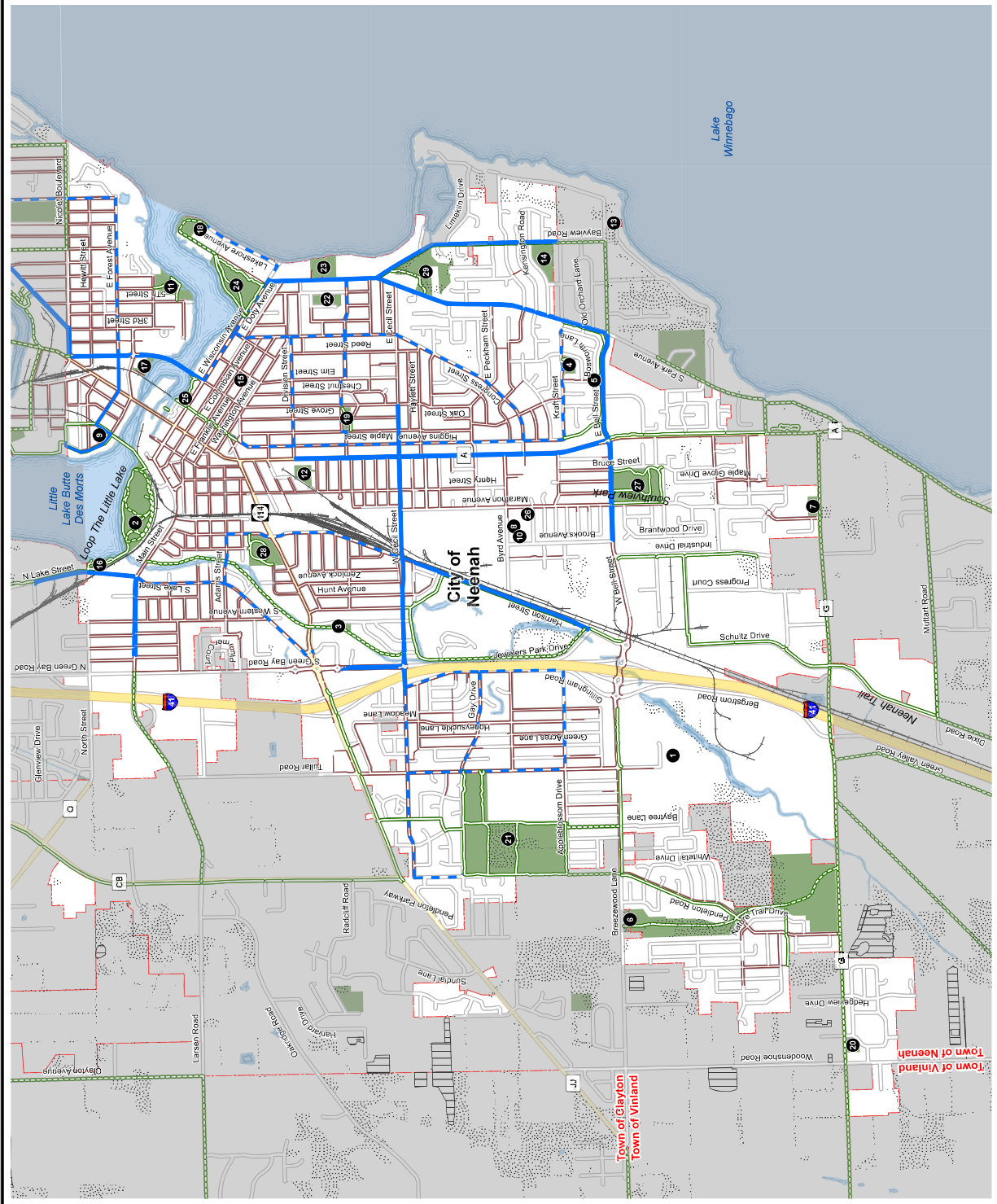
- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Archery Range | 11 Doby Park | 21 Memorial Park |
| 2 Arrowhead Park | 12 Douglas Park | 22 Quarry Park |
| 3 Baklavin Park | 13 Fresh Air Park | 23 Recreation Park |
| 4 Bill Miller Park | 14 Great Northern Park | 24 Riverside Park |
| 5 Bill Miller Trail | 15 Green Park | 25 Shattuck Park |
| 6 Carpenter Preserve | 16 Herb and Dolly Smith Park | 26 Skate Park |
| 7 Castle Oak Park | 17 Island Park | 27 Southview Park |
| 8 Community Gardens | 18 Kimberly Point Park | 28 Washington Park |
| 9 Cook Park | 19 Laudan Park | 29 Willbress Park |
| 10 Dog Park | 20 Liberty Park | |
-
- Bike Lane
 - Existing Trail
 - Signed Bike Route
 - Planned Facility
 - Sidewalk
 - Park
 - Planted Woodlands
 - General Woodlands



Sources:
Parks created from parcel data and trails provided by the Winnebago County. Steep slope data derived from Winnebago County LIDAR data. Land use data provided by ECWRPC 2015. Base data provided by Regional Counties 2020.

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CHAPTER 4

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Chapter 4: Recreational Needs

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Recreational needs, facilities and parks and open space within the city of Neenah are evaluated based upon many factors. These factors include but are not limited to: community demographics; national and local benchmarks; national and local trends; and input from citizens, elected officials and Park and Recreation Commissioners.

To assess recreational needs, the Parks and Recreation Commission and Staff conducted an analysis and inventory of current parks and recreational facilities. Analysis focused on recreation facilities that are: not currently provided; deficient; or in need of improvement. After review, recommendations will be development to help the city achieve the goal of providing residents with a wide variety of recreational opportunities. Recommendations are listed in Chapter 6.

Parks and Recreation needs may include the demand for additional park lands based upon new residential developments or in areas where “park deserts” exist within the community or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, local and nation recreation standards, benchmarks and trends are used to identify these demands as well and most importantly local citizen input.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Neenah's 2020 population of 26,333 reflected a 4 percent increase over its 2010 population of 25,501 (Table 4-1). Based on DOA estimates, the City was home to 26,010 residents in 2015. Neenah's population has fluctuated within a fairly narrow range for several decades now and likely will continue to do so in the future. Projections indicate that its population will continue its steady growth from current levels, reaching 28,970 by 2040. During this timeframe, both the State of Wisconsin and Winnebago County are expected to experience modest population gains. (Table 4-2)

**Table 4-1: Population Trends and Projections, 1980-2040
City of Neenah**

Year	Population	% Change
1980	22,432	---
1990	23,219	3.5%
2000	24,507	5.5%
2010	25,501	4.0%
2011	25,612	4.1%
2013*	25,750	0.5%
2015*	26,010	1.0%
2020	27,319	5.0%
2025*	27,810	1.8%

2030*	28,520	2.5%
2035*	28,870	1.2%
2040*	28,970	0.3%

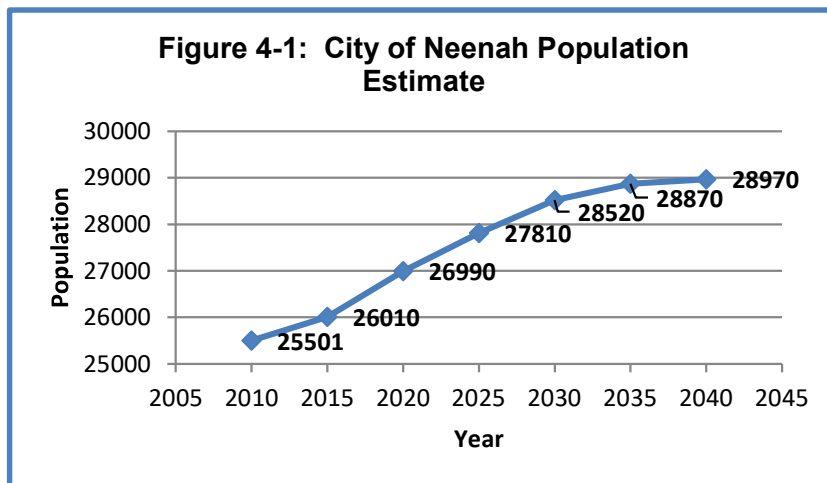
Sources: Census 2010 & 2020 Data, and Department of Administration projections 2013-2040*.

Table 4-2: Population Comparisons, 2010-2040

Municipality	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Percent Change 2010-2040
City of Neenah	25,501	26,010	27,319	27,810	28,520	28,870	28,970	13.6%
Winnebago County	166,994	169,925	171,730	183,230	188,680	191,710	193,130	15.7%
Wisconsin	5,686,986	5,783,015	5,893,718	6,203,850	6,375,910	6,476,270	6,491,635	14.1%

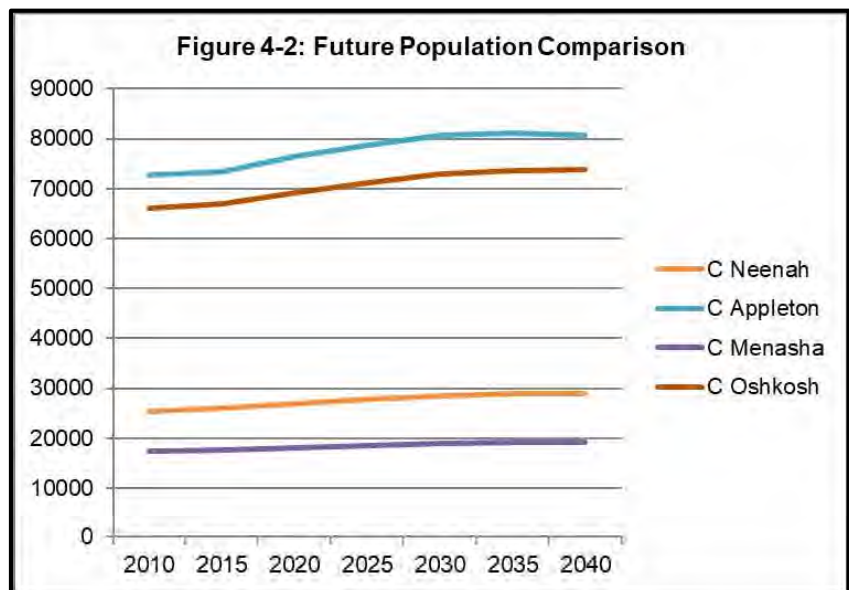
Source: WDOA, Wisconsin Demographic Services Center, Vintage 2013 Population Projections

2010 & 2020 Census Redistricting Data



LAND NEEDS

There are two different methodologies used to determine land needs. The first is based upon total acreage without regard to access or ability to use the dedicated park lands while the second methodology is based upon useable acreage. Both models have pros and cons. There is value in reviewing and considering both models when making decision regarding current and future park land needs.



The first model looks at all dedicated park land and assumes that no new lands will be acquired for park lands through 2040. The City of Neenah has 14.85 acres of land per 1,000 residents totaling 391.1 acres. Local and national bench marks indicated a range of 10 – 14.5 acres per 1,000 residents. There are 27,319 residents within the City. The model suggest that Neenah could provide a range of 273.13 - 396.13 acres of dedicated parklands resulting in a surplus ranging from 117.37 to a deficit of -5.57 acres in 2020 and a range of 101.4-acre surplus in 2040 to a -28.97 deficit.

The land mass is showing additional acreage, but most of the land is unusable for recreational activities. Carpenter Preserve is mostly marshland, with woodlands located within Memorial and Wilderness Parks. Additional land mass is mostly for passive

Perhaps a more useful tool would be to look at the active park lands and that are available for use by the City of Neenah residents. The City of Neenah Park and Recreation Department / Commission manages open space that is largely inaccessible to the residents or is undeveloped. While these lands are valuable to the community due to the ability to reduce stormwater run-off, create green ways and preserve wetlands/ urban forests from any future development the average resident will not have either immediate or future active use of these lands. Deleting a portion of these lands from the calculation changes the current parklands and acres per 1000 calculation. Below is a chart calculating these inaccessible lands.

While not advocating for changing the current model being used it would be helpful to consider accessibility when considering future land acquisitions. Of the three park spaces listed below, only 25% is considered accessible.

Table 4-3: Accessible vs. Inaccessible Parklands*

	Total Acreage	Accessible*	Inaccessible
Arrowhead Park	26.65	6.6625	19.9875
Carpenter Preserve	102.13	25.5325	76.5975
Wilderness Park	19.45	4.8625	14.5875
Totals	148.23	37.06	111.17
*25% was used for calculation purposes			
All Dedicated Parkland	391.16		
Minus Inaccessible Parklands	111.17		
Total Active Parklands	279.99		
Dedicated Park Land Acres / 1000	10.63		

**Note: calculations do not include open space / urban forests at Memorial and Southview Parks as these lands are associated with active parklands and are accessible to residents via trails. Furthermore, as Arrowhead Park develops the entirety of these public lands will shift to either the Community Park or Special Use Park Category.*

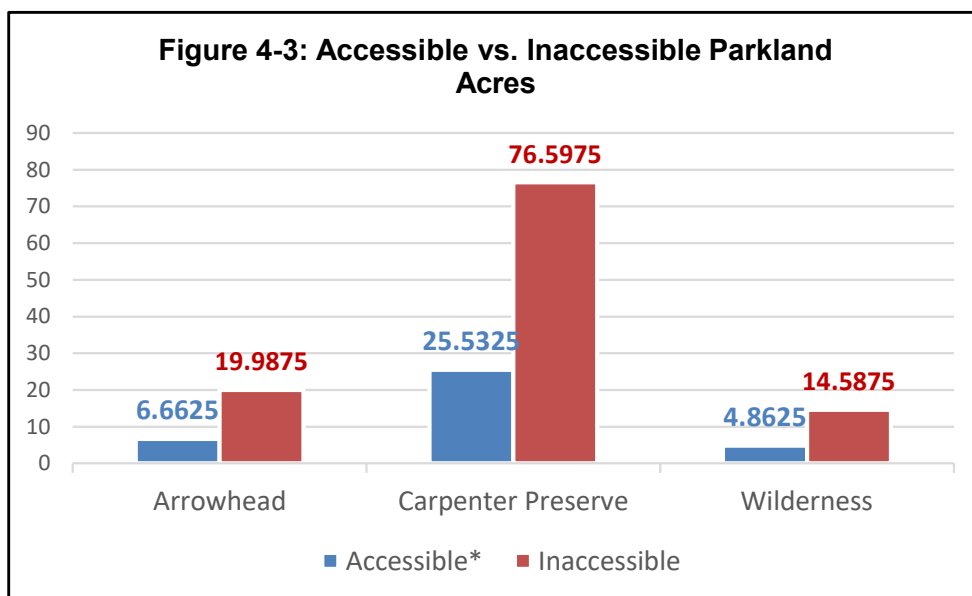


Table 4-4: Dedicated vs. Active Parklands for the Future*

Public Population Demand Projection – ALL DEDICATED PARK LANDS						
Year	Population Projection	Acreage of All Park Land	Minimum Future Needs (10.0ac / 1000)	Maximum Future Needs (14.5ac / 1000)	Surplus / Deficit	
2020	27,319	391.1	273.19	396.13	117.37	-5.57
2025	27,840	391.1	278.40	403.68	112.70	-12.58
2030	28,520	391.1	285.20	413.54	105.90	-22.44
2035	28,870	391.1	288.70	418.62	102.40	-27.52
2040	28,970	391.1	289.70	420.07	101.40	-28.97
Public Population Demand Projection – ALL ACTIVE PARK LANDS						
Year	Population Projection	Acreage of All Active Park Land	Minimum Future Needs (10.0ac / 1000)	Maximum Future Needs (14.5ac / 1000)	Surplus / Deficit	
2020	27,319	279.99	273.19	396.13	6.8	-116.14
2025	27,840	279.99	278.40	403.68	1.59	-123.69
2030	28,520	279.99	285.20	413.54	-5.21	-133.55
2035	28,870	279.99	288.70	418.62	-8.71	-138.63
2040	28,970	279.99	289.70	420.07	-9.71	-140.08

Based upon the second model, the range of 10 - 14.5 acre /1,000 capita standard, Neenah's park land acreage need for today ranges from a 6.8 surplus to a deficit of 116.14 acres. Projecting into the future and assuming no additional park land is obtained, the deficiency in

2040 would grow from 9.71 to 140.08 acres. As noted, Arrowhead Park will soon become accessible to the Neenah residents and shift to the dedicated park land calculation.

Ultimately, decisions related to park land acreage should not only consider total dedicated acres, acres per 1,000, but public access, usability, and locations of park lands as well. Of greater importance and consideration is the location of park lands in relationship to neighborhoods and walking distances.

NATIONAL / LOCAL BENCHMARKS

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established industry benchmarks for dedicated park lands within communities. NRPA clearly states that these should be considered guideless with each community determining what is in their best interest.

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its *Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urban Areas* (October 2010), has identified a level of service standard for parks, which is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents. ECWRPC created residential standards based on density for various services such as sanitary sewer, water supply, street network, and parks. The high-density category is defined as 3 or more residential units per acre.

These industry wide standards are useful bench marks when reviewing and comparing a community’s park land needs. The City of Neenah does not provide Mini Parks within its park system, while Neighborhood Parks fall just within the range and Community Parks fall below and with Open Space greatly exceeding benchmarks. The City of Neenah also provides for a Special Use classification which include the pool, boat launches, event spaces, and fishing areas.

Table 4-5: Benchmark Comparisons

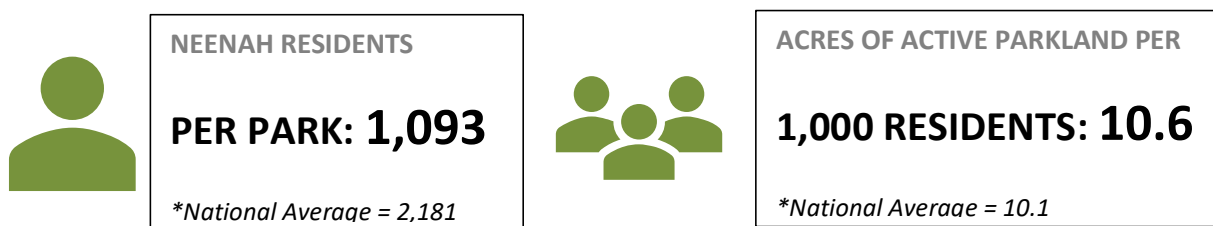
NRPA / ECWRPC Benchmarks	Acres / 1,000 person		
	NEENAH	NRPA	ECWRPC
Mini-Parks (Tot-Lot)	0	0.25-0.5	.25-1.0
Neighborhood Parks	1.14	1.0-2.0	1.0-10.0
Community Parks	6.97	8.0-10.0	10
Special Use	.84		
Natural Resources (Open Space)	5.90	1.0-2.0	2
	14.85	10.25-14.5	10.0



Table 4-6: NRPA Benchmarks Comparison with Neenah Parks System

	City Inventory of Facilities	City of Neenah-2020	20,000-49,999*	All Agencies*
Population		27,319		
Residents per Park	25	1,093	1,963	2,281
Dedicated Park Land Acres/1000	391.16	14.85	9.60	9.90
Active Park Land Acres / 1000	279.99	10.63		
Facilities				
Play Areas / Capita	16	1,707	3,157	3,750
Basketball Cts (full) / Capita	4	6,830	7,067	7,400
Basketball Cts (1/2) / Capita	1	27,319		
Tennis Cts / Capita	12	2,277	4,347	5,004
Pickleball Ct (dedicated) / Capita	4	6,830		
Pickleball Cts (overlay) / Capita	6	4,389		
Baseball Fields (youth) / Capita	5	5,464	5,132	6,779
Softball Fields (youth) / Capita	3	9,106	10,849	13,510
Dog Park (s) / Capita	1	27,319	28,132	45,899
Outdoor Pool / Capita	1	27,319	25,107	35,837
Community Garden	1	27,319	22,562	29,273
Soccer Fields / Capita	20	1,366	4,833	7,325
Skate Park / Capita	1	27,319	29,491	49,500
Outdoor Ice Rink / Capita	3	9,106	13,542	18,526

Source: City of Neenah Parks and Recreation Dept. and National Recreation and Parks Association Statistics



*Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

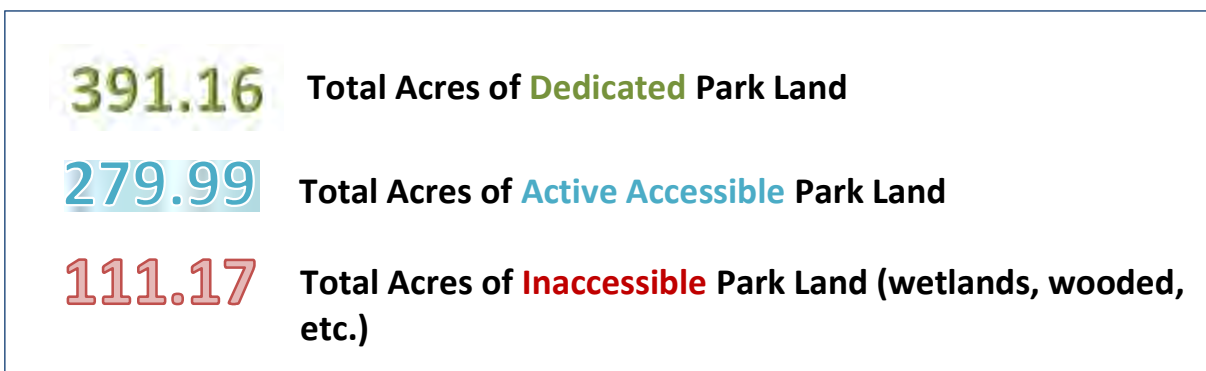
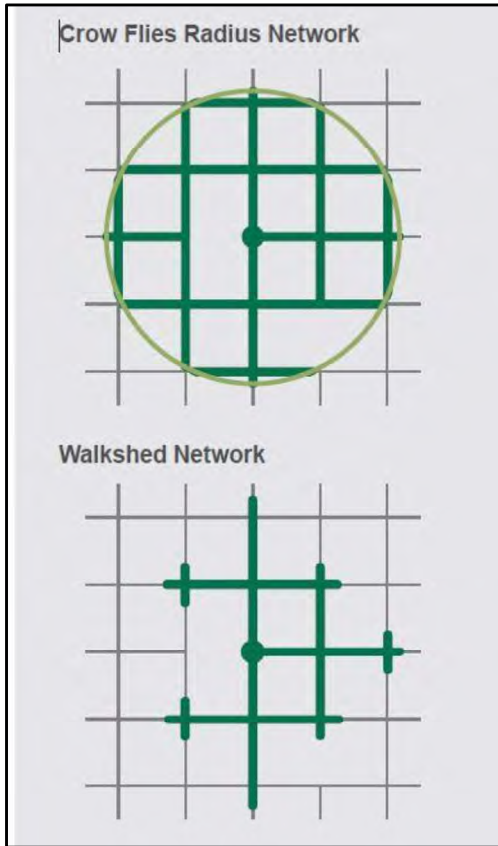


Figure 4-4: Walkshed Illustrations



LOCATIONAL NEEDS

It is desirable that recreational opportunities be within convenient walking distance of each of a community’s residents, with its compact development pattern and distribution of existing parks and schools, virtually all Neenah residents live within a few minutes’ walk of an existing recreation facility. When residents are separated from the nearest park or school by natural barriers such as streams or man-made barriers such as busy streets, they are considered to be less adequately served because these features hinder a direct or safe walk within ½ mile.

According to the results of the 2021 community survey, only 13% said they were unable to safely walk and/or bike to a park. The barriers stated were no sidewalks on Green Bay Road, State Highway 76, no sidewalk on County Highway G to connect Liberty Heights, traffic along Wisconsin Avenue. Busy streets with no sidewalks and safe crossing routes were the bulk of the comments.

This is a particular concern for children and disabled or elderly residents. Looking at the Neighborhood and Community Parks in Neenah, excluding natural areas,

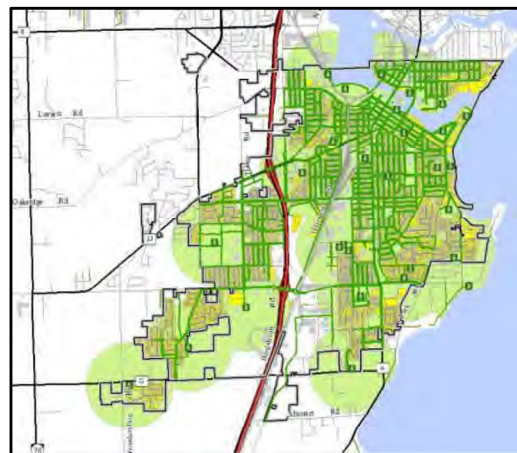
the neighborhoods southwest of USH 41 / Breezewood Lane and south of CTH G fall within this category along with the northwest and northeast corners of the City boundary of being somewhat underserved. Capacity or growth, quality and condition, & location and access all affect service in these areas, (Map 4). School Parks offer some amenities but these are not always accessible during a specific timeframe.

LEVEL OF SERVICE AREAS (LOS)

Level of service of parks is determined through standards by park size and type. It is used as a guide with the present and future population to determine need. Parks provided by a community should serve 100% of its residents if possible with the combination of parks offered. The service areas for community parks and special facilities may serve citizens beyond the municipal boundary as residents use parks from neighboring communities.

To measure walkable parks from residential areas, a walkshed analysis was used as well as “Crow Flies” to show the routes a person would take versus just a buffered zone. A walkshed is

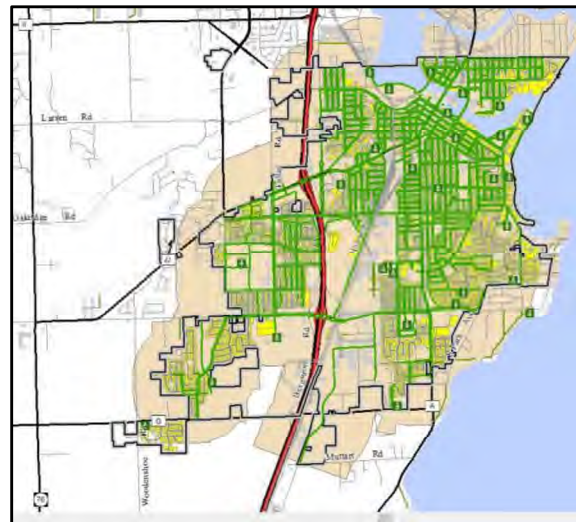
Figure 4-5: Neenah Parks - Half Mile as the Crow Flies



the network of streets within a defined walking distance of a specific location, such as a park. Walksheds are a more accurate way to identify actual walking routes and distances to destinations. Unlike approaches that measure straight-line distance to a destination, walksheds attempt to consider gaps in the network where streets don't connect or where there may be physical barriers, cul-de-sacs, etc. (Figure 4-4).

Mapping walksheds on the sidewalks and trails network helps identify individual segments that pedestrians are likely to take to a specific destination within a given distance or travel time. This shows existing connectivity between modes of transportation within a walkshed. On average, a person can walk up to half a mile in 10 minutes, which is a commonly recommended distance for pedestrians to access available park land or open space in their community. Using the half-mile recommended service area and parcel data, all residential parcels and sidewalks are mapped to show which households are within the park service area for the City of Neenah.

Figure 4-6: Neenah Half Mile Walkshed per Sidewalks and Trails



Based on the walkshed assessment, when you analyze as the Crow Flies,” with a half mile buffer from each park and or facility, the walkability from a residential structure is 86%. When looking at sidewalks and trails as your route to get to your destination, the walkability is less, at 67% since there are barriers present that have to be utilized instead of a direct straight line. This is more accurate as it shows the route directly on the ground. Walkability is limited in the southwest and western pockets of the city as barriers exist such as major highways. Neenah is split east and west due to Interstate 41 and the railroad tracks. Overpasses give access but are also dangerous in crossing due to traffic.

Table 4-7: Park Service Areas by Type*

Park Type	Service Miles	Avg. Park Size in Acres
Mini	0.25	.25-1
Neighborhood	0.5	1-10
Community	1	10-50
County Park	1.25	50-100
Special Facility / Nature Area	1.5-2	100+

**The park service areas are provided by the National Parks Service and are to be used as a benchmark and guideline in determining the level of service provided within a community.*

FACILITY NEEDS

The composition of a community's population can provide insight into the need for emphasizing specific types of recreational opportunities. Neenah's population distribution by age group compares closely with that of Winnebago County (Table 4-9). However, in 2010, Neenah had proportionally more residents aged 25-44(27.5%), than the county and state (22.9%, 25.4%). The City's population shows a "young, middle-aged" based community which the facilities should be structured around with family-oriented activities.

