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2015-2019 Park and Open Space Plan

De Forest, Wisconsin

VILLAGE OF DEFOREST

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1 INTRODUCTION

This plan updates and replaces the Village of DeForest 2011 Park and Open Space Plan (POSP). It has been prepared to guide the Village in acquiring and developing public outdoor parks and recreation facilities and to enable DeForest to participate in outdoor recreation grant programs through the Department of Natural Resources. Certain portions of this report have been borrowed from the 2011 POSP and used as historical data and excerpts.

1.1 Executive Summary

This update of the Village of DeForest's POSP sets forth the Village's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. This plan is intended to guide the village's outdoor recreation facility development through the year 2019.

DeForest has enjoyed steady population growth in the past and is anticipated to add an additional 1,500 residents over the next ten years (Wisconsin DOA). These new populations will enjoy a variety of active and passive use parks with activities ranging from extensive multi-use trails, conservancy areas, splashpad, and athletic fields, to inviting family gathering facilities.

The existing village-owned park system is comprised of 16 active and passive use park areas. A majority of these parks are neighborhood scale parks with traditional recreational facilities such as playgrounds and open air shelters. The Village benefits from the proximity of the Yahara River which bisects the community. This corridor not only serves as a dramatic landscape for residents to enjoy but also provides natural habitat for wildlife to exist in the heart of the Village. In addition, Dane County currently owns and maintains Token Creek Park, which is located just outside of the Village's southern boundary and provides a very large public open space abutting a potential future Village Park (Reigstad) and Token Creek (a tributary to the Yahara River). There are also four local school parks owned by the DeForest Area School District that can be utilized by local residents for active outdoor recreation (tennis, basketball, play structures, etc.).

Several issues that repeatedly surfaced during the planning process are highlighted below:

- River-based Recreation: A variety of stakeholders expressed a desire for improvements that would enhance the quality of and access to the Yahara River for recreation.
- Maintenance Partnerships: Private organizations play a key role in park maintenance and programming.
- Support Facilities: Additional restrooms, consistent park signage and wayfinding, and concessions were cited as needs throughout the existing system.
- Community Center/Pool: The most commonly requested new facility was a community center/aquatic facility.
- Connections: Survey respondents stated that DeForest has a good open space system, but there is a need to complete the links between the parks and existing trails.

General recommendations for the entire park system include retrofitting all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible (when possible), including shelters and restrooms; improving existing playgrounds for all ages; establishing facilities for the 13-18 age group, developing

a village-wide multi-purpose trail or on-road bicycle facility system that connects Village and county parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community; and, actively pursuing funds for park and recreation programs and park development.

1.1.1 Mission Statement

The Village of DeForest Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of the community. This is achieved through the development and maintenance of the public parklands and facilities, in additional to providing a variety of quality recreation programs, activities and special events.

1.1.2 Statement of Need

The Village of DeForest Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been prepared to identify a strategy to provide residents and visitors with an array of recreational opportunities. This plan updates the 2011 Plan which is no longer useful in preparing budgets, policies and strategies to maximize the enjoyment and economic capability of the parks and recreation system. Although the existing plan is not expired, the Village Comprehensive Plan update was underway and given the change in Village development patterns it was prudent to update the POSP in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan.

1.2 Goals and Objectives

The following section identifies goals and objectives to guide the future development or expansion of community parks and open space facilities.

Goal 1.2.1: Ensure that the Village's existing open space, recreational facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability.

Objectives:

a. Prepare a site Master Plan prior to improvement and/or development of any public park to assure the highest and best use of existing Village resources.
b. Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas.
c. Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities by 2020.
d. Encourage participation and accommodation of all interested participants at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
e. Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication with the public. This is in reference to the standard language that government agencies should use on their agendas and other public meeting documents stating that accommodation for those with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting.
f. Assure that all parks have multiple access points and that a large portion of the facility is publicly accessible and viewable rather than hidden by residential lots.

Goal 1.2.2: Provide all residents with an opportunity to engage in recreational activities.

Objectives:

a. Provide at least one park and recreational facility within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Village residents.

b. Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current supply and demand, demands created by increasing populations, and environmental significance of the land.
c. Acquire at least 15 acres of land suitable for *active* recreation for every 1,000 new residents.
d. Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land in the parkland dedication ordinance. (refer to parkland dedication requirements in Village subdivision regulations)
e. Keep participant recreational activities fees affordable to allow broad participation and enjoyment of park facilities.
f. Establish a bicycle/pedestrian network to link existing and future parkland, employment centers, business districts, surrounding neighborhoods, and schools.

Goal 1.2.3: Coordinate subdivision review with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.

Objectives:

a. Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Park and Open Space Plan before subdivision plats are approved.
b. Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via development codes.
c. Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of residents.
d. Preserve any proposed trail corridors in any review of new development.

Goal 1.2.4: Coordinate development efforts and the maintenance of recreational facilities between the Village and private organizations.

Objectives:

a. Encourage cooperative Village/School/Sports Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
b. Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the Village, and community/volunteer organizations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the Village. Agreements should be reviewed every two years.
c. Participate in regional planning of parks and recreational needs, including the planning by surrounding towns, Dane County Parks Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Goal 1.2.5: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and mini park facilities.

Objectives:

a. Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development, or land use changes occur.
b. Communicate the importance of dynamic, multi-purpose parks and recreational facilities as a component of the village's regional draw and economic development potential.

c. Provide an adequate supply of large sports fields and other athletic facilities to meet the growing needs of league sports teams, and other organized recreational users.
d. Use Park Service Area Criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (see Chapter 2 and Map 4).
e. Develop new facilities to provide suitable recreational amenities to traditionally underserved age cohorts such as teenagers and senior citizens.
f. As development needs arise, install tot lots and smaller neighborhood parks in centrally located sites to promote neighborhood cohesion and provide a common gathering place.

Goal 1.2.6: Provide residents with safe and reliable recreation equipment throughout the village park system.

Objectives:

a. Accurately inventory existing parks facilities and maintain an active log of facilities improvement.
b. Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment in all Village parks.
c. Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.
d. Periodically inspect playground equipment for safety and industry standard compliance. Audits should be completed by a NPSI certified inspector.

Goal 1.2.7: Use all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village's park system.

Objectives:

a. Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
b. Nurture the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
c. Update the Village's Park and Open Space Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
d. Regularly update the Village Park Impact Fee section of the Village's subdivision regulations as development and demand for additional parkland grows.
e. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.
f. Utilize the skills and ideas of Parks Committee members. This includes keeping a roster of improvement ideas for evaluation and inclusion in POSP updates.
g. Explore opportunities to coordinate management and operations of parks and open space on a regional level, for example by working more closely with the Town of Windsor and Dane County Parks.

Goal 1.2.8: Improve and expand the bicycle system network.

Objectives:

a. Improve trail connectivity throughout the DeForest/Windsor area to parks, schools, and regional trails.

b. Establish wayfinding signage to allow new residents or visitors to effectively travel throughout the Village without the use of a motor vehicle.
c. Increase the availability and accessibility of bicycle parking at parks, commercial centers, employment centers, and key community destinations.
d. Coordinate with streets development to provide on-street linkages (such as bike lanes, sharrows, etc.) between trail segments and park facilities.

Goal 1.2.9: Recognize the importance of an adequate park budget, which can financially address existing park hazards and allow for future parkland acquisition and facility development.

Objectives:

a. Use the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
b. Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park prominence, community visibility, and use.
c. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the needs to improve, maintain, and renovate existing park sites and facilities.
d. Continue park donation programs (memorial benches, etc.) to enable philanthropy.

Goal 1.2.10: Continue to integrate programming and facilities development to correspond to recreational pursuits on a seasonal basis.

Objectives:

a. Create a menu of programs for each season to identify gaps in the calendar where programs are not offered.
b. Promote seasonal festivals in cooperation with local business and organizations.

Goal 1.2.11: Continue a focus on the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment.

Objectives:

a. Protect sensitive ecological areas for stormwater and flood management areas.
b. Promote water based recreation and education opportunities without over-exploiting the natural beauty of local lakes, ponds, and streams.
c. Continue efforts to improve vegetation and water quality in the Yahara River and its watershed.
d. Collaborate with other groups and organizations on mutually integrating programs and planning efforts. Examples of groups may include: the Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc., Token Creek Watershed Association, Linkages, and DeForest Area Friends of the Arts on programs and facility planning of mutual interest.

Goal 1.2.12: Utilize multimedia to advertise, promote, and educate users about Village owned parks.

Objectives:

a. Update the Village website to include more information on parks. This includes offering pictures, maps, and descriptions of play options.

b. Consider developing a more interactive parks website that allows users to select parks and view pictures and information specific to each site.
c. Announce and promote new facilities and playground installations.
d. Encourage neighborhood festivals at local parks to increase familiarity and appreciation for neighborhood parks.
e. Utilize on-line services, such as Google Maps, to publicize the Village's parks, such as by uploading photos.

1.3 Review of Past Planning Documents (Local, Regional, State)

1.3.1 Village of DeForest Park and Open Space Plan (2011)

The 2011 Park and Open Space Plan set forth the Village of DeForest's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. It was intended to guide the Village's outdoor recreation facility development to the year 2016. The plan establishes a goal of 155 additional acres of park land by 2016 based on the standard of providing 15 acres of park land per 1,000 new residents. The plan includes recommendations for all existing village public outdoor recreation sites.

Priorities identified in the 2011 POSP include:

- Acquiring and developing two new community parks
- Redeveloping Fireman's Park
- Developing youth sports fields at multiple sites
- Upgrading and improving existing park facilities
- Acquiring and developing new neighborhood parks and tot lots
- Developing a comprehensive trail system
- Developing Yahara River open space areas
- Collaborating on a Northern DeForest Area Conservancy
- Exploring development of a new or expanded community recreation/aquatic center
- Continue implementing park, open space and recreation projects

1.3.2 Village of DeForest Downtown Redevelopment Concept & Implementation Strategy (2009). *This document has been replaced with a chapter in the 2015 adopted COMP plan.*

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

1. Redevelopment of Fireman's Park, including sidewalks and wayfinding sign improvements.
2. Improvements to Veterans Memorial Park, including a canoe launch, interconnected river pathway system, vegetative shoreline restoration and native plantings, picnicking site, and an interpretive structure.
3. Downtown path connections that link the downtown to the Yahara River and the rest of the community. Path segments would connect Bakke Conservancy/Delkamp Trail with Western Green Park, downtown to Veterans Memorial Park, and the west end of Holum Street with the Western Green Park.

4. Installation of kiosks and interpretive structures to spotlight the Yahara River and downtown amenities.
5. Gathering place enhancements near the DeForest Library and Town Square, such as an attractive courtyard and a more logical and defined sidewalk connection between Market and Library Streets.

1.3.3 Upper Yahara River User Analysis, Future Opportunities, and Priority Projects (2008)
The Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters, Inc. commissioned a report to analyze current use, access, and users of the Upper Yahara River and to identify opportunities for advancing river health and expanding river-related activities. The report suggests several geographical areas of opportunity for future activities and improvements associated with the Upper Yahara River, including Conservancy Place, Lake Windsor Golf Course in the Town of Windsor, trails and trailheads, and Downtown DeForest. The report includes detailed recommendations for downtown river projects/activities, such as downtown path connections, improvements at Veterans Memorial Park, a path connection and trailhead at Holum Street, and a kiosk/interpretive structure at either Veterans Memorial Park or the proposed Holum Street trailhead area. Many of these ideas were transferred to the Downtown Strategy, described above. In addition, a potential rain garden was proposed for the Village Community Center; however, this location was determined to be infeasible and the rain garden was instead installed in front of Village Hall in 2009.

1.3.4 Ecological Assessment & Management Plan (2007, Update scheduled for 2015)
In 2007, an ecological assessment was conducted of the Village of DeForest's conservation parks, which include Western Green, Veterans Memorial Park, Bakke Conservancy and Northern Corridor Park. The Ecological Assessment & Management Plan records results of the field visits describing the natural communities in the conservancies and providing a plan to guide management actions necessary to preserve and enhance diversity of plant and animal species in these parks. The following action items were identified as high priority:

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

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

1. Focus on efforts to reduce non-point pollution through continued dialogue and cooperative efforts with contributing Drainage Districts, agricultural landowners, the Towns and Dane County Land Conservation Department, other watershed groups (such as Token Creek Watershed Association, and the Friends of Yahara River Headwaters, Inc., Friends of Lake Wingra) in primarily agricultural areas.

2. Implement no-mow buffer zones to reduce sedimentation and the flow of nutrients into the river. The Village will lead by establishing buffer zones along Village-owned parkland and property. Education and cooperation of adjacent riparian property owners in residential and urban areas will also be necessary.

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

Working with the DeForest Area School District and the Town of Windsor, the Village completed a Safe Routes to School Plan. That Plan identifies ways to improve bike and pedestrian access to the three elementary schools and one middle school in the DeForest-Windsor urban area. For off-street trail recommendations, the Village closely coordinated that Safe Routes to School Plan with the previsous Park and Open Space Plan. Based in part on the recommendations of both plans, and recent community discussions about sidewalks, the Village is adopted a sidewalk policy.

1.3.7 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan (2012-2017)

The *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* (2012-2017) seeks to identify significant cultural, historical and natural resources that should be considered for possible protection, preservation or restoration through 2017. The plan also identifies countywide recreation needs and Dane County's role in providing facilities to meet anticipated demands. The five primary goals of the plan include:

1. Provide sufficient park land and recreation facilities to meet the demand of Dane County residents without adversely affecting existing natural resources.
2. Preserve for posterity the characteristics and diversity of the natural, cultural and historical resources of Dane County.
3. Preserve large tracts of natural and agricultural rural landscapes at urban fringe areas that will provide regional resource protection and recreation benefits.
4. Provide volunteer opportunities and stewardship education to county residents of all ages.
5. Protect lakes, rivers and streams, including shorelines, wetlands, high infiltration areas and associated vegetative buffers to maintain high water quality, manage water quality and sustain water related recreation throughout Dane County.

High demand and participation rates were consistently shown for camping, biking, fishing and most trail activities in national, state, county and local recreation surveys. High participation rates in water related activities continue to warrant the priority to provide a variety of public access opportunities on Dane County waters and strong public support was heard for expanding trail facilities, particularly single track mountain biking in western Dane County. A synthesis of all planning considerations provides an accurate portrayal of the primary recreation expectations and the needs on Dane County's park system. They are as follows:

1. Trails (particularly mountain biking, snowshoeing, equine, and multi-use regional).
2. Wildlife viewing opportunities.
3. Water access facilities (fishing, canoe/kayak).
4. Camping.
5. Picnicking and shelters.
6. Disc golf.
7. Dog exercise areas.
8. Hunting and archery.

Future development of these types of facilities is compatible with projected population trends that point toward high future populations of both young and retirement-age residents.

1.3.8 Wisconsin's State Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since 1965, the State has developed and maintained the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in an attempt to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Goals include the following:

1. Improve integration of outdoor recreation interests and needs in land use and other relevant planning efforts.
2. Continue to provide and enhance access to Wisconsin recreational land and waters.
3. Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Wisconsinites.
4. Establish great urban parks and community green spaces.

1.4 Summary of the Planning Process

1.4.1 Work Plan and Timeline

This plan was developed between August 2014 and February 2015. The process included five meetings with staff and other officials, and a public information meeting/presentation to the Village Board. All parks were audited by SAA staff with findings identified on inventory sheets. An online survey was also performed to elicit public information from individuals and groups unable to attend the public meetings.

1.4.2 Meetings

Meeting #1 June 9, 2014: the kick-off meeting was at Village Hall with the Village's Director of Parks and Recreation and Village consulting planner. The scope and timeline of the project were reviewed and dates for the remainder of the meetings were set. Key discussion points included activities and programming, integration with the update of the Comprehensive Plan, and the proposed formatting of the report and maps.

Meeting #2 November 21, 2014: A progress review meeting was held with the Village staff and consulting planner to review project mapping.

Meeting #3 December 9, 2014 A progress review meeting with the Village staff was held to review input received to date and present preliminary plan recommendations.

Meeting #4 December 9, 2014: A second meeting with the village staff was held to review preliminary plan recommendations.

Meeting #5 February 10, 2015: SAA attended the Park Board meeting to present the final draft plan.

Meeting #6 March 16, 2015: SAA attended the Village Board meeting to present the final plan.

1.4.3 Online Survey

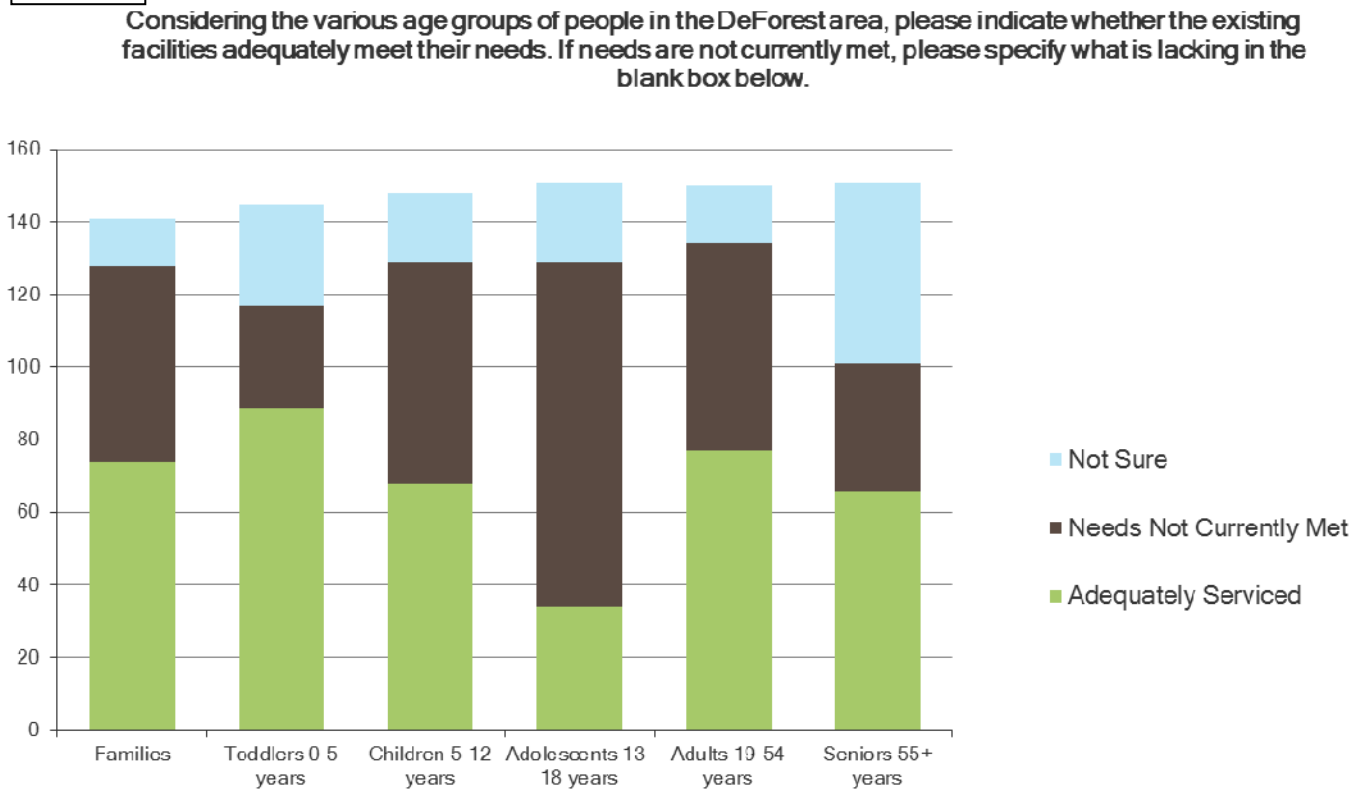
As part of the Village Comprehensive Plan update a survey was completed which included several questions pertaining to park and open space. The complete results can be found as part of that document.

During the development of this plan, an online survey was developed to record public opinion concerning key issues and opportunities for enhanced use and enjoyment of DeForest's parks and open spaces. The survey was also used to formulate recommendations in Chapter 3. A web link to the survey was placed on the home page of the Village of DeForest website and was also distributed via e-mail and shown during public meetings. The survey was activated in late September and closed October 31, 2014. A total of 301 individuals responded to the survey, 83.1% of whom were DeForest residents. A summary of responses for the entire survey is available for review in Appendix A. General findings are summarized below.

When asked about the overall condition of each type of recreation facility the majority of facilities were more frequently rated either "good" or "not applicable". General items like playgrounds, picnic areas, athletic fields, and trails were typically found to be "good". More specialized amenities like community centers, performance space, natural gardens, and niche activities like horseshoes, disc golf, and boating were found to be "not applicable." Facilities that "need improvement" include park restrooms, park concession facilities, outdoor ice skating rinks, and basketball courts. Fireman's park, the existing splash pad, and existing trails were the most frequently cited popular amenities listed by respondents.

When asked if there were enough of these facilities the most frequently desired amenity was a community pool (78.2%), followed by basketball courts (64.2%) and park restroom facilities (63.1%). The desire for a pool and basketball courts was reflected in multiple open-ended responses throughout the survey. Other needed facilities included park concessions, a bandshell or performance space, park shelters, a splash pad, tennis courts, multi-use fields, outdoor ice skating rinks, community gardens, volleyball courts, disc golf, fishing access, and lacrosse fields. While most respondents were satisfied with the overall condition of DeForest's trails, a couple of respondents suggested that trails should be better linked together into a cohesive network. When asked whether the park system serves the needs of all age groups, respondents felt that the only group without adequate facilities was "adolescents 13-18 years." This sentiment was reflected in multiple comments suggesting that teens and pre-teens need more opportunities for free outdoor activities. Many respondents who were concerned about a lack of activities for this age group suggested that a community pool or community center be built to appeal to teens and pre-teens.

Chart 1

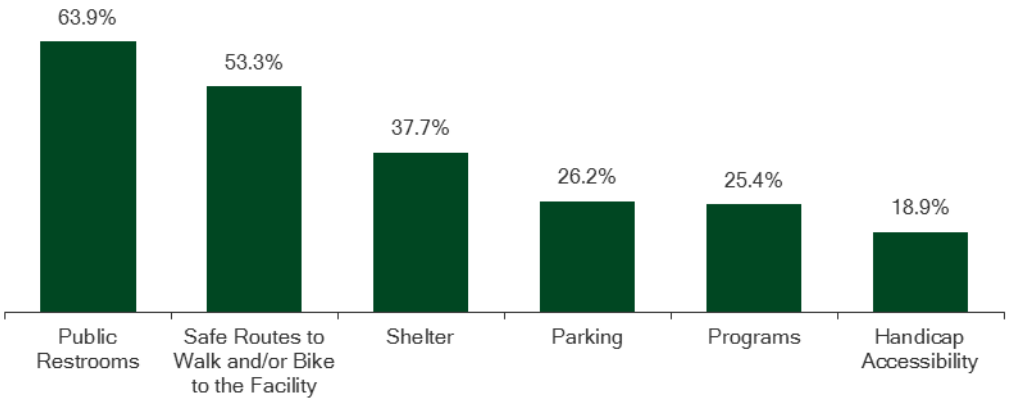


When respondents were asked to indicate whether each facility group was present in sufficient quantity in their community many of the items whose condition was considered "not applicable" in an earlier question were also perceived as desirable additions to the park system. This suggests that the earlier answer of "not applicable" when asked about facility condition had more to do with a lack of availability to or awareness of a facility rather than a lack of interest on the part of respondents. 82.4% of respondents would be willing to pay more in taxes or user fees for park facilities and amenities that are not currently provided in the area.

Support components are accessory structures and facilities necessary for park use. These include restrooms, parking lots, handicap accessibility, shelters, and public transportation. When asked if any of these facilities were inadequate in DeForest "public restrooms" received the highest percentage of affirmative responses (93.9%), followed by safe routes to walk and/or bike to the facility (53.3%), and shelter (37.7%). Comments frequently suggested that Fireman's park needed overall improvement in its facilities and maintenance. Other comments included a general desire for more parking, improvements to the Yahara River water trail, and access to water and shade at the dog park.

Chart 2

Please indicate which if any of the following support components at existing park facilities in DeForest need improvement. Select all that apply.



Respondents were also asked to consider the needs of the community for additional outdoor recreation facilities, resources, and programs, and to rate the selections from 1-5 in order of importance. Chart 3 shows the #1 Ranking in Order of Importance as revealed through the survey. The most commonly ranked #1 priority was Development of New Facilities (38%), followed by Maintenance of Existing Facilities (27%) and Improvements Added to Existing Facilities (19%).