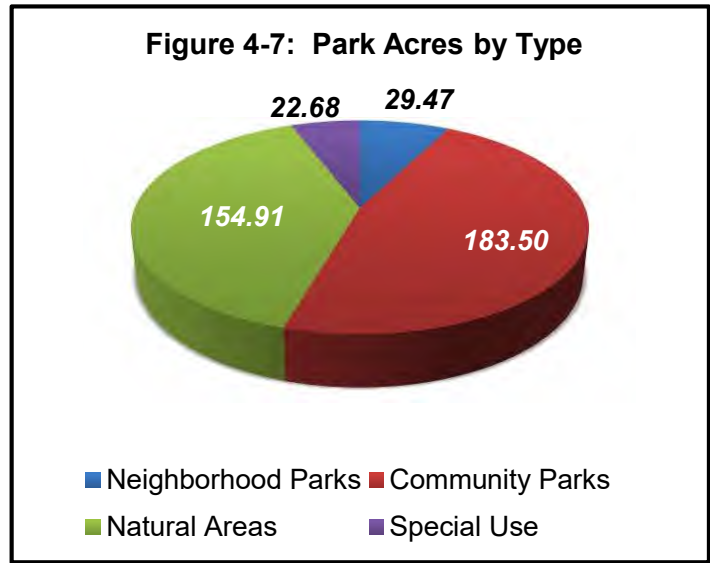


Table 4-8: Population Distribution by Age Group, 2010

	Neenah		Winnebago Co.		State of Wis.	
Age	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	1,940	7.6	9,866	5.6	358,443	6.3
5-14	3,625	14.2	19,916	12.6	744,544	13.1
15-24	2,910	11.4	26,220	11.1	785,761	13.8
25-44	7,020	27.5	43,349	22.9	1,447,360	25.4
45-54	3,805	14.9	25,560	16.5	873,753	15.4
55-64	3,089	12.1	19,747	13.4	699,811	12.3
65+	3,140	12.3	22,336	18.0	777,314	13.8
TOTAL:	25,529*	100	166,994	100	5,686,986	100

*Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1, Tables P12, P13, and PCT12.
 25,529 estimated population by age total ACS 5-yr 2008-2013

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

While the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines provides definitions for park classifications, it acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural and socioeconomic make-up. As such each community or park agency should develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space, with the NRPA definitions as a guide. Typically, municipalities focus on Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Park and Open Spaces. Historically, the City of Neenah has provided Neighborhood, Community, Natural Resource Areas and Special Use Parks.

As a means of organizing the public park and open space facilities found in the City of Neenah, the park areas are classified according to a hierarchy that provides for a comprehensive system of interrelated parks. Some parks that meet neighborhood needs and have specialized amenities could be placed into more than one classification, but are placed in the classification that meets the broadest definition. The park and open space classifications that are appropriate for the City of Neenah do not necessarily meet the NRPA guidelines in a strict sense as far as size or amenities, but are appropriate to the overall offerings.

Table 4-9: Park Classification Service Areas by Type

Classification / Acres	Description	Location/Service Area	Typical Size
Neighborhood Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baldwin 2.9 • Bill Miller 6.22 • Castle Oak 3.0 • Cook 2.4 • Douglas 4.3 • Green 1.6 • Laudan 2.0 • Liberty 2.65 • Quarry 5.0 	The basic unit of the park system. A neighborhood park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located.	Serves a neighborhood within a 1/4 to 1/2-mile radius, uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	1 - 10 acres
Community Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doty 9.25 • Great Northern 10.5 • Riverside 20 • Southview 27.4 • Washington 11.7 • Memorial 105 	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Serves: immediate neighborhood; a 1/2 - 3-mile radius; or offers unique features that serves the entire City. Located adjacent to collector streets providing easy vehicular access.	10 acres or more.
Natural Resource Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrowhead (26.65) • Carpenter Preserve (102.13) • Fresh Air 1.68 • Herb & Dolly 2.5 • Island 2.5 • Wilderness 19.5 	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics.	Resource availability and opportunity. Variable* service areas and may serve both City residents and other nearby communities.	Variable
Special Use Parks / Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery Range • Community Gardens 3.0 • Dog Park 4.25 • Kimberly Point 3.5 • Shattuck 1.6 • Skatepark 1.5 • Rec Park Boat Launch & Swim Pool 8.3 • Whiting Boat House .5 	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable* - dependent on specific use. May serve both City residents and other nearby communities.	Variable

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A community's recreational programs and activities play an important part of the life of community. No physical or policy barriers should exist that keep people with disabilities from participating. The City of Neenah is committed to providing ample recreational options for persons with disabilities, but also recognize that some trails and non-play areas may not be conducive to such improvements due to topography and other site factors.

When new recreational facilities or alterations to existing facilities and amenities are made, they both must comply with the and comply with **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** standards. It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department to implement appropriate guidelines and recommendations for existing and future recreation facilities. Currently, not all park facilities, walkways, trails, play equipment, and restrooms are fully accessible for persons with disabilities. However, the City has made progress in improving such facilities, and continues to incorporate ADA standards into new or improved park facilities.

Survey Comment from Neenah Resident:

"We live in the Nature Trail subdivision off of Pendleton Road. We do not have any parks on our side of Breezewood Ln. We REALLY need a park with playground equipment on this side of Breezewood Ln. Our neighborhood continues to grow and we need to provide a safe place for kids to play. Crossing Breezewood Ln on bikes is not safe for young children. Walking to our closest park, which is Memorial, is not feasible for young children. PLEASE reconsider this decision that was vetoed last year!"

There are several outdoor recreation facilities that are currently under construction such as Arrowhead Park that will be accessible by all members in the community. These projects highlight the commitment of residents and the City to eliminate access or mobility barriers to outdoor recreation amenities.

The City will continue to incorporate ADA design standards into the development or expansion of parks which includes playground equipment or other amenities purchased and/or replaced as identified in the detailed master park plans. Parks where ADA has already been successfully implemented are Herb Dolly Park kayak launch, and in Washington Park playground, splashpad, and ball diamond.

Careful attention should be given to areas of the city where people with lesser means to ensure equal opportunity to be physical active. In many large cities, low income neighborhoods often lack quality recreational programs, playgrounds and parks. They can also be hindered in accessing nearby facilities by physical and land use barriers (i.e. transportation, water corridors and industry). Barriers in Neenah include, USH 41 which splits the City in half north/south while STH 114 runs east/west creating "quadrant neighborhoods". Railroad tracks that run along Harrison Street also is considered a barrier. Flashing beacons to calm traffic are located on STH 114 to allow for pedestrian and bicyclists crossing. Overpasses can be a hindrance if beacons are located at the end of a hill.

Over 98% of park users were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the condition of Neenah Parks.

TRENDS

Neenah Trends

When looking at what’s trending, we also look at livability measures and destination of the offerings. You consider “Sense of Place” and why you want to move or live there. Neenah has many activities to offer its residents. Here are the top 5 recreational activities based on **317** park users who completed the City Citizen Survey to be predicted to grow over the next five years:

1. Playgrounds
2. Walking Trails
3. Bicycle Trails
4. Pool Facility
5. Splashpad

In the surrounding areas there has been a growth of water activities such as swimming. Using trails for bicycling, running, and walking are still the most popular within the regional area. Nature Based activities have been on the rise as well with bird watching, hunting, camping, and fishing. Silent water sports such as kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding are also high on the list of what enthusiasts are doing with their free time. In the snow months snow shoeing, sledding, ice skating, and cross-country skiing round off the list of activities.

Youth sports and programming such as baseball, soccer, and tennis are still popular within the local communities. So how does Neenah measure up to the state?



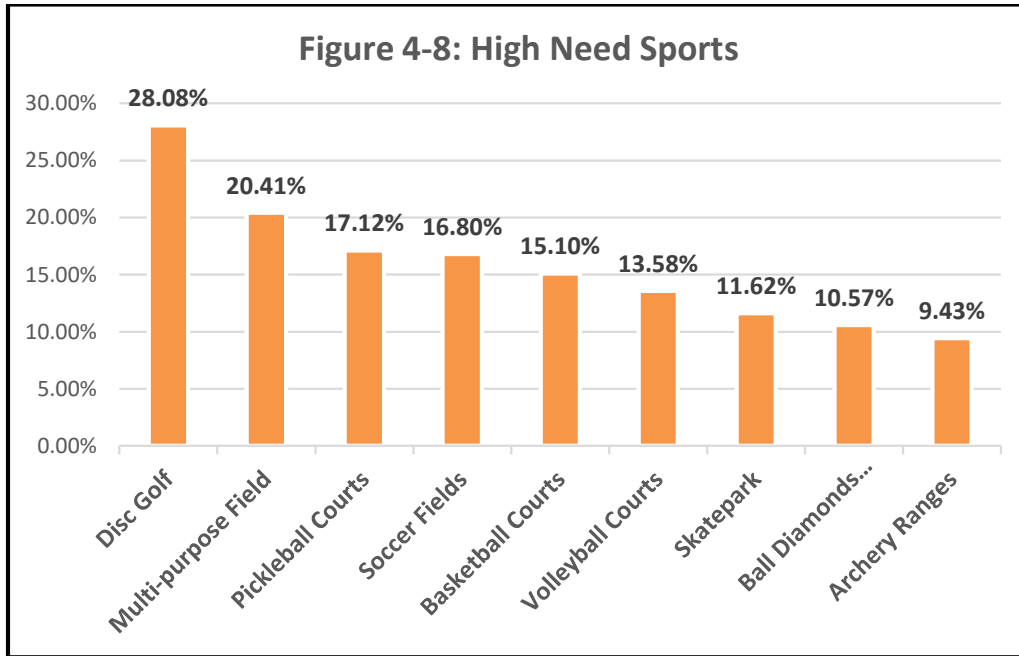
99.96% of Survey Participants said that **Neenah Parks have a positive impact on the community!**

Wisconsin Trends

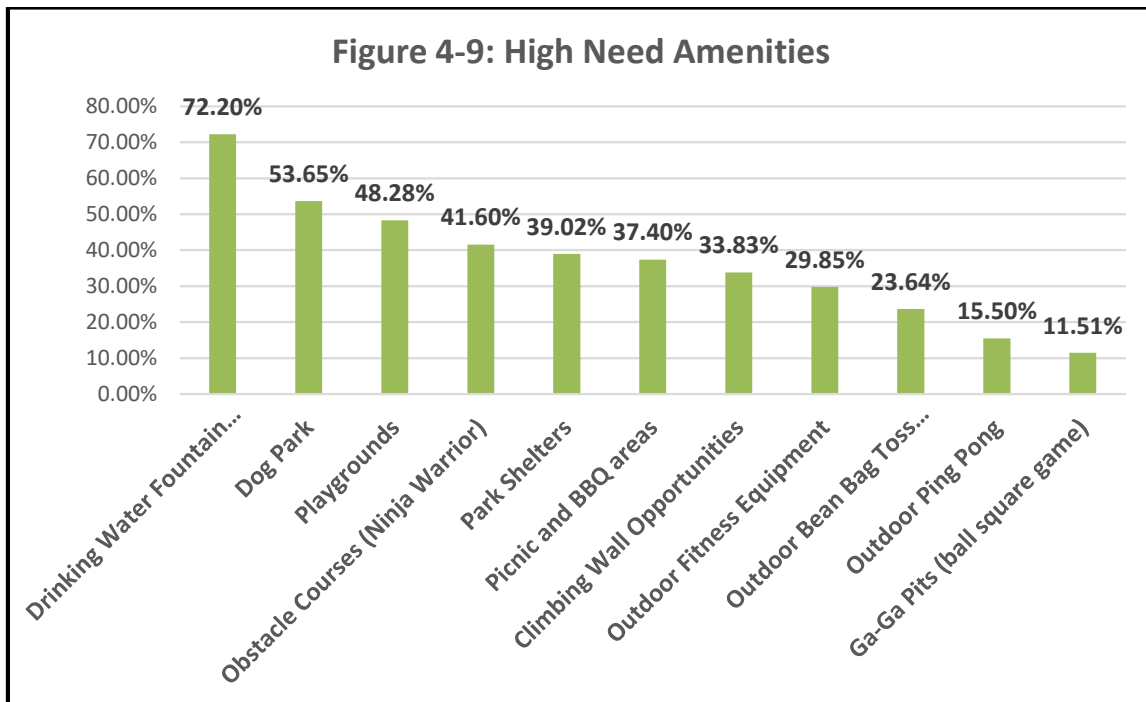
Activity group	% of WI residents that participated at least once in last 12 months
Hiking	68%
Hiking/walking/running on trails	
Nature observation	66%
Bird/wildlife watching	
Nature photography	
Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.	
Boating-related	61%
Motor boating	
Canoeing/kayaking	
Personal water craft (jet-ski)	
Sailing	
Stand-up paddle boarding	
Waterskiing	
Fishing	49%
Lake fishing	
Stream/river fishing	
Ice fishing	
Camping	41%
Tent camping	
RV/pop-up camping	
Dog-related activities	38%
Walking/running dog on trails	
Visiting a dog park	
Bicycling	35%
Bicycling on rail-trails or other developed trails	
Mountain biking	
Fat-tire biking/snow biking	
Hunting	27%
Big game hunting	
Turkey hunting	
Small game hunting	
Migratory bird hunting	
Motorized trail-based activities	25%
ATVs/UTVs on trails-routes	
Snowmobiling	
4-WD vehicles on trails-routes	
Motorcycles on trails-routes	

The community survey breaks down amenity and activity type that are in high demand. Here are the needs provided by participants:

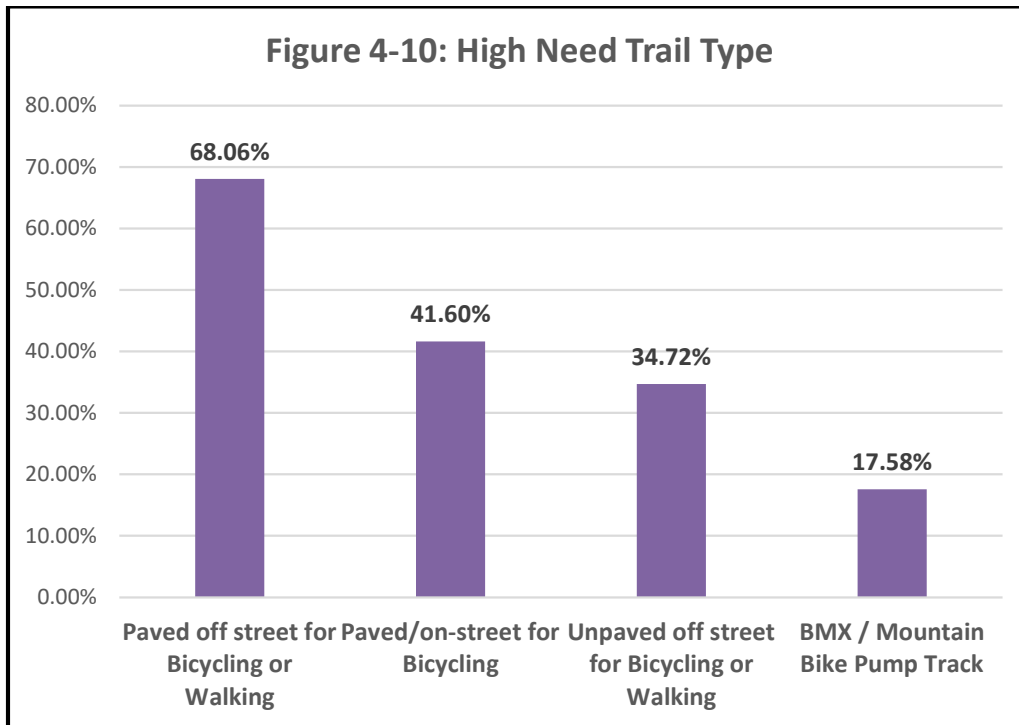
Sports



Park Amenities



Trails



Nature Areas

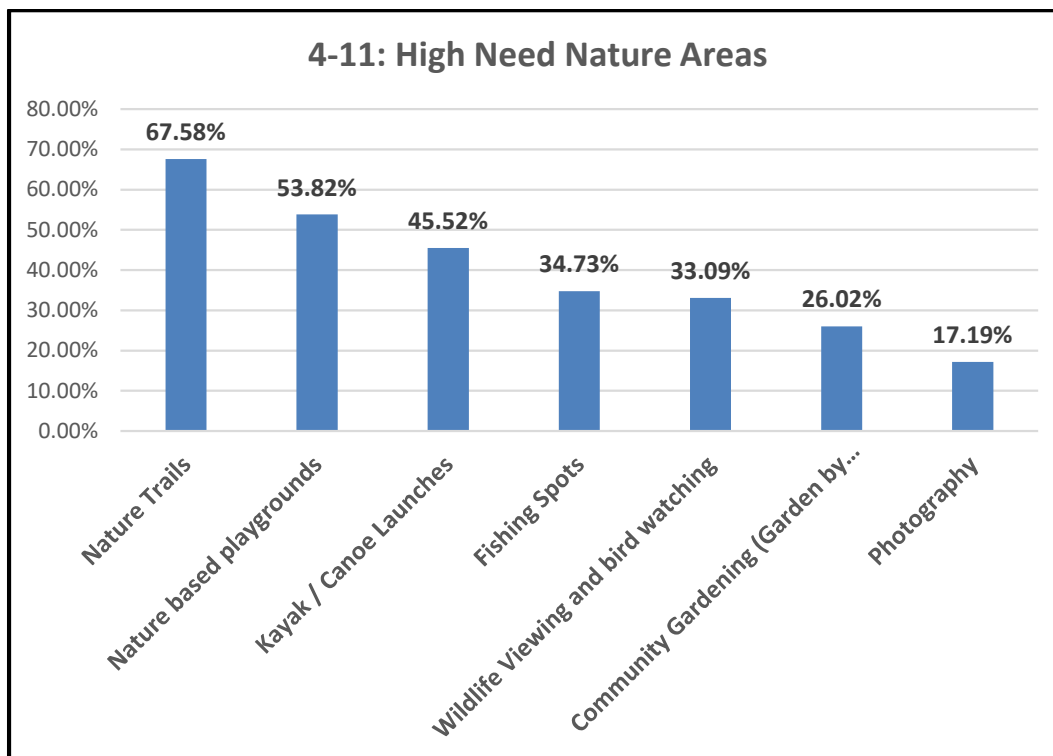
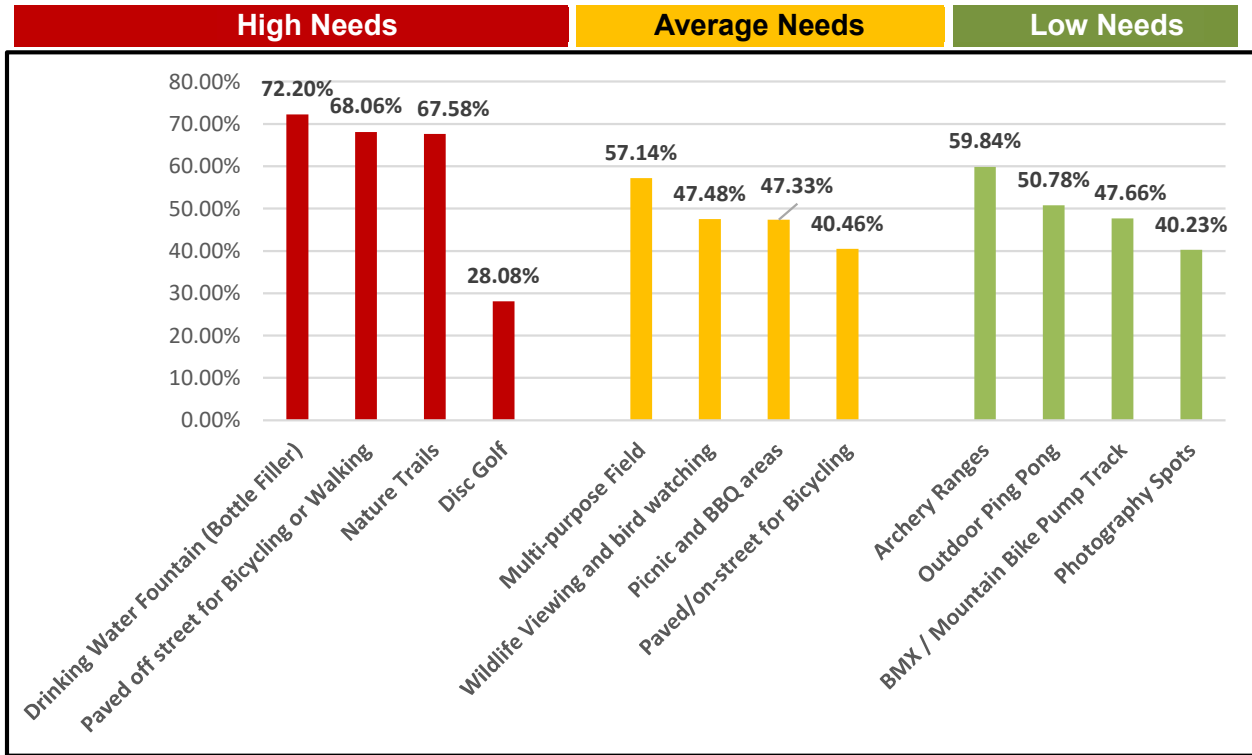


Figure 4-12: Top Park Needs by Category



The top needs for all park categories were to offer bottle filling stations at parks, more paved off-road trails, nature trails, and a disc golf course. Activities that City residents didn't feel they needed more of were archery, outdoor ping pong tables, a pump track, or designated photography spots. As trends and conditions change, along with population dynamics, flexibility to update parks and activities with the needs of the people is something the City of Neenah should strive for.

Statewide Trends

To effectively provide the right type of recreational activities and facilities, the City needs to better understand broader recreational trends. The graphic to the right reflects the statewide recreational trends from the *2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* and also identifies most participated in as well as what is needed in their county.

In expanding on facilities and how Neenah measures up to the County and the State, we can look at what activities people are participating in and what is needed within the City. Below is a table that compares these preferences. The city survey, SCORP, and Winnebago County statistics were used in the analysis.

5 Overarching Goals for Outdoor Recreation

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

Top 5 Favorite Wisconsin Outdoor Activities

1. Walking, hiking
2. Fishing
3. Hunting
4. Bicycling
5. Camping

Regional Needs in the Lake Winnebago Waters Region

- Bicycling –bicycling touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping –developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting –big game
- Motor boating (including waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Nature photography
- Participating in nature-based education programs
- Picnicking
- Swimming in lakes and rivers
- Visiting a beach, beach walking

Description of Lake Winnebago Waters Region

The Lake Winnebago Waters Region is centered on the Lake Winnebago watershed which includes the lakes of Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan as well as the Fox and Wolf rivers. Together, these waters are the major recreational resource within the region and draw visitors from throughout the state and beyond for boating, fishing, hunting, bird watching and more. The region is home to the popular sturgeon fishing season. Urban and suburban development within the region continue to grow in the Fox River Valley.

PARK IMPACT FEE LAW

Park and recreation needs may include the need for additional parkland to accommodate new facilities, the need for additional parks in areas not adequately served by existing facilities, or where new residential growth is occurring. This also may include the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Park Impact Fees are tool the City can utilize to assist in new park development before a subdivision is created.

Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0617 pertaining to park impact fees states:

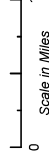
“A needs assessment that justifies why a fee should be imposed is required under section 66.017(4) a. A municipality may not impose a park fee in its subdivision ordinance as a condition of subdivision plat approval. Municipalities have authority under section 66.0617 to impose a fee on new land development for capital costs to construct, expand, or improve park facilities. This includes the cost of land for, among other things, parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields needed as the result of new development.” A municipality may enact an ordinance under this section that imposes impact fees on developers to pay for the capital costs that are necessary to accommodate land development.¹

¹ Wisconsin State Statutes, 66.017 <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/66/vi/0617>

Map 4 Level of Service Areas City of Neenah

- 1 Archery Range
- 2 Arrowhead Park
- 3 Bakwin Park
- 4 Bill Miller Park
- 5 Bill Miller Trail
- 6 Carpenter Preserve
- 7 Castle Oak Park
- 8 Community Gardens
- 9 Cook Park
- 10 Dog Park
- 11 Doby Park
- 12 Douglas Park
- 13 Fresh Air Park
- 14 Great Northern Park
- 15 Green Park
- 16 Herb and Dolly Smith Park
- 17 Island Park
- 18 Kimberly Point Park
- 19 Laudan Park
- 20 Liberty Park
- 21 Memorial Park
- 22 Quarry Park
- 23 Recreation Park
- 24 Riverside Park
- 25 Shutluck Park
- 26 Skate Park
- 27 Southview Park
- 28 Washington Park
- 29 Wilberness Park

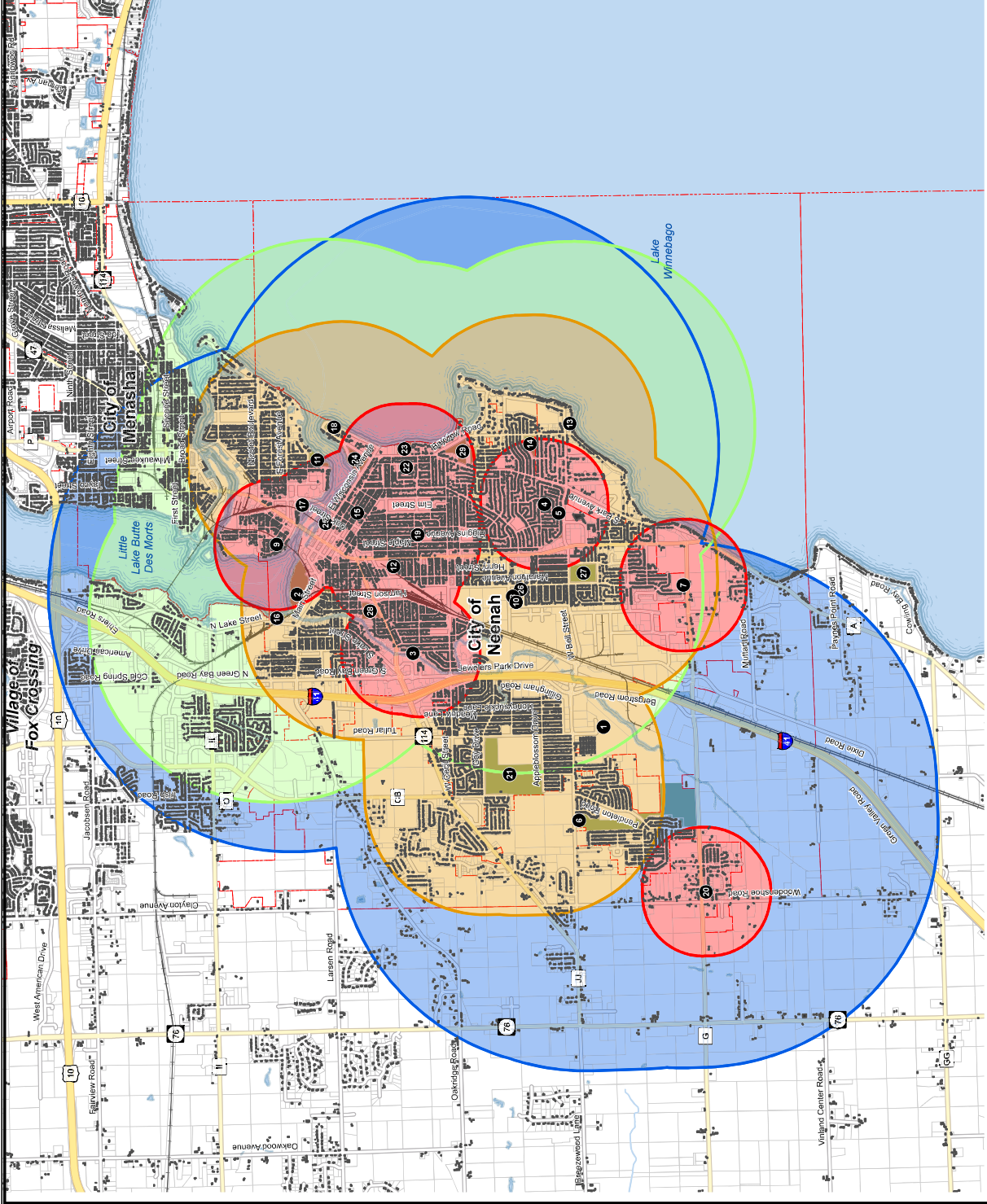
- Neighborhood Park, .5 Mile Service Area (16,029 people)
- Community Park 1 Mile Service Area (30,861 People)
- Special Facility 1.5 Mile Service Area (32,576 People)
- Nature Area 2 Mile Service Area (41,044 People)
- Residential Buildings



Source: Data was created from parcel data and trails provided by the City of Neenah. Building footprint downloaded from OpenStreetMap. Level of Service population from ESRI Business Analyst 2021. Base data provided by Regional Counties 2020.

This data was created for use by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Geographic Information System. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission disclaims all liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission business.

PREPARED JANUARY 2022 BY:

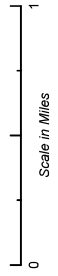


Map 5 Barriers City of Neenah

- 1 Archery Range
- 2 Arrowhead Park
- 3 Baklwin Park
- 4 Bill Miller Park
- 5 Bill Miller Trail
- 6 Carpenter Preserve
- 7 Castle Oak Park
- 8 Community Gardens
- 9 Cook Park
- 10 Dog Park
- 11 Doby Park
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- 21 Memorial Park
- 22 Quarry Park
- 23 Recreation Park
- 24 Riverside Park
- 25 Shutluck Park
- 26 Skate Park
- 27 Southview Park
- 28 Washington Park
- 29 Wilberness Park

Existing Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities

- Existing Trail
- Planned Facility
- Bike Lane
- Signed Bike Route
- Sidewalk
- Barriers
- Park
- Half Mile Park Buffer



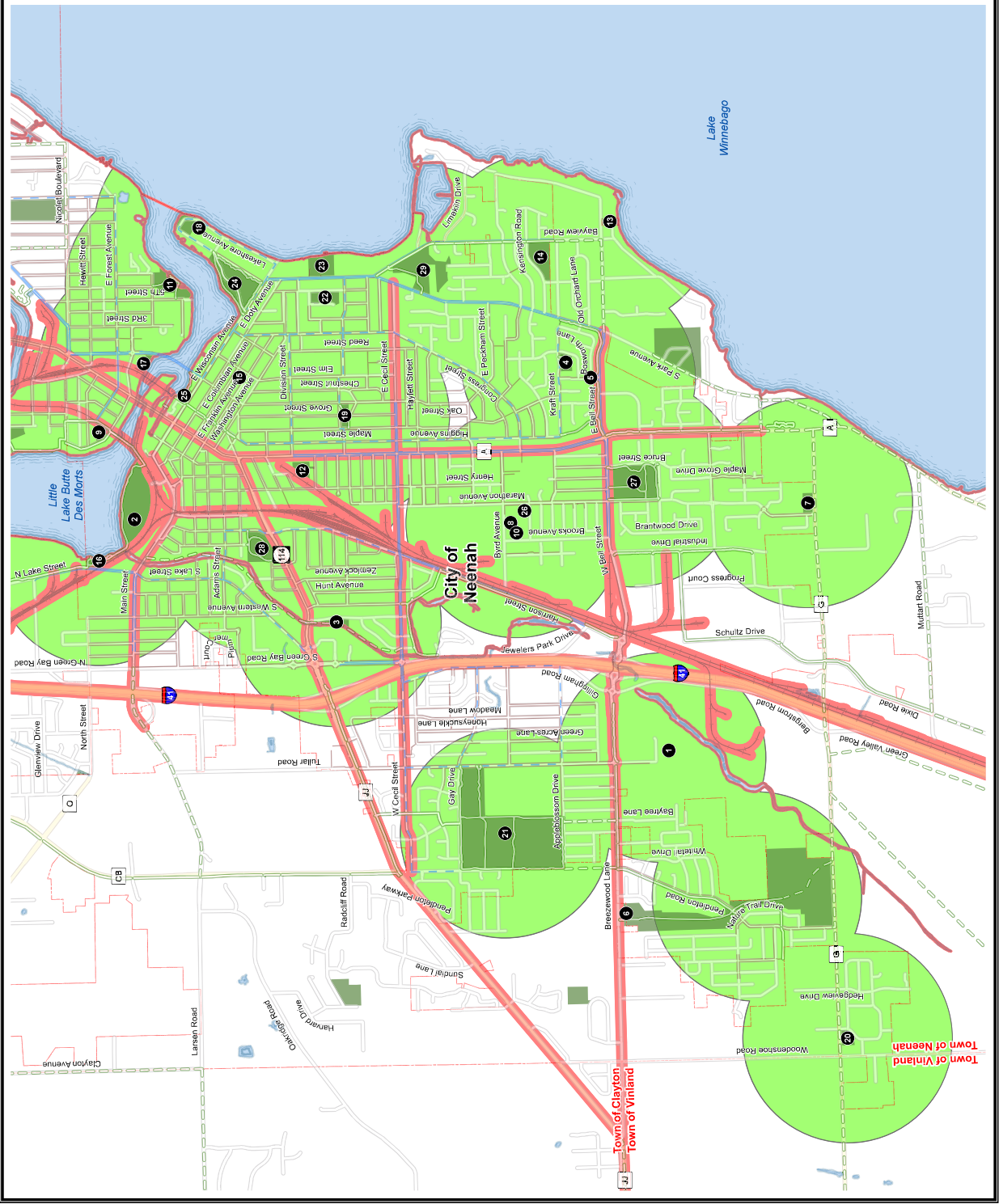
Source: Base data provided by Winnebago County 2020.

This data was created for use by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Geographic Information System. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. The East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission does not warrant the liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission business.

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311046_ECWRPCMap05Barriers_CityofNeenah_CARRS_S0202





CHAPTER 5

HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Chapter 5: Health Needs Assessment

2021 COUNTY HEALTH COMPONENTS AND STATISTICS

With obesity rates on the rise, Neenah’s need to promote active recreation should be a priority. From the 2021 Winnebago County Health Rankings^{1*}, (with 1 being the best), Winnebago County is rated 41 overall out of 72 for health outcomes and 16 out of 72 for health factors. When compared to the other counties in the state, these County Health Rankings illustrate what we know when it comes to what’s making people sick or healthy, but understanding the City of Neenah through Winnebago County’s rankings is only one component of improving the community’s health. The “*Roadmaps to Health*” Action Center provides tools to help groups work together to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. For example, In Winnebago County, the group “re:Th!nk Winnebago” is one such group who has started this process in working with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) on health in planning initiatives.

Improving community health requires people from multiple fields to work collaboratively on an ongoing cycle of activities. Communities may be at different points in this process. ECWRPC has developed a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Fox Cities to help guide this process. A plan of this nature will help fill in those voided connections residents are asking for while still planning for future active communities.

To enable and encourage the citizens of Neenah to be physically active, a **strengthening of support and funding** for the City’s Park and Recreation Department’s facilities, and recreational programming should be considered. “Park Prescriptions” along with a Mayoral Challenge could be written to encourage active use and enjoyment of the City Park and Recreation System. **Improvements**, that positively impact public health and recreation such as connecting parks and places with trails as well as park facilities that encourage exercise. And, thirdly, **maintenance** of heavily used facilities such as Riverside, Memorial and Washington Parks that need constant care as well as **development** of under used parks Quarry, and Douglas. All new facilities need to be ADA accessible according to Title III.

“Throughout COVID -19, Wisconsin municipalities reported an increase in trail permit sales by 50-70%! Of those surveyed, 70% of first time or infrequent park visitors said access to parks and open spaces were very important.” Source: “Take It Outside,” Wisconsin Policy Forum

Careful attention should be given to areas of the city where people with lesser means to ensure equal opportunity to be physical active. In many large cities, low income neighborhoods often lack quality recreational programs, playgrounds and parks. They can also be hindered in accessing nearby facilities by physical and land use barriers (i.e. transportation, water corridors and industry). Barriers in Neenah include, USH 41 which splits the City in half north/south while STH 114 runs east/west creating “quadrant neighborhoods”. Railroad tracks that run along Harrison Street also is considered a barrier. Flashing beacons to calm traffic are located on

¹ <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/wisconsin/2021/rankings/winnebago/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

STH 114 to allow for pedestrian and bicyclists crossing. Overpasses can be a hindrance if beacons are located at the end of a hill.

Continued support with community partnerships such as sport clubs, organizations, non-profits, citizen groups, companies, and other interested parties to develop, fund and operate recreation programs, leagues, and events are keys to success. These partnerships are invaluable in helping to provide opportunities for people to be physically active.

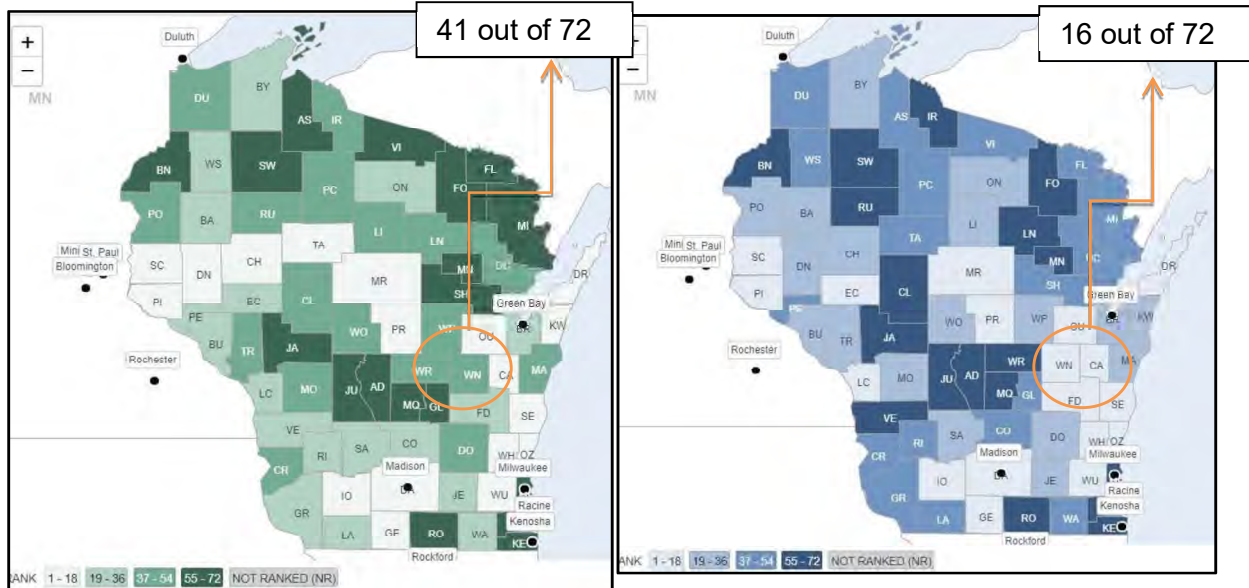
Parks, playgrounds, and open spaces provide opportunities for physical activity. However, the presence of facilities is not enough to make sure they are being used for the greatest benefit of all. Factors such as location, accessibility, programming, connectivity, safety and aesthetics all play a role in the use of public facilities. By incorporating natural and design elements that have cultural or homeland meaning, will also help represent minority populations. Investing in consistent/uniform signage that aids people in identifying trails, places to be active, and other rec opportunities, should be considered. Promoting and marketing concepts should be developed along with the funding resources identified such as studies done through the Transform Wisconsin grant program.

Figure 5-1 demonstrates where the County stands in the state as compared to the other 72 counties with 1 being the healthiest. Factors such as smoking, obesity rates, drinking excessively, STD's and motor vehicle crashes make up the first map, while outcomes such as premature death, poor to fair health, poor physical days, low birth weight, and poor mental days are shown on the second map. The rankings comparing the rest of the state are as follows:

Multi-modal transportation such as walking, biking, and public transportation can also help enhance the health and overall physical activity of all residents, by improving air quality and the environment, and reducing overall traffic congestion. Numerous Neenah residents choose to walk, bike, and/or utilize public transportation as a primary means of transportation due to cost of vehicle ownership and maintenance, environmental choice, healthy lifestyle choice, etc. These types of initiatives are recognized at the state, national, and international-level to create safe, convenient, affordable, and fun opportunities for residents to walk, bike, and/or utilize public transportation as a primary means of transportation. Health and safety should be a priority concern to the citizens of Neenah. Safe Routes to School programs can assist communities and encourage children to walk and bike to school.



Figure 5-1: Overall County Health Outcomes and Factors Ratings



According to a publication from the Trust for Public Land, there are 8 ways that parks can improve your overall health:

1. Parks increase exercise. People who live closer to parks are shown to exercise more as the opportunity is there and people who regularly use parks get more exercise than people who don't.
2. Most moderate exercise takes place in parks, approximately 12%. Parks are where people get the kind of exercise their bodies need most.
3. Parks reduce stress and clear the mind. Outdoor areas boost focus and promote relaxation as the term being one with nature implies.
4. A park makeover with aesthetically pleasing spaces encourages use and promotes public health habits.
5. A variety of amenities can attract different users, i.e. skateparks, basketball & tennis courts, baseball, paths, and therefore encourage fun activities.
6. Dedicated fitness zone exercise areas encourage exercise and increase park use. The City of Neenah just put in workout benches at Washington Park where parents can get in reps while watching their kids play on the playground. Body fitness stations are becoming popular to encourage adults to workout.
7. Supervised activities and programming maximize a park's public health benefit. Getting people out and moving in a fun active setting is the best medicine.

8. Exercise is one of the cheapest ways to stay healthy. By promoting healthy habits, parks can help reduce health care costs.

BENEFITS OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

Numerous researchers have attempted and succeeded in a number of cases presenting scientific evidence that parks and open space have a number of benefits including community benefits, individual benefits, economic benefits, and environmental benefits. Community benefits can be considered those that bring a positive result to a group of people. Individual benefits are the exact opposite providing a direct result to a single person. Economic benefits, for this report, mean effects of park and open space in attracting investment, tourism, and direct positive effects to property values. Finally, environmental benefits are those that show the economic benefits of protecting and enhancing existing natural areas. These benefits are illustrated to show citizens and property developers alike the direct impact parks and open space have to the City of Neenah Residents and the Fox Valley Region.

Community Benefits

- Green spaces build community. Research shows that residents of neighborhoods with greenery in common spaces are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties than those who live surrounded by barren concrete. (Trust for Public Land 2006)
- Communities with natural areas and open spaces are considered good places for children and offer high quality of life to all residents.
- Community recreation reduces alienation, loneliness, and anti-social behavior. Recreation facilities keep at-risk youth off the streets, give them a safe environment to interact with peers. (The At-risk Youth Recreation Project 1996)
- Recreation provides opportunities for community involvement, and shared management and ownership of resources.
- Recreation opportunities, facilities and the quality of the local environment are the foundations of community pride.
- More than 4 in 5 people agreed that **parks and recreation are an essential** local government service².

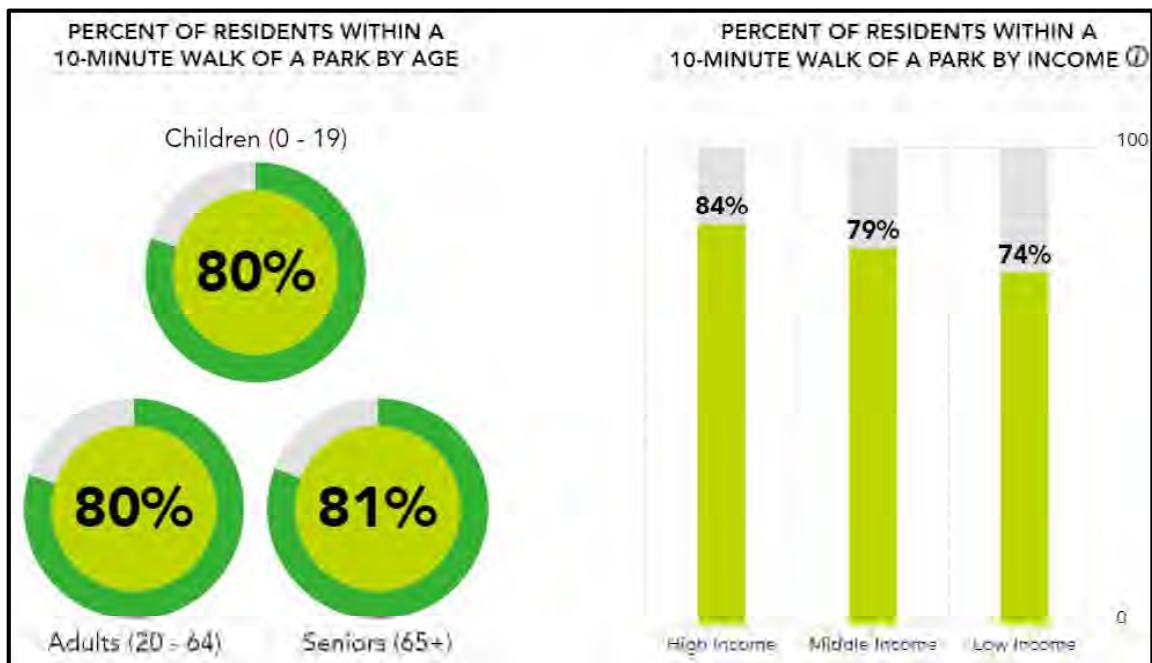
Individual Benefits

- Contributes to a resident's overall well-being and health by providing the opportunity for recreational activities.

² <https://www.nrpa.org/globalassets/2020-engagement-report.pdf>

- People visit their local park and recreation facilities more than **twice a month**, on average, with **1 in 10 visiting at least weekly**, if not daily.³
- Adults living within ½ mile of a park visit parks and exercise more often than those living further away. According to the Trust for Public Lands, 79% of Neenah residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park⁴. This is above the national average of 55%.
- Enhances the quality of residents' lives.
 - Provides opportunities to experience and observe nature.
 - Provides opportunities for learning and living a more balanced life.
 - Provides a place for stress reduction, rest, relaxation, and revitalization through recreation.

Figure 5-1: Walkability by Age and Income to a Neenah Park



Source: Trust for Public Lands

Economic Benefits

Attracts Investment

³ <https://www.nrpa.org/globalassets/2020-engagement-report.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.tpl.org/city/neenah-wisconsin>

- Parks and open space enhance the quality of life, which attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities. Businesses like the Hilton and Alta Resources noted Neenah’s renovation of Shattuck Park as a primary reason for their company’s re-investment in their Neenah downtown locations.
- Small company owners say recreation, parks, and open space are the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business. (Trust for Public Land, *Economic Benefits Report*)

Attracts Tourism

- Recreation and park services are often the catalyst for tourism, a growing sector of the economy. For instance, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism saw a 2.75% increase of direct visitor spending within Winnebago County from 2018-2019 as well as total business sales of a 3.21% increase during the same time period.
- **Visitors create direct economic values within the recreation sector as this supports the overall GDP of jobs, wages and taxes that are spent⁵.**

Increases Property Values

Numerous studies have indicated the positive effect of parks on property values:

- A study by Frank and Sielski on Washington County, Wisconsin parks found that for properties within 200 feet of an “active recreation park” assessed value increased \$113.00/foot. Within 2,600 feet of a “passive recreation park,” assessed values increased \$4.96/foot.

Environmental Benefits

Reduces Flooding

- Natural areas reduce the rate and volume of stormwater runoff, which reduces incidents and severity of flooding. Stream flows decrease by 3.7% for every 1% increase in protected wetlands along a stream corridor.
- Trees in Neenah Parks and public right of ways intercept 2,646,510 gallons of water annually, providing a savings of \$71,726. (Analysis conducted using iTree Streets from USDA Forest Service.)

Enhances Air Quality

- Street and Park trees in Neenah capture 365 tons of atmospheric CO₂ per year. The trees remove 182 lbs. of particulate matter, 329 lbs. of ozone, 15 lbs. of sulfur dioxide and 56 lbs. of nitrogen oxides, for an annual savings of \$62,127.

⁵ <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/research/economic-impact>

Successful parks usually have five elements associated with them. They are engaging, adaptable, authentic, connected and iconic. They should be connected to a larger amenity infrastructure of sidewalks, bike paths, green spaces, streetscapes and mixed-use environments that connect neighborhoods, employment centers and cultural districts.

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CHAPTER 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 6: Recommendations

Within this chapter you will find a list of accomplishments from the previous CORP and a list of recommendations moving forward. Rationales for the recommendations were obtained from the Park and Recreation Commission park audits and the public survey results.

The recommendations proposed in this plan are intended to serve as a guide for future development and maintenance of the parks and recreation areas within the city. Although, some recommendations may not be feasible in the near future, they represent action that should be taken if the opportunity or need arises. Recommendations that are feasible are included in the City's 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan, Chapter 7, Table 7-1. Recommendations should be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Commission to accommodate for changing public needs, financial consideration and priorities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM LAST PLAN

ARROWHEAD PARK

1. **Revised Concept Park Plan:** COMPLETED 2017
Includes: an access road into the park, shoreline restoration, and stormwater management. Path systems, water access, gathering spaces, play equipment, project building locations, amphitheater.
2. **Trail:** Construct trestle bridge connecting park to Doty Island. COMPLETED 2018
3. **Signage:** Work with the Navigate Neenah group to add way-finding and history signage. COMPLETED 2020



Arrowhead trestle connection

CASTLE OAK PARK – Playground equipment installation. COMPLETED 2018

COOK PARK – Acquisition of 401, 409, 415 E N Water St. COMPLETED 2020

DOTY PARK – Cabin work: replace chinking and reseal logs; clean and treat roof. COMPLETED 2017; Court redevelopment COMPLETED 2021

DOG PARK: Land has been acquired for the development of a dog park. COMPLETED 2020

GREEN PARK – Overlay of 2 pickleball courts. COMPLETED 2018

KIMBERLY POINT PARK

1. **Lake trail was developed** connecting Lakeshore Drive as a bike / pedestrian facility (CIP 2021, 2022)
2. Remove playground. REMOVED 2019

LIBERTY PARK –

1. Landscape: Grade and seed open space. COMPLETED 2018
2. Playground: Install playground equipment. COMPLETED 2018
3. Basketball ½ court. COMPLETE 2017

MEMORIAL PARK

1. **AMPHITHEATER:** Remove or update the benches depending on use.
2. **TULLAR PLAYGROUND:** Replace worn out play equipment. (CIP 2021)

REC PARK BOAT LAUNCH - Install wash station to control invasive species. COMPLETED 2018

SKATEPARK - Redesign and renovate. COMPLETED 2016

SOUTHVIEW PARK

1. **PLAYGROUND:** Install playground equipment. COMPLETED 2017

WASHINGTON PARK: Master Plan and full park redevelopment. COMPLETED 2019



Washington Park splashpad

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for specific sites, based on present and projected needs, and the physical parameters of each site.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (9)

BALDWIN PARK

1. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance. (CIP 2023)
2. **SHELTER:** Consider shade canopy.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1 (Action Plan)

BILL MILLER PARK

1. **AMENITIES:** Add benches.
2. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance.
3. **SIGNAGE:** Add way-finding signs to the Bill Miller Trail connection.
4. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1

CASTLE OAK PARK

1. **SHELTER:** Install shade canopy. (CIP 2016)
2. **SHELTER** Consider an open-air shelter with picnic tables.
3. **SIGNAGE:** Install signage.
4. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1



Castle Oak Park playground

COOK PARK

1. **ACQUISITION:** Consider adding parcels at 405 E N Water St.
2. **SHELTER:** Replace existing shelter to provide restrooms and shade. (CIP 2023)
3. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance. (CIP 2023)
4. **SURVEY:** Perform a certified survey to establish park and newly acquired property lines.
5. **SIGNAGE:** Place park sign on Water Street and enhance. Relocate the stone monument so that it is featured better.
6. **TRAIL:** Consider a connection to the Loop the Lake Trail.
7. **PARKING:** Once additional lots are acquired; a small parking lot should be added.
8. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 2 Objectives 1 and 2, Public Survey (Action Plan)

DOUGLAS PARK

1. **SURVEY:** Perform a certified survey to establish property lines.
2. **ACQUISITION:** Consider 9 parcels at 125,129,133,137,141,145,149,153 Douglas St and Commercial St. Lot 3.
3. **PARKING:** Explore parking options.
4. **SIGNAGE:** Update the park sign to be consistent with the rest in the City; add a park sign at entrance from Douglas and Henry Streets.
5. **TRAIL:** Add a paved trail to shelter and playground once parking lot goes in.
6. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance.
7. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey (Action Plan)

GREEN PARK

1. **SHELTER:** Address accessibility and aesthetics.
2. **PLAYGROUND:** Replace, make ADA compliant. (CIP 2025)
3. **TENNIS COURTS:** Address accessibility.
4. **SHADE:** Add more trees next to playground.
5. **OPEN AREA:** Multi-use field or bicycle playground could be built as the park is close to schools.
6. **LANDSCAPING:** Planters need to be maintained and repaired.
7. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need (Action Plan)

LAUDAN PARK

1. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance. (CIP 2023)
2. **SHELTER:** Install shade canopy.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need (Action Plan)

LIBERTY PARK

1. **SHELTER:** Install shade canopy. (CIP 2017)
2. **SHELTER** Consider a small open shelter next to playground.
3. **SIGNAGE:** Install signage.
4. **RECEPTACLES:** Add garbage cans and recycling bins.
5. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1



Liberty Park playground

QUARRY PARK

1. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance.
2. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need (Action Plan)

COMMUNITY PARKS (6)

DOTY PARK

1. **SHORELINE:** Continue to restore and protect east 225' with filter fabric and rip rap.
2. **SHELTER:** Enhance reservation shelter with addition of outside patio / arbor. Upgrade rest rooms.
3. **PLAYGROUND:** Replace. (CIP 2024)
4. **AMENITIES:** Install a wash station to control invasive species.
5. **DOTY CABIN:** Purchase inventory software and inventory all artifacts; consider management agreement with Neenah Historical Society.
6. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Needs (Action Plan)

GREAT NORTHERN PARK

No projects.

MEMORIAL PARK

1. **LANDSCAPE:** Continue removal of invasive plants in natural areas.
2. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance.
3. **PLAYGROUND:** Update the Tullar Road Play Equipment. (CIP 2021)
4. **TRAILS:** Add ¼ mile and ½ mile markers on paved trail; add markers for trail in woods. Clean up the entrance at the trailhead to make trail more inviting.
5. **AMPHITHEATER:** Remove or update the benches depending on use.
6. **TULLAR SHELTER:** Consider updating
7. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 2 Objectives 1 and 2

RIVERSIDE PARK

1. **PLAYGROUND:** Consider adding tot play equipment.
2. **LIGHTING:** Evaluate and improve park lighting.

3. **BENCHES:** Add benches to the east side of the trail.
4. **HISTORY:** Add a wooden sign explaining the artillery piece located next to the river.
5. **SIGNAGE:** Replace park sign as it is worn.
6. **MAINTENANCE:** Paint for benches, add newer hand dryers in restrooms, and fix worn seawall areas.
7. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Needs, High Park Usage (Action Plan)

SOUTHVIEW PARK

1. **TENNIS COURTS:** Resurface. (CIP 2022)
2. **SHELTER:** Construct new pavilion. (CIP 2019)
3. **PARKING:** Construct new parking lot. (CIP 2019)
4. **PLAYGROUND:** Evaluate equipment for upgrades and ADA compliance. COMPLETED 2017
5. **MAINTENANCE:** Take out volleyball posts if not used, paint restroom doors, add more landscaping along with picnic tables and grills.
6. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1



Southview Park basketball court

WASHINGTON PARK

1. **BUILDING:** HVAC replacement. (CIP 2024)
2. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS (6)

ARROWHEAD PARK

1. **PARK PLAN:** Implement recommendations as described in the 2017 Conceptual Master Park Plan and outlined in the City's Capital Improvement Plan. (CIP 2021–1025)
2. **ALTERNATIVE FUNDS:** Continue to search for alternative funding.
3. **SIGNAGE:** Add wayfinding signage from Main Street to direct users to the park.
RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3 Objectives 1 and 4 (Action Plan)

CARPENTER PRESERVE

1. **CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN:** Revisit and update. (CIP 2023)
2. **PHASE 1 and 2:** As determined by Master Plan. (CIP 2024) and 2025
3. **SIGNAGE:** Add signs for access off of Pendleton.
4. **TRAILS:** Remove buckthorn and invasive species throughout trail and provide markers and a kiosk map at parking areas. Add boardwalks on the south for wetland passage and maintenance throughout.
5. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 2 Objectives 1 and 2, Goal 3, Objective 1, Public Survey (Action Plan)

FRESH AIR PARK

1. **PARKING:** Rebuild road and lot. Include speedbumps to hinder speeding. (CIP 2021)

2. **RESTROOM/CHANGING FACILITY:** As funding provides.
3. **PICNIC TABLES:** Add more picnic tables and create an area for grilling.
4. **RECEPTACLES:** Add garbage and recycle bins near the beach and picnic area.
5. **BEACH:** Maintain and rake the beach area and line from the grass area.
6. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Comments (Action Plan)



Herb & Dolly Smith Park trail

HERB & DOLLY SMITH PARK

1. **SIGNAGE:** Add park signage from N Lake Street heading north from Main.
2. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 3

ISLAND PARK (2022)

1. **PATHWAYS:** Parking lot connection to waters edge, First Street Connection.
2. **RESTROOM:** Add a Huff Cutt unisex restroom with canopy.
3. **RAILINGS:** Add ADA assessible fishing cut outs along water edge.
4. **AMENITIES:** Add in game tables (chess/checkers/dominoes) with chairs.
5. **PICNIC TABLES:** Add more picnic tables and benches.
6. **SIGNAGE:** Incorporate way-finding and history signage in conjunction with Navigate Neenah.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 3



Wilderness Park Trail from Bayview Road

WILDERNESS PARK

1. **RESTORATION PLAN:** Continue removal of invasive plants; restore native vegetation.
2. **SIGNAGE:** Add trail markers and sign off of Bayview Rd.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 3

SPECIAL USE PARKS (6)

ARCHERY RANGE

1. **TRAIL:** Add a concrete path area to shooting platform.
2. **TARGETS:** Consider more targets and designating shooting lanes.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 3

DOG PARK: Develop the newly acquired land next to skateboard park. (CIP 2021-2023)

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 5, Objective 1, Public Survey Comments

KIMBERLY POINT PARK

1. **TRAIL:** Address connecting Lakeshore Drive bike / pedestrian facility (CIP 2021, 2022)
2. **LIGHTHOUSE:** Upgrade to protect structure and function. (CIP 2023)

3. **RESTROOMS:** Update the restroom facilities. (CIP 2023)
4. **PIER / BREAKWALL:** Study the long-term solution for protecting the pier. Allow more access to the water. (CIP 2023)
5. **PLAYGROUND:** Convert to a nice toddler play area.
6. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 3 (Action Plan)

REC PARK BOAT LAUNCH

1. **PARKING LOT:** Evaluate condition and reconstruct as necessary.
2. **BREAKWALL/LAUNCH DREDGING:** Evaluate the cost effectiveness of installing a south break wall vs. conducting dredging every 10-15 years
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1

REC PARK POOL

1. **MAINTENANCE:** Grates. (CIP 2021)
2. **AMENITIES:** Add second water slide; internal piping is in place.
3. **AMENITIES:** Add chair lift and railing for accessibility
4. **AMENITIES:** Replace sand/play equipment. (CIP 2022)
5. **MAINTENANCE:** Replace boilers; refurbish basin to extend life. (CIP 2022, 2023)
6. **MAINTENANCE:** Slides. (CIP 2021)
7. **MAINTENANCE:** Diving board (CIP 2024)replacement.
8. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey, High Pool Usage (Action Plan)



Neenah Pool Aerial View

SHATTUCK PARK

1. **SHELTER:** Concrete repair and treatment. (CIP 2021)
2. **FOUNTAIN:** Remove and replace existing fountain with splash pad equipment. (CIP 2021/2022)
3. **SHORELINE:** Replace light bollards with more substantial fixtures.
4. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1 (Action Plan)

SKATEPARK: No projects.