Chart 3

Highest Priority - Survey Respondents

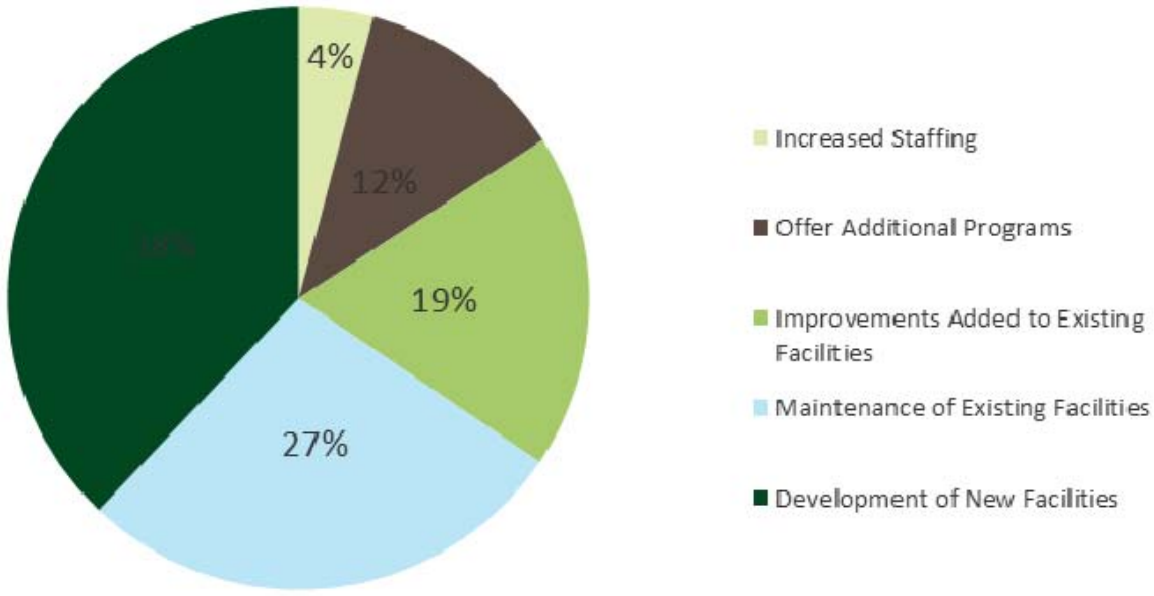


Chart 4

Please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility that your community offers.

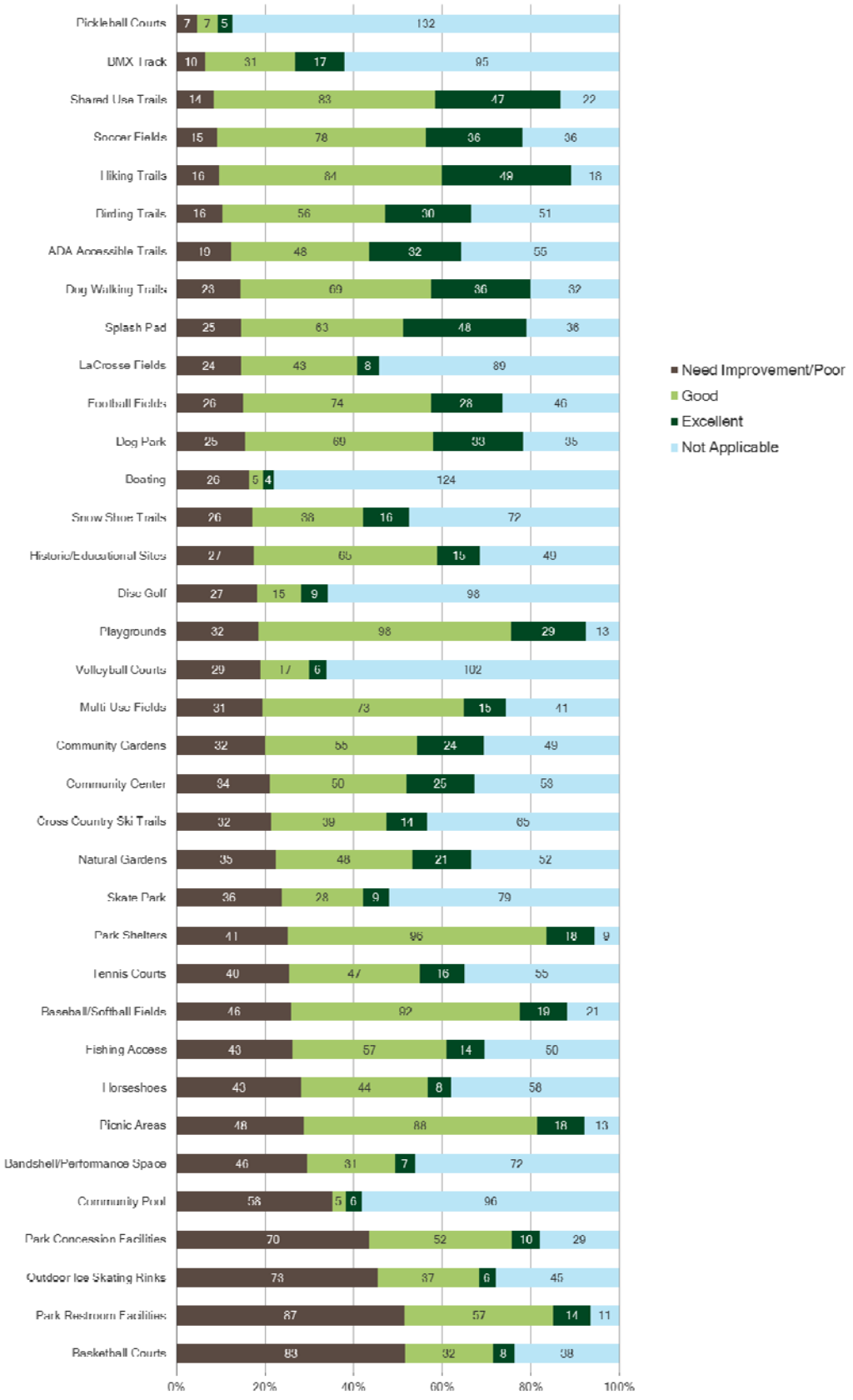
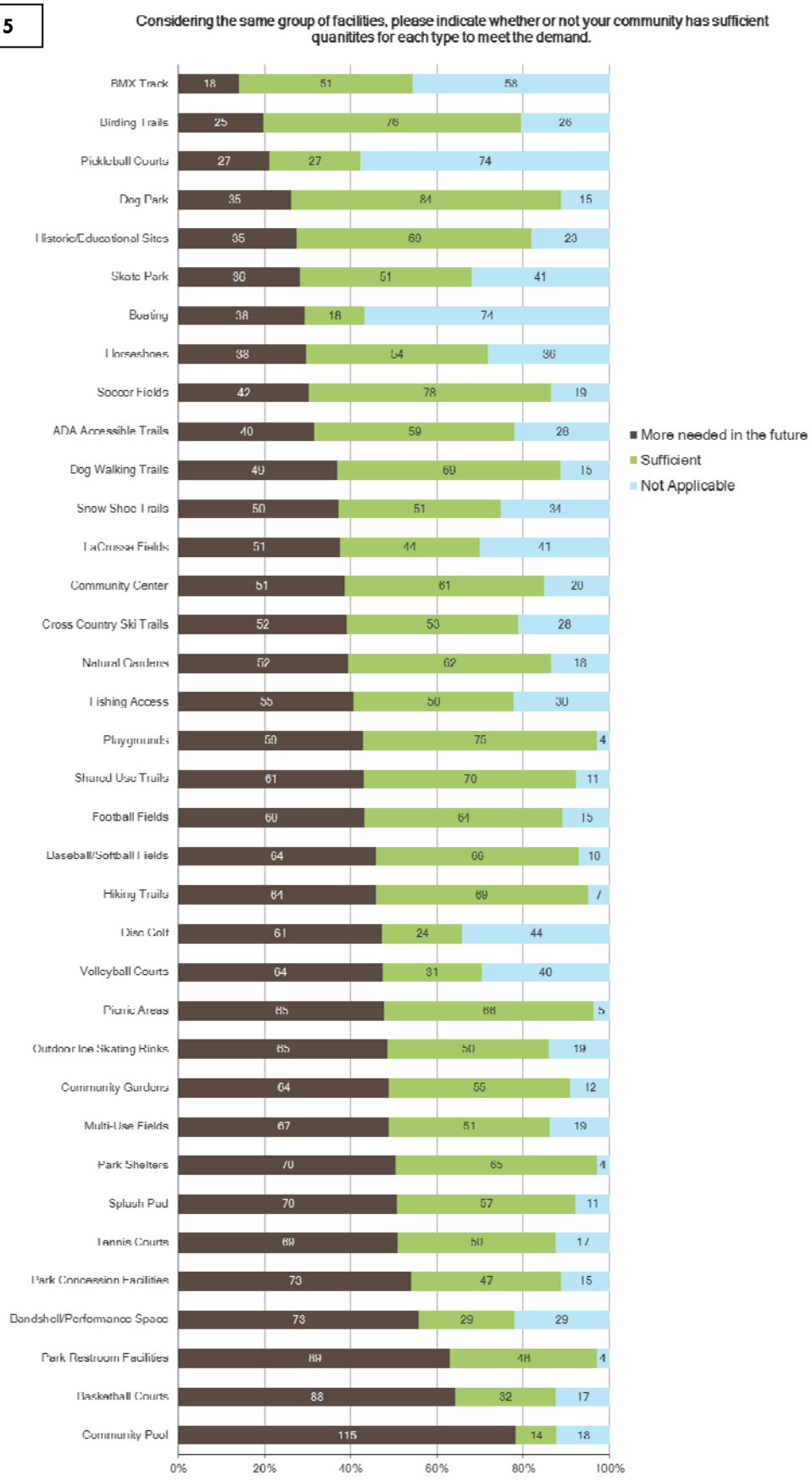


Chart 5


Considering the same group of facilities, please indicate whether or not your community has sufficient quanitites for each type to meet the demand.
BMX Track 18 51 58
Birding Trails 25 76 26
Pickleball Courts 27 27 74
Dog Park 35 84 15
Historic/Educational Sites 35 69 23
Skate Park 36 51 41
Boating 38 18 74
Horseshoes 38 64 36
Soccer Fields 42 78 19
ADA Accessible Trails 40 59 28
Dog Walking Trails 49 69 15
Snow Shoe Trails 50 51 34
LaCrosse Fields 51 44 41
Community Center 51 61 20
Cross Country Ski Trails 52 53 28
Natural Gardens 52 62 18
Fishing Access 55 50 30
Playgrounds 59 75 4
Shared Use Trails 61 70 11
Football Fields 60 61 15
Baseball/Softball Fields 64 66 10
Hiking Trails 61 69 7
Disc Golf 61 24 44
Volleyball Courts 64 31 40
Picnic Areas 65 66 5
Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks 65 50 19
Community Gardens 64 55 12
Multi-Use Fields 67 51 19
Park Shelters 70 65 4
Splash Pad 70 57 11
Tennis Courts 69 50 17
Park Concession Facilities 73 47 15
Bandshell/Performance Space 73 29 29
Park Restroom Facilities 89 48 4
Basketball Courts 88 32 17
Community Pool 115 14 18
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
More needed in the future
Sufficient
Not Applicable

1.5 Village of DeForest Demographics

1.5.1 Social Characteristics

This section presents social factors that are important to understanding the DeForest Community and its recreation needs and potential. Particularly important to planning for the adequate provision of parks and open spaces are population trends and projections over the planning period (5-10 years) and age characteristics of potential park users.

Population Trends and Projections

There is a direct relationship between population and the need for parks and recreational space. Predicting how the population might grow in the future provides important information about the amount of new parkland and recreational facilities that will be needed to serve the new populations.

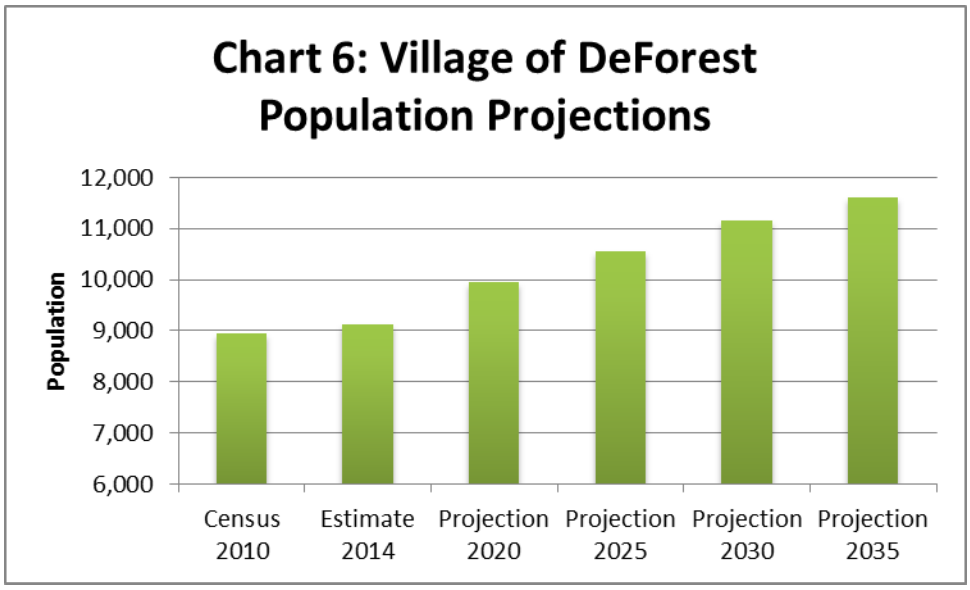
According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the greatest population change over the past 50 years in the Village of DeForest was between 1970 and 1980 when population increased 72% (from 1,911 to 3,281). More recently, population grew by 49% between the 1980 and 1990 Census (from 3,281 to 4,882) and by 51% between the 1990 and 2000 Census (from 4,368 to 7,368). Growth fell to 18% between the 2000 and 2010 Census, indicating that although population growth is slowing somewhat, it is growing steadily nonetheless (statewide population, by comparison, grew just over 6% between the 2000 and 2010 Census). The Wisconsin Department of Administration Demographic Services Center (DOA) estimated DeForest's population to be 9,129 in 2014. DOA also updated population forecasts for each community in Wisconsin in 2014, and using these forecasts DOA estimates that there can be expected an approximately 27% increase (about 2,481 people more than in 2014) in village population through 2035. Population information for DeForest, as well as several neighboring communities, is provided in table 1.1.

This increase in population is significant because current village standards require a minimum of 15 acres of dedicated parkland per 1000 residents. Utilizing this methodology, a minimum of 37.2 acres of new parkland will be needed to accommodate the additional 2,481 residents in 2035.

Table 1.1: Population Projections for Village of DeForest and Comparables (2035)

Name of Municipality	Census 2010	Estimate 2014	Projection 2020	Projection 2025	Projection 2030	Projection 2035	Percentage Change 2010-2035
V DeForest	***8,936***	***9,129***	***9,945***	***10,560***	***11,150***	***11,610***	***30%***
C Verona	10,619	11,343	12,800	13,960	15,070	16,010	51%
V Mount Horeb	7,009	7,088	7,625	8,040	8,415	8,700	24%
V Waunakee	12,097	12,622	13,850	14,920	15,940	16,780	39%
T Windsor	6,345	6,686	7,175	7,635	8,055	8,380	32%
V Cottage Grove	6,192	6,322	7,190	7,845	8,465	8,990	45%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimates and Projections (2013, 2014)



Ethnic Background

In 2010, the Census indicated the largest percentage of DeForest residents (93.3%) were "White". The second highest percentage was "Black or African American" with (2.1%) followed by "Two or more races" (1.6%), "Asian" (1.5%), "Some other race" (1.2%). Other races make up less than 1% of the remaining population.

Employment/Unemployment

The U.S. Census estimates the 2009 – 2013 unemployment rate for the Village of DeForest as 4.7%. This is substantially lower than the statewide unemployment rate during this same time period of 7.8%. 20.9% of the population over the age of 16 was not in the labor force. This includes retired persons and those that choose not to work.

Age

Age distribution in the Village of DeForest is shown in Table 1.2. Age cohorts are an important consideration when determining park facilities because certain age groups are more likely to utilize certain recreation facilities depending upon their stage in life. For example, in 2010 there were an estimated 642 of children under the age of 5 (7.2% of DeForest's population). These children would be best served by low platforms with ramps or ladders, sand areas, or short slides no taller than 4 feet. These same facilities would be uninteresting to a 10 year old. A well-rounded park system will provide a variety of facilities (soccer fields, etc.) and equipment (swings, etc.) for all potential users regardless of ability or stage of life.

Changes in age distribution between 2000 and 2010 seem to suggest there is a growing need for adult-oriented (45-75 years) activity centers. Following national trends, the Village is likely to experience an increase in senior residents seeking recreation opportunities. These populations are generally seeking walking paths (with benches) and formalized senior programming as well as fishing and other outdoor options.

Table 1.2: Age Distribution, 2000-2010

	2000		2010		Percent Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	2000-2010
Under 5 years	632	8.6	642	7.2	2%
5 to 9 years	686	9.3	731	8.2	7%
10 to 14 years	632	8.6	774	8.7	22%
15 to 19 years	507	6.9	629	7.0	24%
20 to 24 years	304	4.1	371	4.2	22%
25 to 29 years	543	7.4	537	6.0	-1%
30 to 34 years	731	9.9	706	7.9	-3%
35 to 39 years	739	10.0	741	8.3	0%
40 to 44 years	655	8.9	790	8.8	21%
45 to 49 years	526	7.1	746	8.3	42%
50 to 54 years	426	5.8	623	7.0	46%
55 to 59 years	222	3.0	478	5.3	115%
60 to 64 years	171	2.3	395	4.4	131%
65 to 69 years	166	2.3	219	2.5	32%
70 to 74 years	133	1.8	170	1.9	28%
75 to 79 years	133	1.8	170	1.9	28%
80 to 84 years	92	1.2	123	1.4	34%
85 years and over	70	1.0	91	1.0	30%
Total Population	7,368		8,936		21%

Source: 2000 & 2010 Census, SF-1

1.5.2 Physical Characteristics

This section presents physical factors in the community and region that are important to understanding DeForest's recreation potential. The following language was extracted from the 2011 Park and Open Space Plan as follows:

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

Topography

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

Soils

The soils underlying the Village consist primarily of silt loams, including Plano, Ringwood, Otter, Virgil, St. Charles, Batavia, Dodge, McHenry, Hixton, Elburn and Pecatonica. These soils are generally suited for development and have 2% to 12% slopes. Kidder loam soils are found in very limited steep slope areas. These slopes range between 10% and 35% and pose severe limitations to development. Soils within the floodplain of the Yahara River and Token Creek include Otter silt loam, Houghton muck and Wacousta silty clay loam. These soil types have very severe limitations to development due to high compressibility, very low bearing capacity, seasonal high water table and occasional flooding. Structural development is generally prohibited in these areas.

Groundwater

Groundwater resources are plentiful in the planning area at both shallow and deep levels. Water supplies are drawn from both the upper sandstone and unconsolidated aquifers, which provide water for shallow domestic wells in rural areas, and the deep sandstone (Mt. Simon) aquifer, which is a higher-quality source of water for DeForest's municipal wells. There are several areas within the Village that function as important locations for groundwater recharge. One important example is the eastern portion of the "DeForest South Area", which provides the important function of infiltration of cold groundwater to Token Creek—a noted trout stream. Development of that area will be subject to unique standards designed to maximize infiltration of stormwater.

Surface Water

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

Yahara within the planning area is classified as a warm water sportfish area; however it does support a small trout population. Portions of the Upper Yahara include cool to cold water trout fisheries. The River corridor through the Village south to Windsor Road includes floodplains and wetlands, some of which are high-quality sedge meadows with rare plant species. The River suffers from the effects of polluted agricultural and urban surface water runoff. The Wisconsin DNR completed the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed Project study in 1996. Subsequently, state funds were released to control water pollution, mostly by working with farmers to decrease barnyard runoff and cropland soil erosion. In addition to highlighting farm runoff, this study emphasized that the loss of wetlands in the watershed. Runoff in small tributary streams has contributed to excessive nutrients and sediment in surface waters, both of which are key causes of habitat degradation, algae blooms and overabundant aquatic weeds. The study noted that north of CTH V/North Street the River is considered a very degraded warm water sport fishery. However south of CTH V, the River was classified as a quality warm water fishery and was identified as a "priority for enhancement and protection of a warm water sport fishery." The study also identified large drained wetland complexes throughout the Yahara-Mendota watershed whose restoration could measurably improve downstream water quality. Most of the lands in Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area were part of one such area. With the southern expansion of the Village, the planning area now includes Token Creek; which has been the focus of a concerted restoration effort over the past two decades, spearheaded by the non-profit Token Creek Watershed Association. The adjacent Town of Windsor has also been active in acquiring land and planning for nature-based recreation along its portion of the Token Creek corridor.

<u>Vegetation</u>
Native vegetation includes prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadows. Many fragments of these species remain within developed portions of the Village. More significant concentrations remain in publicly owned lands near Cherokee Marsh and Token Creek. Small wooded areas are scattered throughout the Village and the surrounding area, particularly within the Upper Yahara River Corridor, especially adjacent to the Conservancy Place mixed use neighborhood, in the Village and Town of Windsor east of Highway 51, around Cherokee Marsh, and in the Town of Vienna west of CTH I.

Rare Species Occurrence and Wildlife Habitat Species of wildlife that are common to the southern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, deer, rabbits, raccoons, and muskrats. Common bird species include: turkeys, cardinals, robins, wood thrushes, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, red-wing blackbirds, and killdeer. Pheasants are also present in the area, however are not common. There are several species or ecological communities that are sensitive or of special concern that are found in and around DeForest. These include one bird, four species of invertebrate, five types of plants, five types of ecological communities. The Blanding Turtle which is also considered threatened is present along the Yahara River. For most of these, locations are considered to be sensitive, and, therefore, cannot be disclosed at a detailed level. The Endangered Resources Planning and Protection Specialist at the WisDNR can provide further information.

2 Analysis of the Parks and Open Space System

This chapter analyzes the parks and open space system in and around the Village of DeForest. It inventories and classifies the park system based on national standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association. In addition, this chapter documents the nearby county and state outdoor recreation supply available to village residents.

2.1 Village of DeForest Parks and Open Space Facilities

The information for this section was gathered from site visits conducted by SAA staff, discussion with village staff, and review of the 2011 Park and Open Space Plan. A Facility Matrix for the entire DeForest park system is located in Appendix B. See Appendix C for a map of park locations.

2.1.1 Mini Parks

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Desirable size is 1 acre or less, preferably a minimum of ¼ acre.

Hank's Hollow

This 0.4 acre park is nestled into the southwest corner of the central village residential area and is located on Hank's Hollow Trail. The park is the only public greenspace between the Yahara River and South Main Street and serves as a playground for the surrounding neighborhood. Amenities include general open space, a small play structure, and swings. This park is not currently ADA accessible.

Sunnybrook Park

This 4.3 acre park is located along the Yahara River and is tucked behind several private residential lots. Existing amenities include general open space and an open air shelter. The park connects to a sidewalk on Riverside Drive via a connecting path and to the village-wide Upper Yahara River Trail system. This park serves as the only neighborhood open space for the surrounding residential area.

Village Square Park

This 0.2 acre park is located at the corner of Ethun Place and Library Street. It serves as a common greenspace for the multi-family residential units adjacent but contains few recreational amenities.

2.1.2 Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are areas for multiple and sometimes intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, splashpads and the like. Desirable size is between 3 to 10 acres.

Conservancy Commons Park
This 3 acre park is the primary active recreation/gathering area for the Conservancy Place neighborhood and contains a variety of facilities including a splashpad, restroom/shelter, playground, informal athletic field, and general open space.

Dahl Park
This 4 acre park is located on the eastern edge of the Village and contains general open space and a small playground. The park also serves as a stormwater management area.

Liberty Land Park
This 11.7 acre park is located south of Yorktown Road and provides an excellent array of recreational amenities for neighborhood residents including community gardens, two playgrounds, open air shelter, swings, and a dedicated parking lot. A multi-use trail runs through the park connecting neighborhoods on the south of Vinburn Road to the school campuses north of the park.

Rivers Turn Park
This 3.2 acre park is located on Innovation Drive within the Conservancy Place Neighborhood and connects to the Upper Yahara River Corridor. This is the newest developed park within the Village and contains an open air shelter, exercise/fitness stations, and general open space.

Veterans Memorial Park
This 5.3 acre park is located downtown on North Main Street and is adjacent to the Yahara River. Although much of this park is dedicated to a veteran's memorial, many neighborhood gatherings and other community functions occur here. The park contains an open air gazebo, restored prairie, walking trails, and a dedicated parking lot. The Yahara River Water Trail is also accessible in the park via a canoe/kayak launch.