WHITING BOAT HOUSE

1. **MAINTENANCE:** Repair pillars and paint exterior; replace storm and sanitary sewers. (CIP 2015)
2. **DRAINAGE:** Parking lot needs redirection of water to prevent flooding from occurring. A collection basin or rain garden could assist with drainage.
3. **RATIONALE:** Goal 1, Objective 1

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

RATIONALE: Goal 5, Objectives 1, 2, and 3

INDOOR RECREATION / COMMUNITY CENTER:

Demand for year-round recreation continues to rise, consider acquiring land/vacant building for a community center. (Master Plan for Arrowhead Park.) Potential options may include Shattuck Middle School or Horace Mann once the new high school is constructed and operating.



Gateway Plaza Ice Skating Rink construction

GATEWAY PLAZA: A new skating rink is being built in the downtown area that was donated by Bergstrom. It will mimic Rockefeller Plaza's skating rink in New York. This facility is not maintained or owned by the city.

New Ideas:

- Edible Forest – Fruit Trees at parks (urban garden)
- Disc Golf Course
- Sculpture Walk and Garden – incorporate history of Neenah
- Bicycle Playground and Safety Course
- Mountain Bike course

PARK LAND ACQUISITION

RATIONALE Goal 5, Objectives 1 and 2

ADDITIONS TO EXISTING SITES - If private/public property adjacent to the following parks becomes available, acquisition should be explored.

1. **COOK:** Parcel at 405 E. N. Water St.
2. **DOUGLAS:** Parcels at 121, 125, 129, 133, 137, 141, 145, 149, 153 Douglas St., and 709, 713, 717, 721, 725, 729, 731, and 741 S. Commercial Street.
3. **WASHINGTON:** Parcels adjacent along the Neenah Creek.
4. **CARPENTER PRESERVE:** Parcel north of the play area is owned by the school district.
5. **NEW PARK LAND:** New park land will be necessary as the City grows. The Park and Recreation Commission's park land acquisition strategy is reflected in the Neenah 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The areas of greatest interest for growth are in the Northwest and Southwest of Interstate 41 and the Southeast portion of the city. Approximately 28.97 dedicated accessible acres are needed by 2040 as listed in Chapter 4, Needs Assessment, Table 4-4.

While the City has over 390 acres available, location, accessibility, usability, and barriers inhibit safe passage creating park deserts. A “park desert” exists between Cecil Street on the north and Bell/Breezewood to the south and from S. Park Ave. west to Tullar Road with Interstate 41 and the Railroad corridor creating north/south barriers. The City should explore opportunities to secure family orientated park lands within these boundaries.

The Commission believes the best acquisition strategy is to target areas where residential growth is most likely to occur, (western boundary), and to explore park land acquisition before expansion occurs. This allows for the most economical purchase, as well as for appropriate planning and implementation of park development. Any new subdivision that a developer builds, must include stormwater ponds and green space, Chapter 25 of the municipal code.¹

Reserving new land for park space are also listed as recommendations in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan:

Objective CF 4.3: Select and reserve future park locations now so new neighborhoods will develop around them.

Recommendation CF 4.3.1: Continue to expand park and recreational infrastructure as the City expands outward.

Recommendation CF 4.3.2: Provide park facilities for existing neighborhoods that are under-served, particularly in the northwest and south-central areas of the City. Identify future park land if existing parkland does not exist. (See recommendation LU 1.8.2)

Recommendation CF 4.3.3: Identify locations for future neighborhood parks in the southwest and northwest City growth areas. (See recommendation LU 1.8.1)

Recommendation CF 4.3.4: The City should take measures to ensure the preservation of natural areas. Where it is feasible, natural areas should be targeted for acquisition and inclusion as part of the park and open space system, particularly when these areas are threatened by urban development. (See recommendation LU 1.8.3)

In working in partnership with Neenah Community Development, Plan Commission, Neenah Schools, and the surrounding communities, the ability to expand park and recreation infrastructure as the City's population grows will be invaluable. A possible new park facility located on the Future Land Use map is proposed west of the Nature Trails subdivision along Nature Trail Drive and Bluebird Ct. This would fill a park void on the westside.



¹ https://library.municode.com/wi/neenah/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=SPBLADERE_CH25SUOTLADI

LINEAR RECREATION – NEENAH TRAILS SYSTEM

RATIONALE: Goal 2, Objectives 1 and 2

The Neenah Trails Task Force produced a report in 1997 with recommendations for on-street bike lanes and off-street trails. The City has been making efforts to implement and update the plan since its adoption. The City of Neenah currently has close to 9 miles of marked bike lanes and 18 miles of off-street trails.

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that a well-connected trail system contributes to community health, transportation and recreation. The City participated in the planning process for the 2014 East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, to be updated in 2022, and is an active member of the consortium that produces the Trails of the Fox Cities.



Commercial Street road diet

From the Community Facilities Chapter of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, these trail recommendations were listed:

CF 4.2: Develop a green grid system of trails, paths, and routes that will allow non-motorized travel to activity centers throughout the community. Integrate this local system with a larger regional network, and educate the public on the benefits of its use.

- *Recommendation CF 4.2.1: Continuously update the 1997 Neenah Trails Task Force Plan for on-street bicycle facilities and off-road trails. Implement recommendations from the updated plan. (See recommendation T 2.5.3)*
- *Recommendation CF 4.2.2: Increase opportunities for safe walking and biking, by linking key destinations in the City and providing access to regional trails. (See recommendation LU 1.6.1, T 2.2.2, ED 2.5.1)*
- *Recommendation CF 4.2.3: Consider future trails in such areas as:*
 - *West Bell Street*
 - *Breezewood Lane*
 - *Harrison Street*
 - *Lakeshore Avenue*
 - *Along the Neenah Slough*
 - ***Cecil Street to Harrison (multi-use)***

- **Recommendation CF 4.2.4:**
Efforts should also continue toward the development of trails which would connect to locations and facilities outside of the City, such as Winnebago County's WIOUWASH Trail, the CB Trail, Loop the Little Lake Trail and trails and routes in Oshkosh and throughout the Fox Cities. (See recommendation LU 1.6.1)
- **Recommendation CF 4.2.5:**
Develop a marketing and education program to encourage the use of the trails in a safe manner.



Loop the Lakes Trail from Arrowhead Park Trestle - Plexus



Lakeshore Trail to Kimberly Point

General Recommendations

From 2040 Comp Plan: RATIONALE: All Goals

- Regular park maintenance and upgrades.
 - Continue to partner with the Neenah Joint School District for the use of facilities, including recreational facilities and explore new collaborative efforts.
 - Voids exist currently in the ½ mile walking distance to neighborhood parks in some areas of the City and these should be addressed.
 - Consider addressing park and recreational needs that were identified as part of the Neenah city-wide parks and recreation survey completed in 2021.
- Utilize the existing water resources in the downtown area to increase recreational opportunities.
 - Continue to expand park and recreational infrastructure as the City expands outward.
 - Consider needs and enhancements for park and recreational facilities identified during the public visioning workshops.
 - Neenah's parks were identified as a community asset in the public visioning process.

What If Scenarios.... The Next Five Years

“What If Scenarios” can give the City a snapshot if a project can be accomplished in the timeframe suggested. We can take the CIP and current improvements listed to estimate the probability of completing the project in the year stated and for the cost estimated. Simply put, a what-if scenario analysis is a way of measuring how changes in one parameter could affect another. Possible examples of these type of scenarios that could influence park improvements are:

- *What if there is a budget shortfall?*
- *What if the market costs for materials shift?*
- *What if the City doesn't receive a grant requested?*
- *What if the public reaction to the current park trends change?*
- *What if the City Council doesn't approve of the improvement in the timeframe?*

When a five-year budget is set and costs are estimated, if these goals and timeframes are not met, the City could pay more in the future for improvements. The same thing could happen if a grant is budgeted and not obtained giving half of the funding to support the project. This doubles the cost as time moves on with inflation for materials and labor. The risk of project loss and missed opportunities can make park improvements volatile.

An example of this is shown in Table 6-1 for Baldwin Park.

Table 6-1: Cost Scenarios for Baldwin Park

Baldwin Park	2022-2026	
Estimated Cost	Number of Years	Cost per Year
\$110,000	1	\$110,000
\$8,000	1	\$8,000
Additional Years	2% Cost Increase	Total Cost
Playground		
1 year 2027	\$22,000	\$132,000
2 years 2028	\$44,000	\$154,000
3 years 2029	\$66,000	\$176,000
4 years 2030	\$88,000	\$198,000
5 years 2031	\$110,000	\$220,000
Basketball Court		
1 year 2027	\$1,600	\$9,600
2 years 2028	\$3,200	\$11,200
3 years 2029	\$4,800	\$12,800
4 years 2030	\$6,400	\$14,400
5 years 2031	\$8,000	\$16,000

The Action Plan, Chapter 7, highlights parks and projects listed in the CIP. These are a “wish list” of specific park improvements and what the Park Commission felt as priority projects. The reality of these decisions is under some degree of uncertainty. Strategic planning for best case predictions needs a driving force. If the City can get public buy-in and raise funding besides grants, bond and general budget, the chances for success increases.

No one scenario is best fit so alternatives should be developed. Anticipating a few years ahead can either make or break the project.

Four Steps to Scenario Planning:

1. Identify Driving Forces
2. Identify Critical Uncertainties
3. Develop Plausible Scenarios
4. Discuss Implications and Paths

Figure 6-1: Planning Scenarios

Park Project Planning

	SCENARIO A	SCENARIO B	SCENARIO C
DRIVING FORCES	Budget	Grant	Public Buy-In
UNCERTAINTIES	Budget Cuts	Grant not obtained	Staff Shortages
PLAUSIBILITY	Funding is there	Grant Competition	Pay More
RESPONSE	Project started	Wait a year	Raise own funds

If funding is not obtained when needed for the years budgeted, it is likely the project will cost more in the long run. Contingencies in park planning can only cover so much. A tax increase is usually never favorable but could be a scenario. On average, in 2020, Neenah spent approximately \$75 per resident, or 1.3% of the budget² on parks and recreation. As the population grows, so does the need for recreational facilities.

² US 2020 Census Data, City of Neenah 2020 Park and Recreation Budget

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CHAPTER 7

ACTION PROGRAM

Chapter 7: Action Plan

5 YEAR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY 2022-2026

The projects listed in the following Table, comprise the action program set forth by the Neenah Parks and Recreation Commission for Council consideration during the next 5 years. The action strategy is the City of Neenah's Capital Improvement Program. Other projects listed in Chapter 6 Recommendations, may be addressed through the annual operating budget.



This plan works to develop and manage a working system of park and recreational facilities for the City of Neenah. It has been prepared to respond to expressed desires of residents and to address maintenance needs of existing facilities. This action program is based on priority level by year and does not commit the Commission or the Council to all projects. Only the projects listed as “Council Approved” have been authorized with funding.

This will also assist service clubs and organizations as they consider potential park improvement projects to support. Some of the projects identified in the action program are potential candidates for receiving cost sharing funds available through the WDNR. Others could be developed through the efforts and/or monetary support of volunteers and community organizations.

In conclusion, there are many projects that are of current need in the parks and recreation department. Realizing this priority list is a guide for the future, not all projects listed can be completed within this 5-year span. Some will go beyond the year 2026. Cost analysis and estimates should be looked at annually and adjusted accordingly. A list of funding resources is located in Appendix D that the City may be eligible to apply for to offset the costs. This action plan offers a vision and course of action for Neenah to be able to provide quality parks and recreation for years to come.

Improvements for these parks and facilities are budgeted to 2026.

1. Arrowhead Park
2. Baldwin Park
3. Cook Park
4. Carpenter Preserve
5. Douglas Park
6. Doty Park
7. Fresh Air Park
8. Green Park
9. Kimberly Point
10. Laudan Park
11. Neenah Pool
12. Quarry Park
13. Riverside Park
14. Shattuck Park
15. Island Park

Below gives the breakdown of improvements by park, timelines, and cost analysis. The City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) summary breaks down the park system by development, maintenance, and play equipment costs and timeframes. This five year summary table is included at the end of the chapter.

1. ARROWHEAD PARK

Address: 355 Millview Drive

Current Park Type: Nature Area

Master Plan in process

Size: 30 acres

Amenities: Asphalt trail connecting the Loop the Little Lake Trail System, parking area, connects to Herb & Dolly Park and Cook Park on Doty Island via trestle



Base Map source: Open Street Map



Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Arrowhead Phase 1A revised		In progress
Arrowhead Phase design/ engineering	\$422,000	2022-2024
Arrowhead Phase Construction	\$8,058,200	2022-2026
Five Year Total:	\$8,480,200	5 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 5, Objectives 1 and 4

2. BALDWIN PARK

Address: 855 Baldwin Street

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.9 acres

Amenities:

- Basketball Court
- Picnic Tables
- Playground Equipment
- Open Space



Base Map source: Open Street Map

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Playground	\$110,000	2023
Basketball Court Resurface	\$8,000	2022
Five Year Total:	\$118,000	1-2 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1

3. COOK PARK

Address: 425 W North Water Street

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2.9 acres

Amenities:

- Picnic Shelter
- Picnic Tables
- Playground Equipment
- Open Space
- Flower Beds
- Restrooms (key access)



Base Map source: Open Street Map

- Sidewalk access to Loop the Lakes Trail via W North Water St.

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Property Acquisition	\$150,000	On-going
Redevelopment of Park	\$288,750	2023
Five Year Total:	\$438,750	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 5, Objectives 1 and 2, Public Survey

4. CARPENTER PRESERVE

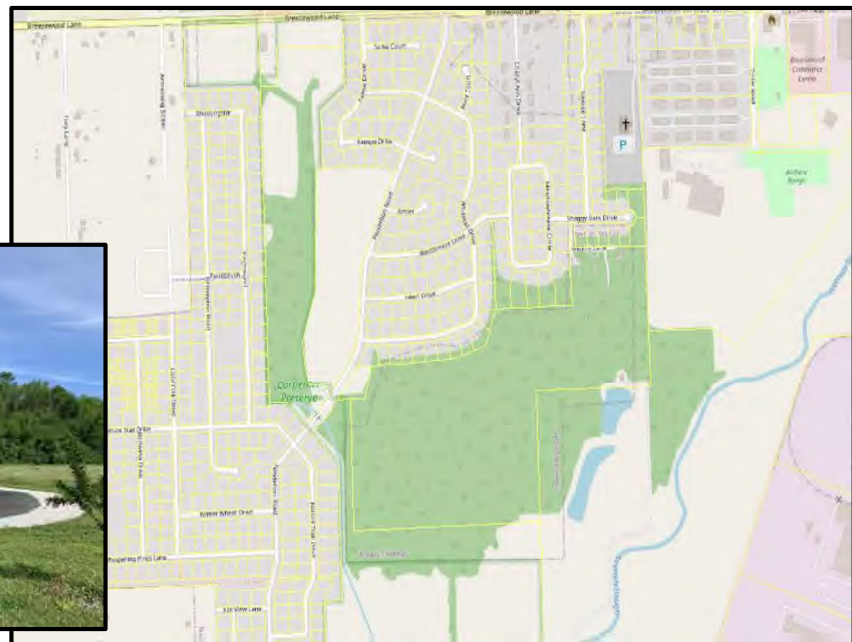
Address: 1580 Breezewood Lane

Current Park Type: Nature Area

Size: 102.13 acres

Amenities:

- Woods / Nature Area
- Playground Equipment



Base Map source: Open Street Map

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Carpenter Preserve Design	\$55,000	2023
Carpenter Preserve Phase 1	\$287,000	2024
Carpenter Preserve Phase 2	\$302,875	2025
Five Year Total:	\$644,875	3 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objective 1, Public Survey

5. DOUGLAS PARK

Address: 121 Douglas Street

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 4.30 acres

Amenities:

- Shelter
- Public Restrooms
- Picnic Tables
- Open Area
- Playground Equipment



Base Map source: Open Street Map

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Property Acquisition	TBD	On-going
Playground Equipment Replacement	\$125,000	2026
Five Year Total:	\$125,000	1 Year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 5, Objective 2, Public Survey

6. DOTY PARK

Address: 701 Lincoln Street

Current Park Type: Community Park

Amenities:

Size: 9.25 acres

- Shelter
- Public Restrooms
- Picnic Tables
- Grills
- Flower Beds,
- Paved Trails
- Open Space
- Playground Equipment
- Tennis Courts
- Boat Launch



Base Map source: Open Street Map

- Fishing Deck
- Gazebo

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Redevelopment of hard courts	\$180,000	In progress
New Playground Equipment	\$138,000	2025
Seawall design / engineering / grants 22'; construction 23'	\$810,000	2023-2024
Five Year Total:	\$948,000	3 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 2, Objective 2, and Goal 3, Objective 3, Public Survey Amenity Needs

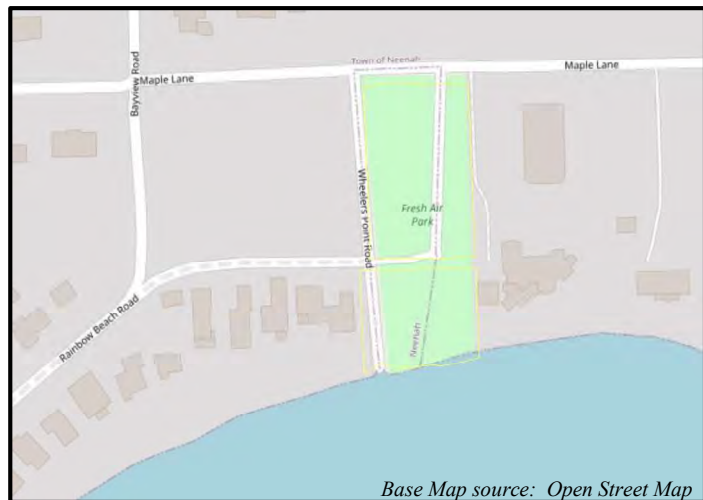
7. FRESH AIR PARK

Address: 495 Maple Lane

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.68 acres

Amenities: Picnic Tables, Open Space, Lake Access



Base Map source: Open Street Map

Plans or Recommendations

Maintenance	Cost Est	Time Frame
Asphalt Drive / Drainage	\$64,890	2022
Port-a-Potty Vault – ADA single	\$37,853	2022
Five Year Total:	\$102,743	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1 and Goal 3, Objective 3, Public Survey Comments

8. GREEN PARK

Address: 337 Columbian Ave.

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 1.60 acres

Amenities: Shelter, Restrooms, Picnic Tables, Flower Beds, Open Space, Playground Equipment, Tennis Courts (marked for Pickleball), Ice Rink



Plans or Recommendations

Maintenance / Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Resurface Tennis Courts	\$18,900	2024
Play Equipment	\$120,000	2025
Five Year Total:	\$138,900	1-2 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Needs

9. KIMBERLY POINT PARK

Address: 290 Lakeshore Avenue

Current Park Type: Special Use

Size: 3.5 acres

Amenities: Restrooms (seasonal) , Picnic Tables, Grills, Open Space, Fishing Deck, Lighthouse



Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Conceptual Design	\$10,000	In progress
Redevelopment	\$400,000	2022 - 2024
Five Year Total:	\$400,000	1-3 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 2, Objective 2, and Goal 3, Objective 3, Public Survey - High Park Usage

10. LAUDAN PARK

Address: 225 Laudan Blvd.

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 2 acres

Amenities: Paved Trails, Open Space, Playground Equipment



Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Play Equipment	\$110,000	2024
Five Year Total:	\$110,000	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need

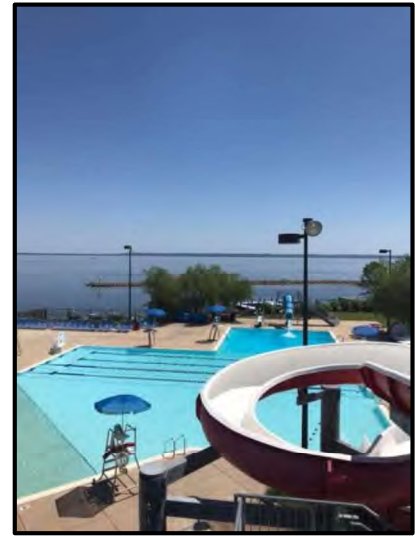
11. NEENAH POOL

Address: 600 S. Park Avenue

Current Park Type: Special Use

Size: 11,263 sq. ft.

Amenities: Heated, Zero-Depth Entry, 131' Flume Slide, One-Meter Diving Board, 4 Lap Lanes, Concessions, Sand Play Area, Volleyball, Tetherball, and Park Ping Pong Table



Plans or Recommendations

Maintenance	Cost Est	Time Frame
Grates	\$35,000	In Process
Slide	\$49,500	2022
Play Equipment Replacement	\$88,000	2022
Inside Pool Heaters	\$18,000	2022
Boilers	\$95,400	2023
Replace Diving Board / Structure	\$24,750	2024

Replace Bathhouse Roof	\$45,000	2025
Redo Bathhouse Floors	\$20,000	2025
Five Year Total:	\$340,650	5 years

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey - High Pool Usage

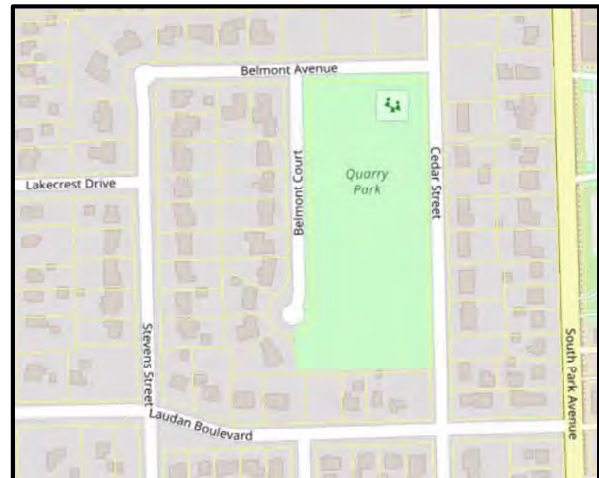
12. QUARRY PARK

Address: 655 Cedar St.

Current Park Type: Neighborhood Park

Size: 5 acres

Amenities: Open Space, Playground Equipment, Sledding Hill



Base Map source: Open Street Map

Plans or Recommendations

Development	Cost Est	Time Frame
Play Equipment	\$125,000	2025
Five Year Total:	\$125,000	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need

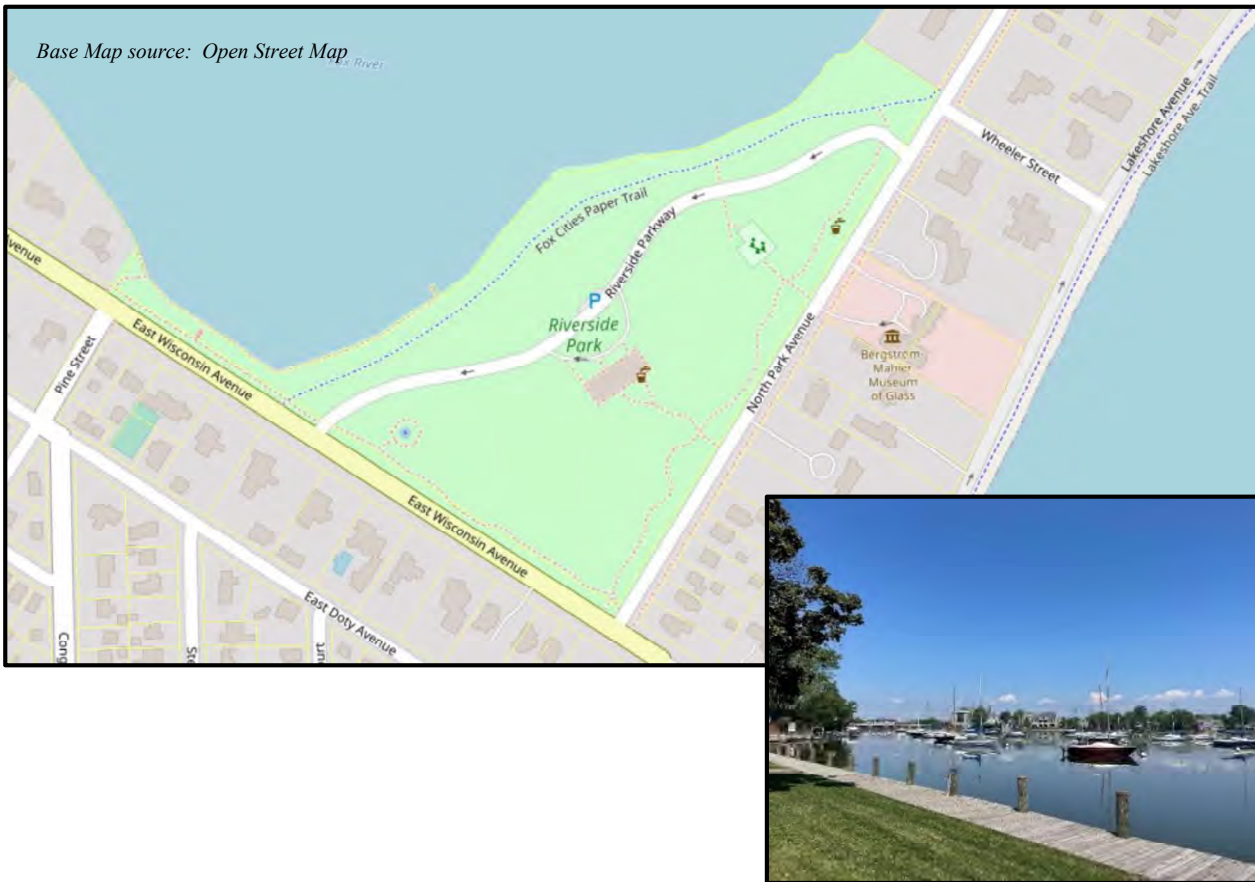
13. RIVERSIDE PARK

Address: 500 E Wisconsin St.

Current Park Type: Community Park

Size: 19.25 acres

Amenities: Shelter, Public Restrooms, Picnic Tables, Grills, Flower Beds, Paved Trails, Playground Equipment, Fishing Deck, Stage



Plans or Recommendations

Maintenance	Cost Est	Time Frame
Lighting (Donor/City)	\$0	2022
Play Surface	\$110,000	2022
Five Year Total:	\$110,000	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Public Survey Amenity Need and High Park Usage

14. SHATTUCK PARK

Address: 210 E. Wisconsin St.

Current Park Type: Special Use

Acres: 1.60

Amenities: Shelter, Public Restrooms, Picnic Tables, Flower Beds, Paved Trails, Open Space, Boat Stalls, Fishing Deck



Plans or Recommendations

Maintenance	Cost Est	Time Frame
Fountain/ Site Concrete	\$500,000	In progress
Five Year Total:	\$500,000	1 year

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1

15. Island Park

Address: 200 First St.

Acres: 2.50

Amenities: Picnic Tables, Paved Trails, Open Space, Fishing Deck

Current Park Type: Special Use



Plans or Recommendations

Improvements	Cost Est	Time Frame
Pathways	\$102,000	2022
Restroom	\$78,750	
Railings	\$62,400	
Amenities	\$30,050	
Five Year Total:	\$273,200	1 year
Plus 10% Contingency	\$300,520	

RATIONALE: Goal 1, Objective 1, Goal 3, Objectives 2 & 3, Survey

**Table 7-1: Capital Improvement Program
2022-2026
Five Year Summary***

2022**	2023	2024	2025	2026	5 Yr. Total Needed
\$2,652,670	\$2,738,057	\$2,829,557	\$2,394,115	\$1,768,240	\$ 12,382,638

**Cost estimates do not include in progress amounts.*

***Includes 10% contingency for Island Park.*

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CHAPTER 8
OFFICIAL ADOPTION

Chapter 8: Adoption

ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF NEENAH COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026

The City of Neenah intends to provide its residents and visitors with adequate park and recreational opportunities and protect its unique natural and cultural resources; and

Whereas, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to serve as an ancillary component of the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

Whereas, the City of Neenah Park and Recreation Commission and East Central Planning have worked closely to encourage active public participation in the preparation of this plan; and

Whereas, the adoption of the plan is required for the City of Neenah to become eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered by the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the City of Neenah 2022-2026 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan encompasses a general outline and plan for the development of the City's parks system until the year 2026; and

Whereas, the 2022-2026 City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is an update of the 2015-2021 version.

Official Adoption Certification:

The City of Neenah Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was approved by the Park and Recreation Commission on December 16, 2021 and adopted as the approved park and recreation plan for the City of Neenah by Common Council on January 19, 2022.

Signed this 20th day of January, 2022.



Dean R. Kaufert
Dean R. Kaufert, Mayor

Charlotte K. Nagel
Charlotte Nagel, Clerk



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A

SURVEY RESULTS

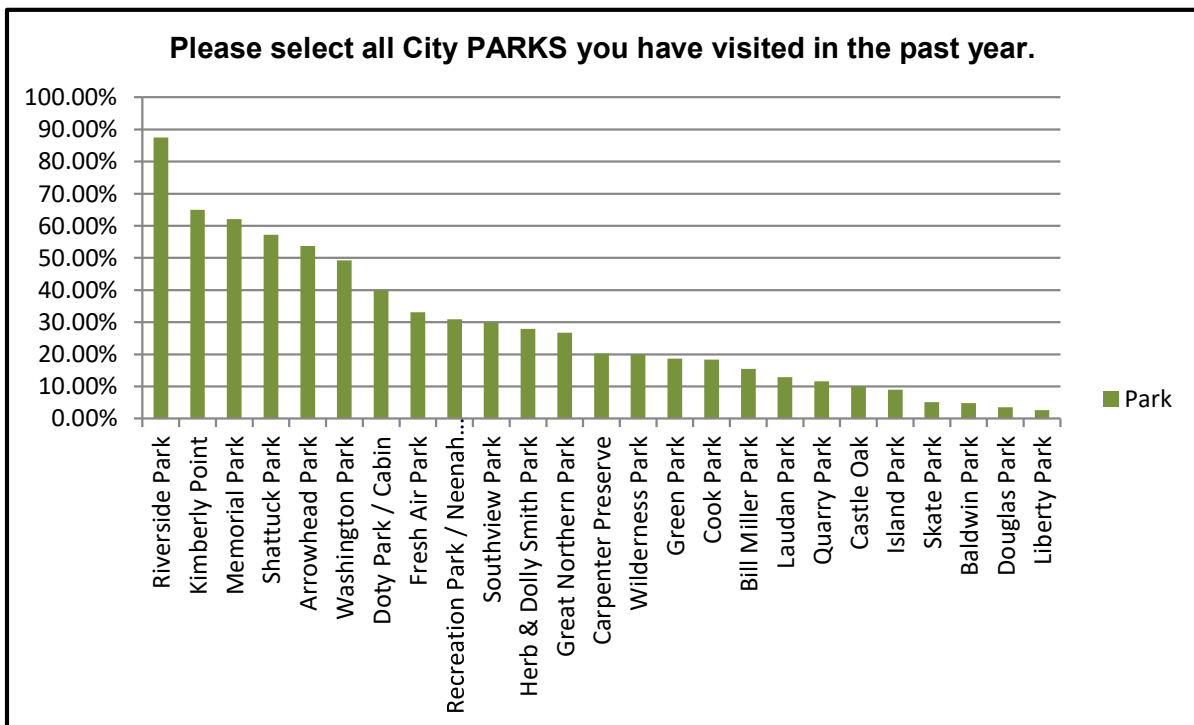
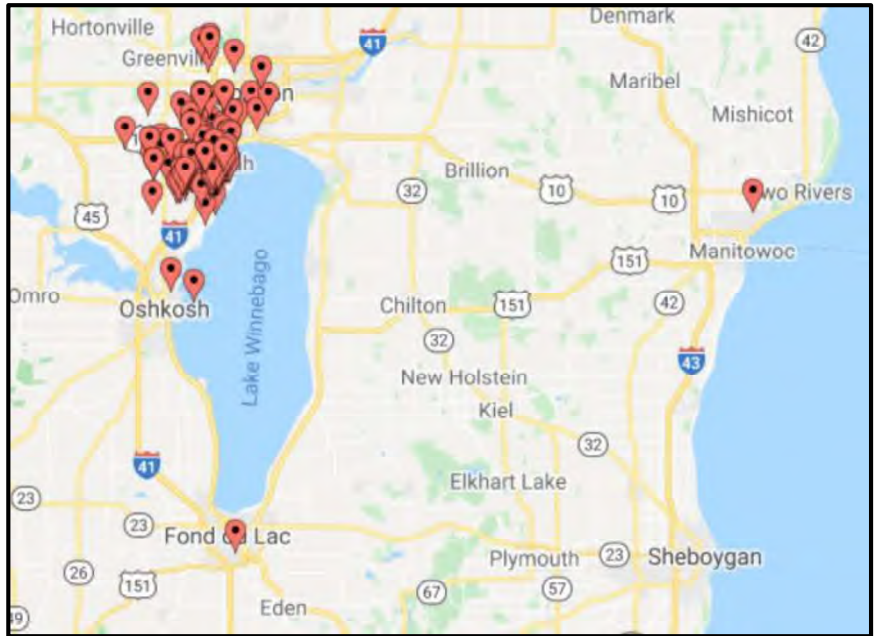
Appendix A: Survey Results

The survey ran from May 17 to September 6, 2021. There were 317 citizens who responded to the survey with 289 completing the survey to the end. (91% completion rate) 1.2% of the population base. The detailed survey responses are as follows:

Park Users

Survey participants that use the parks were from the City of Neenah with some visitors traveling from Appleton, Grand Chute, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac. One participant traveled from Two Rivers to use the parks.

Riverside was the most visited park followed by Kimberly Point, Memorial, Shattuck and Arrowhead.



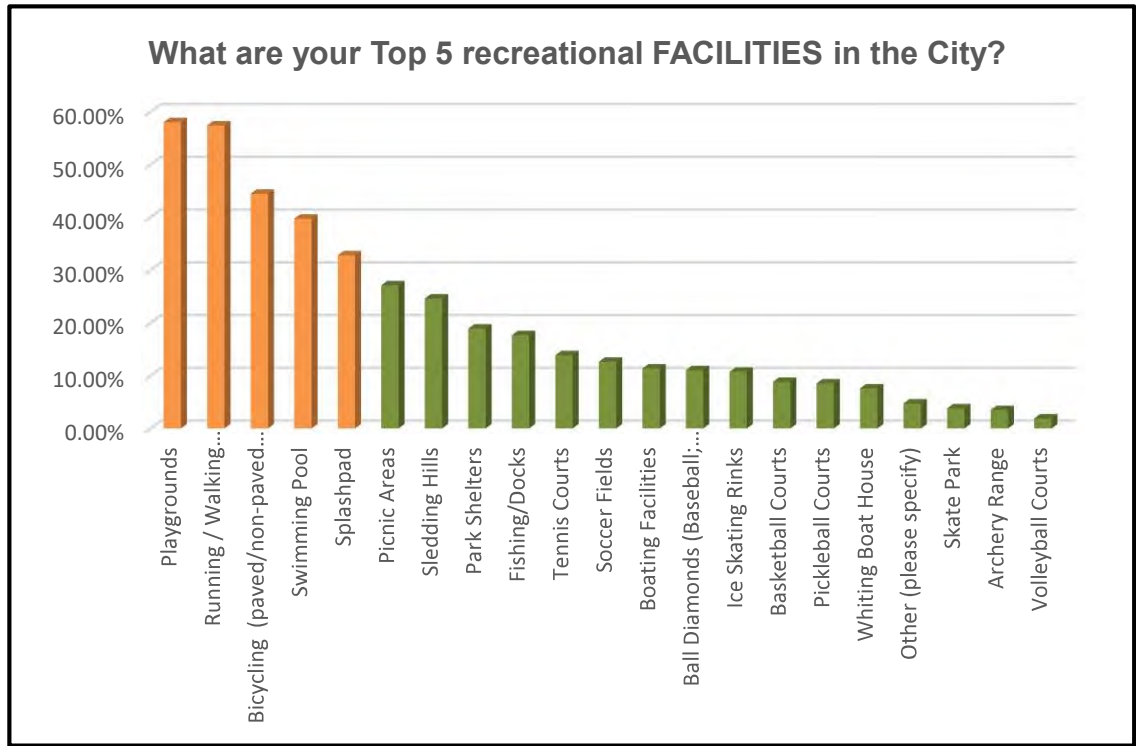
Arrowhead Park	53.70%	167
Baldwin Park	4.82%	15
Bill Miller Park	15.43%	48
Carpenter Preserve	20.26%	63
Castle Oak	9.97%	31
Cook Park	18.33%	57
Doty Park / Cabin	39.87%	124
Douglas Park	3.54%	11
Fresh Air Park	33.12%	103
Great Northern Park	26.69%	83
Green Park	18.65%	58
Herb & Dolly Smith Park	27.97%	87
Island Park	9.00%	28
Kimberly Point	64.95%	202
Laudan Park	12.86%	40
Liberty Park	2.57%	8
Memorial Park	62.06%	193
Quarry Park	11.58%	36
Recreation Park / Neenah Pool	30.87%	96
Riverside Park	87.46%	272
Shattuck Park	57.23%	178
Skate Park	5.14%	16
Southview Park	29.90%	93
Washington Park	49.20%	153
Wilderness Park	19.94%	62
Comments		37

Comments
<i>I'm not sure what their names are</i>
<i>Kids love going to the splash pad!</i>
<i>Was not aware of some of the parks listed above.</i>
<i>The parks we visit don't accept credit cards, have you considered a chip reader?</i>
<i>Come for 4th of July regularly</i>
<i>I love the new playground at Southview Park</i>
<i>Outstanding!!</i>
<i>It would be nice for a trash can at Liberty Park.</i>
<i>None</i>
<i>Some of these parks listed I didn't know existed.</i>
<i>The more parks the better!</i>
<i>Something has to be done with parking for soccer games. People are paddling on the roads, both sides of streets and traffic still needs to get through safely somehow.</i>

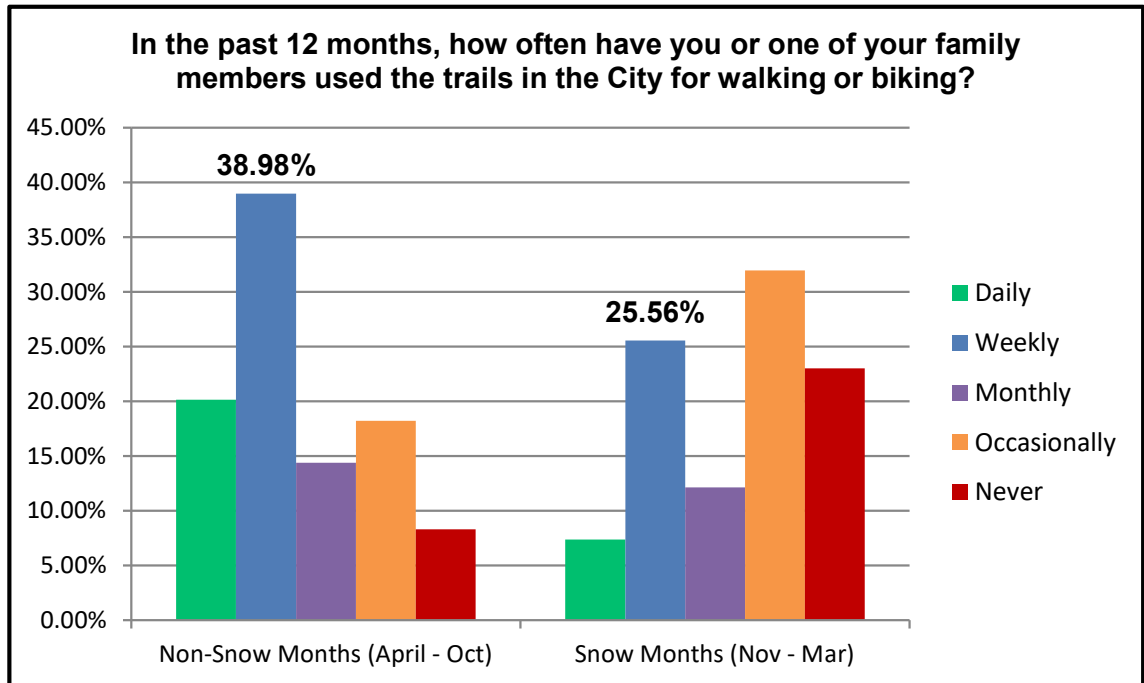
<i>Mahler Park often. It's not on the list.</i>
<i>Pendleton Rd Park</i>
<i>Road into Fresh Air is horrifying.</i>
<i>Fritse Park</i>
<i>Parks are nice. Walking trails or woods hiking are reasons to go.</i>
<i>From March 2020-Sept 2020, we were at Southview Park almost daily</i>
<i>Needs more trash cans</i>
<i>Lauden park needs help! School kids play there every day for recess so mulch wears out quickly and so many things are very worn. We use this park almost daily as it's walking distance but would rather drive for a nicer park.</i>
<i>Need more trash cans</i>
<i>Trash cans along the trail at Riverside park.</i>
<i>Fresh Air park looks neglected!</i>
<i>Is wilderness park the one marked "conservancy"?</i>
<i>Need bathrooms in the winter time.</i>
<i>Love we have small neighborhood parks (Green, Lauden, Cook etc.)</i>
<i>I love the Washington park ice rink and the many tennis courts in our parks.</i>
<i>Wish they all consistently had a garbage can</i>
<i>I love that I was able to check almost all boxes and that there are so many!!</i>
<i>I love every park I have been to so far. My husband and I just moved to Wisconsin in August 2020 and love how many outdoor activities and events there are in Neenah.</i>
<i>We love the pool and splash pad. Fresh Air Park is ABOMINABLE! The city needs to make repaving that park an updating the facilities a top priority. There must be a consistent police presence within the park. So many illegal activities from alcohol use to drug use. All parks need garbage cans. The updates to Washington and Southview are wonderful. Riverside needs more small-child friendly equipment.</i>
<i>Thank you for finally opening the bathrooms at cook park.</i>
<i>50 + kids from the Y use Cook Park M-F ... it needs to be updated soon.</i>
<i>We love our city parks and would love to see more safe bike trails to reach them</i>
<i>We have been to all just checked the ones we visit most</i>
<i>Love all of our parks!</i>
<i>We have not visited parks during the pandemic.</i>

The top 5 recreational facilities were the City's Playgrounds, Running/Walking Trails, Bicycling Trails, Neenah Pool, and Splashpad.

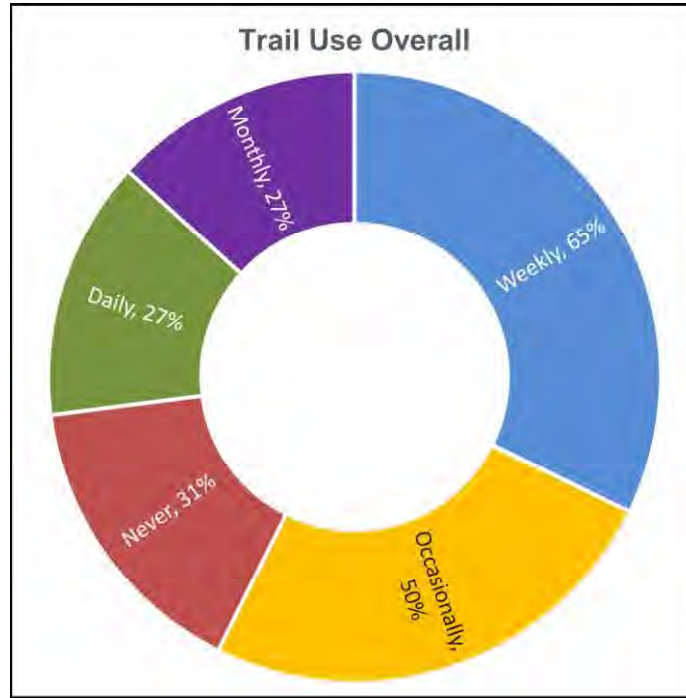
Rank	Activity	Percent	Number
1	Playgrounds	58.04%	184
2	Running / Walking (paved/non-paved trails)	57.41%	182
3	Bicycling (paved/non-paved trails/on-street)	44.48%	141
4	Swimming Pool	39.75%	126
5	Splashpad	32.81%	104



Trail Users



Trail use was highest on a weekly basis (65%) in the non-snow months and they were used occasionally during the snow and colder months. Some users still continued to use the trails daily throughout the entire year (27%).

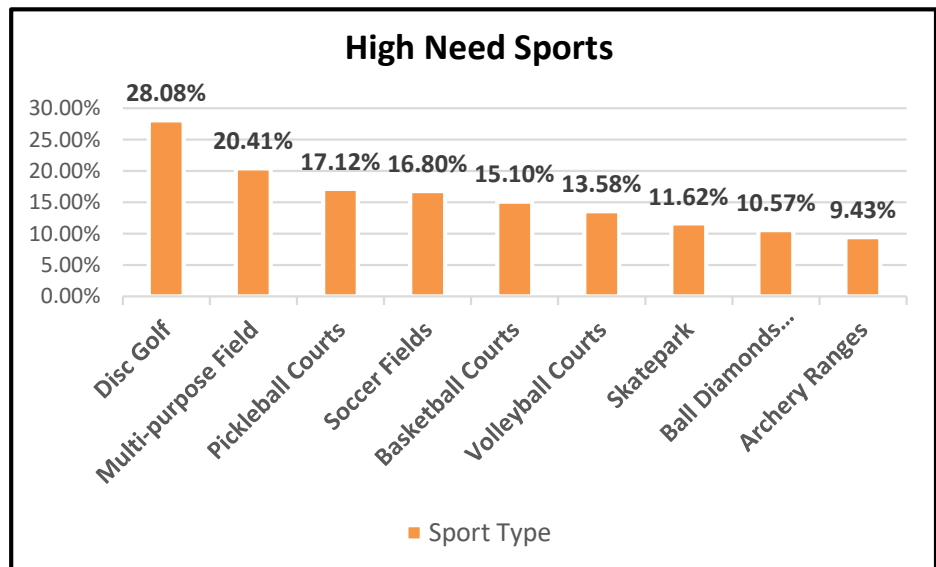


Timeframe	Daily		Weekly		Monthly		Occasionally		Never	
	Non-Snow Months (April - Oct)	20.13%	63	38.98%	122	14.38%	45	18.21%	57	8.31%
Snow Months (Nov - Mar)	7.35%	23	25.56%	80	12.14%	38	31.95%	100	23.00%	72
Overall	27.48%	86	64.54%	202	26.52%	83	50.16%	157	31.31%	98

Facility Need

Participants were asked a series of questions based on four facility types (Sports, Amenity, Trails, and Nature Areas) of what they would like to see added or expanded within the city's park and recreation system. Below is a synopsis of what was received.

1. Sports



Top 3 sport's needs:

1. Disc Golf Course
2. Multi-Purpose Fields
3. Pickleball Courts

Sport	1 - high need		2 - average need		3 - low need		Total	Weighted Average
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count		
Archery Ranges	9.43%	23	30.74%	75	59.84%	146	244	2.5
Ball Diamonds (baseball/softball)	10.57%	26	38.62%	95	50.81%	125	246	2.4
Basketball Courts	15.10%	37	44.49%	109	40.41%	99	245	2.25
Disc Golf	28.08%	73	37.31%	97	34.62%	90	260	2.07
Multi-purpose Field	20.41%	50	57.14%	140	22.45%	55	245	2.02
Pickleball Courts	17.12%	44	37.35%	96	45.53%	117	257	2.28
Skatepark	11.62%	28	35.27%	85	53.11%	128	241	2.41
Soccer Fields	16.80%	41	39.75%	97	43.44%	106	244	2.27
Volleyball Courts	13.58%	33	44.44%	108	41.98%	102	243	2.28
Other (please specify) / Comments							33	
							Answered	286
							Skipped	31

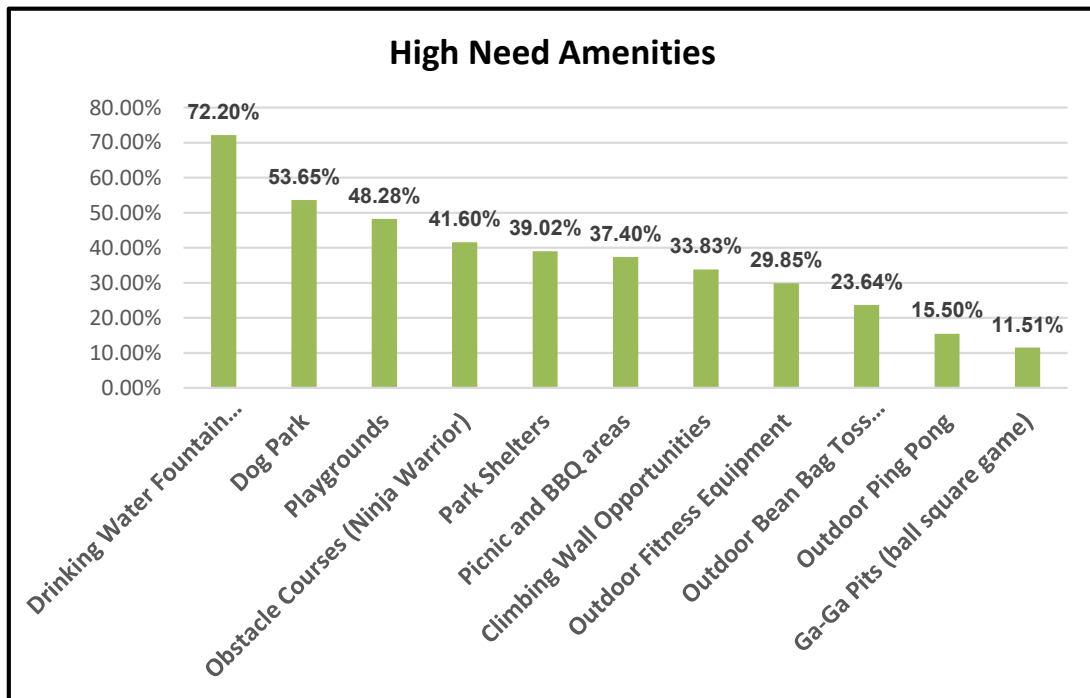
Comments:

Other (please specify) / Comments
<i>More disc golfs! It's fantastic for solo and family time. Not to mention it has exploded in popularity since the start of the pandemic as a popular outdoor rec activity</i>
<i>Exercise path</i>
<i>BIG POOL</i>
<i>Be sure to leave some nature areas for bird watching.</i>
<i>I'm 75 and I don't engage in sports anymore.</i>
<i>Dog park please!!!!!!</i>
<i>Need more mountain biking!!</i>
<i>Fruit tree orchards where people can volunteer to take care of trees and harvest fruits</i>
<i>We currently use soccer fields often and it seems that space is at a premium. We are interested in pickle ball and would love to see more courts added to expand opportunities to use. It might be nice to have a few disc golf pins around too...not sure where though 😊</i>
<i>Cross country skiing. 50-meter pool.</i>
<i>Tennis courts</i>
<i>Please, cover some tennis courts! Or any other court to use in the winter time...</i>
<i>Would like to have youth kickball leagues added</i>
<i>Need a Dog Park</i>
<i>Pickle ball courts</i>
<i>improvements to Southview tennis courts</i>

<i>I think our current numbers are sufficient as our population is NOT growing, just reallocating.</i>
<i>The city does a great job on parks, just. need bathrooms in the winter.</i>
<i>I recognize soccer is popular but it does not need to take up any more park space - encourage other sports, disk golf, basketball, climbing facility etc.</i>
<i>Dog park</i>
<i>I would like to see more ice-skating areas but with the new Gateway Park this is being addressed.</i>
<i>More bike paths</i>
<i>Dog park</i>
<i>Fishing docks by Doty Park (not sure why pickleball courts are going in)</i>
<i>No opinion right now, as hubs & I aren't really sports people, but that may change in the next few years as our kiddo grows up. She's 3.</i>
<i>I do you use these so no opinion to offer on above</i>
<i>Tennis</i>
<i>Exercise equipment like Fritsch park in Menasha, and a lot more swings for bigger kids at Washington park</i>
<i>Walking trails</i>
<i>We need more dedicated pickleball courts!</i>
<i>Off road bike trails</i>
<i>Indoor gym facilities for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, BADMINTON, and more.</i>
<i>Connecting bike trails</i>

2. Amenities

Top 3 Amenity Needs: 1. Drinking Water Fountains, 2. Dog Park, and 3. Playgrounds



Amenity Type	1 - high need		2 - average need		3 - low need		Total	Weighted Average
Drinking Water Fountain (Bottle Filler)	72.20%	213	23.39%	69	4.41%	13	295	1.32
Obstacle Courses (Ninja Warrior)	41.60%	109	35.11%	92	23.28%	61	262	1.82
Dog Park	53.65%	147	31.39%	86	14.96%	41	274	1.61
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	29.85%	80	44.40%	119	25.75%	69	268	1.96
Ga-Ga Pits (ball square game)	11.51%	29	43.25%	109	45.24%	11 4	252	2.34
Outdoor Ping Pong	15.50%	40	33.72%	87	50.78%	13 1	258	2.35
Outdoor Bean Bag Toss (Cornhole)	23.64%	61	41.47%	107	34.88%	90	258	2.11
Park Shelters	39.02%	103	40.91%	108	20.08%	53	264	1.81
Playgrounds	48.28%	126	36.02%	94	15.71%	41	261	1.67
Picnic and BBQ areas	37.40%	98	47.33%	124	15.27%	40	262	1.78
Climbing Wall Opportunities	33.83%	91	37.55%	101	28.62%	77	269	1.95
Other (please specify) / Comments							31	
							Answered	308
							Skipped	9

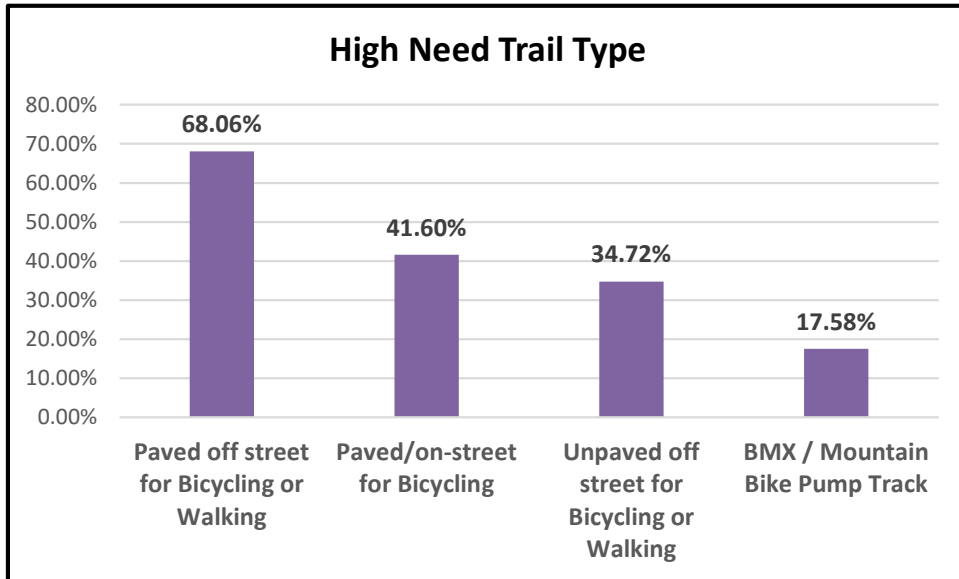
Comments:

<i>Other (please specify) / Comments</i>
<i>I would love for the city to get a climbing wall!!!</i>
<i>It seems like there could be concerns for safety with rock wall climbing and ninja warrior courses.</i>
<i>The number of playgrounds is good, but expanding on equipment would be great!</i>
<i>Garbage cans!</i>
<i>I think adding sine new features would encourage people to get outside. I love these ideas.</i>
<i>Pokémon go</i>
<i>Fruit tree orchards where people can volunteer to take care of trees and harvest fruits</i>
<i>More splash pads or fun water areas for kids.</i>
<i>Our kids are very active and LOVE challenging park equipment. We will drive quite a way to get to parks they find challenging and exciting. I hope they'll continue to feel that way as they are quickly outgrowing traditional park equipment. When equipment isn't challenging enough</i>

<i>older kids use it inappropriately, which isn't good for anyone. Would love to see ninja/climbing/play/workout equipment geared towards older kids/adults!</i>
<i>Cross country ski trails</i>
<i>With more garbage cans in each park.</i>
<i>Nature trails.</i>
<i>It's amazing everything but we have 9 months of winter and 3 months of summer, so we need to think in something that we can use during the winter time.</i>
<i>Would love to know which playgrounds are getting updates and when. Some are falling apart- especially ones that have school kids and daycares utilize them all year long.</i>
<i>Most of Parks and Rec activities seem geared to families with young kids. Almost nothing for seniors.</i>
<i>We would love to see additional inclusive playgrounds!</i>
<i>Again, we have plenty of facilities. I've never had an issue reserving one.</i>
<i>Some of the playgrounds need a desperate update though</i>
<i>All weather bathroom at Cook Park. Play equipment for children under 5</i>
<i>Many shelters/playgrounds seem dated</i>
<i>Open bathroom facilities all year long!</i>
<i>A dog park that has individual space to run for a single dog at a time. This would allow dogs that aren't social a place to burn off steam. Could be a narrow run corral adjacent to space for social dogs</i>
<i>Need another splash pad, please.</i>
<i>Accessible playground for children and guardians who aren't able to use typical playground set-ups. More diversity for varying abilities of children and adults who bring them. The accessible swings in many of the parks are a great start, however there are kiddos and parents/grandparents who aren't physically able to use the current playgrounds.</i>
<i>I would always welcome new playgrounds, though I don't know that there's a huge NEED for them. just more options are always more fun for kids who want new adventures.</i>
<i>Please add these things to Cook Park.</i>
<i>Garbage and recycling receptacles, especially at Washington park</i>
<i>If we have more picnic/bbq areas, I feel like there will be more drinking at the parks (I know it's against the rules)</i>
<i>Gyms</i>
<i>GARBAGE CANS!!!!!!</i>
<i>We have many great parks and shelters.</i>

3. Trails

Top number one Trail Need are paved off-street trails for bicycling or walking.