Western Green Park
This 46.8 acre park exceeds the traditional acreage classification for a neighborhood park but the functional recreation area is considerably smaller and more in keeping with the NRPA standards. Much of the parcel is along the Yahara River Corridor and is heavily vegetated or unusable for active recreation. The "neighborhood park" area is accessed via a service drive and parking lot on the south side of Acker Parkway. Several trail access points also provide public entry into the park.

Yahara Park
This 7.9 acre park is located on Trailside Drive next to Yahara Elementary School. Main park access is available via the sidewalk on Trailside, but other access points exist on Seminole Way and Meadow Oak Trail. The park contains an age 2-5 playground, shelter with restrooms, 2 ball diamonds, and general open space.

2.1.3 Community Parks

Community parks are areas of diverse environmental quality and may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Desirable size is at least 10 acres.

Fireman's Park

This park is located east of the downtown district and is adjacent to two municipal services buildings. The park is the main community based recreation facility in the Village and contains three ball diamonds, several shelters, a playground, walking paths, and hosts several festivals and other special events. The park is 11.5 acres in size.

2.1.4 Conservancy Parks

Conservancy parks are established for protection and management of the natural or cultural environment with recreational facilities as a secondary objective. Several areas classified as Conservancy Parks in the 2011 POSP have been removed from this inventory as the sole function of those spaces were for stormwater management and offered no public access.

Bakke Conservancy

This natural area is located on N. Stevenson Street in the northeast portion of the Village and contains approximately 21.7 acres of wooded riverfront, restored prairie, and retention ponds. A grass trail with several benches winds through the prairie and provides overlooks of the pond areas.

Chapel Green Park

Containing 2.9 acres, this parcel is the first open space to be developed as part of the Chapel Green Neighborhood and currently contains a multi-use trail that is not easily accessible to the public. Vegetation includes mature oaks and other upland forest species, and with proper management could be an attractive natural area. An existing open space could also be programmed with a nature themed small play structure.

Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area

Located on the north side of the Village at the terminus of Dennis Drive, this 46 acre conservancy area contains a mixture of wetlands, ponds, and forested areas. A Master Plan was completed for the site and includes trails, overlooks, and a shelter/restroom facility. A vegetation management plan has also been completed and is currently being implemented.

Upper Yahara River Corridor

This conservancy area contains approximately 138 acres and stretches throughout the Village along the Yahara River. A multi-use trail offers residents excellent access throughout the space and connects facilities such as a fishing pond and other village parks. This area is managed by a joint effort between the village staff and several private volunteer organizations.

2.1.5 Special Use Parks

Special use parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skate parks, and ball diamonds.

Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park
In 2014, this 12.3 acre facility was developed on the north side of the Village to serve the needs of DeForest and Windsor dog owners. The park contains a fenced dog exercise area and dedicated parking lot. The railroad tracks run alongside the western edge of the parcel.

2.1.6 Village Owned Open Spaces

Several parcels are owned by the Village and have either been previously identified as parkland or have been proposed as future open space locations. The previously classified "conservancy parks" including Meadowview Park and Yankee Conservancy are no longer being considered as public "recreation areas" due to the lack of access and potential for recreational amenity development. A discussion of future parks is covered later in this report.

2.1.7 School Parks

Although not calculated as components of village-provided parks and open space, school facilities in DeForest also offer community residents with outdoor recreation activities, for the most part with structured play equipment and playing fields. The district contains two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

Facilities at DeForest's schools include:

- Four baseball/softball diamonds
- Lighted track facility with football field and bleacher seating
- Soccer fields with goals
- Eight (8) tennis courts
- Blacktop play areas with associated game markings
- Swing sets
- Play structures
- Steel climbing apparatus/bars
- Basketball courts
- General open space

2.1.8 Trail Corridors

A linear park or trail corridor is an area designated for one or more modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, etc.

Several such facilities exist within the Village and additional trail systems are proposed for implantation as land development continues. The Village trail system is planned to connect with adjacent communities and eventually the City of Madison, City of Sun Prairie, Village of Waunakee, and Goose Pond in Columbia County. The Village also maintains in conjunction with service groups the Yahara River Water Trail providing residents paddle sports opportunities when water levels are high.

The main trail facilities include:

- DeForest-Windsor Trail (Liberty Land Park/Antique Acres subdivision)
- Delkamp Trail (North Stevenson Street)
- Mayapple Trail (Mayapple Circle)
- Western Green Trail (Western Green Park)
- Upper Yahara River Trail (Windsor Road to South Street)

2.2 Inventory of Nearby County and State Facilities

2.2.1 Dane County Parks

Schumacher Farm

This unique facility is located on STH 19 and is approximately117 acres in size. Schumacher Farm features an outdoor museum dedicated to the history of local farm life and offers extensive programming for schools groups, private organizations, and the public. Public recreation opportunities include cross-country ski trails, picnicking, and hiking.

Token Creek Park

Token Creek County Park is a 427-acre park located immediately south of the DeForest Village limits and is accessed via Highway 51. The park has a 43-unit campground as well as a group camping area with restrooms and shower facilities. The largest disc golf course in the county is located in the park and is a regional draw. Multiple shelters offer extensive picnic and gathering opportunities throughout the park. Additional park amenities include park and ADA fishing pier, two playgrounds, hiking trails, and more than 270 miles of snowmobile trails. A master plan was recently completed for the park and includes further development recommendations.

Upper Yahara River Natural Area (un-official name as of 2015)

The County has designated approximately 112 acres of land north of the Village boundaries situated along the Yahara River and will provide additional conservancy based recreation opportunities. This parcel is envisioned to be contiguous with current and proposed Village owned open spaces including the conceptual Northern DeForest Area Conservancy as well as future park developments north of W. North Street (CTH V). See appendix D for concept plan.

Yahara Heights County Park/Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Site

The Yahara Heights/Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Site is a 385 acre property containing the largest remaining wetland in Dane County and the major wetland in Lake Mendota's Watershed. Over 3,000 feet of water frontage provide wildlife habitat, fish spawning grounds and a sedimentation area for Lake Mendota. Recreational opportunities include a 20 acre pet exercise area and a canoe and kayak launch. The site can be accessed off of River Road near the on the intersection of STH 113 and CTH "M".

2.2.2 State of Wisconsin Lands

Governor Nelson State Park

Governor Nelson State Park is a day use park, located on Lake Mendota, that offers a sand beach, boat launch, fishing facilities, picnic areas, playground equipment as well as an extensive trail network and prairie restorations. This park is a major destination for skiing, hiking, swimming, boating and fishing. Primary access to the park is located on the southeast side of County Highway M, about 2 miles west of State Highway 113 and 8 miles west of Interstate 90/94.

2.2.3 Madison Audubon Society

Goose Pond Sanctuary

The Madison Audubon Society owns this 660 acre natural area north of the Village in Columbia County. Goose Pond Sanctuary contains one hundred acres of wetland habitat and 400 acres of tall grass prairie. This restored habitat is the site of over 250 species of birds, seven endangered and threatened plant species and is a waterfowl migration stopover in the spring and fall. The sanctuary has been named one of Wisconsin's Watchable Wildlife Areas and is a designated State Natural Area.

2.3 Parkland Classification Analysis

The number and type of parks and recreation facilities needed within a community are dependent on the demands of the local residents. Identifying the recreational needs and wants of community residents provides the justification for funding the acquisition and development of new facilities as well as for the maintenance of existing recreational facilities.

2.3.1 Parkland Classification

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. The definitions in this document are adapted from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) classification system. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs can best be met through a variety of recreational activity. Table 2-1 (next page) explains the seven park classifications most commonly used in the NRPA system, their associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification.

The term "active recreation" is currently used to define open spaces that contain athletic fields (baseball, soccer, football, etc), basketball and tennis courts, swimming facilities, and other traditional park sports. The Village is interested in acquiring new active recreation park lands as residential patterns continue to expand, but must balance the need for recreational facilities with the staffing and budget limitations in place. As required by village ordinance, land must be dedicated (or fee collected in lieu of) to the Village as part of residential development, and often the proposed lands are situated in low lying, heavily vegetated, non-developable areas and passed off as "Conservancy". See Chapter 4 for a discussion of parkland dedication ordinance improvements.

Table 2-1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System				
Component	**Use**	**Service Area**	**Desirable Size**	**Acres/1,000 Population**
A. Local/Close-to-Home Space				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	3-10 acres	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	10+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000				
B. Regional Space				
Regional/ Metro-politan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A
C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community				
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: the above components may occur in the "linear park")	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use	Variable

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

2.3.2 Level of Service Standards

Once a community's existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard for each park type and existing park acreage. While there is no formally established formula to determine the Level of Service (LOS) provided by the existing facilities, the following parameters should be considered.

Indicators	Social Environmental Economic
Acreage/Miles	Population standards (Acres/1000 population) Benchmarking
Facilities, Activities, Capacity	Population standards Demographic Analysis Neighborhood area activities Supply/Demand
Access	Walking/Bicycling/Driving, Transit Parks Facilities
Quality	Evaluation Mapping/Distribution
Programs	Relevancy, quality, and variety Scheduling Mapping/Distribution

The widely accepted NRPA standard for park acreage per 1,000 population is between 6 and 10.5 acres. For this plan, the Village-defined standard of 15-acres/1,000 population (found in the 2011 POSP) – notably higher than the NRPA standard - is used as a basis for determining recommended acreage needs. This acreage should be distributed among park types as follows:

Table 2-2 Recommended Park Standards

Mini Parks	0.5 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	4.5 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	10 acres/1,000 population
Total	15 acres/1,000 population

Below, current actual acreage totals in the village compared to NRPA standards and the Village's proposed standards are identified in Chart 2-1. As shown, current mini park and neighborhood park areas surpass village standards. Community park areas and overall park areas do not meet Village standards. Community park areas total 11 acres compared to the Village standard of 73 acres. Total park area of 96 acres also falls short of the Village standard of 137 acres.

Chart 2-2 uses the 2035 projection (Wisconsin Department of Administration) of 11,610 residents and applies it to measure current acreage figures and future standards. The Village would require an additional 104.6 acres of community parks and 1.0 acres of mini parks to meet its stated standard for the 2035 population.

Chart 2-1: Current (2015) Park Acreage Compared to NRPA & Village Standards

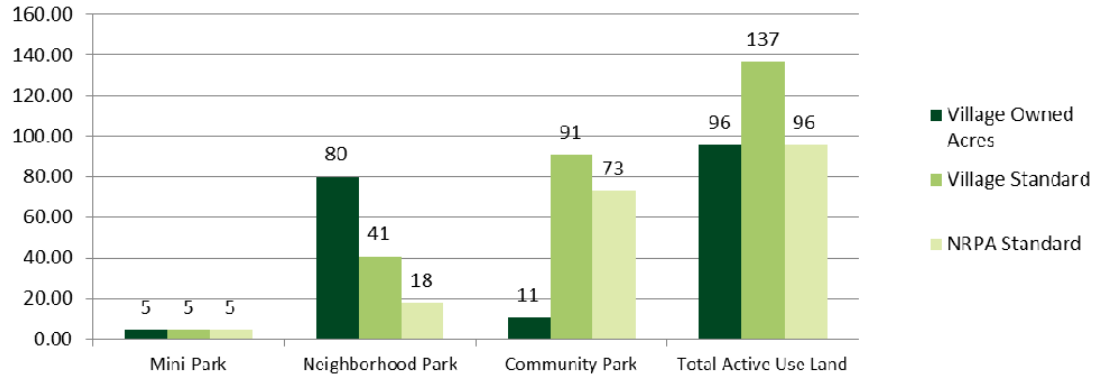


Chart 2-2: Existing Park Acreage (2015) and Acreage Needed in 2035

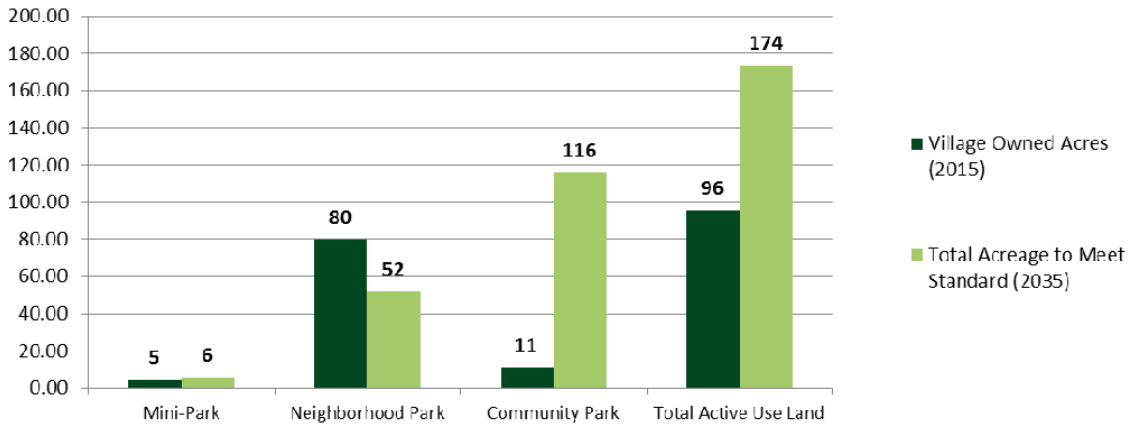
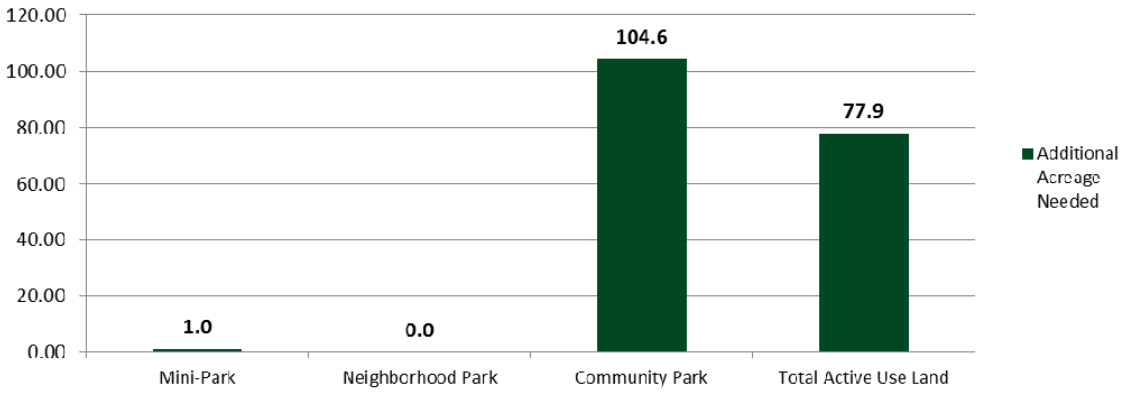


Chart 2-3: Additional Park Acreage Needed (2035) to Meet Forecasted Population Growth



2.4 Park Service Area Requirements

This method of evaluating a community's parkland needs and adequacy of service includes plotting park service areas on a base map to identify areas that are underserved. Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing mini, neighborhood, and community parks in DeForest. See Map 2 in Appendix B.

The majority of the northern community is adequately served under the community park classification, but the neighborhood areas south of Oak Springs Circle lack any coverage under this classification. The neighborhood classification has excellent coverage within the existing village residential areas, but will need to be addressed as residential patterns develop in the southern portion of the Village. The largest gap of coverage is in the mini park classification, however, it should be noted that several school sites are located in these major gap areas and potentially offer similar types of recreational facilities. The three mini-parks that do currently exist are somewhat isolated by the Yahara River. Mini-parks are lacking in the outlying areas of the Village, particularly south of Vinburn Road. As the Conservancy Place neighborhood continues to grow, additional mini-parks will be needed. Residential areas in the southeast corner of the Village have the largest gap in public park system coverage.

Several hazard boundaries exist in the Village and include River Road, South Main Street, and STH 19. South Main Street is equipped with proper pedestrian crossing facilities in several locations, but it should be noted that this is a high traffic corridor and adequate park facilities should be provided to neighborhood residents on both sides.

As residential growth continues, specific areas of focus should include the neighborhoods southeast and northeast of the STH 19/USH 51 interchange, and east of River Road south of the River. As new housing development is contemplated and developed, the Village should utilize this analysis to assure that existing facilities adequately and conveniently serve new populations.

2.5 GIS Age Cohort Analysis

This analysis was developed to help prioritize improvements based on the distribution of residents by age and the availability of recreation facilities most suited for these ages in relation to their geographic location. The methodology includes the layering of data on a map (See Maps 6.1 to 6.4 in Appendix C). The result is a graduated scale of relative need or "priority" based on the absence of a particular set of amenities we would expect an age group to utilize. The map is used to identify areas of spatial mismatch where parks containing certain apparatus or amenities are not located in neighborhoods containing user groups best suited for those amenities. For example, if an area contains a high percentage of toddlers (age 2-5) but does not contain toddler-aged play equipment, the priority rating would be "high" because the area lacks the amenities to serve that population.

The analysis was used for three populations:

1. Under 5 years of age: toddlers are best served by play equipment such as sandboxes, toddler swings, tot slides, spring riders, and tilt cups.
2. Age 5 to 17 years of age: this group can be served by a variety of play equipment and field areas. Amenities evaluated for this population include standard swings,

climbing structures, play structures, teeter totters, standard slides, merry-go-rounds, and monkey bars.

3. Age 50+: this group was used to help identify areas within the city where hiking trails, picnic areas, shelters, and other passive uses are the primary attractions.

Parks that appear in "priority" areas (shown as the darkest areas on the graduated scale) are further discussed in Chapter 3. A map has been created for each age group identifying the Village park where the appropriate recreational amenity should be provided (see Appendix C Map 6 series).

2.6 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections

A park-by-park analysis revealed a lack of barrier-free access to many of the parks and to most of the play equipment. This is an important consideration for residents who have mobility limitations and require additional accommodation. Barrier-free access to many of the facilities can be accommodated by simple solutions such as installing curb cuts to allow easy access for pedestrians from the street to the park. This missing piece of infrastructure also poses a barrier for cyclists. There are also very few – or poorly located - bike racks for cyclists to use at most park sites.

Map 3 (Appendix C) shows the existing bicycle network in the Village of DeForest. Through a combination of off-road trails, demarcated on-street facilities, and informal routes, this network increases the number of linkages between community destinations and has recreational value for all users. Although this plan will seek to identify opportunities to expand this system to reach more of the Village's park spaces (existing and planned), a comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should be developed in the near future. Many new strategies and engineering practices have evolved and are now accepted by Wisconsin DOT and local governments for on-road bicycle facilities such as the use of "Sharrows" (see image below). These strategies should be considered as potential tools for improving the Village's bicycling infrastructure.



3 RECOMMENDATIONS

This comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the Village of DeForest includes a variety of recommendations specifically developed to meet the existing and future needs of the community over the next ten years. The plan incorporates local citizen input and has been developed as a result of extensive detailed analysis and participation by village officials, staff, citizens, and local organizations as presented in the preceding chapters.

General village-wide recommendations are provided for direction on policy and design considerations while also considering operational and maintenance procedures. This chapter also includes a detailed park inventory sheet for each village park including general issues, possible improvement options, and costs. Where they can be graphically depicted, the park inventory sheets provide schematic concept layouts for park improvement options. This chapter is divided into the following sections:

3.1 General Recommendations: system-wide policies and procedures

3.2 Future Parks and Open Spaces: identification of potential spaces to be acquired and/or developed as public parks and open spaces

3.3 Individual Park Recommendations: an inventory sheet has been provided for each Village Park (includes inventory and park improvement options)

3.1 General Recommendations

The following is a list of general recommendations for the entire Village of DeForest parks system. Some recommendations should occur when capital improvements and upgrades are considered on an annual basis, while others reflect procedures or policies that should be implemented over time.

3.1.1 Facilities

a. Conduct an ADA audit system-wide, and develop a prioritized action plan to address documented issues; this includes assuring barrier-free access to all play areas, shelters, river access points, seating areas, and restrooms.

b. Where possible with existing infrastructure, assure that all parks are improved with water fountains. These facilities should meet current ADA compliant design parameters.

c. Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a 10-inch to 12-inch layer of resilient safety surface. Commonly used resilient surfaces are sand, pea gravel, recycled rubber or wood chips. To meet the Federal ADA requirements, the Village of DeForest should consider using "Wood Carpet" or a similar product that provides wheelchair accessibility as well as a resilient surface.

d. Conduct a safety audit/inspection of all existing play areas for current National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) conformance. Audits should be performed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). This includes a thorough examination of existing slides, merry-go-rounds, and other play structures.

e. Develop an integrated village-wide, barrier-free multi-purpose trail network that connects village parks and provides access to natural and cultural resources in DeForest and the surrounding area. Coordinate with local, county, and state agencies as appropriate to provide for safe crossings of major streets and highways.

f. Improve existing playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages. This includes the addition of passive spaces, shelters, and benches for older residents.

g. Where flag poles exist they should be properly lighted. Proper pruning of shrubs or other flora that may exist at the flagpole is necessary to keep lights functional.

h. Acquire and develop additional parklands as land patterns develop. Incorporate new neighborhood-focused facilities consistent with the patterns of new residential growth in the Village. This should be coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan and pertinent ordinances.

i. Complete a concept plan or Master Plan (neighborhood and community parks) process for each new park development site to accommodate the needs of the community and neighborhood they serve. Refer to the current POSP for recreational facility gap analysis.

j. Perform systematic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment including:
   i. Play equipment
   ii. Play fields
   iii. Benches and picnic tables
   iv. Trail systems
   v. Restrooms and shelters

3.1.2 Promotion/Education

a. Improve and standardize on-site park signage for all village parks, and establish a community-wide wayfinding system that identifies key parks and bicycle routes along primary transportation corridors to and through the village. Regularly update all bicycle and park system maps as new facilities are developed.

b. Utilize marquee signs and other displays to announce special events, prices, or programs. For example, major parks that hold sporting tournaments (Fireman's) could benefit from variable message signs. This plan recommends coordinating with user groups and/or advertisers to offset costs and install marquees when budgets, grants, or fundraising allow for purchase and installation.

c. Continue to communicate with user groups over facilities updates and promote donations and formalized use agreements for maintenance.

d. Enhance the Village web page to include a parks location map and specific site maps for each park illustrating site layout and amenities.

e. Invite private partner groups to participate in periodic Park Board meetings to keep participation high and awareness of ongoing project endeavors.

3.1.3 Environmentally Sustainable Practices

a. Trash receptacles should be evenly distributed throughout village parks. The method of collection should also be used to determine receptacle locations. Placement of trash receptacles near sitting benches, for example is not preferred since it may discourage use of the benches or the trash receptacle.

b. Consider integrating rain gardens and bio-retention facilities, rain barrels, and other stormwater best management practices into existing facilities and proposed improvements.

c. Consider adopting a "grow not mow" policy in village parks to limit how often (and what portions of) parks are mowed. Adding a day or more to the mowing cycle and preserving natural grasslands and other features in parks can reduce the amount of fossil fuels consumed in village operations, increase natural buffers around shoreland and wooded areas, and reduce soil erosion.

d. There are a variety of operational and maintenance activities that could be accomplished for less cost. Fuel is a big expense, prompting some communities to have strict idling policies that restrict how long a vehicle can remain running before it is turned off. Similarly, warming up vehicles should be limited – an example would be restricting warm up to no more than five minutes.

e. When replacing and/or installing new lighting in village parks, consider fixtures that utilize solar regeneration and LED illumination to reduce long-term maintenance costs and minimize non-renewable energy use.

f. Due to the invasion of the emerald ash borer (EAB) the village has stopped planting ash trees. The village has adopted an EAB management plan, completed a street tree inventory, and is implementing a replanting effort to replace the existing ash tree inventory. The management plan includes replacement, treatment of trees in key locations, and pre-emptive removals.

3.1.4 Surplus or Shortage Property Strategies

a. At 11.48 acres, current Community Park acreage totals in DeForest do not meet the Village standard of 73 acres. However, ongoing discussions are being held to develop (near term) a future community park/athletic facility in the Village which would likely offset the current shortfall in terms of acreage and amenities. The Village is studying options for an athletic complex/Community Park south of Innovation Drive or southwest of Conservancy Way and north of Windsor Road. Other options include a potential site north of CTH V in the Country View Development. Both sites could provide good options for needed athletic facility development.

b. Neighborhood Park totals of 94 acres surpass Village standard of 37 acres. An option to consider is the reclassification of one or more neighborhood parks to community parks through park expansion and improvements. The existing Windsor owned Iver

Munsen Park could also be expanded into DeForest boundaries and serve as a jointly owned/managed Community Park.

c. Map 4 shows several areas classified as "Future Village Park" located in currently platted (undeveloped) neighborhoods. These parks will likely function as neighborhood scale facilities and fulfil the need of service area gaps and will increase overall park acreage.

d. Map 4 also indicates numerous opportunities for future park facilities (mini, neighborhood, and community) located throughout the Village and are labeled as "M", "N", and "C". These placeholder icons show a general area for future park facilities and a focus for development should be made on the two community park locations.