Trail Type	1 - high need		2 - average need		3 - low need		Total	Weighted Average
	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count		
Paved/on-street for Bicycling	41.60%	109	40.46%	106	17.94%	47	262	1.76
Paved off street for Bicycling or Walking	68.06%	196	22.22%	64	9.72%	28	288	1.42
Unpaved off street for Bicycling or Walking	34.72%	92	40.00%	106	25.28%	67	265	1.91
BMX / Mountain Bike Pump Track	17.58%	45	34.77%	89	47.66%	122	256	2.3
Other (please specify) / Comments							18	
							Answered	295
							Skipped	22

Comments:

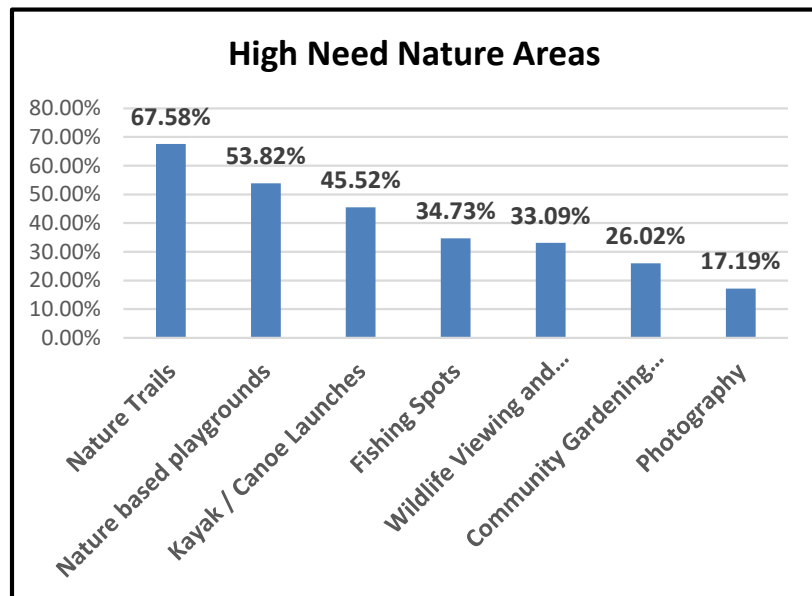
Other (please specify) / Comments
<i>I would prefer well-kept trails over paved trails</i>
<i>add rollerblading/roller ski to list of on and off-street use. We need safe ways for bikers/rollerbladers to use the roundabouts</i>
<i>We are always looking for new walking trail options!</i>
<i>MOUNTAIN BIKING!!</i>
<i>Fruit tree orchards where people can volunteer to take care of trees and harvest fruits</i>
<i>ALL THE TRAILS PLEASE!</i>

<i>Would love to see expansion of the trails systems in the city. We love to walk and bike. Our community is so beautiful...I believe this addition would be a tremendous draw to our city.</i>
<i>Single track</i>
<i>Need trail system that would be more natural nice walk/bike. 3 miles at least.</i>
<i>Flat city needs a lot of bicycling.</i>
<i>Pave street bike route suddenly "end" to make it more convenient for cars to have an additional lane. I gather this is because it's not convenient for cats to have to wait in a single lane because the person in front of them is going straight once the light changes and they want to go right in red. What are bicyclists supposed to do when their lane just ends?? Not very bike friendly.</i>
<i>It would be great to have more bike paths so people can get around Neenah safely by bike. On the road is fine if the road is wide enough or has low car volume</i>
<i>It's intimidating to ride from Breezewood area to the downtown or loop. People drive like idiots.</i>
<i>Safety is a need and lacking.</i>
<i>Bike lanes are rarely used on the street. I would not feel safe sharing the road on a bicycle and never see them used.</i>
<i>Accessibility for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers. If crime is an issue or health emergency calls occur mostly in certain locations, emergency phone/alert stations such as those in college campuses could encourage folks to feel safer if they don't have call phone capabilities.</i>
<i>It would be nice to have more trash bins by the trails to rid of dog waste</i>
<i>I love love love the new lakeshore trail but wish it could connect to the Riverside Park trail somehow. There is no walking/bike trail at Kimberley point and no sidewalks. Cars are coming from both directions at the point and it doesn't feel like there is a safe place to bike and walk in the section. I would love to see that trail extended around the point and meet up with Riverside Park.</i>

4. Nature Areas

Top 3 nature area needs are:

1. Nature Trails
2. Nature Based Playgrounds
3. Kayak and Canoe Launches

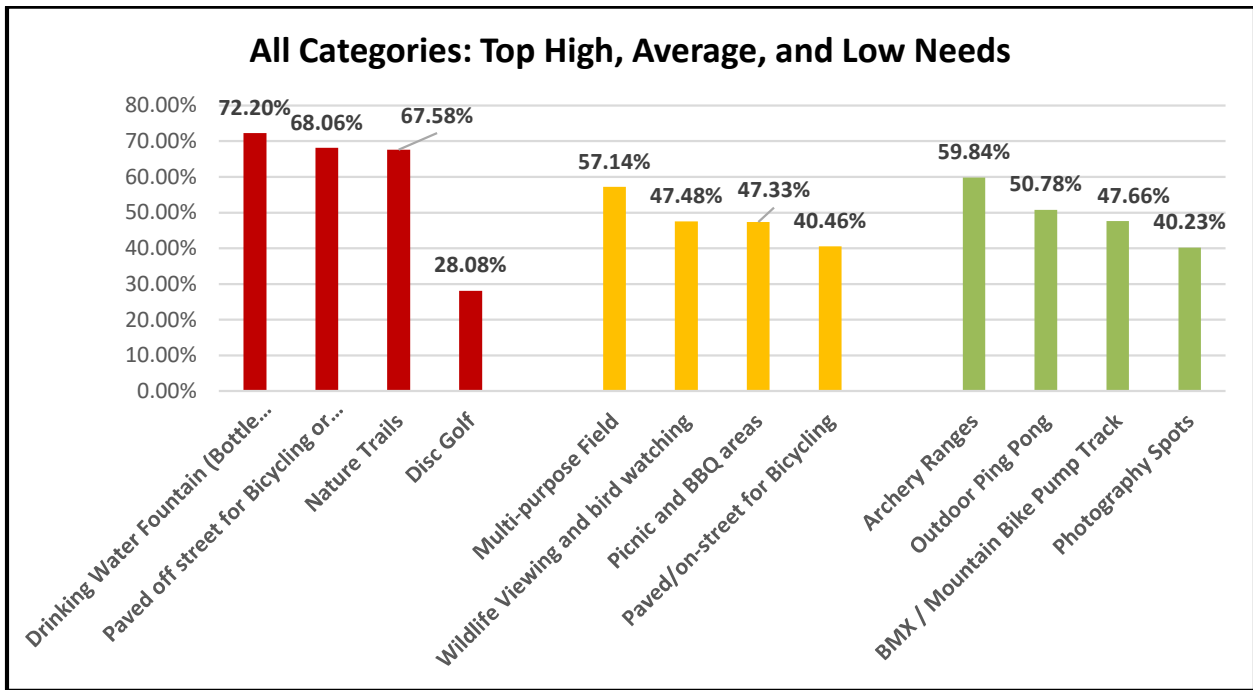


Nature Type	1 - high need		2 - average need		3 - low need		Total	Weighted Average
Community Gardening (Garden by police station is not maintained by the parks dept.)	26.02%	70	46.10%	124	27.88%	75	269	2.02
Fishing Spots	34.73%	91	40.08%	105	25.19%	66	262	1.9
Kayak / Canoe Launches	45.52%	127	43.37%	121	11.11%	31	279	1.66
Nature Trails	67.58%	198	27.30%	80	5.12%	15	293	1.38
Nature based playgrounds	53.82%	148	33.09%	91	13.09%	36	275	1.59
Photography	17.19%	44	42.58%	109	40.23%	103	256	2.23
Wildlife Viewing and bird watching	33.09%	92	47.48%	132	19.42%	54	278	1.86
Other (please specify) / Comments							11	
							Answered	304
							Skipped	13

Comments:

<i>Other (please specify) / Comments</i>
<i>I would appreciate kayaking and canoeing equipment that could be loaned out to patrons (with a deposit) for use.</i>
<i>Carpet Preserve needs restroom and drink water.</i>
<i>What can you do at the Carpenter Reserve?</i>
<i>Would also love to have Neenah establish a free kayak rental program</i>
<i>Fruit tree orchards where people can volunteer to take care of trees and harvest fruits and share with community</i>
<i>Cross country ski trails</i>
<i>Love when parks are set up to take advantage of and work in concert with nature.</i>
<i>It'd be so great to turn one of the rundown parks into a nature based playground. For example, Cook Park.</i>
<i>Carpenter Preserve trail is in poor shape.</i>
<i>Bird blinds for photography would be excellent!</i>
<i>While I think some of these things are important, we have many opportunities with the local nature preserves who specialize in this.</i>

Summary of All Needs

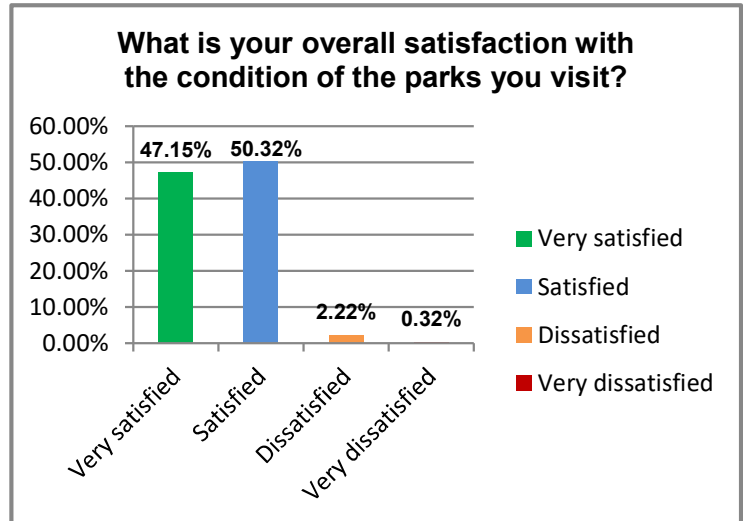


1 = Top High Needs	
Drinking Water Fountain (Bottle Filler)	72.20%
Paved off street for Bicycling or Walking	68.06%
Nature Trails	67.58%
Disc Golf	28.08%
2 = Top Average Needs	
Multi-purpose Field	57.14%
Wildlife Viewing and bird watching	47.48%
Picnic and BBQ areas	47.33%
Paved/on-street for Bicycling	40.46%
3 = Top Low Needs	
Archery Ranges	59.84%
Outdoor Ping Pong	50.78%
BMX / Mountain Bike Pump Track	47.66%
Photography Spots	40.23%

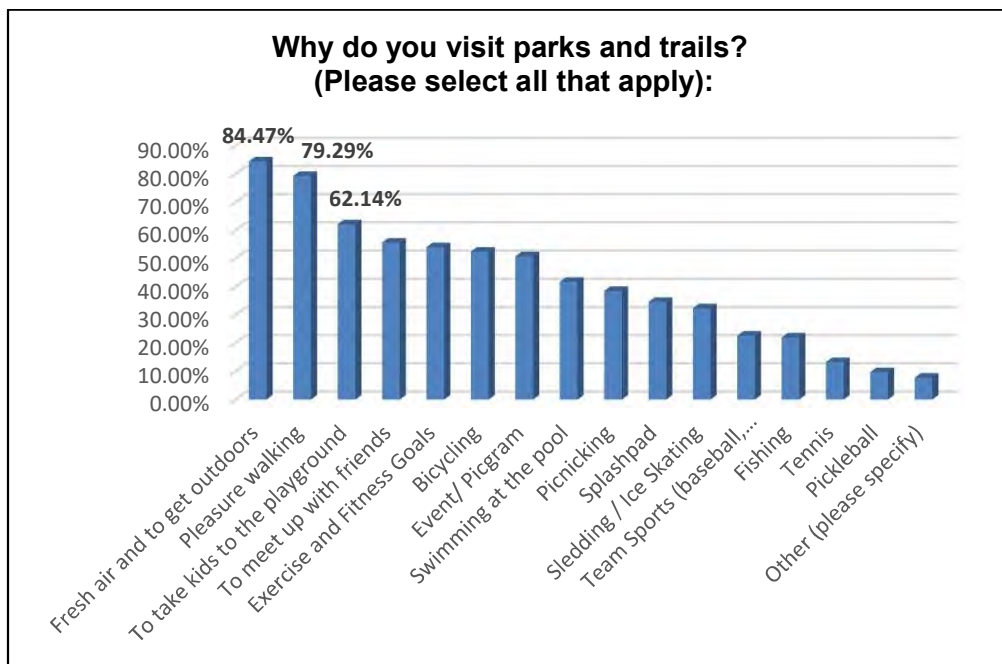
Satisfaction Rate

Over 98% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the condition of the parks.

Very satisfied	47.15%	149
Satisfied	50.32%	159
Dissatisfied	2.22%	7
Very dissatisfied	0.32%	1
	Answered	316
	Skipped	1



When asked why they visited a park or used the trails the top answer was to get outside, followed by pleasure walking or taking kids to the playground.



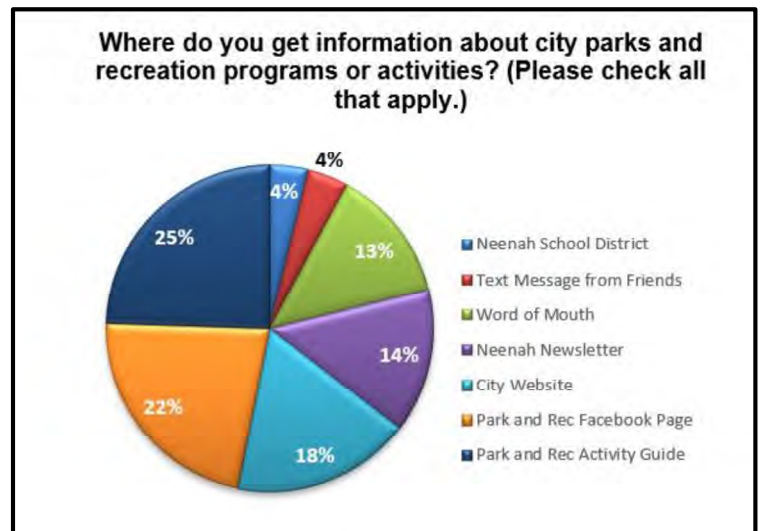
Answer Choices	Percent	Number
Fresh air and to get outdoors	84.47%	261

Pleasure walking	79.29%	245
To take kids to the playground	62.14%	192
To meet up with friends	55.66%	172
Exercise and Fitness Goals	54.05%	167
Bicycling	52.43%	162
Event / Picgram	50.81%	157
Swimming at the pool	41.75%	129
Picnicking	38.51%	119
Splashpad	34.63%	107
Sledding / Ice Skating	32.36%	100
Team Sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball)	22.65%	70
Fishing	22.01%	68
Tennis	13.27%	41
Pickleball	9.71%	30
Other (please specify)	7.77%	24
Answered	309	
Skipped	8	

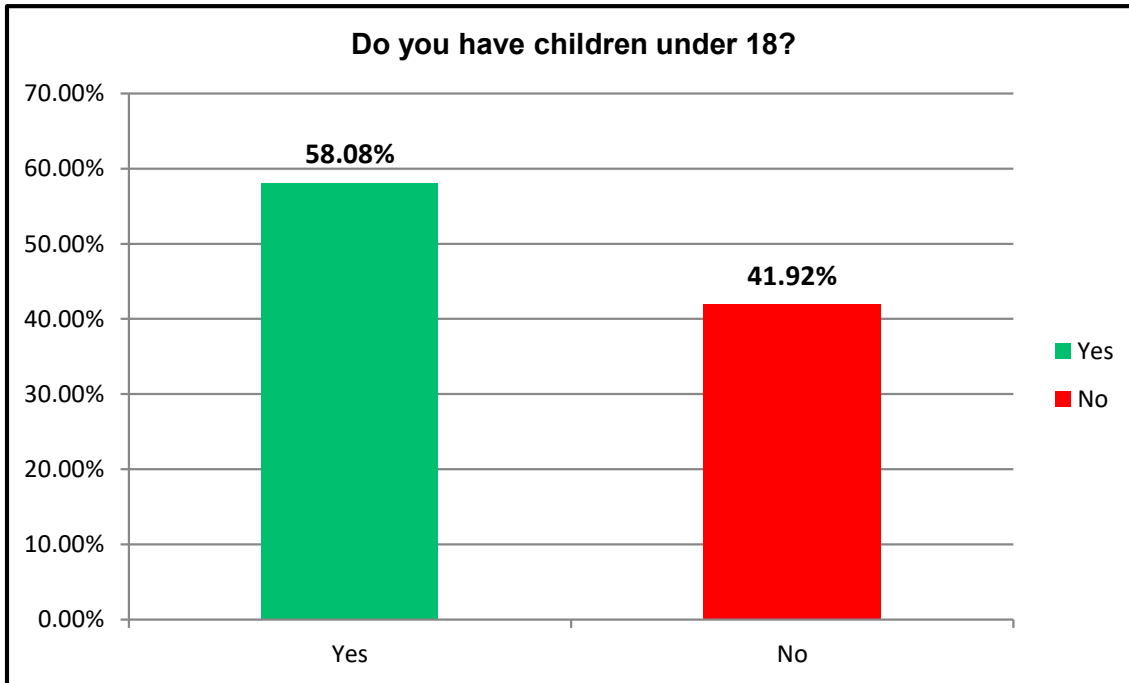
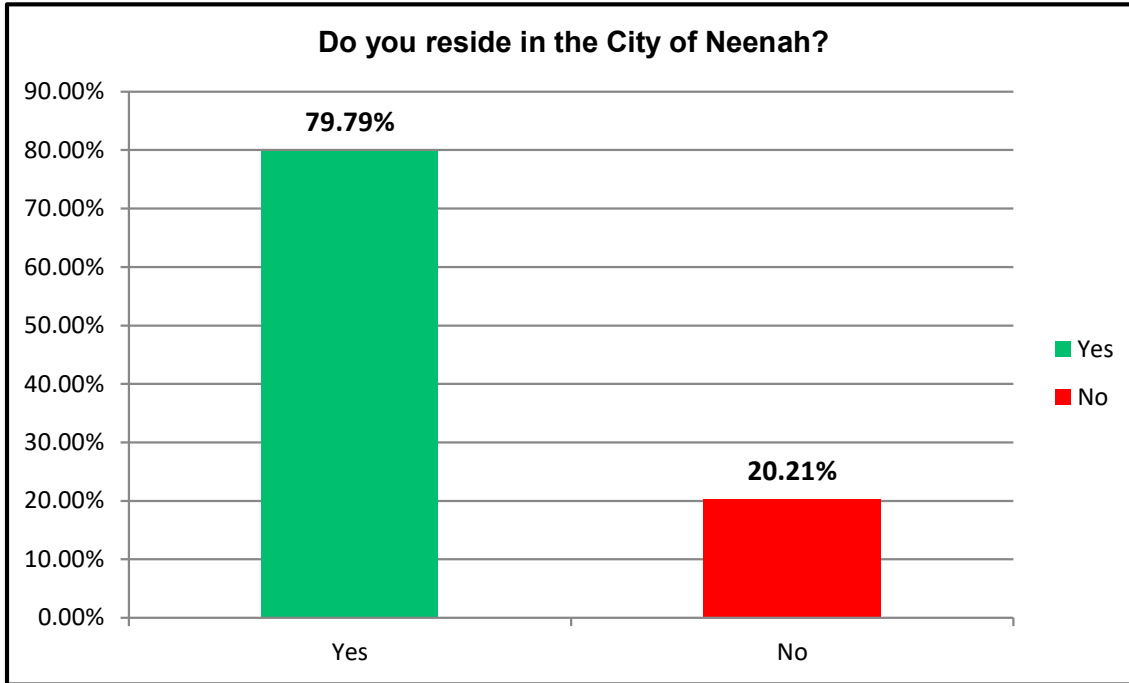
Information

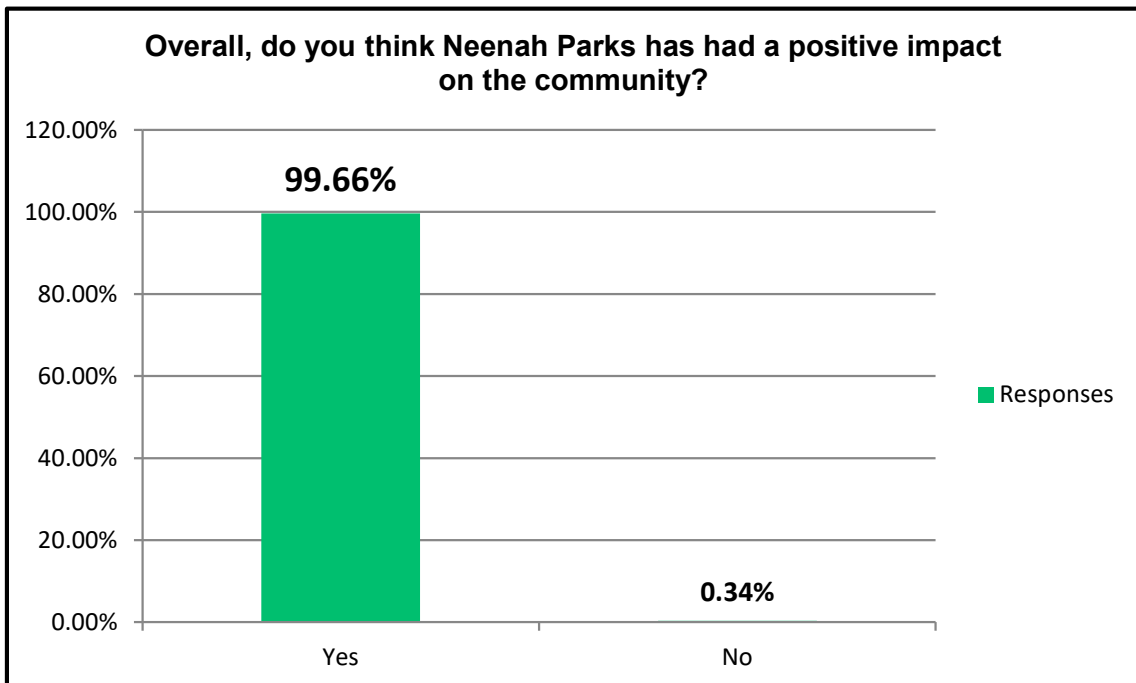
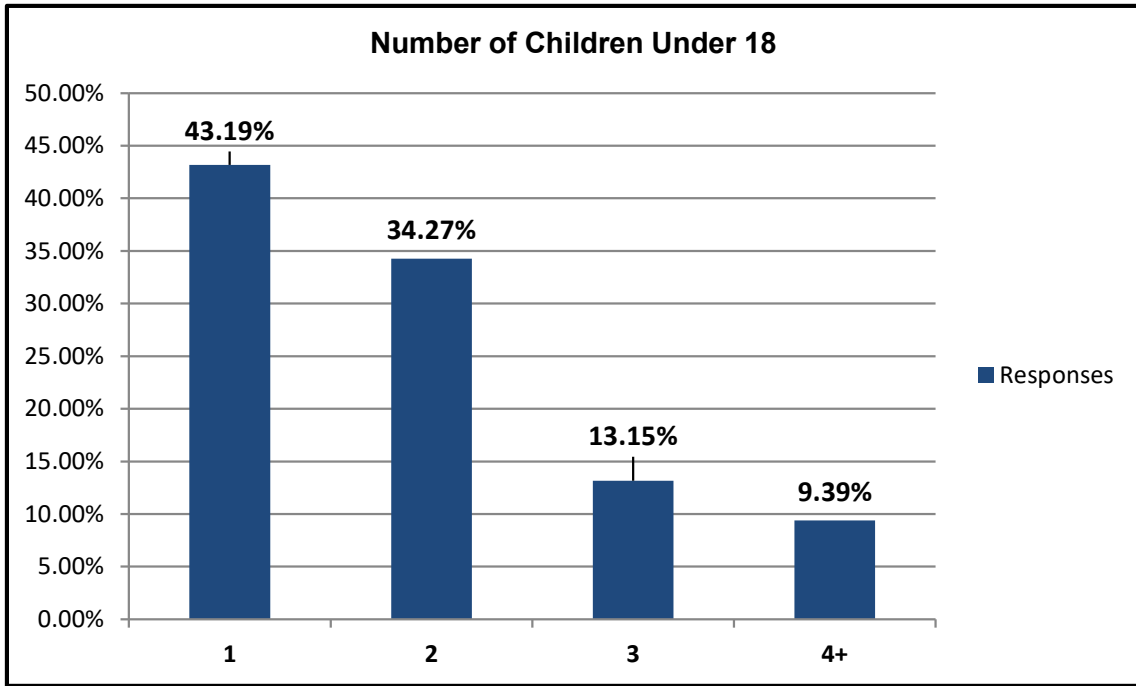
In breaking down the 313 responses, residents got most of their information from either the Activity Guide or the Facebook page. The city website came in third for obtaining info about programs.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Park and Rec Activity Guide	65.81%	206
Park and Rec Facebook Page	60.06%	188
City Website	47.60%	149
Neenah Newsletter	38.34%	120
Word of Mouth	35.78%	112
Text Message from Friends	10.86%	34
Neenah School District	10.22%	32
Answered	313	
Skipped	4	



Demographics





Final Comments:

Comments
<i>Very clean, always having activities, easy to find parks</i>
<i>Love what Neenah Park and Rec has to offer for the community!</i>
<i>We're loving the park and rec summer programs at Washington Park!</i>
<i>We love how clean and safe the parks are!</i>
<i>I am thankful for the number of parks and the amenities at each.</i>
<i>More trails, trees. Connect east side with west side easier for bikers/walkers/runners; too difficult now</i>
<i>Please please put Weed & Feed on the lawns. Parks need to look inviting. You should be fined for all the weeds in Riverside Park. I don't know how kids play soccer at Great Northern with all the dandelions.</i>
<i>I grew up in Stevens Point, and they had a great Parks and Rec program but it folded in the early 2000's. I LOVE that Neenah maintains such a strong program. It really makes living in this city a huge perk.</i>
<i>I'm a former Neenah Resident (20 years). I love coming to just sit, read and enjoy myself. All the kids I know are bringing their own kids to the parks now.</i>
<i>Very positive</i>
<i>We LOVE our Neenah parks!</i>
<i>Love our playgrounds and parks!</i>
<i>We have beautifully maintained parks....</i>
<i>Great parks</i>
<i>Laudan Park should be expanded please.</i>
<i>YES!!!</i>
<i>Love the NCB concerts in the park</i>
<i>Spend time w grandchild in parks. Thank you for our INPUT!</i>
<i>We love Neenah parks!</i>
<i>Wow! We love the city and Neenah Parks is one of the reasons that we love live here.</i>
<i>Thanks for all you do!! We love all Neenah has to offer!</i>
<i>Love the family-oriented concerts! Lunch time and evening!</i>
<i>Great job. The Neenah parks are awesome. I live in Fox Crossing but use the Neenah parks often. Thank you!</i>
<i>The Trestle Trail has been such a blessing for both communities.</i>
<i>Love the new trail on Lakeshore! You guys are the best - thanks for your hard work making Neenah an awesome place to play. Looking forward to what happens at Arrowhead - let's really capitalize on this waterfrontage and go above and beyond creating a destination space not just a 'regular' park.</i>
<i>Great job</i>
<i>Now if we could only get these "Lance Armstrong" wanna be's to use all these nicely paved trails....instead of the road...with motor vehicles... dang I'd just be happy if they stayed single file and out of the way... but if you could advertise the trail use for these "oh so special" individuals.....well hot dang-then I'd be delighted and give you a yes!</i>
<i>Thank you - Great Department</i>