3.1.5 Finance

a. The village should pursue grant funding to supplement capital funds for future development and park system upgrades. Some facilities mentioned in this plan are almost entirely dependent on grant acquisition as development costs are too great to fund through the general fund alone.

b. User fees should be reevaluated commensurate with increases in service.

c. Consider private sponsorships and non-traditional funding opportunities to fund facilities improvements or special events. These include cash and property donations or planned giving.

d. Continue to require parkland dedication at a rate of at least 1,921 sf per single family residential unit and 1,440 sf per multi-family unit as a condition of land development approval. The fee in lieu of dedication (currently set at $3,308 per single family dwelling and $2,486 per multi-family unit in the Subdivision and Development ordinance) and parkland development impact fee (currently set at $1,739 per single family dwelling unit and $1,308 per multi-family unit in the Subdivision and Development ordinance) should be reevaluated annually to ensure they accurately represent site acquisition and development costs.

3.2 Future Parks and Open Spaces

The following section identifies future park and open space locations based on previously adopted village plans and the results of the analysis performed as part of this plan.

3.2.1 Future Park Locations

The Village Comprehensive Plan identifies numerous locations for future park and open space facilities to be developed in conjunction with new neighborhoods. This document also illustrates the need for additional lands and has been coordinated with the updated Comprehensive Plan. As shown on Map 4, general locations are identified within the proposed development areas and should be regarded as schematic in nature. As subdivision plats are defined, precise and thoughtful locations within the neighborhoods should be identified and allocated to open space. Parcel sizes and final allocation of facilities should be based on neighborhood and community-wide needs as illustrated in this document. Refer to Maps 6 (series) and 7.

Another methodology for selecting priority sites for development is to focus on the key areas of deficit as identified on Map 2. The following discussion considers several sites that the

Village should consider for development and/or acquisition in order to address the needs identified by the plan's goals and objectives. See Map 4 for physical locations.

Site One: Community Park (North of Windsor Road, east of I 39/94/90)
This area would be an ideal location for a new community park to serve the needs of the southern half of the Village. Although the residential areas are not yet fully built out, a new community park (minimum of 18 acres) in this area would take pressure off of Conservancy Commons Park and the school district fields/courts. Facilities should include at minimum:

- Tennis courts and pickle ball
- Parking
- Play equipment
- Concessions
- Shelter
- Storage
- Ball diamonds
- Walking trails

Site Two: Neighborhood Park (Reigstad Property)
This site is located in the southernmost neighborhood development of the Village and situated directly adjacent to Token Creek County Park. The parcel will serve as the neighborhood park for the new subdivision, but could serve an expanded role for community members given its natural resources and proximity to the county park. Facilities should include at minimum:

- Playground facilities (multi-age)
- Picnic areas/open air shelters
- Walking trails

Site Three: Country View Park (north of CTH V)
This location would provide much needed active recreation facilities for the northern portion of the village and offer the first active park north of CTH V. Final size of this site may be determined by development of other new park facilities and the remaining recreational use gaps. Facilities should include at minimum:

- Soccer/lacrosse fields
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Playground facilities (multi-age)
- Restroom building/open air shelters
- Walking trails

3.2.2 Park Layout Concept /Park Master Plans

A potential site layout concept was prepared for a portion of Fireman's Park providing an alternate approach to the existing use of the central parking area. This layout should serve as a primer for a more detailed master planning process of the park. Other amenities that have been discussed for future development at Fireman's include a skate park, pool, or indoor aquatic center and need to be included in any future master plan discussions. In addition to Fireman's, if the Village decides to pursue development of Reigstad or a future community

park as identified above, a master plan should be prepared for each of these sites. The Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area Master Plan was recently adopted, and additional site master plans may be necessary as future park lands are identified.

The process for development of a park master plan includes research and data collection to identify drainage patterns, topography and other site features. After this initial reconnaissance, a public meeting is held to gather input on preferred park programming and amenities. Following this community engagement, concept development plans are created and cost estimates are prepared. These concept plans are further refined through public feedback and staff discussions into a final graphic and summary report.

The Village Board has been discussing the inadequacies and limitations of civic building facilities. To that end, they have appointed a Village Facility Task Force team to review facility needs, both space and programming to propel efforts toward planning and constructing facilities for police, village hall/community space/and athletic park and the redesign of Fireman's Park. While not a stand alone community center, the village is exploring community programming space as part of a new village hall facility.

It is worth noting that a community pool was the top amenity respondents asked for (78.23% of respondents). The task force has discussed a pool and further suggested the most viable option is within a potential shared partnership with other local community entities. The task force, along with the Village Board, are in preliminary discussions with other potential partners to begin shaping a shared vision for this important community amenity. Due to this broadened partnership approach, the ability to support a public pool with other programmatic wellness amenities also becomes more viable and the ideal location and options for available sites also broadens.

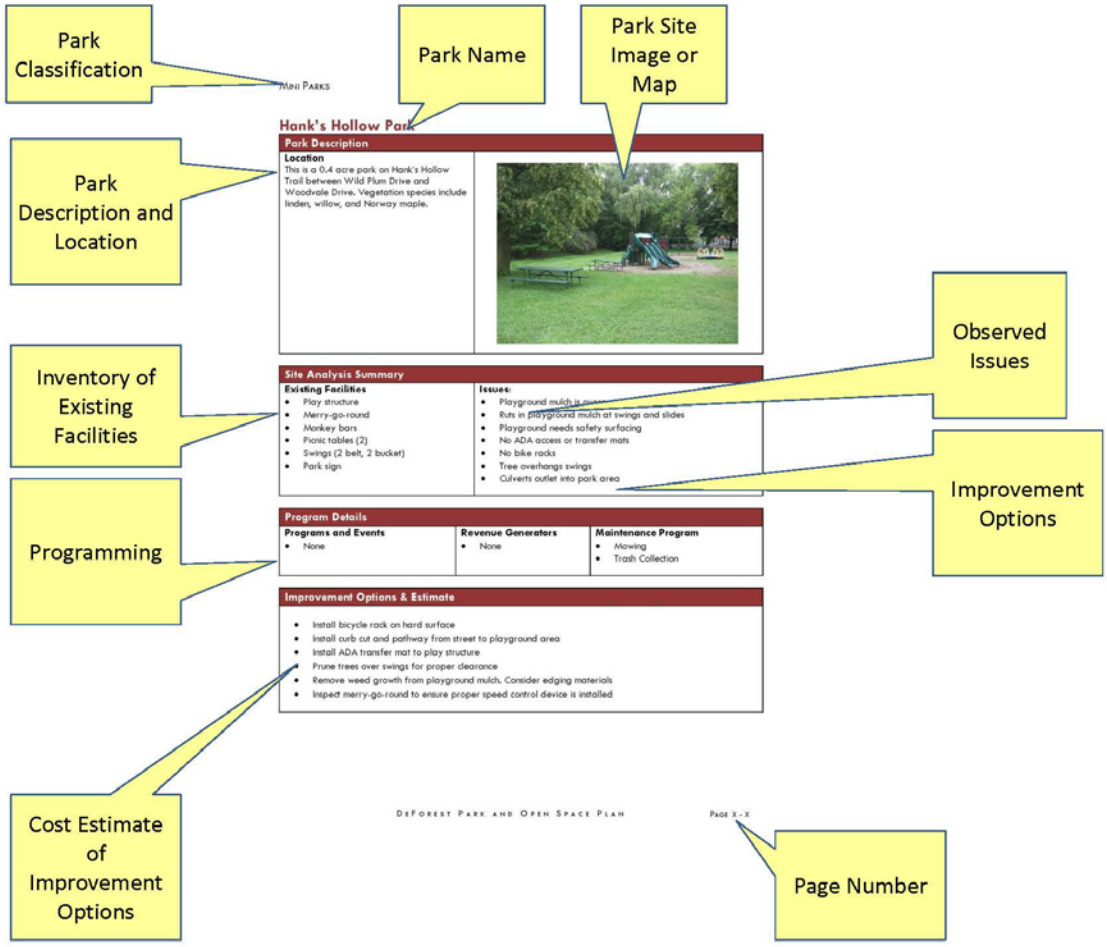
3.3 Individual Park Recommendations

The following section discusses detailed improvements identified by residents, stakeholders, village staff and departments, and local officials for each park in the DeForest parks system. Improvement options identified for each park are included in the 5-Year Capital Improvements Table in Chapter 4.

An inventory sheet has been prepared for each park or conservancy area in the village park system. Each sheet contains the location of the park, existing facilities, observed issues, and recommendations for improvements. Not all improvements can be made in the next 5-years, and many require substantial investment in the form of time, money, or human capital to implement. Improvement recommendations should be viewed as options that could occur to mitigate, improve, or promote aspects of the park site.

A sample inventory sheet (Figure 3.3) illustrates how information is presented on each park sheet. Park sheets are presented by parkland classifications devised by the National Recreation and Park Association as identified in Chapter 2.

Figure 3.3: Inventory Sheet



MINI PARKS

Hank's Hollow Park

Park Description

Location
This is a 0.4 acre park on Hank's Hollow Trail between Wild Plum Drive and Woodvale Drive. Vegetation species include linden, willow, and Norway maple.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Play structure
- Merry-go-round
- Monkey bars
- Picnic tables (2)
- Swings (2 belt, 2 bucket)
- Park sign
- Little Free Library

Issues:
- Playground mulch is overgrown
- Ruts in playground mulch at swings and slides
- Playground needs safety surfacing
- No ADA access or transfer mats
- No bike racks
- Tree overhangs swings
- Culverts outlet into park area

Program Details

Programs and Events
- None

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- Mowing weekly
- Trash collection weekly
- Fall protection
- Playground inspection

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:
- Install bicycle rack on hard surface $1,200
- Install curb cut and pathway from street to playground area $6,000

Playground:
- Install ADA transfer mat to play structure $2,000
- Prune trees over swings for proper clearance $500
- Remove weed growth from playground mulch. Consider edging materials $1,500
- Inspect merry-go-round to ensure proper speed control device is installed $0

TOTAL: $11,200

Hank's Hollow Park

Site Images


Playground mulch is overgrown


Ruts in mulch under swings


Ruts in mulch at slides


No ADA access or transfer mats


Tree overhangs swings


Culverts

Sunnybrook Park

Park Description

Location

This 4.3 acre park is located north of the Yahara River Conservancy on Riverside Drive at the junction of the Upper Yahara River Trail. Vegetation species include red maple, miscellaneous understory shrubs/trees, and perennial garden plantings.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Open air shelter
- Trail
- Open space
- Park signs (2)
- Picnic tables (2)

Issues:

- Drainage issue at shelter
- Nests in shelter
- No trail wayfinding signage

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- Trash collection weekly
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Winter snow removal on trail

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install trail wayfinding/kiosk map $5,000
- Install drinking fountain $5,000
- Water service to drinking fountain $10,000
- Reflection gardens and art/no technology zone $5,000

TOTAL: $25,000

Sunnybrook Park

Site Images


Trail connection to street


General open space


Drainage issue at shelter


Nests in shelter


No trail wayfinding signage


Pond

Village Square Park

Park Description

Location
Village square park is a 0.2 acre mini park at the corner of Ethun Place and Library Street.

Future development of this site is dependent on downtown economics and continued growth and should be included in the discussion of Fireman's Park/civic buildings redevelopment.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Stone seating area

Issues:
- Under-utilized civic space
- Lack of shade

Program Details

Programs and Events
- None

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- None – Condo association maintains

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install small shade structure $20,000
- Install moveable picnic tables and benches $2,000
- Plant trees $1,200
- Install park signage $500

TOTAL: $23,700

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Conservancy Commons Park

Park Description

Location

This is a 3 acre neighborhood park located in the Village of DeForest at the corner of Innovation Drive and Yellowood Lane. Vegetation species include shade trees such as red maple, freeman maple, swamp white oak, bur oak, common hackberry, shagbark hickory, black cherry and Kentucky coffeetree. Ornamental trees include species of musclewood, allegany serviceberry, pagoda dogwood, prairie fire crabapple, thornless cockspur hawthorn, serviceberry and black hills spruce.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Splashpad
- Shelter
- Play structure
- Swings (2 belt, 1 bucket, 1 enclosed)
- Athletic field
- Open space
- Sledding hill
- Picnic area
- Restrooms
- Amphitheater area
- Bicycle racks (3)

Issues:

- Steep and heaving concrete areas by three restroom building doors
- Playground surfacing is worn
- Ruts in mulch under swings
- Trip hazard at playground to concrete transition

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Yahara Riverfest
- Movies in the Park
- Sledding hill
- Flag Football

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly by Park Towne (Developer)
- Trash collection daily during busy season, weekly as season slows
- Daily bathroom cleaning
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Open and winterize bathrooms, water fountain and splash pad
- Winter snow removal on sidewalks

Conservancy Commons Park

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install new splashpad signage …….. $500
- Repair sunken concrete by door stoops …… $6,000
- Install basketball court (Desired amenity from community survey) …….. $10,000
- Install rubber tiles …….. $1,500

TOTAL: $18,000

Conservancy Commons Park

Site Images



Playground area



Ruts in mulch under swings



Trip hazard at playground /concrete path



Concrete sinking by door stoops



Splashpad signage



Open space

Dahl Park

Park Description

Location
Dahl Park is a 4 acre park on North Halsor Street between Scott Drive and East Holum Street. Vegetation species include Cherry and Mountain Ash.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Open space
- Ponds
- Play structure (5 to 12 year old)
- Swings (1 belt, 1 bucket)

Issues:
- The playground is located far from the road
- Lack of seating options

Program Details

Programs and Events
- None

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- Mowing weekly
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Winter snow removal on sidewalk

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:
- Install pathway from North Halsor Street sidewalk to playground $8,000
- Install benches or picnic tables for seating adjacent to playground $3,000
- Regrade open space to accommodate U-10 soccer field $10,000
- Install small shade structure $20,000

TOTAL: $41,000

Dahl Park

Site Images


The playground is far from the road


Play structure


Open space (Possible U-10 soccer field)


Swings (1 belt, 1 bucket)


North Halsor Street sidewalk


Trees

Liberty Land Park

Park Description

Location

This is an 11.7 acre neighborhood park located in the Village of DeForest and bounded by Yorktown Road, Vinburn Lane, Southbound Drive and Constitution Lane. Vegetation species include paper birch, ash, crabapple, blue spruce, Norway spruce, red maple, silver maple, willow, arbor vitae, sycamore, and river birch.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Play structure (5 to 12 year old)
- Play structure (2 to 5 year old)
- Swings (3 belt, 2 bucket)
- Shelter
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Multi-use trail
- Parking lot
- Orchard
- Community garden
- Community garden sign
- Pet waste bag dispenser

Issues:

- Standing water at culvert
- Weeds in mulch at playground
- Missing swing
- Ruts in mulch under swings
- Playground location is not ideal or accessible

Program Details

Programs and Events

- High school agriculture class outdoor classroom (orchard)
- Community garden

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental
- Community garden plot fee

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- Fall protection
- Playground inspection
- Trash collection weekly
- Winter snow removal on trail and parking lot
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Community Garden
  - Spring plot preparation – tilling, staking
  - Open and winterize water
  - Compost bin emptied as needed

Liberty Land Park

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Remove miscellaneous shrubs by pump house $500
- Connect path to open air shelter and play structure $6,000
- Convert open space to youth soccer field $3,000
- Install bike parking on hard service $1,200
- Construct small parking lot by pump house $10,000

Playground:

- Manage weed growth in playground mulch $500
- Install ADA transfer mat at play structure $2,000
- Replace missing belt swing $200
- Relocate and replace play structure to mid park $65,000

TOTAL: $88,400

Liberty Land Park

Site Images


Standing water at culvert


Weeds in mulch at playground


Missing swing


Ruts in mulch under swings


Pump house


Open air shelter

Rivers Turn Park

Park Description

Location
This 3.2 acre park is located on Innovation Drive adjacent to the Upper Yahara River conservancy area.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Exercise stations (5)
- Open air shelter
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Bicycle rack
- Drinking fountain
- Lights
- Park sign

Issues:
- Drinking fountain water pressure is too high and it is not ADA compliant
- Nest in shelter
- Turf is in poor condition
- Erosion downstream of culvert pipe end.

Program Details

Programs and Events
- Candlelight hike
- Free public demonstrations on using fitness equipment

Revenue Generators
- Shelter rental

Maintenance Program
- Mowing weekly
- Trash collection weekly
- Equipment inspection
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Winter snow removal on sidewalk and trail
- Open and winterize water fountain

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:
- Adjust drinking fountain pressure for overspray $500
- Stabilize turf downstream of culvert pipe with turf mat or riprap $1,500
- Construct small restroom building $70,000

TOTAL: $72,000

Rivers Turn Park

Site Images


Drinking fountain pressure/not ADA


Nest in shelter


Open air shelter


Exercise area


Downstream culvert



Park sign

Veterans Memorial Park

Park Description

Location

Veterans Memorial Park is a 5.4 acre neighborhood park adjacent to North Main Street and the Yahara River. Vegetation species include crabapple, honey locust, oak, black walnut, and various understory woodland plants. Decorative planters are also maintained with seasonal annual flowers.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Trails
- Gazebo
- Monuments with signage
- Parking lot
- Picnic tables
- Prairie area
- Drinking fountain
- Open space
- Park sign
- Lights
- Benches
- Kiosk
- Trailhead signage
- Canoe launch

Issues:

- Drinking fountain has no flow, not ADA compliant
- Turf at skating rink has trouble in spring after ice
- Sidewalk entrance is not ADA accessible
- Canoe launch is not sufficiently signed from road or parking area

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Farmers Market (Tuesdays)
- Holiday tree exhibit
- Memorial Day celebration
- Friends of Yahara River Headwaters annual river clean-up

Revenue Generators

- Gazebo rental
- DeForest Veterans Memorial Foundation

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- Trash collection weekly
- Gazebo cleaning before rentals
- Winter snow removal on parking lot, sidewalk and trails
- Local veterans group and park neighbors maintain planting beds

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install detectable warning field at sidewalk terminus $1,500
- Replace drinking fountain $5,000
- Install 2 to 5 play structure $45,000
- Construct small restroom building $100,000

TOTAL: $151,500

Veterans Memorial Park

Site Images



Drinking fountain has no flow/not ADA



Memorial path



Turf at skating rink has trouble in the spring



Curb ramp needs detectable warning field



Trailhead signage



Memorial monument

Western Green Park

Park Description

Location

Western Green Park is a 61.4 acre neighborhood park located between Acker Parkway and the Yahara River. Vegetation species include oak, Norway maple, ash, spruce, linden, birch, and miscellaneous pond edge grasses and plants.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Trails
- Open space
- Restroom/storage building
- Drinking fountain
- Shelter
- Picnic tables
- Sand volleyball
- Benches
- Play structure (5 to 12 year old)
- Swings (4 belt, 2 bucket)
- Monkey bars
- Jungle gym
- Parking lot
- Pet waste bag dispenser
- Park sign
- Bulletin/rules sign
- Interpretive signage
- Soccer/flag football

Issues:

- Weeds in playground mulch
- Wood playground items are deteriorating
- Outlet covers missing in open air shelter
- Volleyball court contains weeds

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Candlelight hike
- Movies in the Park
- Soccer
- Flag Football
- Winter Recreation Trails

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly
- Fall Protection
- Playground Inspection
- Trash collection weekly
- Daily bathroom cleaning
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Open and winterize bathrooms and water fountain
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Winter snow removal in parking lot
- Winter trail grooming
- Line football field during season
- Prairie burns with fire department
- Limestone trail maintenance – Harley rake, roll, herbicide spray

Western Green Park

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Clean out debris and vegetation from culvert outlet $500
- Convert open space to basketball $10,000
- Replace all electrical outlet covers at the shelter with lockable covers $1,000
- Manage weed growth at volleyball court $500
- Trim vegetation along trail $1,500
- Relocate prairie kiosk $500
- Pave trail system (~6,975') $140,000
- Install T-ball backstop $1,500

Playground:

- Control weed growth in playground surfacing $500
- Replace wooden playground equipment with modular post and deck structure $80,000
- Replace wood swing supports and benches. Relocate to smaller common area. $6,000
- Install ADA transfer mat at play structure $2,000
- Remove jungle gym/monkey bars $1,000

TOTAL: $245,000

Western Green Park

Site Images


Trail kiosk

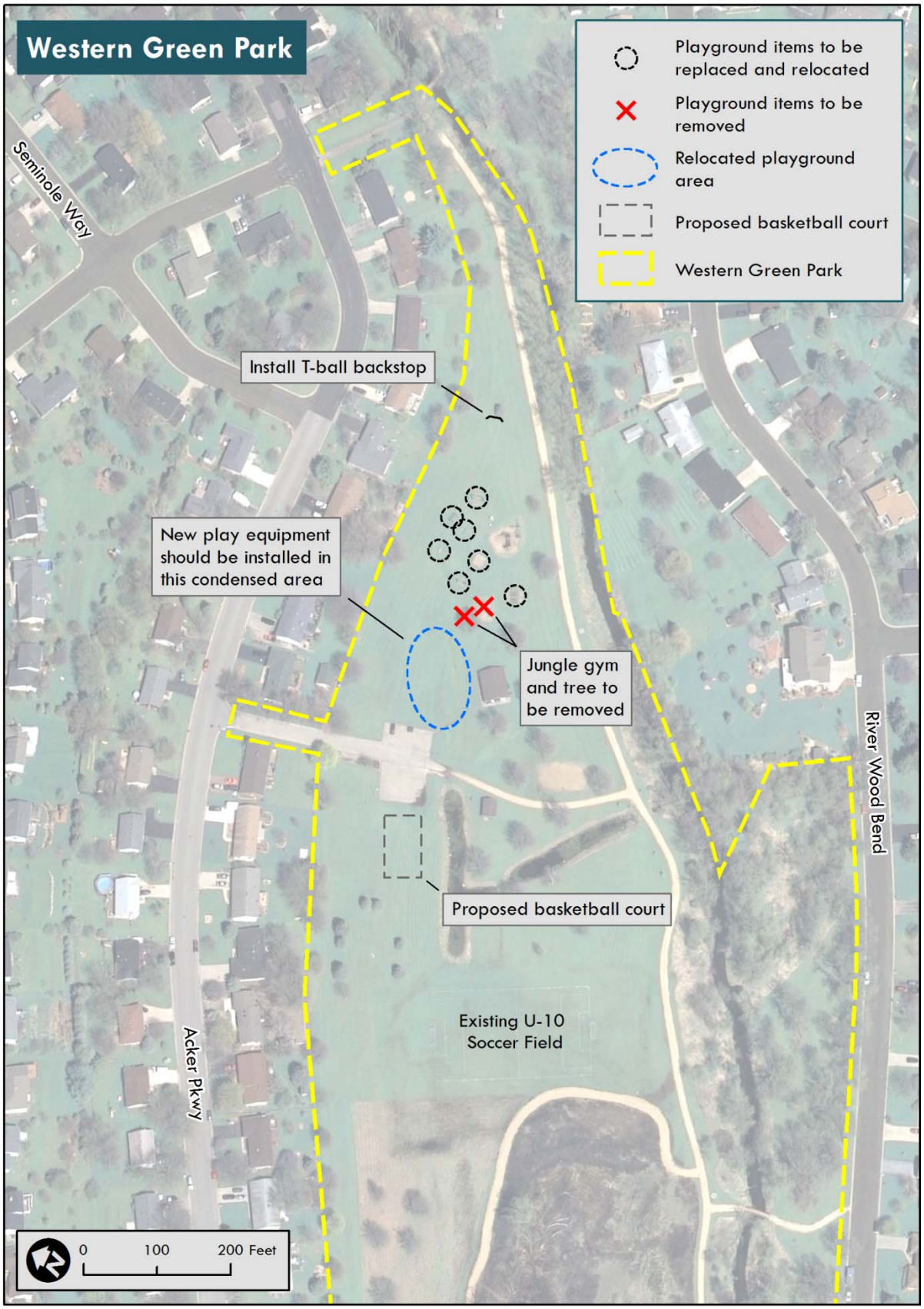

Weeds in playground mulch


Wood playground items are deteriorating


Restroom building


Open air shelter


Playground items


Western Green Park
Playground items to be replaced and relocated
Playground items to be removed
Relocated playground area
Proposed basketball court
Western Green Park
Seminole Way
Install T-ball backstop
New play equipment should be installed in this condensed area
Jungle gym and tree to be removed
River Wood Bend
Proposed basketball court
Existing U-10 Soccer Field
Acker Pkwy
0
100
200 Feet

Yahara Park

Park Description

Location
This is a 7.9 acre neighborhood park adjacent to Yahara Elementary School on Trailside Drive. Vegetation species include spruce, ash, maple, and decorative shrub/perennial beds.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Softball/youth baseball fields (2)
- Scoreboard
- Picnic tables
- Concessions/restroom building
- Shelter
- Picnic tables
- Play structure (2 to 5 year old)
- Teeter totter
- Spring rider
- Spin seat
- Swings (2 bucket)
- Bench
- Park sign
- Gravel trail
- Pedestrian bridge
- Open space
- Parking lot

Issues:

- Erosion on path
- Bridge not ADA approved
- Protruding hinge at fence is a trip hazard
- The parking lot is unstriped and unsigned
- Electrical outlet covers are missing

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Youth softball and baseball games and tournaments

Revenue Generators

- Shelter rental
- Ball diamond field user fee
- Ball diamond advertising signage

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly (diamond outfields twice a week during peak season)
- Fall protection
- Playground inspection
- Trash collection weekly
- Daily bathroom cleaning
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Open and winterize bathrooms and water fountain
- Ball diamond maintenance and field lining for games
- Winter snow removal in parking lot and sidewalk

Yahara Park

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install lockable electric outlet covers $1,000
- Regrade path to bridge and reconfigure bridge ramps for ADA accessibility $5,000
- Remove protruding bracket from fence $500
- Install limestone path connection $10,000

Softball/Youth Baseball Fields:

- Install concrete pad for bleachers $6,000

TOTAL: $22,500

Yahara Park

Site Images


Erosion on path/steep bridge approach

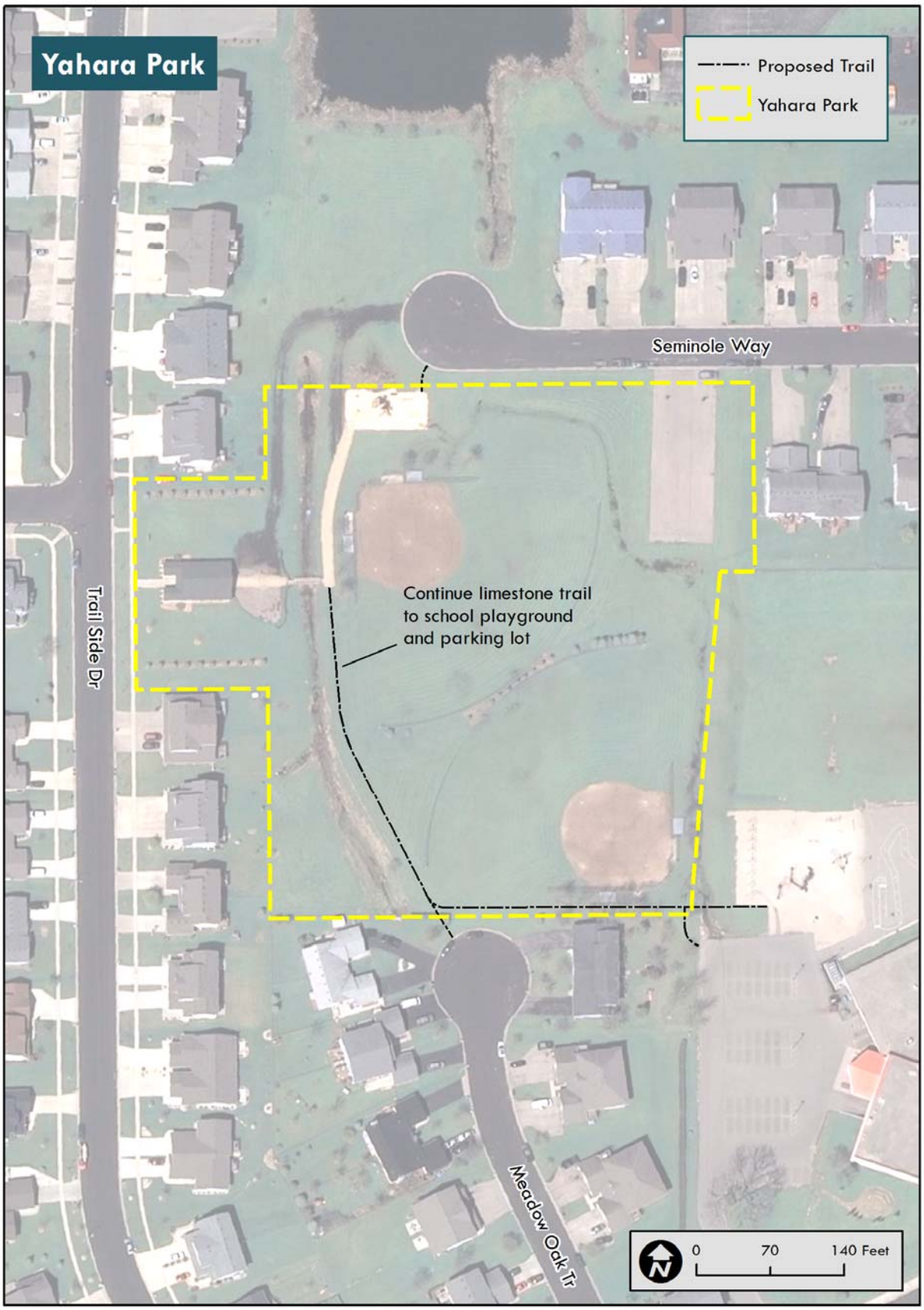

Bridge transition does not meet ADA standards


Protruding hinge at fence is a trip hazard


Parking lot unstriped and unsigned


Bleachers should be on a concrete pad


Electrical outlet covers are missing


Yahara Park
Proposed Trail
Yahara Park
Seminole Way
Trail Side Dr
Continue limestone trail
to school playground
and parking lot
Meadow Oak Tr
0
70
140 Feet

COMMUNITY PARKS

Fireman's Park

Park Description

Location

Fireman's Park is an 11.5 acre community park located between DeForest Street and Jefferson Street. Vegetation species include silver maple, linden and ash.

It should be noted that any major improvements to the park should be completed after a master plan process.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Softball with bleachers/lights (2)
- Youth baseball field (New lights)
- Pressbox
- Restrooms (2)
- Shelters (2 – Large/small)
- Asphalt path
- Play Structure
- Swings (3 belt, 2 bucket, 1 seat)
- Teeter totter (4 seat)
- Jungle gym
- Monkey bars
- Fire truck play structure
- Talk tubes
- Web climber
- Spring rider
- Benches
- Open space
- Basketball hoops (2)
- Ice skating rink
- Horseshoe pits
- Concession stand
- Drinking fountains (2)
- Bike racks (2)
- Park sign
- Scoreboards (2)
- Picnic tables

Issues:

- Brick bathrooms not ADA compliant
- Scoreboards operate but are not serviceable
- Horseshoe pits are overgrown
- Bleachers should be on a hard surface
- Basketball/parking conflict
- Chain link fence at field #1 is bowed
- Infield of field #2 is sandy
- Tire ruts and potholes on path
- Grass at base of drinking fountain
- Bathroom dividers are rusting in log cabin
- Ruts in mulch under swings
- Large tree limb over playground

Fireman's Park

Program Details

Programs and Events

- Concerts in the Park
- Hockey rink
- Bike Rodeo
- Police Department's Family Fun Night
- Movies in the Park
- Recreation Programming
- July 4th celebration
- Dragon Arts Fair overflow
- Car Show
- Regular day camp use in the summer

Revenue Generators

- Shelters and cabin rental
- Ball diamond field user fee
- Ball diamond advertising signs

Maintenance Program

- Mowing weekly (diamond outfields twice a week during peak season)
- Fall Protection
- Playground Inspection
- Trash collection weekly
- Daily bathroom cleaning
- Shelter cleaning before rentals
- Open and winterize bathrooms and water fountain
- Line football field during season
- Ball diamond maintenance and field lining for games
- Winter snow removal in parking lot, trail and sidewalk
- Winter hockey rink preparation and maintenance

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Update Master Plan to include current community recreation needs $20,000
- Evaluate log cabin functionality in conjunction with Master Plan update. Address ADA non-compliance. $4,000
- Stripe parking lot $3,000
- Enclose group of electrical outlets $2,000
- Replace non-ADA drinking fountains $10,000
- Repair south side entrance ramp, install detectable warning field $2,500
- Remove horseshoe pits. Replace with bag toss. ($3,000 each set) $9,000
- Install bike racks near shelter $1,200
- Install ADA accessible path to shelter $5,000
- Replace interior bathroom partitions (Desired facility) $7,000
- Repair toddler picnic table $1,000
- Remove ash by playground $500

Softball/Youth Baseball Fields:

- Repair fence on first base side of middle diamond $1,000
- Replace scoreboards ($10,000 each) $30,000
- Replace older field lighting $250,000
- Redress infields with new mixture $10,000

Basketball Court:

- Reorganize basketball into full court. Separate from parking. (Desired facility) $5,000

TOTAL: $361,200

Fireman's Park

Site Images



Brick bathrooms not ADA compliant



Scoreboards operate but are not serviceable



Horseshoe pits are overgrown



Bleachers should be on a hard surface



Basketball/parking conflict



Chain link fence at softball field is bowed

Fireman's Park

Site Images



Infield of field 2 is sandy



Tire ruts and potholes on path



Grass at base of drinking fountain



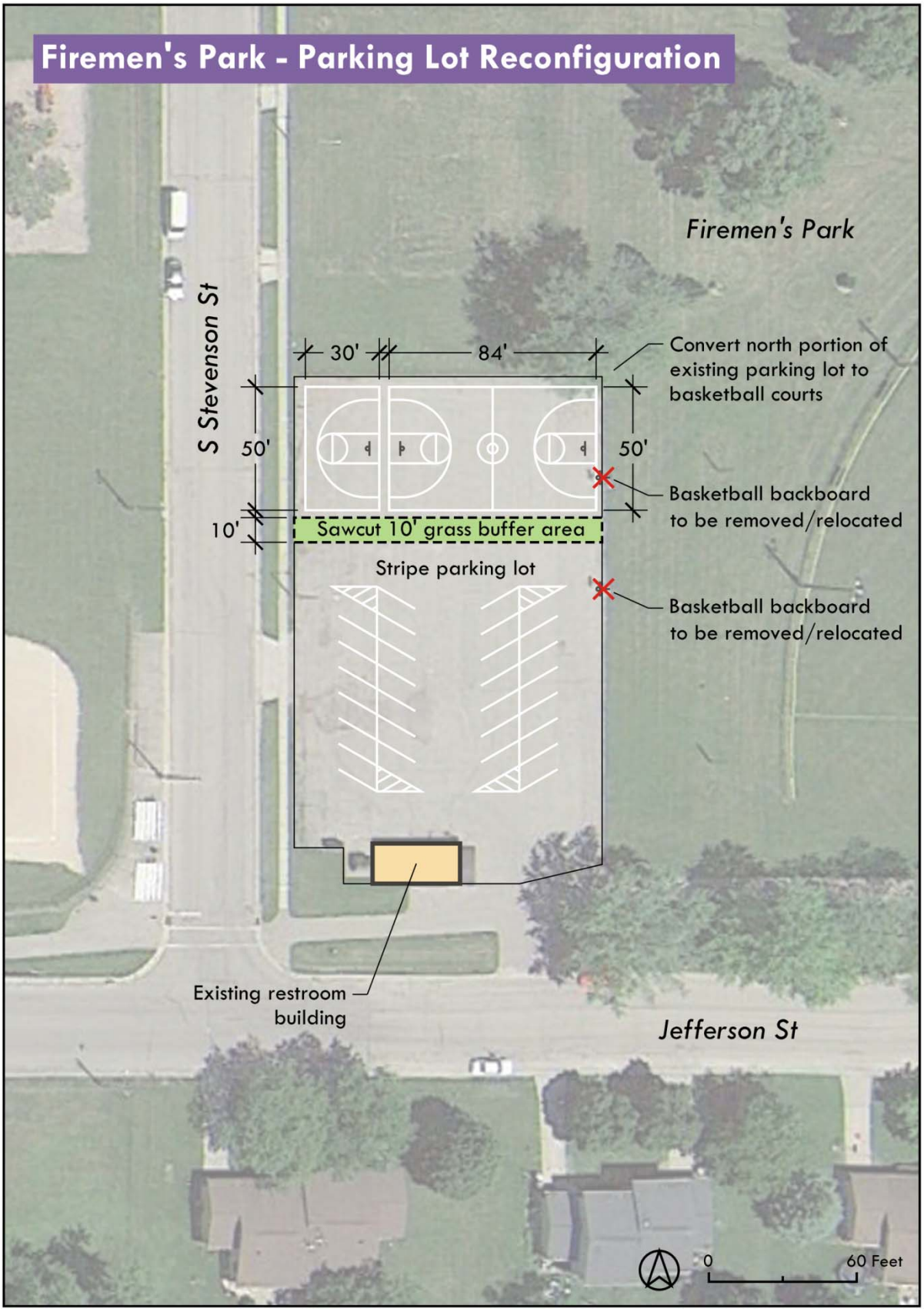
Bathroom dividers are rusting



Ruts in mulch under swings



Large tree limb over playground


Firemen's Park - Parking Lot Reconfiguration
Firemen's Park
S Stevenson St
30'
84'
50'
50'
10'
Convert north portion of existing parking lot to basketball courts
Basketball backboard to be removed/relocated
Sawcut 10' grass buffer area
Stripe parking lot
Basketball backboard to be removed/relocated
Existing restroom building
Jefferson St
0
60 Feet

CONSERVANCY PARKS

Bakke Conservancy

Park Description

Location
This is a 21.7 acre conservancy park located on North Stevenson Street south of Burton Boulevard.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Trail
- Trail signage
- Bench
- Park sign

Issues:
- None

Program Details

Programs and Events
- Winter ice skating rink

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- Mowing biweekly
- Stormwater pond maintenance
- Winter ice skating rink snow removal

Improvement Options & Estimate

- Implement vegetation management plan ……..... $5,000

TOTAL: $5,000

Bakke Conservancy

Site Images



Park sign


Pond


Bench



Delkamp Trail signage


Natural area

Chapel Green Park

Park Description

Location
This 2.9 acre conservancy land is located near the intersection of South Street and River Road.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Trails
- Mature oaks

Issues:
- Dead/dying trees
- Invasive species
- Poor sight lines
- Bike trail doesn't connect to street

Program Details

Programs and Events	Revenue Generators	Maintenance Program
• None	• None	• Mowing biweekly along path

Improvement Options & Estimate

- Create vegetation management plan (oak savanna restoration) …….. $5,000
- Improve habitat ……... $15,000
- Connect trail to trail network at River Road. Install crosswalk/pedestrian lights. …… $15,000
- Install 2 to 12 year old play structure in upper area …….. $35,000
- Clear vegetation to improve sight lines within the park …… $2,000
- Install small shade structure and seating by play area ……... $10,000

TOTAL: $82,000

Chapel Green Corridor

Site Images


Dead/dying trees


Invasive species


Bike trail



Bike trail doesn't connect to street


Natural area


Bike trail/natural area

Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area

Park Description

Location
This 46 acre conservancy is located between the north village limits and Bakke Conservancy.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Mowed trails

Issues:
- Lack of access
- Lack of connectivity

Program Details

Programs and Events
- None

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- Natural area management contracted
- Monitor water levels and adjust control structure as needed

Improvement Options & Estimate

- Continue to implement Master Plan recommendations ..... TBD
- Acquire parcel to the south ..... TBD
- Develop trailhead facility with parking, restrooms, water service and sanitary sewer $150,000
- Establish first tier trail network $20,000
- Develop vegetation management plan $5,000

TOTAL: $175,000+

Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area

Site Images



Master Plan (2010)

Upper Yahara River Corridor

Park Description

Location
This 138 acre conservancy is located in designated areas throughout the Village of DeForest surrounding the Yahara River.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities
- Multi-use trail
- Fishing pier at Sunfish Pond
- Little Free Library
- Kiosk at Sunfish Pond
- Bike rack at trailhead

Issues:
- Access
- Vegetation management
- Water trail maintenance
- Wayfinding
- Lack of day use shelter

Program Details

Programs and Events
- Yahara Riverfest
- Trail Tromp 5K
- Fishing clinics at Sunfish Pond
- Winter ice skating rink at Sunfish Pond
- Nature Interpretation
- Birdwatching
- Geocaching

Revenue Generators
- None

Maintenance Program
- Mowing biweekly
- Trash collection weekly
- Winter snow removal in parking lot and trail
- Winter ice skating rink snow removal on Sunfish Pond
- Stain boardwalks and bridges

Improvement Options & Estimate

- Install trail wayfinding signage $5,000
- Construct restroom and shelter at Sunfish Pond $150,000
- Acquire additional land on north and west side of pond (buffer and day use activities) ... N/A

TOTAL: $155,000+

Upper Yahara River Corridor

Site Images



Sunfish Pond



Yahara River Trail Area

SPECIAL USE PARKS

Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park

Park Description

Location

This 12.3 acre park is located off of North Stevenson Road adjacent to the Schweers Natural Area. The active area within the dog exercise area fence is approximately 5.5 acres with the remaining parcel utilized as parking, cell tower, and wetland.



Site Analysis Summary

Existing Facilities

- Dog exercise area
- Donor paver entry area
- Bulletin/rules signage
- Pet waste bag dispenser
- Benches (3)
- Gravel parking lot
- Gravel path
- Park sign

Issues:

- Gravel path erosion
- Turf quality
- Lack of shade
- No access to water (could be installed in future if demand increases or when future industrial developments are considered)
- Gravel parking lot

Program Details

Programs and Events

- None

Revenue Generators

- Non-resident user fee ($20/year)

Maintenance Program

- Mowing monthly
- Trash collection weekly

Improvement Options & Estimate

General Issues:

- Install shade structure $10,000
- Pave parking lot and pathway. (Porous pavement) $30,000

TOTAL: $40,000

Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park

Site Images



Gravel path erosion



Park sign



Gravel parking lot



Dog park entry area



Path to dog park



Bulletin/rules signage

4 IMPLEMENTATION

The previous chapter of this report detailed an extensive number of specific improvement options. This chapter of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan provides the mechanism for implementing them. It includes a compilation of capital improvements, park acquisition and development mechanisms, and funding sources. The chapter also includes the process for adopting, monitoring, and updating this plan.

4.1 Plan Approval and Amendments

Introduction

A prerequisite to participation in outdoor recreation grant programs is the adoption and subsequent Department of Natural Resources acceptance of a local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Comprehensive planning is an overall survey of the existing facilities within a given jurisdiction, and gives recommendations for future improvements. A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (DeForest uses the term "Park and Open Space Plan" - *POSP*) is only the first step in the development of a recreational park site or system.

Master planning, which follows the recommendations of the comprehensive plan, is an overall view and analysis of an existing or proposed park area. The purpose is to guide the orderly development of a park or recreational facility.

Site planning, is the detailed plan of how an area within a park or recreation area will be developed. Site plans supply the construction details needed to develop a facility recommended in the master plan.

This plan provides strategies and recommendations for improving public parks village-wide. It is anticipated that master planning for community parks and proposed parks is a high priority and should be featured prominently when budgets are determined over the life of this plan.

Formal Plan Approval

This POSP should be approved by the local governing body after thorough review by the Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Village Board. Once adopted, the plan will become a component of the village's comprehensive plan. The village should follow all rules and procedures established in the citizen participation plan adopted as part of the comprehensive planning process (per State Statute 66.1001) when adopting this POSP.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for

consideration by local decision-makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and should be developed in coordination with the Parks Committee before they are presented to the Village Board for approval. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the parent plan.

The Village of DeForest Park and Open Space Plan will make the village eligible for funding through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the year 2019. Similarly, since this plan has been developed with a five-year timeframe, it should be amended in 2019 to ensure grant eligibility and to reflect progress made over time.

4.2 Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

4.2.1 Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Many communities have developer exactions for parkland acquisition. These exactions are designed to help a growing community acquire new park land to keep pace with new residential development. As residents move into a new subdivision, they place additional stress on existing park facilities. Developer exactions, agreed upon during the subdivision review and approval period, provide land, cash, or a combination of both to be used for the provision of park facilities that serve the new neighborhood.

The Village of DeForest Subdivision and Development code (Chapter 13, subchapter IV and V) covers dedication of lands and public site fee options. Subdividers of land where suitable sites have been designated on the Comprehensive Plan are required to dedicate these sites to the public. An explanation of these requirements is found in Chapter 3 of this document. If the village allows the land division to not include a public park, a fee in lieu of dedication must be paid for the acquisition or development of park land. The Village should review these policies on a regular basis to ensure compliance with state and local laws as well as accommodate the changing needs of residential developments.

Usable Lands

Because the intent of parkland dedication requirements is to provide sufficient recreation lands for new residents, mini or neighborhood parks should be developed within new developments. Neighborhood parks are designed to provide active and passive recreation activities and organized league recreation, as well as informal "pick up" play. The ½ mile radius service area should include the entire neighborhood; with some neighborhood overlap if features are unique. The average neighborhood park commonly ranges from 3 to 10 acres in size and serves from 1,000 to 5,000 people – basically one park for every elementary school.

Defining the term "usable lands" is very important to ensuring the quality of the proposed dedication. To obtain credit towards meeting the Village's parkland dedication requirements, the Village will utilize the following criteria in evaluating land proposed for dedication:

- Located outside of the floodplain, wetlands, surface waters, storm water basins and conveyance routes, and other areas with severe limitations for park development.
- Contains developer-finished slopes of less than 4% for active recreation areas, and slopes less than 12% for passive recreation areas and conservancy.
- Contains soils that are suitable for construction of the anticipated park facilities, such as athletic fields, parking lots, and shelters.

- At least 15% of the perimeter of the proposed parkland will be adjacent to a public street.
- Visible and accessible to the public (foot, bike, and auto access) and for effective monitoring for public safety.
- Sufficiently shaped to accommodate the anticipated facilities.
- Not presenting any sort of environmental hazard to the community, such as through soil contamination or excessive nuisance or invasive vegetation.
- Situated in a location that is consistent with this plan, that contributes to the Village's community development goals, and that adequately serves the park's service area.

4.2.2 User Groups

The Village should coordinate with potential user groups when planning new facilities to see if cost-sharing, donation, or outright purchase options exist. As an example, the Village is planning an athletic complex and engage various user groups, including non-recretaion youth leagues and the school district.

4.2.3 Planned Giving

In many communities, parkland development often occurs with the availability of land. Donations of private land for a public purpose is not uncommon, but there needs to be criteria for accepting lands, and a formal procedure for how the land will be planned and used in the best interest of the community. A planned giving program through the Village would allow prospective patrons to dedicate land in a legal manner that provides a legacy for how the land will be utilized over time.

4.2.4 Grant Funding

Implementation dollars are available for acquisition and development of recreation spaces and facilities. Linear parks and trails can be funded through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or the Department of Transportation (WDOT). The WDNR also provides monies for the acquisition of lands, the stabilization of shorelands, and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. A complete list of grant opportunities is provided in Section 4.3.

4.3 Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development

The state and federal government provides grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. Many of these programs require that a local government submit an approved park and open space plan or master plan to the WDNR as a condition for eligibility. By adopting this Park and Open Space Plan by ordinance, the Village of DeForest has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs until 2019.

4.3.1 Projects that Require Grant Funding

The financial realities of our time necessitate the acquisition of outside funding to enable the development of large projects. Grant funding also provides seed money and crucial capital for leveraging additional community dollars and support. While many projects identified in this POSP would benefit from the acquisition of outside funding sources, some projects will require grant funding if they are to be realized. A brief description of each project and potential funding is provided below. Grant programs are discussed in the next section (4.3.2).

The existing trail facilities at *Western Green Park* could be paved with asphalt to provide a more consistent and accessible facility. The DNR RTA grant program would be an excellent opportunity to fund this trail segment.

Many of the improvements proposed for the Schweers Natural Area could be eligible for various grant sources. DNR RTA, Stewardship, or Dane County PARC grant programs are funding sources to be explored for the implementation of the development recommendations as shown in the Master Plan for this park.

The recommended improvements at Chapel Green Park included extensive vegetation management practices and new tree plantings. This project in conjunction with other forestry efforts within the Village could be a candidate for a DNR Urban Forestry Grant.

Other projects discussed as part of this planning process include a future Community Center, additional conservancy lands (Reigstad) and further development of a large sports complex. Various grant programs should be explored for funding assistance including the Madison Community Foundation, Dane County PARC, and CDBG grants.