<i>?15 no children but survey does not allow me to skip</i>
<i>We love Neenah parks and the pool. Our family regularly walks/bikes to multiple parks throughout the week</i>
<i>Absolutely!! It is a reason to move to Neenah and their staff and programs are top notch! (No, I'm not a city employee ;)</i>
<i>I would like to see restrooms open year-round as there is year-round recreation taking place</i>
<i>Currently pregnant with my first baby, hoping to have 5+ kids in total to take to all of the parks!</i>
<i>Yes! We are lucky to have so many beautiful parks.</i>
<i>Some parks need to be updated with safer equipment for kids under 5.</i>
<i>I think the parks department does an excellent job, and we're thankful for you. Any of my answers were not to criticize or say that we don't have enough of things. just if you have the budget available, they'd be "nice to have" things. =)</i>
<i>Family interaction</i>
<i>Question 15 should be zero.it wouldn't let me pass without an answer.</i>
<i>I love them!!! Spend a bunch of time there. Open to chatting about them.</i>
<i>Very much! We have such nice parks!</i>
<i>Love the walking story books in the summer</i>
<i>Love the community we live in!!!!</i>
<i>Parks are beautiful and well maintained</i>
<i>Recreational opportunities are good for people.</i>
<i>No children under 18-made me put in number</i>
<i>Neenah is a beautiful community</i>
<i>I think free public community space is integral to enjoyable city living and community building. Would live to see Neenah grow parks with space for community.</i>
<i>Question # 15 makes no sense after answering # 14, but can't proceed unless you give a response 😊</i>
<i>I think we have extraordinary parks and many choices compared to other cities.</i>
<i>Great job park staff! Your summer activity guide is packed with great stuff!</i>

<i>We love our city!</i>
<i>We love the Parks and trails in Neenah!</i>
<i>N/A</i>
<i>Make more nature-oriented activities.</i>
<i>Keep expanding the biking and walking trails! Loop the Lake and the new Lakeshore drive trails are awesome!</i>
<i>Keep up the good work</i>
<i>We are former City of Neenah residents. We were frequent participants in Park & Rec activities while we lived in the city. We were always highly satisfied with the youth programs. We still enjoy the parks on occasion when we come into the city.</i>
<i>Parks and Recreation are one of the most important parts of local governments. They should be cherished and well-funded.</i>
<i>Need more infant/toddler swings at parks</i>

<i>I love the parks!!</i>
<i>Outstanding summer rec programs. Our first year doing them w our granddaughters.</i>
<i>The leaders of Adventure Playground, Sports Explorers, and Creation Station at Washington Park have been really fantastic teachers, and I'm glad they're a part of my kids' lives this summer!</i>
<i>I am satisfied with park and recreation activities. They offer many activities. The playground close to my house is the carpenter preserve, we need a restrooms and drink water there.</i>
<i>We could use a bike rack at south view park near the pavilion</i>
<i>At Memorial Park, the tree line between the playground/George Scherk shelter and the open field is supposed to be mulched; however, there is little mulch and A LOT of weeds. We love the historical planning and expansion of the parks and look forward to the next phase.</i>
<i>More trails, trees, safer route to connect east side with west side.</i>
<i>I believe a disc golf course would be a fantastic addition to the Neenah parks and Rec. 18 holes of disc golf offer maximum enjoyment with the least amount of environment destruction. The course could wind in and out of woods, the city could pour concrete teepads for safety, and volunteers would come to assist with the work. Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sport during the pandemic due to the ability to Safely social distance while getting outdoor exercise. The city could charge 2-3 dollars a day to help with upkeep, and if the course is nice many people would pay the cost.</i>
<i>Restroom facilities need to be open especially during the day</i>
<i>See the prior comment on taking care of the lawns. Weed & Feed should be done at these parks. Set an example for the residents. If you want a prairie field, have master gardeners plan it out. Our parks are a fright. No need to spend more money on them if you can't afford to keep them up.</i>
<i>An easier way to find a list of areas within the city to take kids fishing. I don't have a boat and we'd really like to go fishing.</i>
<i>Keep up the great work! There are so many things kids and adults can participate in and appreciate in Neenah. We've loved doing the scavenger hunts with the QR codes.</i>
<i>Need to have security cameras. Cannot allow drugs. Drug deals. Bad actors or people will not feel safe.</i>
<i>I completely understand that opening the restrooms before the last freeze can be damaging to the pipes. However, I feel that the garbage cans could be put out in the parks a lot earlier in the season. At Riverside (Rocket) park in particular, I remember a few years ago seeing a PILE of garbage sitting out on an early warm spring day where the garbage can usually be.</i>
<i>Thank you for all that you do to make Neenah an awesome place to live. And a HUGE thank you for opening the pool last summer and keeping all of our summer kids' programs. I was very proud to be a Neenah resident last summer :)</i>
<i>Mounting bike trails!!</i>
<i>I know it's a long shot, profit wise but some food vendors at Riverside could be a nice addition on weekends. Also, a bier garden once or twice a year would be very cool.</i>
<i>Fresh air park would benefit from some updating, maybe a kayak launch. Or make it a dog friendly beach. It's a beautiful spot but hasn't been kept up well.</i>

<i>Thank you for continuing to provide great places for our families to gather and have fun in a safe way!</i>
<i>Love the nature reserves and nature trails in Neenah, especially Memorial Park for walking and also for all the wildflowers and birds migrating in the spring!</i>
<i>Need fruit tree orchards where people can volunteer to take care of trees and harvest fruits and spread love. Thanks</i>
<i>I love going to many of the parks with the kiddos I nanny. I also like to bike and take walks to parks with my husband, but the closest park we have is Laudan and it is the same as it was when I was little and I'm 28 now. I really feel it needs updated.</i>
<i>Get the parking under control for soccer games.... build a lot or something. Can't stress this enough</i>
<i>Would like an update or know where to view what festivals or outdoor markets are happening at Riverside Park this summer. I am not sure where to find that info or if there is nothing planned.</i>
<i>More year-round bathrooms Groomed x country ski trails Nature based playgrounds New equip at Cook Park</i>
<i>Please take good care of our trees too...trimming, removing, and replanting. We have many old beautiful ones. We hope that it stays that way into the future!!</i>
<i>The only issue I see every year is the grass clipping mess at Cook Park.</i>
<i>Love the new path to the point. Great job on the parks. Would love to see some cross-country skiing spots. More trails.</i>
<i>A walking trail with places to stop and get breakfast or bagels with outdoor seating would be amazing.</i>
<i>Please please include a hip-hop excessive class instead of or with also the Zumba classes. I love it when Ashley was there and so did a lot by how many were in attendance. Zumba is not fun when it's the same all the time. Besides exercise is fun when you know the words to the music.</i>
<i>You do a great job. Last year was outstanding, considering what we were up against. I appreciate your efforts!</i>
<i>AS OUR COMMUNITY GROWS WEST OF THE HIGHSCHOOL, IT WOULD BE GREAT TO EXPAND MORE BIKE TRAILS.</i>
<i>The road into Fresh Air Park needs to be replaced. This park is used for walking, biking, ice fishing, swimming, picnicking, and just relaxing. It needs a garbage can, picnic tables, a working outhouse and a NEW ROAD. It is JUST as important as Arrowhead or any other city park.</i>
<i>We love biking and playgrounds so that's what our family does most. We enjoy the music in your parks and the splashpad. Trash cans and bottle filling stations would be nice.</i>
<i>Thanks for all you do!</i>
<i>Nature trails, butterfly park/garden, off road bicycle trail, fishing piers would be interesting things to add. Overall blacktop trail systems are good. Many people comment there are few places to fish off shore. Might be opportunity areas to focus on.</i>
<i>We love Neenah Parks. Grateful we live in a community that values parks and recreation. Bring soccer back to Parks and Rec for summer programming, it was our family's favorite program and we are disappointed that it's only offered through NSC now. Parks and Rec feels like it's for everyone in our city and we love that.</i>

Our family really love everything about Neenah. We are proud to live here. We are living a dream life.

Firstly due to the safety, secondly the parks, activities and amenities and third because the continues improvement like the new High School, the new Lakeshore road, the new ice skating ring and the other future improvements that I already see in the city website like the dog park (even though I don't have a dog), the arrowhead park, the commercial street improvement, etc.

We are very grateful to the mayor and the councilors and the entire city administration, in addition to the Neenah School District. During the pandemic period, you have made tough but correct decisions for the well-being of the population.

Everything is perfect but allow me to suggest only 2 improvements:

- Court cover to use during the winter time.

- Fresh Air Park - I don't know what is happening here and maybe it's related to the residents like the lakeshore but it does not look like a Neenah place.

But again, thank you so much! You are the best!

We love Neenah but wish it had more off leash dog exercise options!

We would love to see a youth kickball league to participate in. We would love to do more scavenger hunts .

In reference to what I previously said about Lauden park, take a visit to see how much love it receives. We see the school kids play there for recess every day even though it's not really age appropriate for the big kids to be on most of that equipment. Things are extremely worn and the entire border keeping the mulch in is all cracked and broken the whole way around the playground. It looks terrible, but it's our closest park so we utilize it but drive to better ones as much as possible.

How come the bike playground didn't make the survey? :) Good job Mike and team you are doing a great job making the parks an enjoyable destination in the city.

More public trash cans. More public safety patrol related to speeding/noise around Kimberly Point area. Explore solutions to mitigate algae in sail boat harbor during summer.

We would love some bike trails on the south/southwest side of the city! It would be great to have something on G since the road is so narrow.

Expand geese deterrent along the wooden trail at Riverside park.

Would like to see the Fresh Air Park improved.

Would like the Trestle Trail be improved by removing the gutter at the end of the trail as it approaches Fox Street. The corner there is sharp and narrow. Would be better for Bicycles to exit onto the street and avoid walkers.

We LOVE Washington Park. Our family is so impressed with all of the tiny details that were obviously so well thought out. My daughter uses a gait trainer (walker) to get around and she can participate in almost all of the activities the park offers. Realizing she can participate with the other kids while also being mobile in her own way is such a joy for her. THANK YOU for making this a priority. My comment would be to continue to create inclusive spaces but the department is far and away on top of that.

I wish the parks had garbage cans. I know that people could pack out what they pack in, but they don't, and then my kids gather up everyone's trash and my car becomes a landfill.

If when my kids collected litter they could throw it away immediately, it would save my van floors from being very sticky some days.

There is not a need for more amenities; however, Neenah needs to step up their programming as Kimberly offers MUCH more and that is who you are competing against to losing families.

Make more public outreach, GET PEOPLE INVOLVED MORE! This survey is great, but work to get people involved, do a pop-up Education and learning event downtown with volunteer sign-ups for projects around town, and/or info about everything the park and rec does. Or host live in-person survey events for decisions like these. You're telling me you can't put a "fireworks-sale-sized" tent-heck, even just a 10x10 foldable Coleman gazebo up at Washington park where tons of traffic would see you out there to get the people's attention? Make the decisions and the work that goes into the planning of our parks and rec more available to residents. I volunteered at Rydell (before you chopped it down to just another average looking park) and when I was telling people about it-nobody knew what I was talking about... there was only a small sign Posted at the park a week before the volunteer event. you have to go to the parks page or be on one of the community fb pages to catch info on decisions being made or volunteers needed. most of my friends and family don't regularly check that info just for funzies... so you have to figure out something else to get people involved and make a better attempt to get mostly EVERYONE'S opinion. Otherwise the ones left out of having a say in things, usually don't care about all the hard work and resources that go into the planning and maintaining of our parks-and that's where we get jerks who wreck our stuff. So, try harder to reach ALL OF NEENAH! Make them feel like their wants and needs matter- and that will make them feel like they have something to keep nice and protect.

I love the park systems that we have but question when trees are cut down seemingly indiscriminately. It would be nice for us to let some of the areas just be with little interference (minus removing invasive species). I also feel like we don't need more but could look to provide distinctive features at the ones we have

Unlock restrooms earlier in the year or keep a few open year-round, fill holes in ground after snow/ice melts at designated sledding hills and ice-skating areas, install new play equipment at quarry park.

Cook park needs better facilities. Bathrooms, pavilion, water bottle filling...it's on the trail, YMCA camps, and the eagle's nest is making it a popular destination!

I love in fox crossing

Keep up the great work!

I would really enjoy local mountain biking trails.

Thank you for your service to our community!


Thank you to everyone who helps to keep the parks clean and safe. We're very fortunate to have so much!!

I really enjoy all of the parks I've been to. I am excited for the pool to open and the ice-skating rink downtown. I feel that each park has its perks and makes me go find new parks to explore.

Get rid of bike lanes on the street. More fishing docks around the city.

Thank you for all you do! I like seeing police patrols and presence at parks and trails. Gives us peace of mind and is healthy for children to see. Video surveillance is also welcome in cases where folks may not always bring a cell phone. Anything to keep all the generations of

<p>Neenah safe while enjoying the city offerings. Please continue expanding accessibility for children and adults with limited physical capabilities. Thank you for including all ages in the summer programs as well! We feel lucky to have gotten into our first choices...its great classes are in such high demand!! We know it takes a lot of work behind the scenes and we appreciate it.</p>
<p>It would be nice to have soccer and baseball programs back in the park and rec. I can't afford \$150 per kid to try out a sport to see if they like it, but \$35 I could make do.</p>
<p>I love the things the parks department does, and think y'all do a great job. For purely selfish reasons, I'd love to see more kayak/canoe launches (we love to paddle).</p>
<p>Would love to see an amphitheater in Arrowhead Park for concerts and other gatherings</p>
<p>Maybe a bit more police presence or even community liaison members who walk/ride through. Just someone keeping an eye out.</p>
<p>As a stay at home mom to two toddlers, I love to take them out in the summer to the many parks and nature areas in Neenah! We would love to see more "toddler friendly" equipment. Many parks in Neenah are geared towards older kids. Also, would love to see more parks with the rubber ground versus wood chips! I think updating the equipment and adding a wide range of unique park equipment as well as clean bathroom facilities would make a tremendous difference in getting more families out to the parks!</p>
<p>Please please please add garbage and recycling receptacles to Washington park. I pick up trash every single time I go there. The distance from the concessions to the current trash cans is unreasonable for many visitors. And recycling should be encouraged.</p>
<p>Would love to see more garbage cans around town. We loop the lake a lot, and do other walks around town and run into the issue of not having a garbage to throw things away. I feel it would also encourage people to pick up trash more around town if they knew they wouldn't have to carry it all the way to the next park or home!</p>
<p>I love the Neenah parks</p>
<p>Enjoy taking my grandchildren to them, they are clean and well maintained</p>
<p>The Neenah Pool staff is fantastic ;-)</p>
<p>I was saddened on how the plans for arrowhead park have changed. I think there added some beat elements but I very much would have loved to see a playground instead of an amphitheater. And an expansion of the native prairie walking trails.</p>
<p>I think the programs need to be reevaluated and the book let that is sent out is not very user friendly. It is very confusing to understand. Would be better if you had it separated by age or day like all the activities available for a 6-year-old on one page or everything that is available on a Monday. When trying to sign multiple kids or age groups up it is hard to sort out what kid can do what.</p>
<p>Also, why was dance/soccer/baseball moved to private programs- it is a disservice to those who just want those programs for fun. I feel un welcome at those programs as my kids are not "star" athletes.</p>
<p>I feel like there are more opportunities to offer classes that are non-sports specific- archery, strength and conditioning, ninja warrior, STEM, survival skills... my kids like to do outdoor things that aren't just sports. Also disappointed in the lack of activities offered in the fall-sep/oct. The weather is beautiful but there are no activities listed. We've done fall archery, flag football, fall baseball thru Menasha and fox crossing park and rec because Neenah doesn't affect much. There also seems to be very limited things offered for kids after 5th grade. Activities like pickle ball require older ages than 11 but their choices are very limited.</p>

<p>Again, signed up for activities thru fox crossing because of this...pickle ball/archery/disc golf/golf camp... overall, love  Neenah park and rec and have had our kids in it for years! Loved it all...swim lessons, children s playtime, tot lot, afternoon adventure, tennis... pretty much all of it! Other than my previous points, 10/10</p>
<p>I wish there were more toddler programs. We loved 2s on the Move but that was really the only program we could do until my child turns 3.</p>
<p>Bring Soccer back in house . some kids are not meant to be in club sports . but should still have fun learning and playing!!</p>
<p>Love the variety of parks we have. Upgrades in playgrounds should be ongoing. Excited to see Arrowhead park become a destination. Please do not make this park like all of the others, we have enough parks with shelters to have potlucks at. Arrowhead park has the possibility to be something amazing. Thank you for all you do !</p>
<p>Climbing walls and/or ninja course obstacles would appeal to middle school-age kids that have outgrown most playgrounds either by maturity or physical size or both, but still enjoy playing.</p>
<p>Keep up the great work!!</p>
<p>Have rec volleyball for 9th to 12th grade students.</p>
<p>1. Irresponsible dog owners and dog poop along trails and near playgrounds Not sure what or how-to problem solve</p>
<p>Thanks for being great!</p>
<p>We love Neenah Parks and Rec!</p>

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APPENDIX B

PREFERENCE PERSPECTIVE

Appendix B: Preference Perspective

City, National, and State Preference Perspective

ACTIVITY	SURVEY*	CITY PARK	WINNEBAGO COUNTY	WISCONSIN STATE PARK & REC PLAN (SCORP)
archery	needed now	available	popular	growing
badminton	needed	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
baseball	needed	available	popular	stable
basketball	needed now	available	popular	stable
bicycling (bmx)	needed	unavailable	not mentioned	growing
bicycling (general)	needed now	available	popular	growing
bicycling (mountain)	needed	offered elsewhere	very popular	growing
boating (power boat)	not mentioned	available	very popular	growing
bocce	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
canoeing	needed	available	very popular	growing
cricket	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
disc golf	needed	possible elsewhere	popular	not mentioned
education (agricultural)	needed	offered elsewhere	not mentioned	not mentioned
education (historical)	needed	offered elsewhere	popular	not mentioned
education (nature)	needed	offered elsewhere	popular	growing
fishing	needed	available	very popular	growing
fishing (ice)	needed	available	not mentioned	stable
fitness exercise	needed	possible	very popular	not mentioned
fitness or vita course	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
football	needed	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
ga-ga pits	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
games (blacktop)	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
games (lawn)	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
gardening	needed	available	not mentioned	growing
gathering food	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
geocaching	needed	available	not mentioned	stable
golf	needed	offered elsewhere	very popular	stable
golf (miniature)	not mentioned	unavailable elsewhere	not mentioned	not mentioned
handball	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
hiking	needed now	available	popular	growing
hockey (ice)	needed	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
hockey (roller)	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
horseback riding	not mentioned	available elsewhere	popular	growing
horseshoes	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned

hunting (bird)	not needed	unavailable elsewhere	popular	decreasing
hunting (small game)	not needed	unavailable elsewhere	popular	growing
kayaking	needed	available	popular	growing
kickball	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
orienteering	needed	possible elsewhere	not mentioned	not mentioned
paddle boarding	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	growing
paintball	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
parkour	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
pet exercise	needed now	unavailable	very popular	growing
photography	not mentioned	available	popular	growing
pickleball	needed now	available	popular	not mentioned
picnicking	needed	available	popular	growing
playgrounds	needed now	available	popular	not mentioned
racquetball	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
rock climbing	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	growing
rowing	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
rugby	not mentioned	possible	popular	not mentioned
running	needed now	available	very popular	growing
shooting (target)	not mentioned	available elsewhere	popular	growing
shuffleboard	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
skateboarding	needed	upgrade	not mentioned	decreasing
skating (ice)	not needed	available	popular	stable
skating (inline)	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	decreasing
skiing (cross-country)	needed	available	popular	growing
skiing (roller)	not mentioned	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
skiing (water)	needed	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
sledding	needed	available	not mentioned	not mentioned
snowmobiling	not mentioned	unavailable	popular	stable
snowshoeing	needed	available	popular	stable
soccer	needed	available	not mentioned	stable
softball	needed	available	popular	decreasing
swimming (lake)	needed now	available elsewhere	very popular	growing
swimming (pool)	expansion needed	available	very popular	not mentioned
tennis	not needed	available	popular	stable
viewing (arts)	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
viewing (bird)	not mentioned	available	popular	growing
viewing (sports)	not mentioned	available	very popular	not mentioned
viewing (wildlife)	needed	available	not mentioned	growing
volleyball (beach)	needed	available	popular	not mentioned
volleyball (court)	needed	unavailable	not mentioned	not mentioned
volleyball (grass)	not mentioned	possible	not mentioned	not mentioned
wakeboarding	not mentioned	unavailable	not mentioned	growing
walking	needed now	available	very popular	growing

* Neenah City-wide parks and rec survey, 2021. Items bolded above are those activity/facility types listed as the top 5 that was ranked #1. (See Appendix A for detailed results.)



APPENDIX C

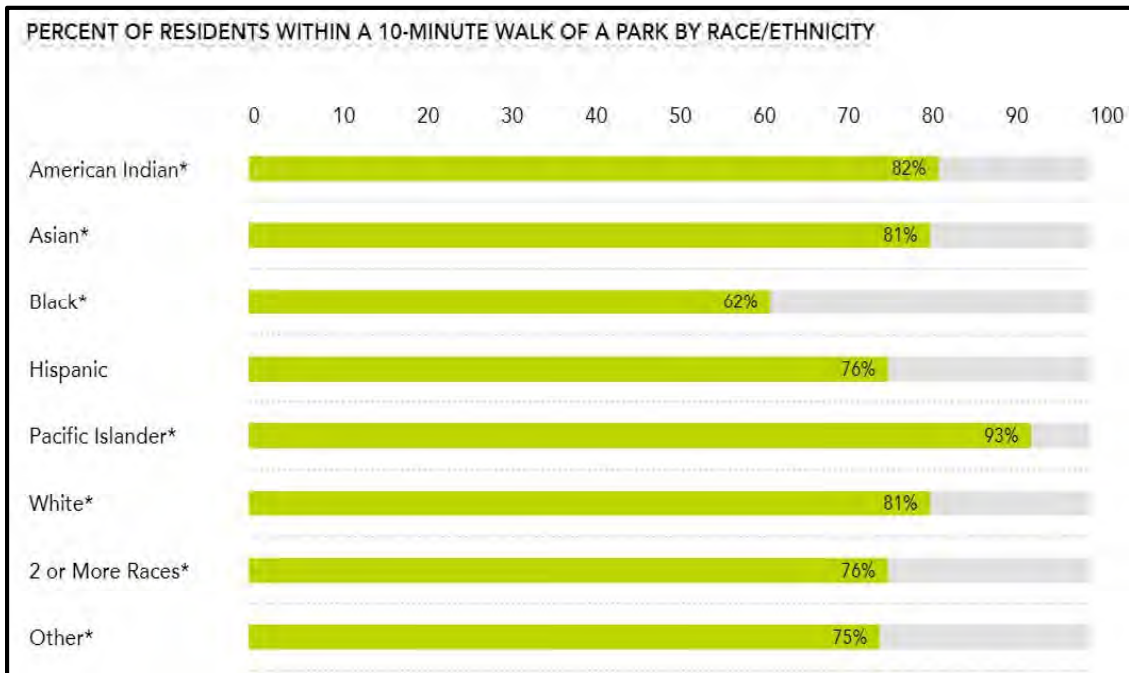
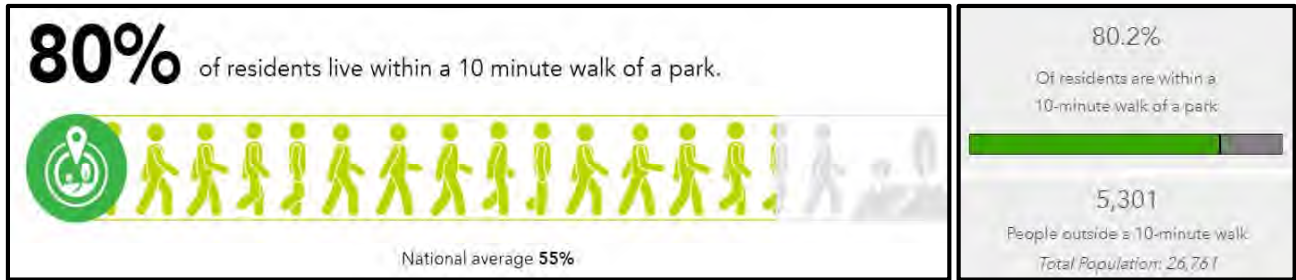
PARKSERVE DATA

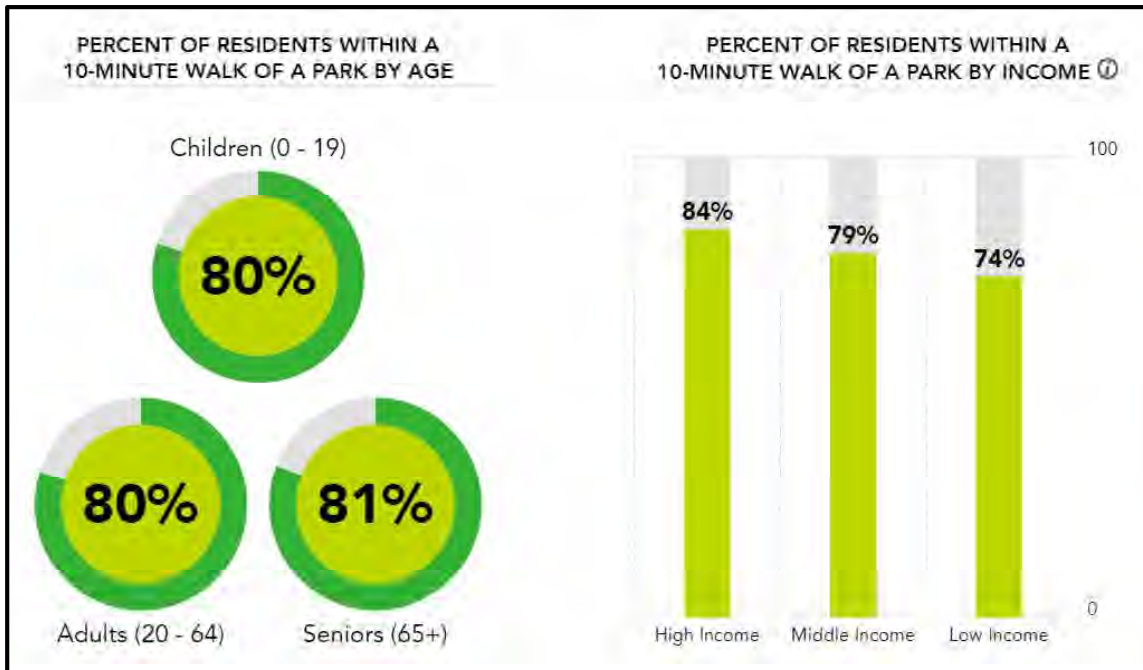
Appendix C: Park Serve Analysis

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS – PARK SERVE PLATFORM

To get a different perspective on needs assessment and walkability, the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) developed a comprehensive database to look at walkable service areas and breaks this down using US Census data. We can get a picture of where Neenah fits in comparison to the nation by a 10-minute walk for age, income, and ethnicity.

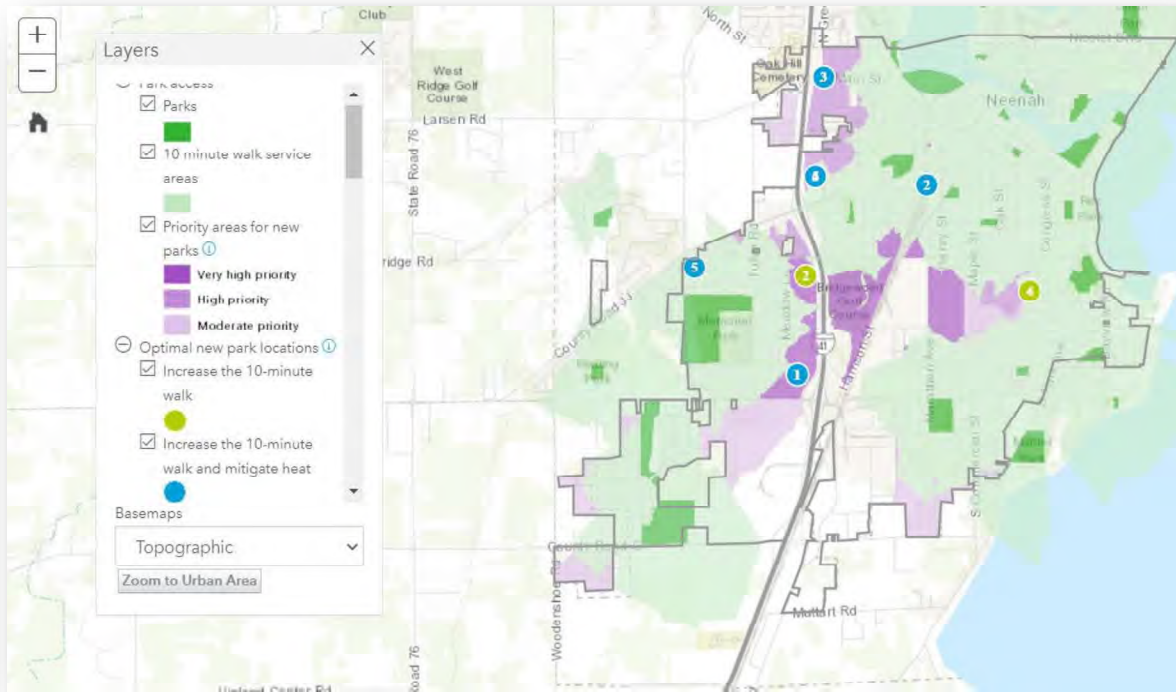
According to the TPL, here is where Neenah falls from their nationwide analysis of over 14,000 cities in America. The data represented uses a total population of 26,761 residents.