4.3.2 Grant Programs

This section provides general information and details for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities, linear trails, or beaches. Categories, by authorization agency, include:

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Other Programs (Various Agencies)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program: Named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Governor Warren Knowles and Senator Gaylord Nelson, the Wisconsin Legislature created this innovative program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

All grant program awards cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. Projects eligible for Stewardship grant programs require that all land acquisition and development projects provide public access for "nature-based outdoor recreation" purposes. DNR decisions as to whether a particular project activity is "nature-based outdoor recreation" are made on a case-by-case basis. Please note that purchase and installation of playground equipment, and the purchase of land for recreation areas not related to nature-based outdoor recreation (dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, etc.) are not eligible. The Stewardship Program includes the four funds described below (A – D).

For more information and to submit applications contact the South Central Region representative (listed below). All applications are due May 1.

Cheryl Housley
Telephone: (608) 275-3218 Email: Cheryl.Housley@wisconsin.gov

A. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)

Description: Stewardship sets aside 50% of funds for projects that improve community parks and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Applicants compete against other applicants from their region. Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation, such as fishing piers, hiking trails and picnic facilities. Funds are not available for non nature-based activities such as baseball and soccer fields. Costs associated with operation and maintenance of parks and other outdoor recreation facilities are not eligible for Stewardship funds.

Eligible Project Examples:

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

Ineligible Project Examples:

1. Projects that are not supported by a local comprehensive outdoor recreational plan.
2. Land to be used for non-nature-based outdoor recreation such as athletic facilities.
3. Acquisition and development of golf courses.

B. Urban Rivers (UR)

Description: Stewardship allocates 20% of funds annually to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition of land or easements adjacent to rivers. Funding will be provided for projects that are part of a plan to enhance the quality of a river corridor. Applicants compete against other applicants statewide. The purposes of the program are:

1. To provide for economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban rivers or riverfronts;
2. To improve outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, including but not limited to, fishing, wildlife observation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, canoeing, boating, hiking and bicycling;
3. To preserve or restore significant historical, cultural, or natural areas along urban rivers.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.

2. Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
3. Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
4. Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.
5. Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
6. Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
7. Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality.

C. Urban Green Space (UGS)

Description: The intent of the Urban Green Space Program (UGS) is to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect from urban development areas that have scenic, ecological or other natural value and are within or in proximity to urban areas; and to provide land for noncommercial gardening for the residents of an urbanized area.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

a. Planning Considerations, including:
   - Specifically implementing a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
   - Implementing the approved master plans of 2 or more units of government or regional planning agencies
   - Preserving land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database
   - Implementing elements of water quality plans or initiatives
b. Project Considerations, including:
   - Serving the greatest population centers
   - Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
   - Providing accessibility
   - Having unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value
   - Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
   - Having water frontage
   - Containing or restoring wetlands
   - Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
   - Protecting an area threatened by development
   - Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
   - Having regional or statewide significance
   - Relating to brownfield redevelopment
c. Administrative considerations, including:
   - Projects that are ready to be implemented and/or continue previously started projects

D. Acquisition of Development Rights

Description: The purpose of the Acquisition of Development Rights Program is to protect natural, agricultural, or forest lands that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. "Development Rights" are the rights of a landowner to develop their property to the greatest extent allowed under state and local laws. The goals of the program are achieved through the

purchase of those development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes or estuaries
- Property that creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial or industrial development
- Property that is within the boundaries of an acquisition project established by the DNR, a government unit or a NCO where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program
- Property that is within an environmental corridor that connects 2 or more established resource protection areas

Federal Programs Related to the Stewardship Program: The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Act (RTA) programs fund projects that are similar to the Stewardship programs. One primary difference is that LWCF and RTA programs are not restricted to nature-based outdoor recreation projects. In these programs, nature-based outdoor recreation projects compete against projects with non-nature based recreation elements for LWCF funds. Another difference is that federal programs have additional requirements that must be satisfied – for example, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Historic Preservation Act, etc. Federal programs administered through the DNR include the two funds described below (E, F).

E. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Description: This program was established to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation activities.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Relationship to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; activities must be in locally approved plans
- Regional or statewide in nature
- Acquires land where a plan supports need
- Provides or enhances water-based activity
- Serves the greatest populations
- Involves other local government's, cooperation, volunteers, local donations
- First time applicants
- Sponsor has completed past projects
- Provides multi-season, multi activity use
- Basic over elaborate facilities
- Participant over spectator facilities
- "Nature based" restriction does not apply

Eligible Project Examples:
- Land acquisition
- Development of outdoor recreation facilities, including active sports facilities

F. Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

Description: These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTA funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. 30% of funds must be used on motorized trail uses, 30% on non-motorized trail uses, and 40% on diversified (multiple) trail uses.

Funding Priorities: Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:
- 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 easement or property for trails.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation offers a variety of programs that can provide financial assistance to local governments, along with other public and private entities, to make improvements to highways, airports, harbors, bike, rail and pedestrian facilities. The use of these funds in DeForest would be most closely tied to developing trails to link parks and conservancy areas to places of employment, residence, and commerce.

G. Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)

Description: This program allocates federal funds to complete a variety of improvements to federal-aid-eligible roads and streets outside of census-designated urban areas. Projects must meet federal and state requirements. Communities are eligible for funding on roads functionally classified collector or arterial. The WisDOT requires that pedestrian and on-street bicycle accommodations be part of all STP projects within or in the vicinity of population centers, unless extraordinary circumstances can be demonstrated to WisDOT for not providing these accommodations.

Contact: Michael Erickson, Southwest Region at (608) 246-5361 or Michael.erickson@dot.wi.gov

Deadline: spring of odd-numbered years, next cycle Calendar Year 2015

H. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Description: The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that "expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment." TAP is a new legislative program that was authorized in 2012 by federal transportation legislation, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The transportation alternatives program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping

and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Examples of bicycle and pedestrian projects that TAP will likely fund include: multi-use trails, paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossings. Local municipalities contribute 20% of the project costs. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles.

Contact: Tressie Kamp, State Coordinator at 608-266-3973 or tressie.kamp@dot.wi.gov or Marilyn Daniels, Southwest Region at 608-246-3864 or Marilyn.daniels@dot.wi.gov

Deadline: first application cycle expected to open October 2013

Wisconsin Department of Administration

I. Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)

Description: Available through the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), communities receiving CDBG funds from the State may use the funds for many kinds of community development activities including, but not limited to:

- Acquisition of property for public purposes;
- Construction or reconstruction of streets, water and sewer facilities, neighborhood centers, recreation facilities, and other public works;
- Demolition;
- Rehabilitation of public and private buildings;
- Public services;
- Planning activities;
- Assistance to nonprofit entities for community development activities; and
- Assistance to private, for profit entities to carry out economic development activities (including assistance to micro-enterprises).

Contact: Tom Clippert at (608)261-7538 or tom.clippert@wisconsin.gov

Other Organizations/Foundations

J. Madison Community Foundation

Description: The Madison Community Foundation provides funding assistance to communities and other organizations in Dane County to improve public spaces and connect people for the common good.

Contact: Tom Linfield at (608)232-1763

K. Dane County partners for Recreation & Conservation (PARC)

Description: The Partners for Recreation & Conservation (PARC) Grant Program provides capital financial assistance to local units of government or nonprofits for outdoor recreation and conservation projects that have the potential to generate significant regional benefits. The 2015 Dane County Budget includes matching funds for projects and outlines eligibility requirements that are described in the materials below.

Contact: Sara Kwitek at (608)224-3611 or kwitek@countyofdane.com

4.4 Capital Improvements Plan

Capital improvements to a park are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designated and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance, on the other hand, is considered to be the repair and upkeep of existing park facilities, such as painting a shelter building. Routine maintenance of park facilities does not appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the park department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, such as upgrading a toilet facility to be barrier-free, is usually considered to be a capital improvement.

Most projects can be easily identified and categorized, but some are difficult. When a project falls on the borderline between a capital improvement and maintenance, the overall cost becomes the determinant. Projects with a high cost, such as that for seal coating roads or parking lots, are categorized as capital improvements.

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park, and the value of the project to the overall village parks system. Capital improvements for this plan are ranked in the following manner:

a. Improvements to existing facilities that will:
    i. Correct health and safety hazards
    ii. Upgrade deficient facilities
    iii. Modernize adequate but outdated facilities

b. Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, park committee input, village budgeting)

c. Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through level of service, population projection, and age cohort analyses

Generally, improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in each park location. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always the highest ranking priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through empirical analyses are usually ranked the lowest.

Parks have been divided by classifications established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) including Mini, Neighborhood, Community, Conservancy, and Special Use parks. Improvement costs are shown by year (2015-2020) which establishes a priority ranking – higher priority improvements would occur sooner in the schedule. When a long-term improvement is forecast to occur beyond 2020 the improvement is highlighted and labeled "LONGTERM". In some cases a capital improvement may utilize a special fund. When this occurs the improvement contains an identifier citing that particular funding source. Depending on the fund, it may or may not be reflected in the subtotal for each park type.

The total improvement cost by park classification and by year is assembled in Table 4. Costs associated with each park improvement option are based upon recent regional project construction costs and may be spread out over many years. An inflation factor of 2.5% starting in year three has been used to adjust for cost increases. This inflation factor, like the priority rankings, should be adjusted over time to reflect changes that may occur which were unknown when this plan was originally prepared.

Table 4: Total Improvement Costs by Year and Park Classification

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
MINI PARKS Subtotal	$3,200	$9,700	$0	$21,000	$5,375	$24,200	$63,475
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS Subtotal	$101,200	$101,200	$115,825	$68,250	$163,400	$126,500	$676,375
COMMUNITY PARKS Subtotal	$20,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000
SPECIAL USE PARKS Subtotal	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$11,000	$41,000
CONSERVANCY PARKS Subtotal	$20,000	$89,000	$155,800	$159,600	$2,150	$2,200	$428,750
ALL PARKS Subtotal	$174,400	$199,900	$271,625	$248,850	$170,925	$163,900	$1,229,600

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
MINI PARKS							
Hank's Hollow Park							
Install bike rack/concrete pad		$1,200					
Curb Cut		$6,000					
ADA transfer mat		$2,000					
Prune trees	$500						
Remove weed growth	$1,500						
Subtotals	$2,000	$9,200	$0	$0	$0	$0	$11,200
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 2,000	$ 9,200	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,200
Sunnybrook Park							
Wayfinding kiosk				$5,000			
Drinking fountain				$5,000			
Water service to drinking fountain				$10,000			
Reflection gardens					$5,000		
Subtotals	$0	$0	$0	$20,000	$5,000	$0	$25,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 21,000	$ 5,375	$ -	$ 26,375
Village Square Park							
Shade structure						$20,000	
Picnic tables and benches						$2,000	
Tree planting	$1,200						
Park signage		$500					
Subtotals	$1,200	$500	$0	$0	$0	$22,000	$23,700
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 1,200	$ 500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 24,200	$ 25,900
MINI PARKS Subtotal	$3,200	$9,700	$0	$21,000	$5,375	$24,200	$63,475

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS							
Conservancy Commons Park							
Splashpad signage	$500						
Concrete repair	$6,000						
Basketball court		$10,000					
Playground rubber tiles		$1,500					
Subtotals	$6,500	$11,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$18,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 6,500	$ 11,500	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 18,000
Dahl Park							
Pathway construction			$8,000				
Picnic tables and benches			$3,000				
Earthwork/grading			$10,000				
Shade structure				$20,000			
Subtotals	$0	$0	$21,000	$20,000	$0	$0	$41,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ -	$ -	$ 21,525	$ 21,000	$ -	$ -	$ 42,525
Liberty Land Park							
Miscellaneous vegetation removal	$500						
Pathway construction			$6,000				
Earthwork/grading			$3,000				
Bicycle rack/concrete pad		$1,200					
Parking lot construction						$10,000	
Weed control	$500						
ADA transfer mat			$2,000				
Swing replacement	$200						
Playground relocation & replacement			$65,000				
Subtotals	$1,200	$1,200	$76,000	$0	$0	$10,000	$88,400
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 1,200	$ 1,200	$ 77,900	$ -	$ -	$ 11,000	$ 91,300
Rivers Turn Park							
Upgrade drinking fountain					$500		
Turf repairs		$1,500					
Restroom building		$70,000					
Subtotals	$0	$71,500	$0	$0	$500	$0	$72,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ -	$ 71,500	$ -	$ -	$ 538	$ -	$ 72,038
Veterans Memorial Park							
Dectectable warning field					$1,500		
Upgrade drinking fountain						$5,000	
Play structure				$45,000			
Restroom building						$100,000	
Subtotals	$0	$0	$0	$45,000	$1,500	$105,000	$151,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,250	$ 1,613	$ 115,500	$ 164,363

Western Green Park							
Relocate kiosk	$500						
Culvert repair	$500						
Basketball court			$10,000				
Electrical repairs		$1,000					
Weed control	$500						
Miscellaneous vegetation removal	$1,500						
Relocate existing kiosk	$500						
Trail pavement					$140,000		
Weed control - playground	$500						
New play structure	$80,000						
Swing relocation and repair	$6,000						
ADA transfer mat	$2,000						
Jungle gym removal	$1,000						
Subtotals	$93,000	$1,000	$10,000	$0	$140,000	$0	$244,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 93,000	$ 1,000	$ 10,250	$ -	$ 150,500	$ -	$ 254,750
Yahara Park							
Electrical repairs		$1,000					
Pathway construction (by bridge)		$5,000					
Fence repair	$500						
Tree plantings					$10,000		
Pathway construction		$10,000					
Concrete bleacher pads			$6,000				
Subtotals	$500	$16,000	$6,000	$0	$10,000	$0	$32,500
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 500	$ 16,000	$ 6,150	$ -	$ 10,750	$ -	$ 33,400
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS Subtotal	$101,200	$101,200	$115,825	$68,250	$163,400	$126,500	$676,375

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
COMMUNITY PARKS							
Fireman's Park							
Update Master Plan	$20,000						
Log cabin study							
Parking lot striping							
Electrical repairs							
Replace drinking fountains (2)							
Repair south side entrance ramp							
Bag toss game installation							
Bicycle racks on concrete pad							
Pathway construction							
Bathroom partitions							
Toddler picnic table repair							
Ash tree removal							
Fence repair							
Scoreboard replacement							
Field lighting replacement							
Infield repairs							
Basketball court re-organization							
Subtotals	$20,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 20,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,000
COMMUNITY PARKS Subtotal	$20,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$20,000

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
CONSERVANCY PARKS							
Bakke Conservancy							
Vegetation management plan	$5,000						
Subtotals	$5,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$5,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%		
Totals	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000
Chapel Green Park							
Vegetation management plan	$5,000						
Improve habitat	$5,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	
Trail connection/intersection imporvements		$15,000					
Play structure		$35,000					
Miscellaneous vegetation removal for sight lines		$2,000					
Shade structure		$10,000					
Subtotals	$10,000	$64,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$82,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 10,000	$ 64,000	$ 2,050	$ 2,100	$ 2,150	$ 2,200	$ 82,500
Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area							
Trailhead facility			$150,000				
Trail network construction (first tier)		$20,000					
Vegetation management plan	$5,000						
Parcel acquisition							
Subtotals	$5,000	$20,000	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$175,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%		
Totals	$ 5,000	$ 20,000	$ 153,750	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 178,750
Upper Yahara River Corridor							
Wayfinding signage		$5,000					
Restroom and shelter construction				$150,000			
Parcel acquisition							
Subtotals	$0	$5,000	$0	$150,000	$0	$0	$155,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ -	$ 5,000	$ -	$ 157,500	$ -	$ -	$ 162,500
CONSERVANCY PARKS Subtotal	$20,000	$89,000	$155,800	$159,600	$2,150	$2,200	$428,750

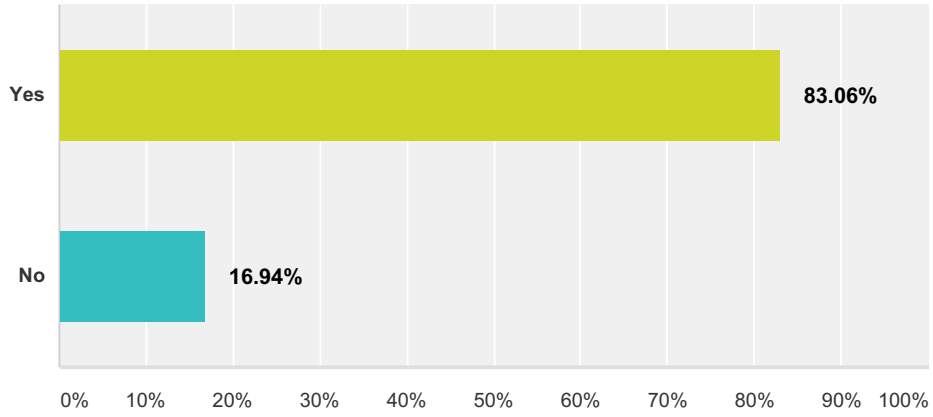
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
SPECIAL USE PARKS							
Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park							
Shade structure						$10,000	
Parking lot paving	$30,000						
Subtotals	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$40,000
Inflation	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	
Totals	$ 30,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,000	$ 41,000
SPECIAL USE PARKS Subtotal	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$11,000	$41,000

Appendix A:

Public Process Results

Q1 Are you a resident of DeForest?

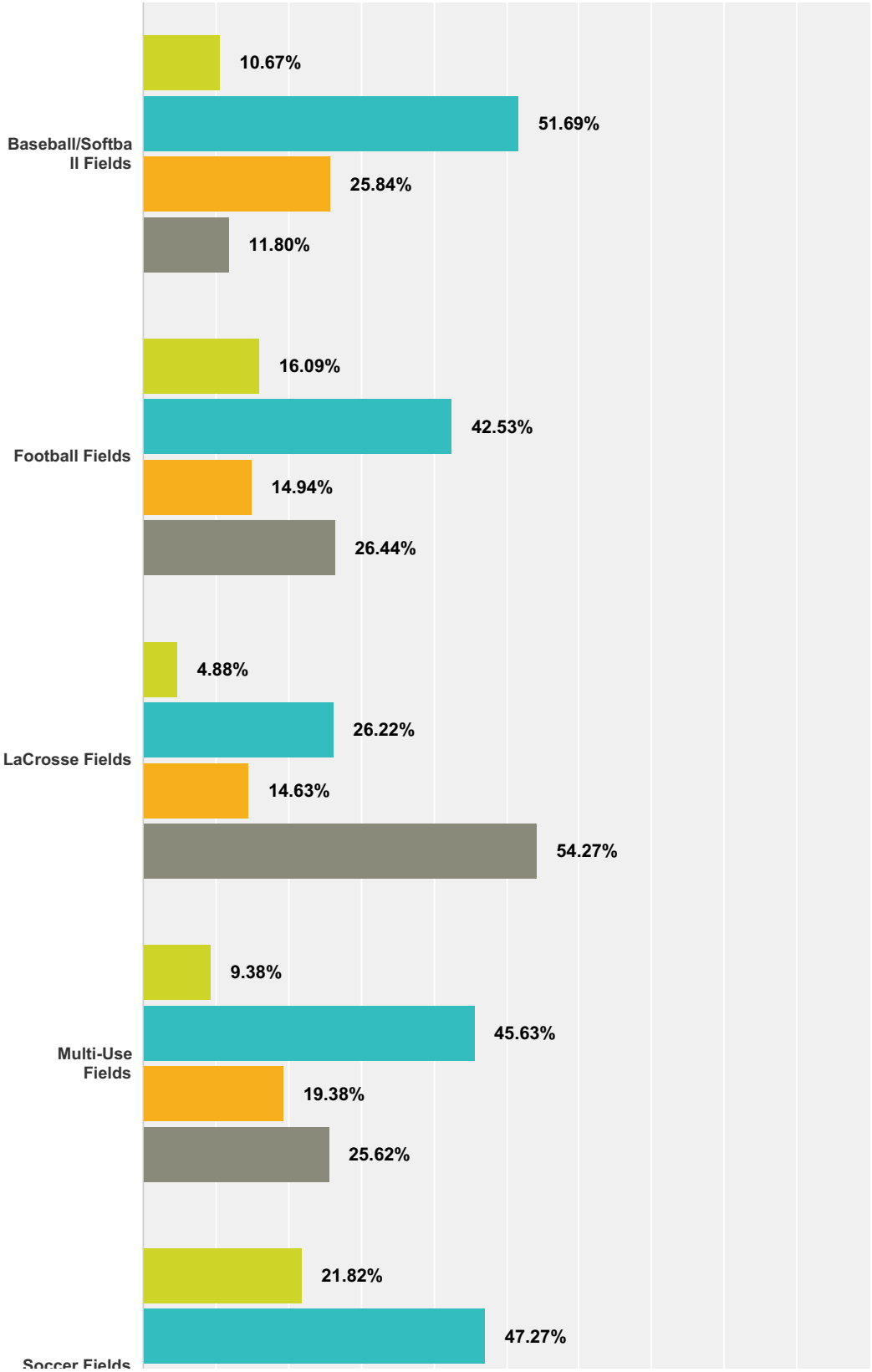
Answered: 301 Skipped: 0

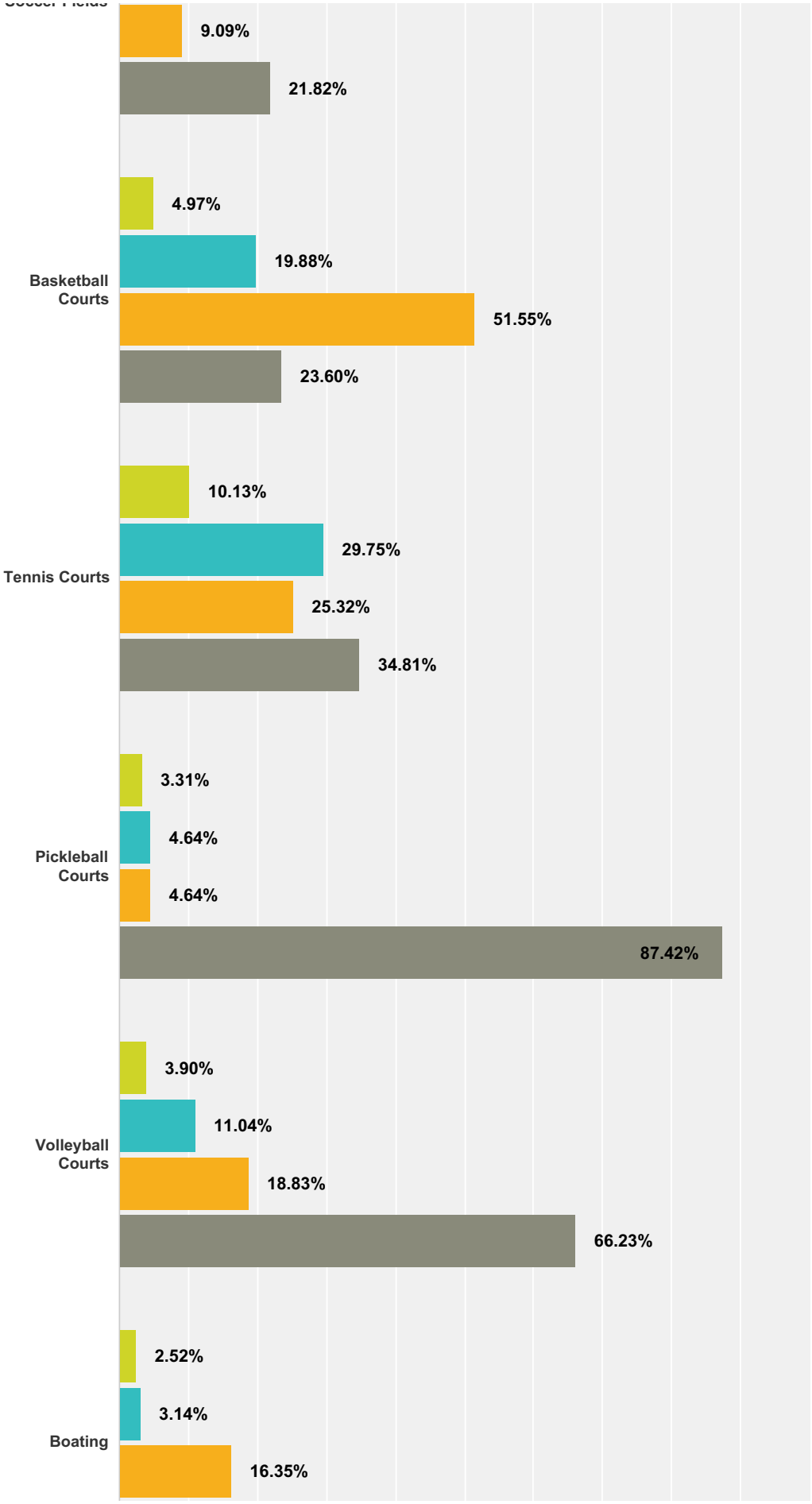


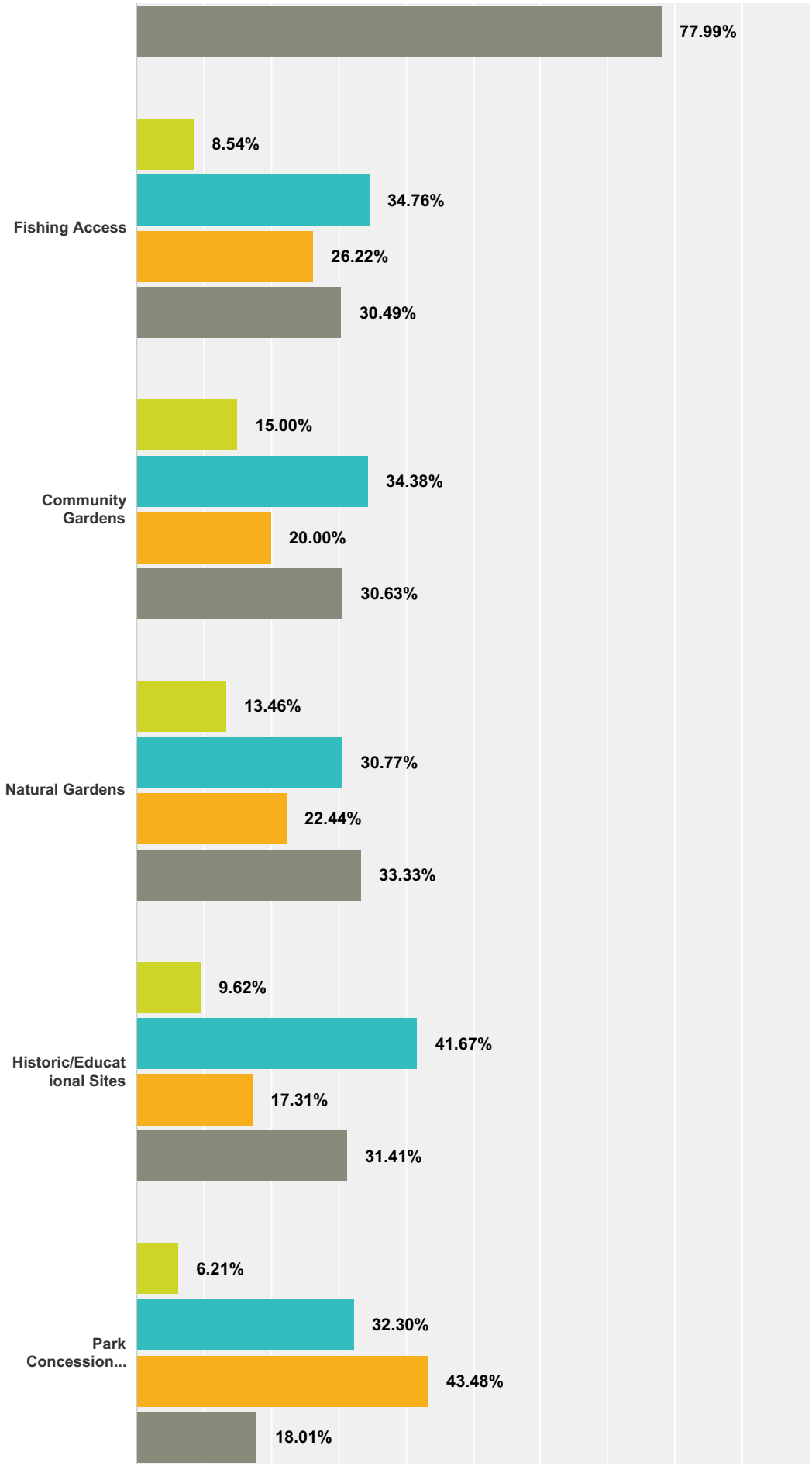
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**83.06%**	250
No	**16.94%**	51
Total		**301**

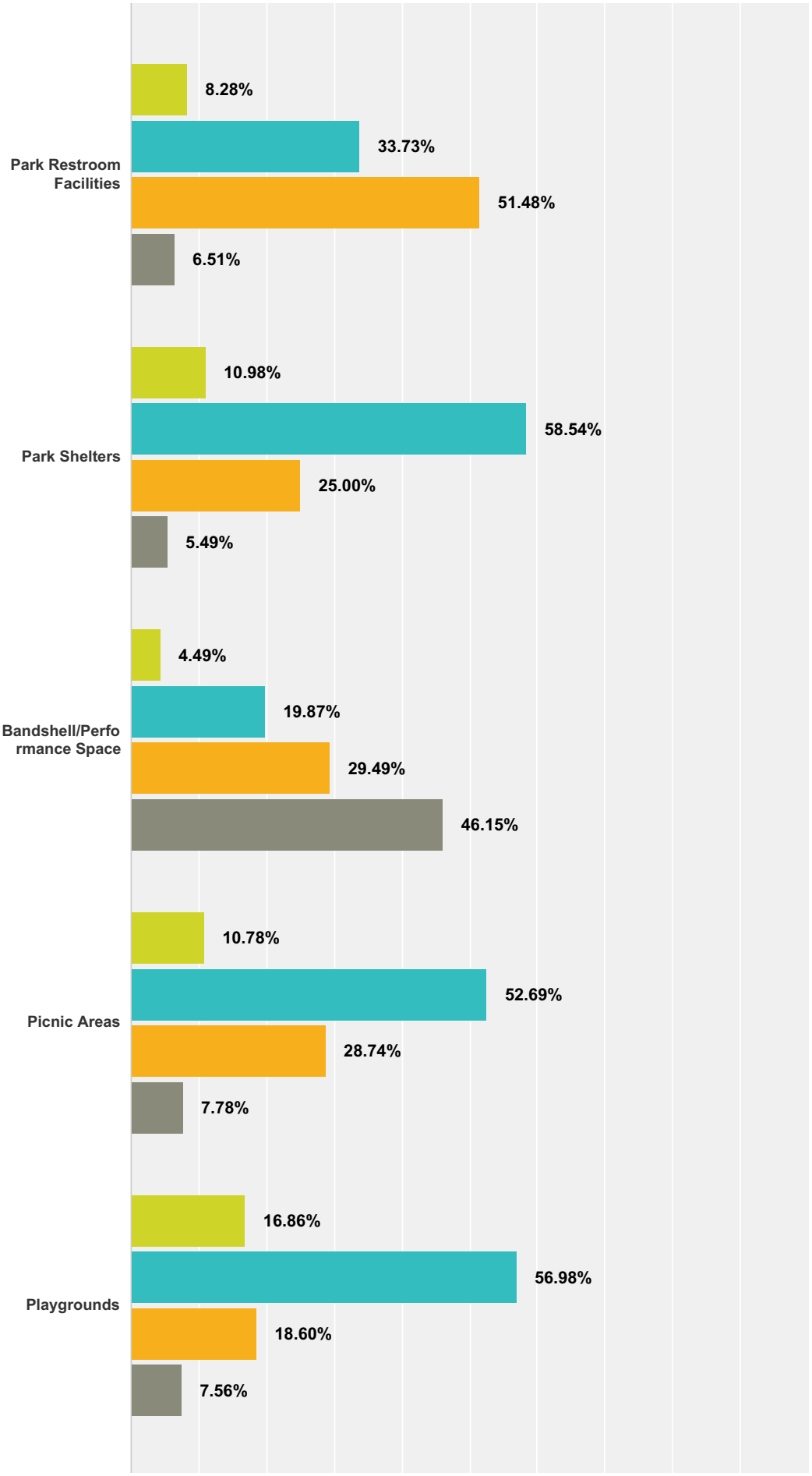
Q2 Please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility that your community offers.

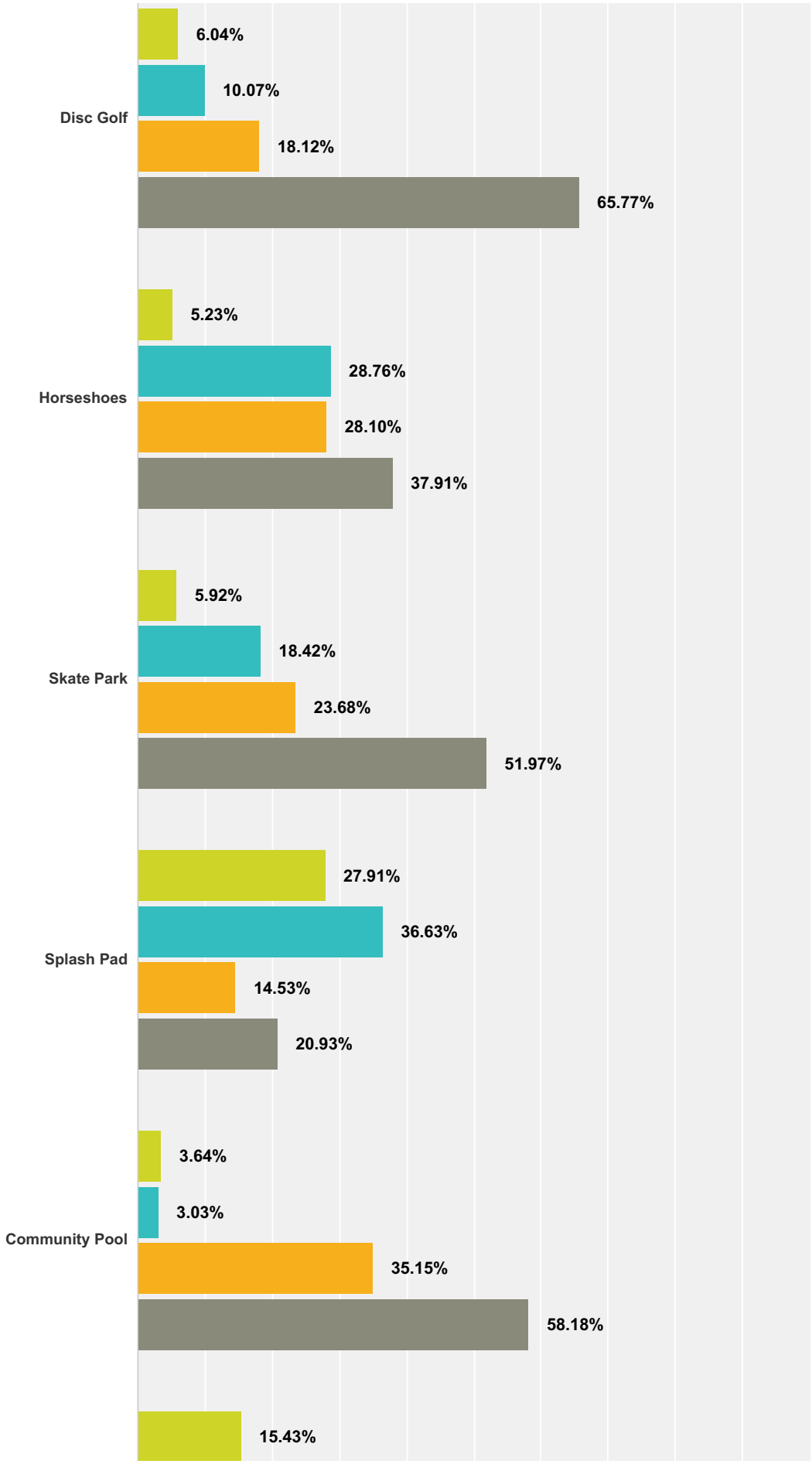
Answered: 195 Skipped: 106

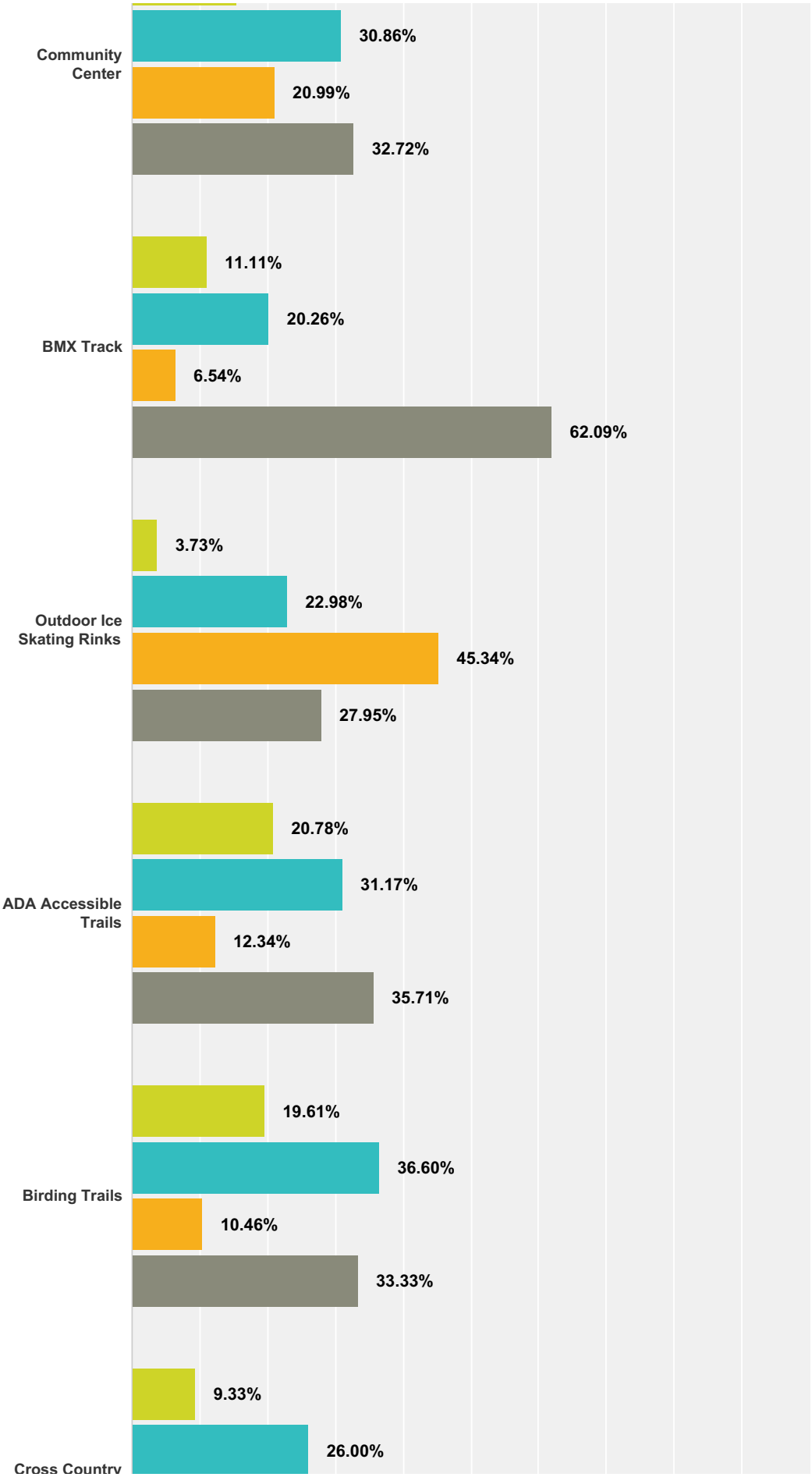


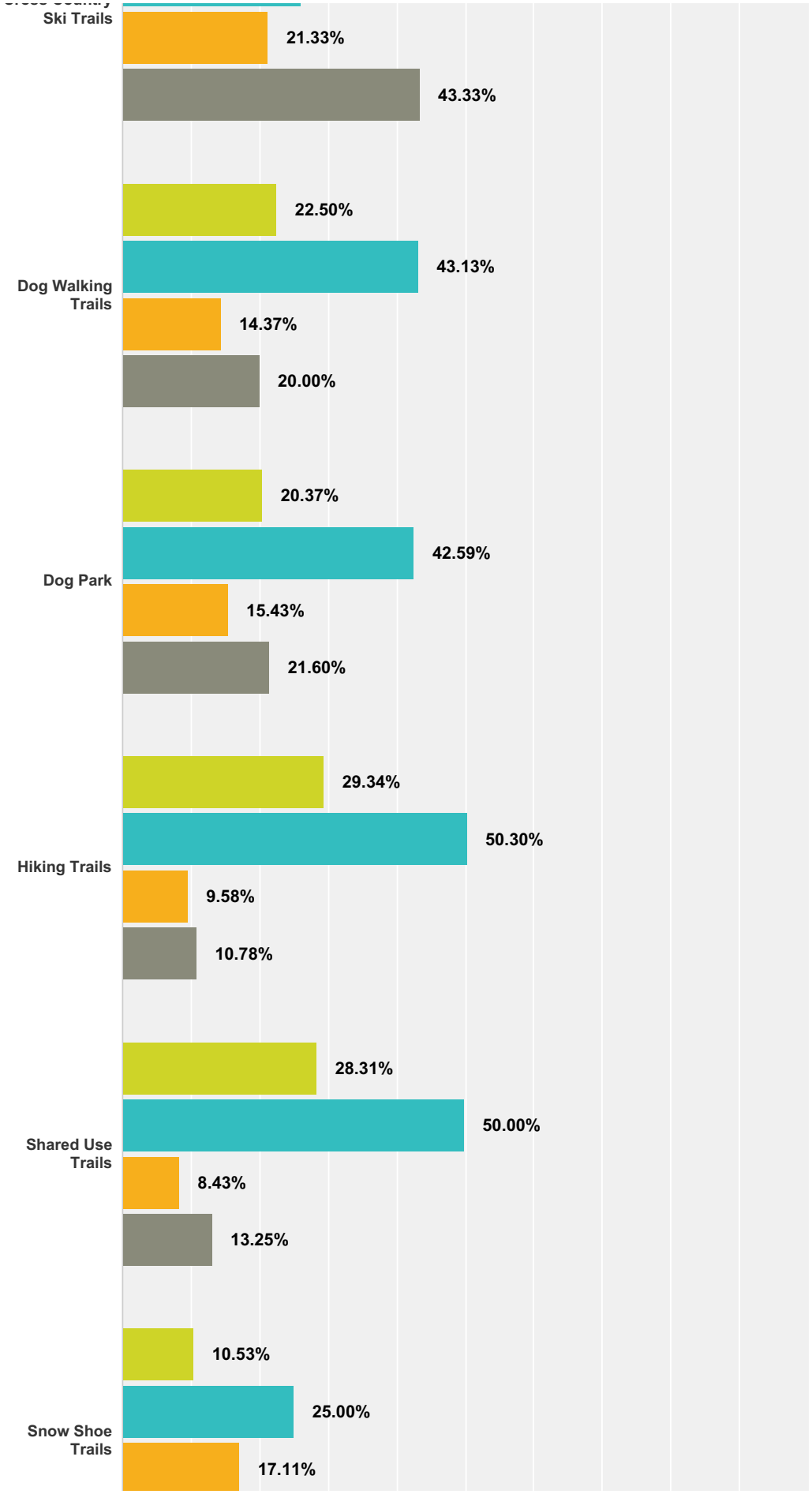

9.09%
21.82%
Basketball Courts
4.97%
19.88%
51.55%
23.60%
Tennis Courts
10.13%
29.75%
25.32%
34.81%
Pickleball Courts
3.31%
4.64%
4.64%
87.42%
Volleyball Courts
3.90%
11.04%
18.83%
66.23%
Boating
2.52%
3.14%
16.35%

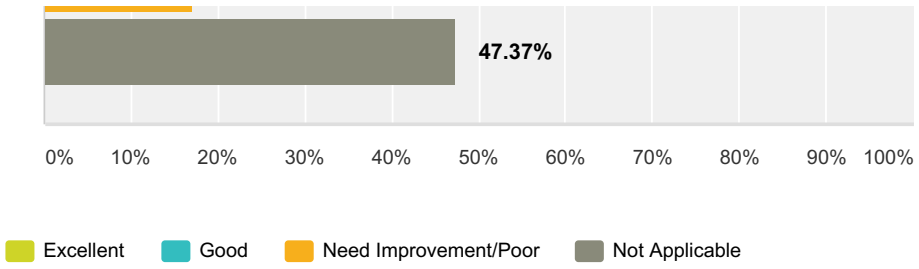

77.99%
8.54%
34.76%
Fishing Access
26.22%
30.49%
15.00%
34.38%
Community Gardens
20.00%
30.63%
13.46%
30.77%
Natural Gardens
22.44%
33.33%
9.62%
41.67%
Historic/Educational Sites
17.31%
31.41%
6.21%
32.30%
Park Concession...
43.48%
18.01%


Park Restroom Facilities
8.28%
33.73%
51.48%
6.51%
Park Shelters
10.98%
58.54%
25.00%
5.49%
Bandshell/Performance Space
4.49%
19.87%
29.49%
46.15%
Picnic Areas
10.78%
52.69%
28.74%
7.78%
Playgrounds
16.86%
56.98%
18.60%
7.56%


Disc Golf
6.04%
10.07%
18.12%
65.77%
Horseshoes
5.23%
28.76%
28.10%
37.91%
Skate Park
5.92%
18.42%
23.68%
51.97%
Splash Pad
27.91%
36.63%
14.53%
20.93%
Community Pool
3.64%
3.03%
35.15%
58.18%
15.43%


Community Center
30.86%
20.99%
32.72%
BMX Track
11.11%
20.26%
6.54%
62.09%
Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks
3.73%
22.98%
45.34%
27.95%
ADA Accessible Trails
20.78%
31.17%
12.34%
35.71%
Birding Trails
19.61%
36.60%
10.46%
33.33%
Cross Country
9.33%
26.00%


Ski Trails
21.33%
43.33%
22.50%
Dog Walking Trails
43.13%
14.37%
20.00%
20.37%
Dog Park
42.59%
15.43%
21.60%
29.34%
Hiking Trails
50.30%
9.58%
10.78%
28.31%
Shared Use Trails
50.00%
8.43%
13.25%
10.53%
Snow Shoe Trails
25.00%
17.11%