Priority Areas for new parks are mapped below as well as half mile walk service areas where an optimal place for a new park could be created. According to the TPL methodology, there are up to 5 optimized locations where new parks could make the biggest impact on the 10-minute walk. A 10-minute walk service area for all locations outside of a 10-minute walk of an existing park was created and then each optimized location was ranked by the number of residents within a 10-minute walk that currently live outside of that travel timeframe.

A questionable area is located to the east of I41 and west of the railroad tracks where Bridgewood Golf Course sits. The methodology used only recognizes city facilities and not private. Pockets of very to high are located in the center and northwest part of the city for the most parts.



The attached report gives a breakdown that the Trust for Public Land has used in its analysis and demographic representation of how many parks and where more are needed. These are aggregated results from their methodology.



APPENDIX D

FUNDING RESOURCES

Appendix D: Funding Resources

The City of Neenah will continue to identify and leverage a mix of funding resources and partnership support from a wide variety of potential sources for outdoor recreation improvements and maintenance. City financial resources potentially include standard operating budgets and general fund dollars, capital improvements budgets, loans, and bonding. Donations of volunteer time, dollars, or property from local residents, businesses, foundations, and partner organizations are becoming increasingly important. Successful partnerships with private organizations, clubs, and nonprofits demonstrates the City does not have to “do it all” on its own. The most appropriate mix of such funding sources for future outdoor recreation projects should be identified and incorporated into the five-year capital improvements plan.

Grant dollars from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (e.g. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program), Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Federal sources (e.g. Recreational Trails Act, Land & Water Conservation Fund), or foundations have long been key to major park improvements in Wisconsin communities. Additional grant dollars are available depending on the nature of the activity or attributes unique to the site (e.g. historic preservation, acquisition of floodplain conservation).

WISCONSIN DNR STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

Current Contact:
Jessica Terrien, Northeast District
920-662-5137

Stewardship Local Assistance, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Subprogram

Purpose: The ADLP program helps communities and organizations acquire land for public nature-based outdoor recreation and improve community recreation areas.

Allocation: Funds are allocated on a regional basis, proportional to population. Projects compete against other projects from their region.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCO). NCOs may only apply for ADLP grants to support land acquisition projects.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based recreation are eligible for ADLP grants.

Funding Priorities: ADLP funding priorities include projects that:

- *Support a local CORP;*
- *Support multiple uses;*
- *Are of regional/statewide significance;*
- *Result in a first-of-a-kind facility for the applicant;*
- *Involve two or more governmental agencies;*
- *Provide accessible recreation opportunities; and*
- *Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.*

Development Rights (ADR) Subprogram

Purpose: The purpose of the ADR program is to protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature-based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects: ADR grants may only be used to support projects that acquire development rights to support nature-based outdoor recreation.

Funding Priorities: The following types of property are given priority consideration for ADR grant funding:

- Land with water frontage;
- Land that provides a buffer between developed and natural areas; Land that connects existing natural resource protection areas;
- Land located within Department project boundaries; and
- Land with other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Green Space (UGS) Subprogram

Purpose: The UGS program supports acquisition of land for open natural areas and community gardens within or in close proximity to urban areas.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, NCOs, sanitary districts, and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts.

Eligible Projects: Projects that acquire land within or in proximity to urban areas that provides open space, protects unique natural features, and/or provides opportunities for community gardening are eligible to apply for UGS grants. Development projects are not eligible for UGS grants.

Funding Priorities: UGS funding priorities include acquisition of land that:

- Preserves land on the natural heritage inventory database;
- Implements elements of approved water quality plans or initiatives;
- Has unique natural features;
- Provides linear corridor connecting open natural areas;
- Has water frontage;
- Is of regional or statewide significance;
- Provides area for community gardens; and
- Has other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance, Urban Rivers (UR) Subprogram

Purpose: The UR program helps restore and preserve the character of urban river corridors through the acquisition and development of land adjacent to rivers.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide. No applicant can receive more than 20% of the UR funds allocated in any fiscal year.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation are eligible for UR grants.

Funding Priorities: UR program funding priorities include projects that:
Restore river corridors following dam removal;

- Support redevelopment of brownfields;
- Acquire land with unique natural or aesthetic values;
- Acquire land that connects with previous land acquisitions;
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for diverse urban populations;
- Provide new or expanded access to urban waterways;
- Support local/regional plans; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Purpose: The federal LWCF program supports development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide. There is a 50% local match per project due every May 1

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school districts. NCOs are not eligible to receive LWCF grants. A CORP is required.

Eligible Projects: Generally, all acquisition and development projects that are eligible under the ADLP, UGS, and UR Stewardship subprograms are also eligible for LWCF grants. In addition, projects that provide outdoor recreation facilities that are not exclusively nature-based, such as active sports facilities, are eligible for LWCF grants. Some exceptions apply, such as cases where the applicant intends to meet their match requirement with federal funds.

Contact a regional Grant Specialist for details.

Funding Priorities: LWCF funding priorities include projects that:

- Meet the needs of urban areas;
- Provide recreation opportunities for diverse populations;
- Acquire land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities;
- Provide multi-use and multi-season facilities;
- Enhance or preserve natural beauty;
- Are proposed by applicants which have financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in law/code.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Purpose: The federal RTP is administered in all states and is for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Allocation: Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies or incorporated organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Incorporated organizations are those that are incorporated under s. 181.32, Wis. Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor recreation trails activities.

Eligible Projects: Eligible projects in order of priority are:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands*);
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors (must comply with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended)

**Construction of new trails crossing federal lands only where permissible under other law, necessary and required by a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, approved by the DNR and the administering federal agency and consistent with applicable federal land management plans and policies.*

Funding Priorities: Non-motorized 30%, Motorized 30%, Diversified 40%

Wisconsin Urban Forest Assessment (WisUFA)

Current Contact:
Chase O'Brien, Urban Forestry Grants Manager
608-640-6143

Purpose: Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.

Allocation: \$1,000 to \$25,000 of grants awarded with a 50% local match per project due on October 1.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects:

- New, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs, not to subsidize routine forestry activities.
- Competitive start-up cost-share grants of up to \$5,000. Available to communities that want to start or restart an urban forestry program.
- Catastrophic storm grants fund tree repair, removal or replacement within urban areas following a catastrophic storm event for which the governor has declared a state of emergency under s. 323.10, Wis. Stats.

Funding Priorities: Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan. This includes worker training and street tree inventories.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

*Current Contact: Sandy Carpenter,
Northeast Region 920-492-5681*

Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-Urban)

Purpose: Provides flexible funds that can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway, bridges, transit facilities, and bike and pedestrian facilities.

Allocation: A 20% match is required. Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000, and construction projects must be over \$100,000. Cycles are usually February of each year.

Eligible Applicants: For urban areas, annual

funding for each of the two categories (5,000 to 20,000 and 20,000 to 50,000 in population) continues to be allocated by population

Eligible Projects:

- Complete Streets¹ *Roadways designed and operated to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable access and travel for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities are able to safely and comfortably move along and across a complete street.*
- Accessible Sidewalks and Street Crossings
- Planning and design of pedestrian accommodations.

Safe Routes to School Grant Program (SRTS) and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Purpose: Federal and State assistance to combat childhood obesity and reestablish walking and bicycling to school safely.

Allocation: 20% local match per project by an eligible local sponsor

Eligible Applicants: Local and regional governments, schools and districts, non-profits, tribal governments, public land agencies, transit agencies, and regional transportation authorities.

Eligible Projects:

- The project must fit within one of the federal eligibility categories and must comply with any additional WisDOT TAP policies as outlined in these guidelines.

- The project must relate to surface transportation.
- The project must have an eligible sponsor.
- The project must be selected through a competitive process.

Other Grant Links

Community Grants:

<https://www.cffoxvalley.org/>

Sports Field Grants:

Major League Baseball

<https://www.mlb.com/mlb-community/healthy-relationships-community-grants>

Playground Grants:

Burke

<http://www.bciburke.com/grants.html>

Miracle

<http://www.miracle-recreation.com/purchase-options/playground-grants.html>

Landscape Structures

<http://www.playlsi.com/Research-Plan/Playground-Planning/Financing/Playground-Grants/Pages/Playground-Grants.aspx>

Play & Park Structures

<https://www.playandpark.com/funding/grant-opportunities>

¹

<https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/ped.aspx>

Educational: (Could be used for landscaping also)

Environmental Education in Wisconsin

<http://eeinwisconsin.org/core>

National: The National Parks and Recreation Association has fundraising ideas and resources along with grants for parks.

NRPA

<http://www.nrpa.org/fundraising-resources/>

Misc:

Fitness Equipment

ExoFit Outdoor Fitness

www.exo.fit/grant

Amazon Smile Program

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Park Foundation

<https://parkfoundation.org/applying/>



APPENDIX E

PARK COMMISSION PARK AUDIT RESULTS

Appendix E: Park Audit Results

During June of 2021, Park and Recreation Commissioners were asked to visit 3 parks with 4 Commissioners visiting the same park to gain different perspectives on improvements. The parks that were audited asked 4 questions along with date of visit and weather conditions. Out of the 24 parks and facilities in the City, these 9 parks were inspected:

1. Memorial
2. Riverside
3. Cook
4. Doty
5. Southview
6. Carpenter Preserve
7. Fresh Air
8. Kimberly Point
9. Green

The 4 questions for the assessment were:

1. Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park.
2. Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?
3. Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?
4. What concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

FINDINGS

Park Name	Carpenter Preserve			
Date of Observation(s)	6/1	6/16	6/5	6/25
Weather Conditions	beautiful sunny day	Sunny	Hot/Sunny	Sunny, clear

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

The north and south access points to the preserve are very appealing. There are two good access points off Pendleton, but they are unmarked
Big wetland with no access from any roads. Not sure why anyone would come to this. Keep this natural
Currently not much there other than woods on the north end and the playground. No trails on the south end. A lot of buckthorn on north side
Wild hard to find/follow "trail". No map / trail info @ parking area.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

Carpenter is very similar to Wilderness before the removal of all the buckthorn and the work by the boy scouts on the trail.
This will never be a park with much beside trails and parking, that is okay.
Heckrodt Nature Center

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

In the past we have had a trail from CTH G to the Breezewood in the CIP. I think that would be a good idea together with an analysis of what is growing there and how to improve.
Almost 20 yrs. ago the committee formed to recommend what to do there which included an observation tower and education center
Hiking trails/snow show trails

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

When we first moved here Wilderness Park was a place where the local kids went to smoke. If we don't do something with Carpenter, that will be the same.
Would like to know who takes care of the pond with the 3 fountain off of Pendleton Rd - please advise
Trail improvement on the north end and add trails - boardwalks on the south end. Hard to see park sign. Parking on both end of the park. New park sign design
Unclear boundaries (omg). Do we want access - south end? Overgrown trails-nee chips and mowing. Warning of slippery mud trail by creek.

Park Name	Cook		
Date of Observation(s)	6/8	6/29	6/28
Weather Conditions	Sunny Nice	Cloudy, scattered showers	Warm, overcast

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

For a neighborhood park Cook has more bells and whistles than most of the rest and yet we plan to replace the existing shelter and upgrade the equipment
First impression based on previous knowledge, is this is a "patchwork" assembled park. No criticism on the previous park development as they dealt with this area with what they had. It was after all, a neighborhood park. Not many people knew of Cook Park as our signage is located on River Street with minimal exposure now with our Arrowhead-Herb & Dolly Trail with present trestle trail system. Recommendation that the sign be placed on Water Street and enhanced.
Shelter will soon need to be replaced. One piece of equipment on the playground is bent, but it is operable (big hanging slider).
This park feels very uninspiring, but taken care of. NOT updated, but clean and maintained. Spacious, underutilized.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

No
Other than the eagle nest in the cottonwood tree (please keep) the park has very few attractive or existing features. This park is in the line for a complete makeover. With the acquisition of house on Water Street, one can see the potential of a park redevelopment. One house needs to be acquired (405 Water Street). It would open it up for added amenities coming off the Arrowhead track for the south. P.S. Bill Dunwiddie championed the slope on River Street as a modest sledding hill.
If we aren't factoring in money or staffing, my vision for this park would be to create a truly fantastic inclusive playground and park that could become a destination park for the area (and as a side note, would also give us a 'reason' to maintain bathroom facilities in this neighborhood park that otherwise wouldn't have them.) I'm not giving up the dream, but this is also a nicely located park in relation to the Loop and would be a nice place to for looping families to begin their walk or use it as a place to pause, snack, play. Some shade features and picnic areas would be a nice addition and a way to use some of the green space.

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

No
1-I can envision relocation and new addition of the shelter with restroom facilities-located somewhere else from its current location. 2-A a trailway through the park. 3-reconfiguration of playground equipment. 4-basketball court (with some parking ??? perhaps on the corner of Water/River Street.) 5-I also think we need to keep a certain amount of green space available to ??? and other interactive activities.
Opportunity? Does park and rec own the lot on the corner of River/North Water? If so, then 405 N. Water is an acquisition target. If acquired, the area at this end of the park could be used for many different things...pickleball, sport field etc.
Not at this time

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

I think that any upgrades and improvement to the park should be put on hold until the needs of some of our other parks are met.
We need to make this park more inviting to the public. This means dressing it up a bit. i.e. the plaque needs to be displayed better; the SC COOK stone monument needs to be relocated and featured differently or not at all...large and clunky. Add to CIP.

Parking would be my first concern, especially if the park is enhanced and gains in popularity/use. Also, there are two signs for the park and it is confusing in its current location. It isn't functioning as the main entrance to the park, but maybe that area can be designed to serve as a more welcoming entry point for visitors parking on that street. It bothers me that the bathrooms are not accessible to the community. I do understand there are challenges there, but it is a concern that I have.

Park Name	Doty		
Date of Observation(s)	6/16	6/4	6/24
Weather Conditions	Sunny	Sunny / Warm	Cloudy, Breezy

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

Rustic Cabin w/lots of history. Met Jann and Bill funny couple

Long river frontage is awesome with the bridges, Doty cabin, Whiting Boathouse, play areas and the boat launch offers great opportunity to enjoy in many ways.

Serene, empty, great place to hang out. Run Down. Nice balance of treed area and open space.

I love this park and I am glad there is a facelift going on.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

Always things you can add, but other parks are a higher priority after courts and shoreline are worked on

Signs about the history of the park and this area?

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

Pickleball courts being installed. Shelter and restrooms need upgrading. Does playground equipment serve all needs?

No

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

Playground looks a little dated. Cabin is closed for COVID. But big groups come through

Shoreline needs work soon. Some work on Doty Cabin. No other immediate needs. New Park signs. Replace hand dryers with new high-speed version.

Drainage - just rained looks like a big pond at the river end of the park. Flower beds a bit sparse. Put a bench on the land side of the south bridge. (view for less mobile) Turf grass species display? Rock/star (south of courts) What's that about?

Whiting boathouse parking lot seems to be flooding with overflow from the westside of the park, wondering why that is? Perhaps sprucing up the shelter might be better; however, the addition of the new courts and rec area is awesome; perhaps sprucing up playground equipment.

Park Name	Fresh Air			
Date of Observation(s)	6/14	6/29	6/28	6/?
Weather Conditions	Sunny low wind		Overcast 73	

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

Great potential
First impression is the rough road and parking lot. (Hopefully 2022 in CIP). A few picnic tables here and one isolated grill is island area. I suggest we move it close to area near edge of parking lot.
One immediately notices(feels) the poor condition of the road. Overall, the park looks nice; trees in good condition, neighbors' plantings accent the driveway. Suggestion: would be nice to plant a tree on the eastside of the road at the exit...this is very open; tree would add symmetry.
Beautiful trees throughout the park must consider keeping as many as possible when we are renovating; blue porta potty seems out of place; lacking picnic benches not much else around the parking area; the park sign itself is dingy and dirty, will need new signage.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

This is a unique area. Refuge from the heat-swimming and access to lake for ice fishing. There were 4 people swimming when I was there. No other amenities are needed except for a restroom.
--

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

Great park, need some love; a lot of stray garbage
We need to keep a presence here. Daily or weekly maintenance, some patrols - better signage. Allow dogs to swim in the water.
Grills / Picnic tables...would need to be locked to the ground or they'll end up in the lake.

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

Sign-needs work! Overgrown, random, needs a plan; replace road; sign need work; overgrown plants on shoreline, security problem, losing recreation area; bollard rotting; grill in the middle of nowhere; need more picnic tables/grills
My concern is that some of our leaders may feel that this parcel is not worth maintaining. We need to maintain a presence-even to schedule a few events here. We need to show town that this is a city of Neenah Park and will maintain it for its citizens.
Opportunities: 1-trim bushes along the eastside of park; make more beachfront. 2-improve signage-hours, park rules, observe private property. Ability to post sign when there are algae blooms to warn people. Could have sign w/a phone number and record message or algae. When repaved, include speed bumps. (Neighbors acknowledge that the good thing about the current road condition is that people cannot speed. Maintain the beach after storms i.e. fish, branches, etc... wash ashore ??? the sand beach. Any way to padlock the port-a-potty to the ground to help prevent people from turning over? Would the town collect garbage / recycling if there were receptacles?

More can be done with the non-beachfront area; the beach area can be raked and flattened as well as a definitive line in the sand so to speak as to where the Park beach starts and stops.

Park Name	Green			
Date of Observation(s)	6/14	6/22	6/28	6/?
Weather Conditions	Sunny	Cloudy/ Cool	Overcast 76	

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

Great neighborhood park, clear sight lines
Open field, uneven turf, needs shade? Wood chips in the play area, fence at play area are in poor shape; corner flower boxes also in poor repair; 2 benches
Busiest of the parks I visited. Nice neighborhood park. Equipment being used by many kids
Nice looking neighborhood park plenty of space for softball and kickball type things; like the landscaping but needs to be refreshed; nice playground equipment simple but well-kept; sign age again seems to be a problem; full fence is nice adds a nice touch to it; tennis courts seem well-maintained; bathroom facilities are nice perhaps more picnic spaces.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

No
Not sure how to best use the large open space? reline for whiffle ball? Kickball? Bike area (for small people) Kite flying
No

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

More shade trees around perimeter
No

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

Sign - good shape, surround plants need attention; light pole-high voltage signs are damage, need replacing; Planter need work, replacing, triangle edges are <u>sharp</u> ! dedication sign needs leveling; old sign on fence remove; fence-remove foliage.
Are lights used? Do local schools us it? Could they? More shade, improved turf and playground surface (2024). ADA playground? Decide what the park "character" needs to be. I guess neighborhood parks are meant for multiple play opportunities-not a shady relaxation spot?
None
Mulch enclosure needs work connectivity entrance; flower boxes need to be repaired; I think the nautical theme can be removed and moved on from; The green space around the signage is nice.

Park Name	Kimberly Point			
Date of Observation(s)	6/8	6/16	6/4	6/?
Weather Conditions	Sunny Nice	Sunny	Sunny / Warm	Overcast / Warm

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

In my opinion the perimeter of the park along the water is a very popular destination. Many people come to fish or just look at the water. The interior of the park is another matter. It looks(s) like a place that we forget. We've removed the one in the interior (the playground equipment).
Very attractive, lots of seating, need a community playground (small) The playground that was removed was always being used, Handicapped signs are both leaning
Can't beat the view of the lake/river from this park and the lighthouse adds to the beauty. Old curbing along the shoreline looks horrible. Trail needs to continue through the park. Swings?
As I approached the park from the new trail, my first impression was that the shoreline was looking a little messy. The rocks don't look very nice, especially with the weeds growing in them. And the shade and geese don't help with the appearance of the grass on the water side of the park. But I never noticed it much before being asked to look with intention.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

No
Open covered shelter for picnics. Touch the water stone features. Removed the wood pier, too expensive to repair after ice shoves.
I've recently been to several parks near water and all of them had bench swings (not swing sets) in addition to some stationary benches. I think this would be a nice enhancement as the wooden benches reach the end of life. Additionally, I would like to see some actual swings in the park. They can be decorative vs. metal swing sets, but something for the younger audience – and their grownups who will appreciate the distraction while they enjoy the park themselves. This would be a nice area to have some step-down areas for touch the water (or hang your feet in the water) features. Maybe a couple of places on each side of the lighthouse. Across the road is a large grassy area, which is lovely but it would be nice to draw visitors into that space as well. Perhaps some picnic pavilions or other elements to create an anchor for people to gather ... It can feel awkward to just plop down in the middle of a field. Are the grills being used or can they be removed/replaced/relocated? Perhaps some sculptural art elements on the grassy area or along the trail. Could be simple but meaningful – like the bike memorial for Christopher (this is such a touching way to honor him).

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

One of the items in the community survey was a rock-climbing area. If we don't consider putting playground equipment in the interior of this place, this may be an alternative.
Restrooms need to be gutted and updated, old /dark. Repair brick on lighthouse and paint. Picnic tables along water, swing benches.
It isn't necessarily top of the 2015 list, but people seem to want more access to the water. Other than fishing, is there a way we can provide this opportunity? Probably not a great spot for swimming or kayak launch, but how else can we enjoy the access to the water?

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

I think the Park and Rec should reconsider their decision to not have playground equipment in the interior of this park. Although the Rocket Slide area at Riverside is close to the Kimberly Point the big kids make it difficult for the toddlers to get onto the equipment. Playground equipment for toddlers would be a good addition.
Paint in the lighthouse (north) is peeling. Any interest from the fishing community to extend the dock in both directions?
Solve-one-way to two-way traffic issues. Artifact issue. Trail match up from park to N. Park on which side? Update Park Signs
The beautiful new trail dumping into the street of course. It seems to be leading walkers to cross the road into the grassy field area, which will be odd if the trail is extended on the water side. Will that ramp be removed? Will the trail extend in some fashion the grassy area? Parking and traffic direction seem to confuse people. Edit: after the presentation at our last meeting, I returned to the park to revisit the space where the proposed trail would be; specifically, on the side where the residential homes are located. Seeing it in person with the trail in mind reaffirms my belief that we should NOT attempt to include a trail on the house side of the road. Crossing the road to get back on the sidewalk is not a huge issue.

Park Name	Memorial			
Date of Observation(s)	6/10	6/16	6/29	6/?
Weather Conditions	hot muggy	sunny	Rainy / Cloudy	overcast, warm.

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

This is a great park! It has a lot for everybody and gets lots of use.
George Scherck Pavilion is very nice. Like the two rooms and covered area next to the playground. Playground layout v. good; parking v. good; great soccer field. Talked w/mother and 2 children-like this playground
Memorial is a combo park, athletic field, baseball diamonds, and shelters for public use. This is an appealing park that accommodates small and large size groups. Memorial is a showcase park with all the soccer tournaments we host that accommodates large crowds.
This park is sizeable and almost feels like two parks. One side has a very summer camp feel and hasn't been updated much, the other clearly newer and updated. It also very much feels like a sports park and I wonder if visitors feel comfortable using the fields or do they think the clubs own the spaces and no one is able to use them. I have always gotten a creepy, haunted impression from the woods.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

No
Destination parks like Memorial could have some floral areas at the entrance that could be more inviting -have seen this in other parks in other cities. Additional signage at Memorial would be beneficial.
I think the path between the woods and high school track/football field could be visually enhanced with more of the boulders from the parking lots and a couple of benches. It's not really a facility but the pavilion and woods and former theater style seating gave me a summer camp feeling and I wondered if this is a space that could be used to expand the summer childcare programming options. Summer day camps – that's fun! And options for childcare is in huge demand.

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

The Parks 1997 Master plan provided for an environmental area. At this point that has never happened and the whole area remains part of the Great Lawn with a few temporary soccer fields and several lacrosse nets. There used to be an archery range over by the maintenance area and some citizens have (3-4) have asked for its return.
We have a great trail system in Memorial - for biking & walking. Many of these items of the community serving have been addressed and locate dot other locations when practical. (i.e. archery)
I am not a cross country skier so my knowledge is limited, but is this a park we could address the community interest in ski trails?

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

We have more important projects that need our immediate attention and in my opinion anything new other maintenance items could be kicked into the future.
Why didn't the city buy/trade this land for the new high school. Would not have to build new athletic fields. First pavilion needs to be painted at baseball field
Really no concerns other??? For use of softball diamond where usage may further decline. Staff will need to remember this. Will need to continue. Again, to make our parks attractive & inviting not only to our citizens, but to travelers the addition of grills in our picnic areas should be added. Perhaps trail lighting along the northside of woods would be welcomed and safer.
Can we somehow hide the garbage dumpster in the parking lot? Between the entrance to the woods and the pavilion a shortcut has worn the grass. We should create an actual path. Enhance the entrance to the woods to welcome me in and perhaps provide some context. What am I walking into? The parking lot closest to Pendleton is looking rough. I never knew there were benches/amphitheater style seating near the pavilion. But it looks pretty bad and if used, should be updated. Or removed if not used.

Park Name	Riverside			
Date of Observation(s)	5/30	6/14	6/22	6/?
Weather Conditions	66/Sunny		Cloudy, cool, breezy	

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

Beautiful park w/many trees, pavilion, a fantastic rocket playground and trail along the Fox River. There are over 20 benches/swings to enjoy the view of the river and harbor
Impressive curb appeal
Beautiful shaded, want to walk in it. Path's inviting. Trees are amazing! Why did we remove shrubs on Wisconsin Ave? Yacht Club swing bench. ADA accessibility to dock area. 1 xxx, 2? 2 swing benches far north end.
This is nice park with a really nice trail surrounding it; Again signage on that is not as inviting , seems rustic but could be improved; The pavilion is nice and airy and is functional for all the people use the park for picnic benches on the west side; the rocket park is excellent; how functional are the water fountains and bubblers? benches could use some paint; plenty of benches near the water/rocket park which is very ; nice

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

Adding too much to this park would take away from what it is.
More Bike Racks

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

I agree that a few play pieces for younger children would add something missing with the rocket playground for 5-12 yr. old. Adding a pile of sand, like used to be there would be an inexpensive addition that our children enjoyed.

Signage about pet walking? What is pet friendly?

What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

The park sign needs to be replaced. Keep replacing trees. A more powerful restroom hand dryer would be a good addition. Trail needs work. Replace some areas and seal all of it. Replace hand dryers in restroom with new high-speed versions.

Rocket mound - looks barren; sign - good shape; green out of seawall; hole next to seawall; bottom wheel wood rotting; holes next to dock; grout missing on fountain caps; paint white pipes; level electrical box; west ramps absorbing in ramps

Path Lighting, does it work? Keep the "old park" character. Signs w/QRC about trees and their ages and park history? Maybe a wood sign. Gun info? (the artillery piece could be explained)

I wonder if there are some water features along the East side of the river where people can spend time fishing or observing or is there a possibility of having large rock steps or people could access the water from the park a bit more.

Park Name	Southview			
Date of Observation(s)	6/14	6/29	6/28	6/?
Weather Conditions	Sunny/ windy	Cloudy / Rainy	Overcast/77	Warm, humid

Please describe your first overall impression and curb appeal of the park

Great Woods!

Great look - overall for a major park. Features of the woods, soccer fields, baseball diamonds and tennis courts are special and distributed properly. No outstanding maintenance issues.

Parking lot is getting tired. Needs Replacing

This is the baseball park. Park is clean and well maintained.

Have you seen or heard of any facilities / park that have features this park might benefit from?

Certainly, parks with similar athletic fields and diamonds have considered locating restroom facilities closer to the activities, this is true with the 2 LL and PL diamonds.

I'm not sure there is much more that can be added to this park, but I would love to see the entry point at the back of the park cleaned up and defined a bit more.

Keeping in mind the list of top wishes / needs from the 2015 CORP / Citizen Survey, do you have any thoughts on how this park might satisfy any unmet needs?

I think we should be mindful of not putting on other potential activities and disrupt the existing facilities and create a crowding issue. With trails, woods, fields, I think Southview is complete.

In a green area there are, what appear to be, two poles for a volleyball net. Is this used? If not, consider removing the poles.
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What Concerns do you have regarding this park (beyond, money, staffing)?

Bench legs protrude on sidewalk field 3; sign good shape, planting needs work; electrical panel - no(t) appealing; sign supports need work, painting; doll at base of tree; volley ball posts? women/men's restroom doors need painting

Obviously parking when baseball and soccer activities on tournament days will overwhelm available parking in the park and on the street. If we are serious in attracting visitors???? The immediate area, we should make the park available for picnickers. There is a lack of picnic tables and grills.
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Is parking a challenge? I had a difficult time imagining myself visiting this park for any reason other than a baseball game. It isn't really a concern though since we have so many great options. But it really doesn't feel single purposed, even with the playground and picnic pavilion.

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