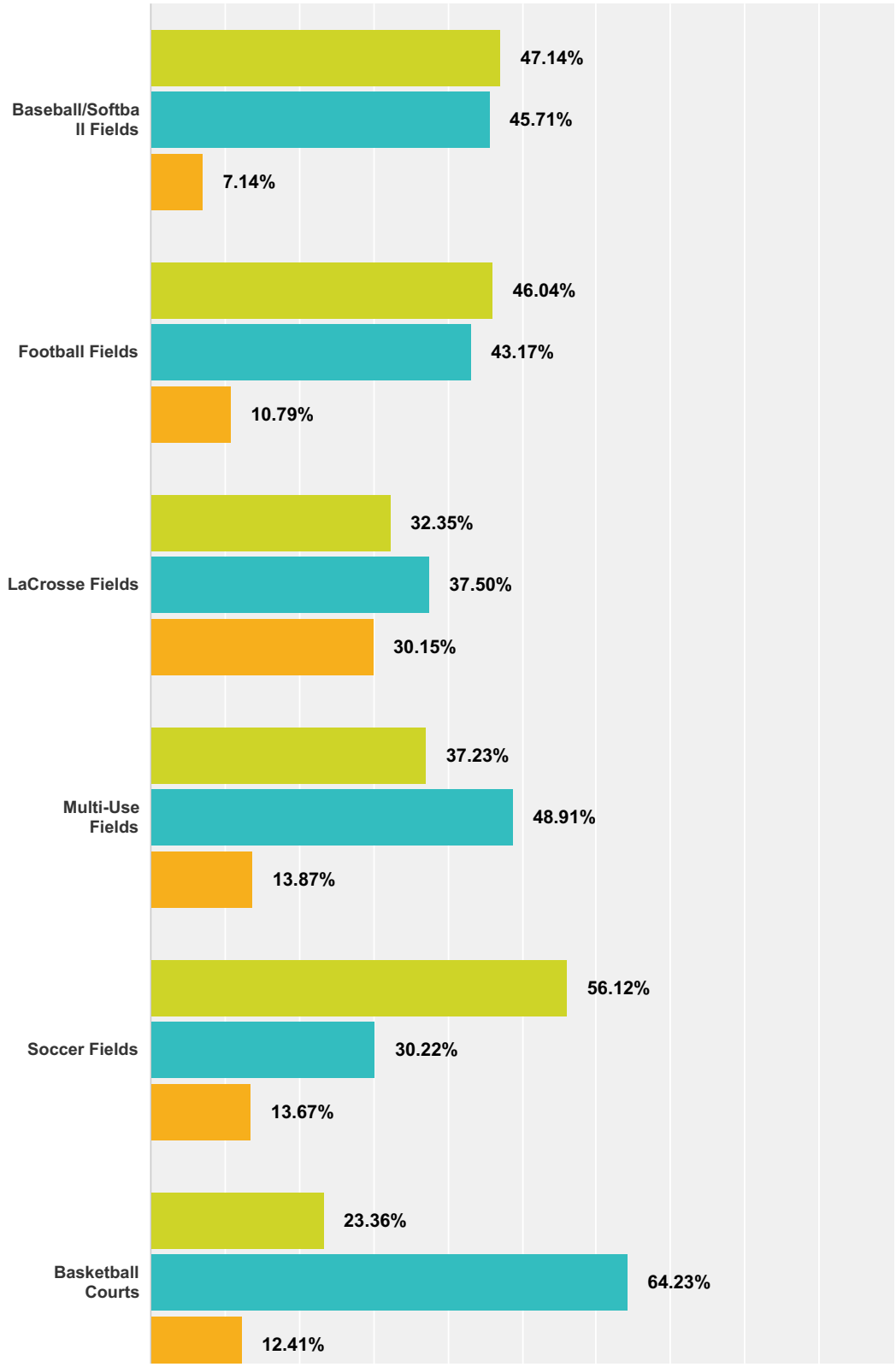


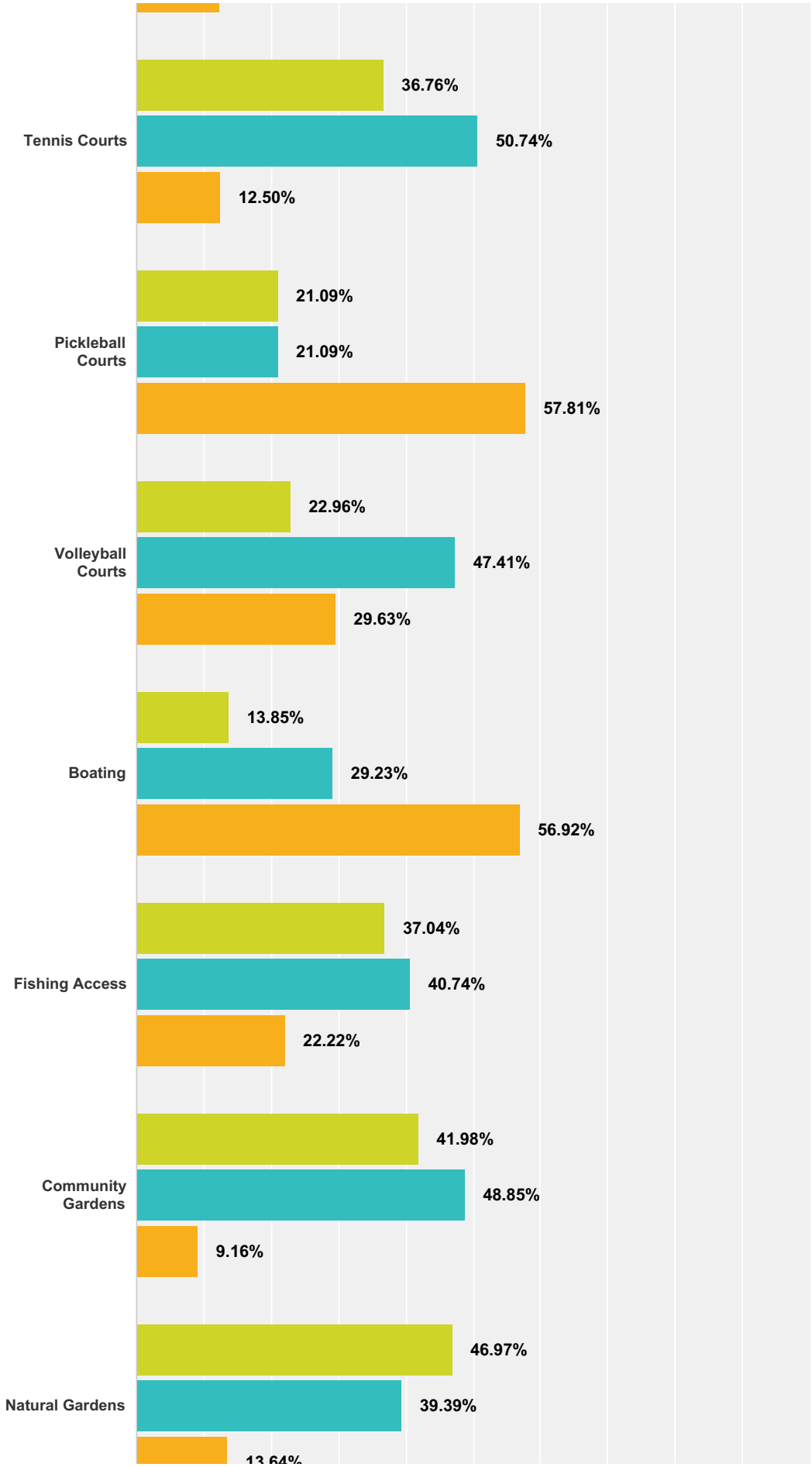
	Excellent	Good	Need Improvement/Poor	Not Applicable	Total
Baseball/Softball Fields	**10.67%** 19	**51.69%** 92	**25.84%** 46	**11.80%** 21	178
Football Fields	**16.09%** 28	**42.53%** 74	**14.94%** 26	**26.44%** 46	174
LaCrosse Fields	**4.88%** 8	**26.22%** 43	**14.63%** 24	**54.27%** 89	164
Multi-Use Fields	**9.38%** 15	**45.63%** 73	**19.38%** 31	**25.62%** 41	160
Soccer Fields	**21.82%** 36	**47.27%** 78	**9.09%** 15	**21.82%** 36	165
Basketball Courts	**4.97%** 8	**19.88%** 32	**51.55%** 83	**23.60%** 38	161
Tennis Courts	**10.13%** 16	**29.75%** 47	**25.32%** 40	**34.81%** 55	158
Pickleball Courts	**3.31%** 5	**4.64%** 7	**4.64%** 7	**87.42%** 132	151
Volleyball Courts	**3.90%** 6	**11.04%** 17	**18.83%** 29	**66.23%** 102	154
Boating	**2.52%** 4	**3.14%** 5	**16.35%** 26	**77.99%** 124	159
Fishing Access	**8.54%** 14	**34.76%** 57	**26.22%** 43	**30.49%** 50	164
Community Gardens	**15.00%** 24	**34.38%** 55	**20.00%** 32	**30.63%** 49	160
Natural Gardens	**13.46%** 21	**30.77%** 48	**22.44%** 35	**33.33%** 52	156
Historic/Educational Sites	**9.62%** 15	**41.67%** 65	**17.31%** 27	**31.41%** 49	156
Park Concession Facilities	**6.21%** 10	**32.30%** 52	**43.48%** 70	**18.01%** 29	161
Park Restroom Facilities	**8.28%** 14	**33.73%** 57	**51.48%** 87	**6.51%** 11	169
Park Shelters	**10.98%** 18	**58.54%** 96	**25.00%** 41	**5.49%** 9	164
Bandshell/Performance Space	**4.49%** 7	**19.87%** 31	**29.49%** 46	**46.15%** 72	156
Picnic Areas	**10.78%** 18	**52.69%** 88	**28.74%** 48	**7.78%** 13	167

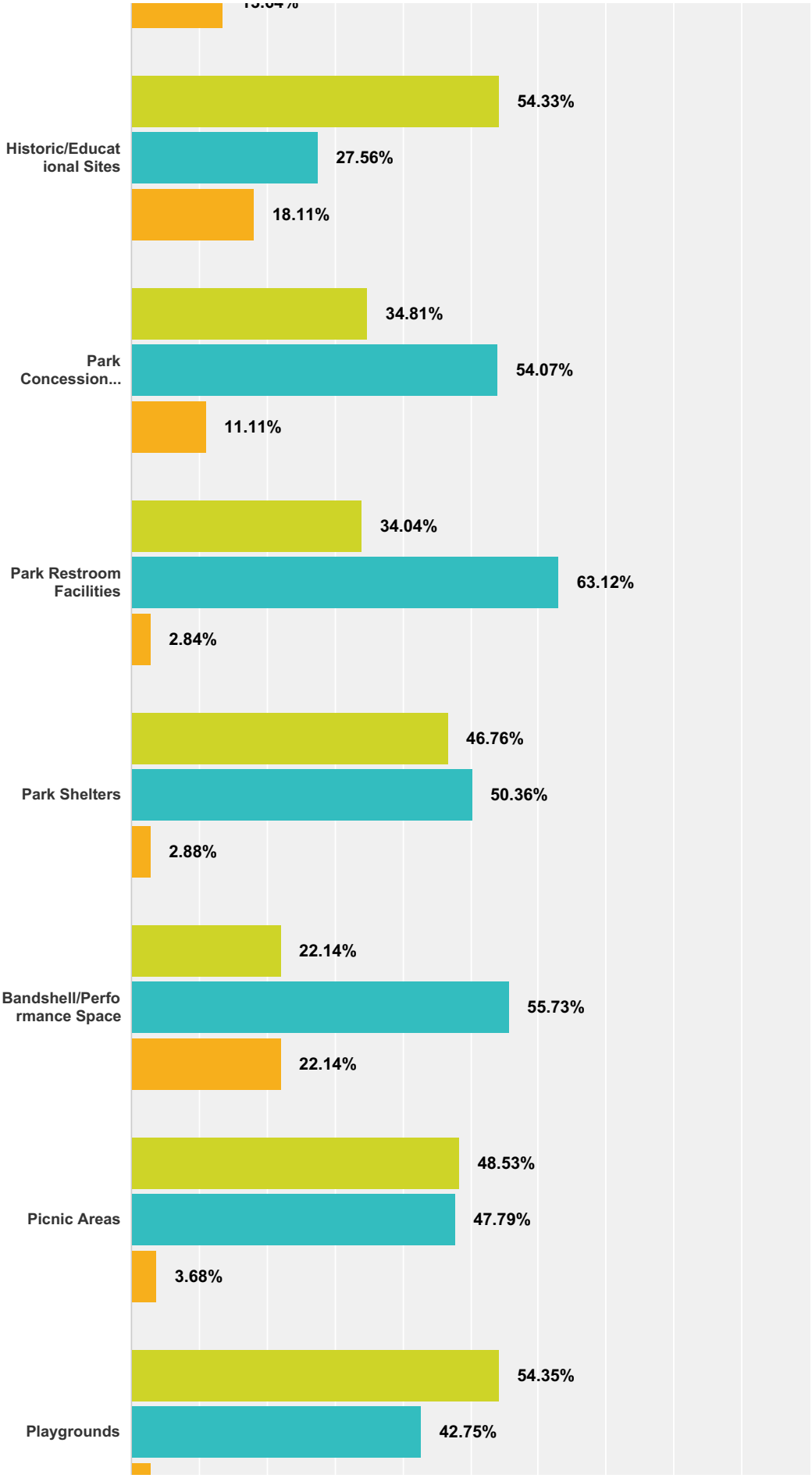
Playgrounds	**16.86%** 29	**56.98%** 98	**18.60%** 32	**7.56%** 13	172
Disc Golf	**6.04%** 9	**10.07%** 15	**18.12%** 27	**65.77%** 98	149
Horseshoes	**5.23%** 8	**28.76%** 44	**28.10%** 43	**37.91%** 58	153
Skate Park	**5.92%** 9	**18.42%** 28	**23.68%** 36	**51.97%** 79	152
Splash Pad	**27.91%** 48	**36.63%** 63	**14.53%** 25	**20.93%** 36	172
Community Pool	**3.64%** 6	**3.03%** 5	**35.15%** 58	**58.18%** 96	165
Community Center	**15.43%** 25	**30.86%** 50	**20.99%** 34	**32.72%** 53	162
BMX Track	**11.11%** 17	**20.26%** 31	**6.54%** 10	**62.09%** 95	153
Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks	**3.73%** 6	**22.98%** 37	**45.34%** 73	**27.95%** 45	161
ADA Accessible Trails	**20.78%** 32	**31.17%** 48	**12.34%** 19	**35.71%** 55	154
Birding Trails	**19.61%** 30	**36.60%** 56	**10.46%** 16	**33.33%** 51	153
Cross Country Ski Trails	**9.33%** 14	**26.00%** 39	**21.33%** 32	**43.33%** 65	150
Dog Walking Trails	**22.50%** 36	**43.13%** 69	**14.37%** 23	**20.00%** 32	160
Dog Park	**20.37%** 33	**42.59%** 69	**15.43%** 25	**21.60%** 35	162
Hiking Trails	**29.34%** 49	**50.30%** 84	**9.58%** 16	**10.78%** 18	167
Shared Use Trails	**28.31%** 47	**50.00%** 83	**8.43%** 14	**13.25%** 22	166
Snow Shoe Trails	**10.53%** 16	**25.00%** 38	**17.11%** 26	**47.37%** 72	152

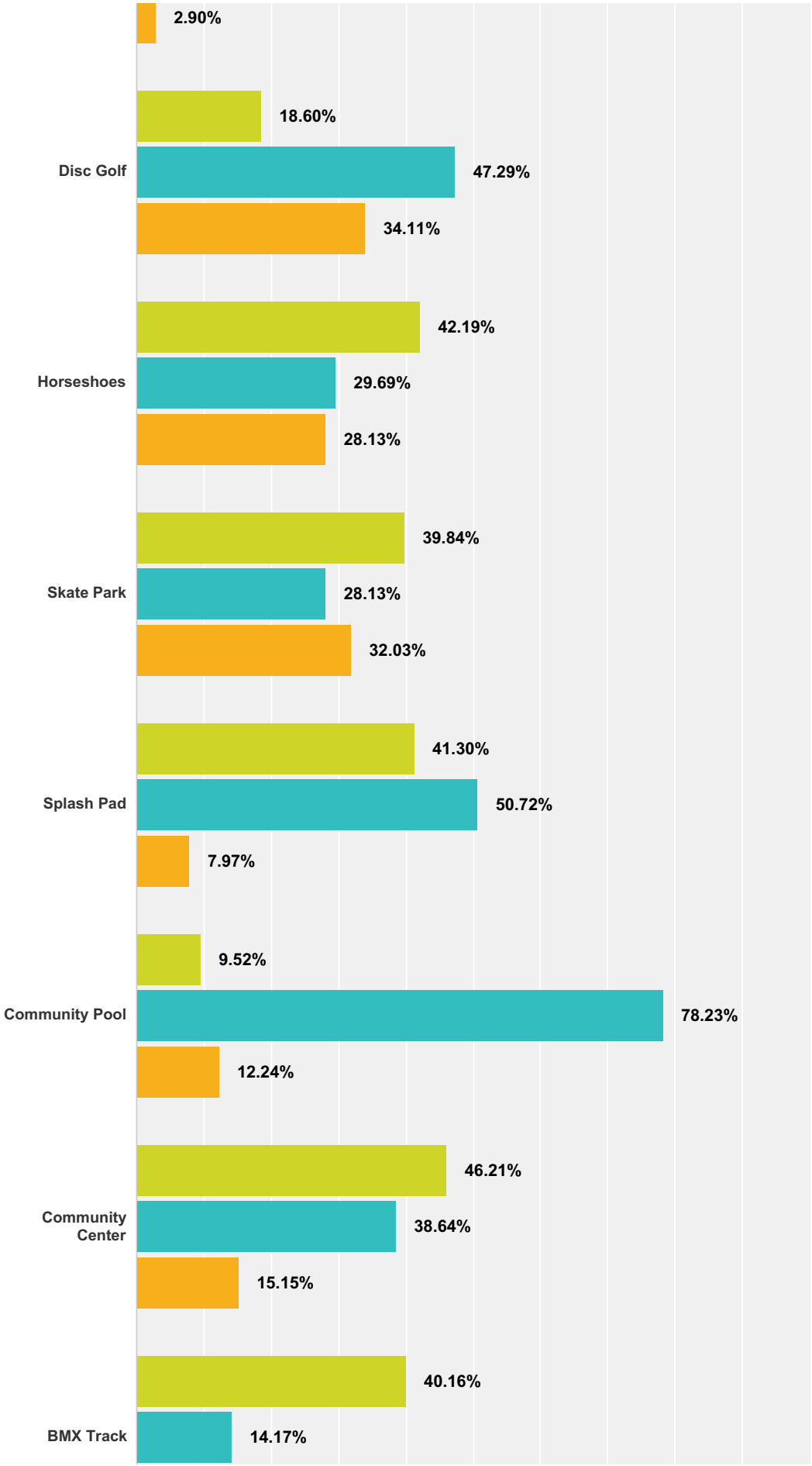
Q3 Considering the same group of facilities, please indicate whether or not your community has sufficient quanitites for each type to meet the demand.

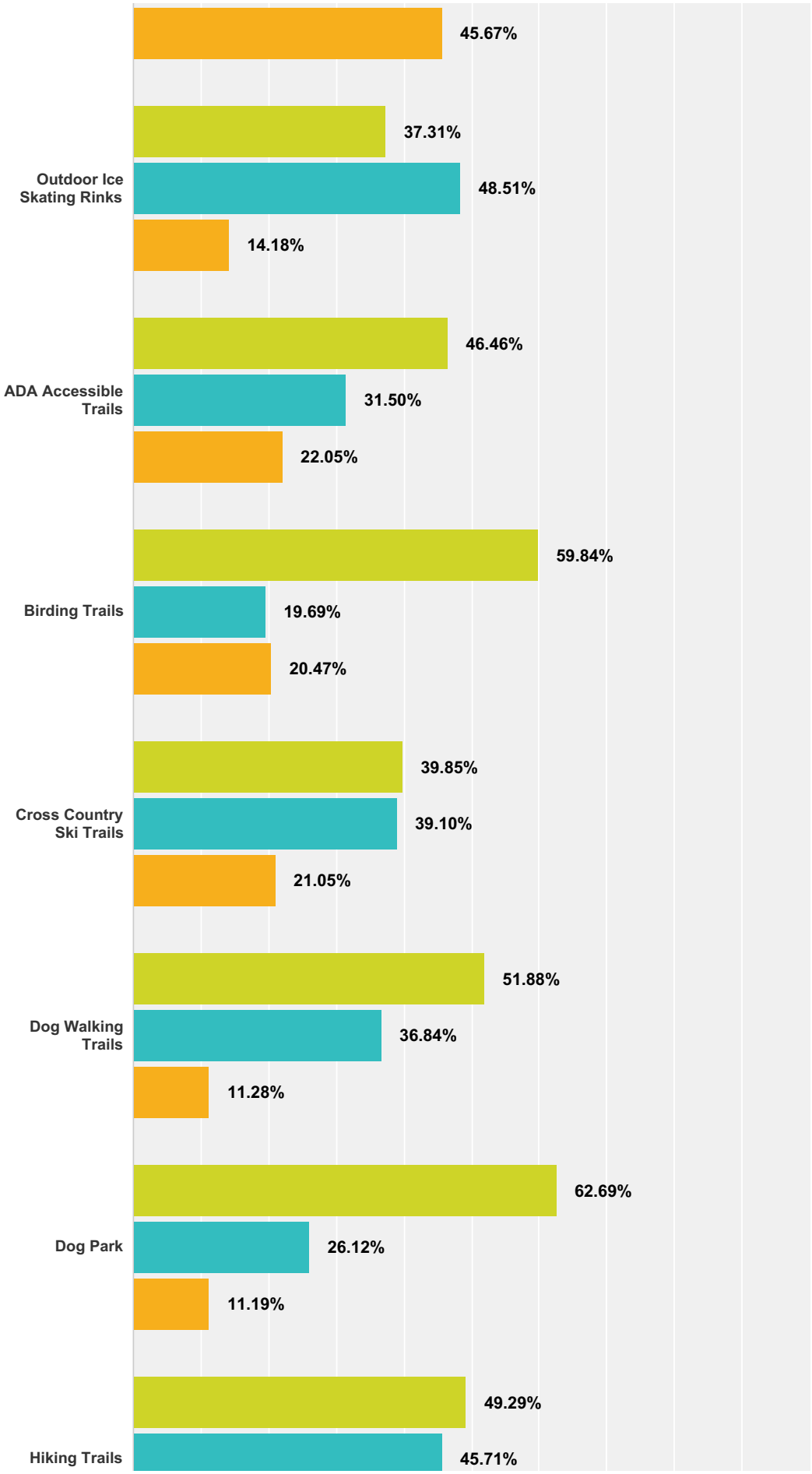
Answered: 166 Skipped: 135

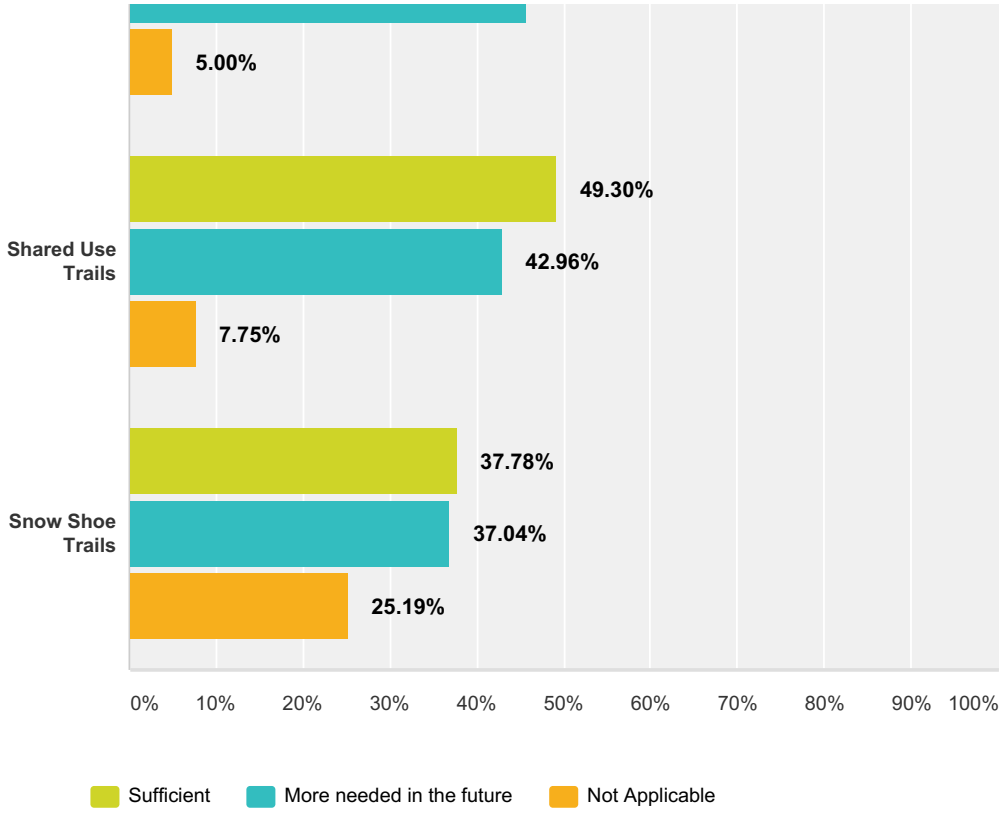



Tennis Courts
36.76%
50.74%
12.50%
Pickleball Courts
21.09%
21.09%
57.81%
Volleyball Courts
22.96%
47.41%
29.63%
Boating
13.85%
29.23%
56.92%
Fishing Access
37.04%
40.74%
22.22%
Community Gardens
41.98%
48.85%
9.16%
Natural Gardens
46.97%
39.39%
13.64%


54.33%
Historic/Educat ional Sites
27.56%
18.11%
34.81%
Park Concession...
54.07%
11.11%
34.04%
Park Restroom Facilities
63.12%
2.84%
46.76%
Park Shelters
50.36%
2.88%
22.14%
Bandshell/Perfo rmance Space
55.73%
22.14%
48.53%
Picnic Areas
47.79%
3.68%
54.35%
Playgrounds
42.75%


2.90%
18.60%
Disc Golf
47.29%
34.11%
42.19%
Horseshoes
29.69%
28.13%
39.84%
Skate Park
28.13%
32.03%
41.30%
Splash Pad
50.72%
7.97%
9.52%
Community Pool
78.23%
12.24%
46.21%
Community Center
38.64%
15.15%
40.16%
BMX Track
14.17%


45.67%
37.31%
Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks
48.51%
14.18%
46.46%
ADA Accessible Trails
31.50%
22.05%
59.84%
Birding Trails
19.69%
20.47%
39.85%
Cross Country Ski Trails
39.10%
21.05%
51.88%
Dog Walking Trails
36.84%
11.28%
62.69%
Dog Park
26.12%
11.19%
49.29%
Hiking Trails
45.71%

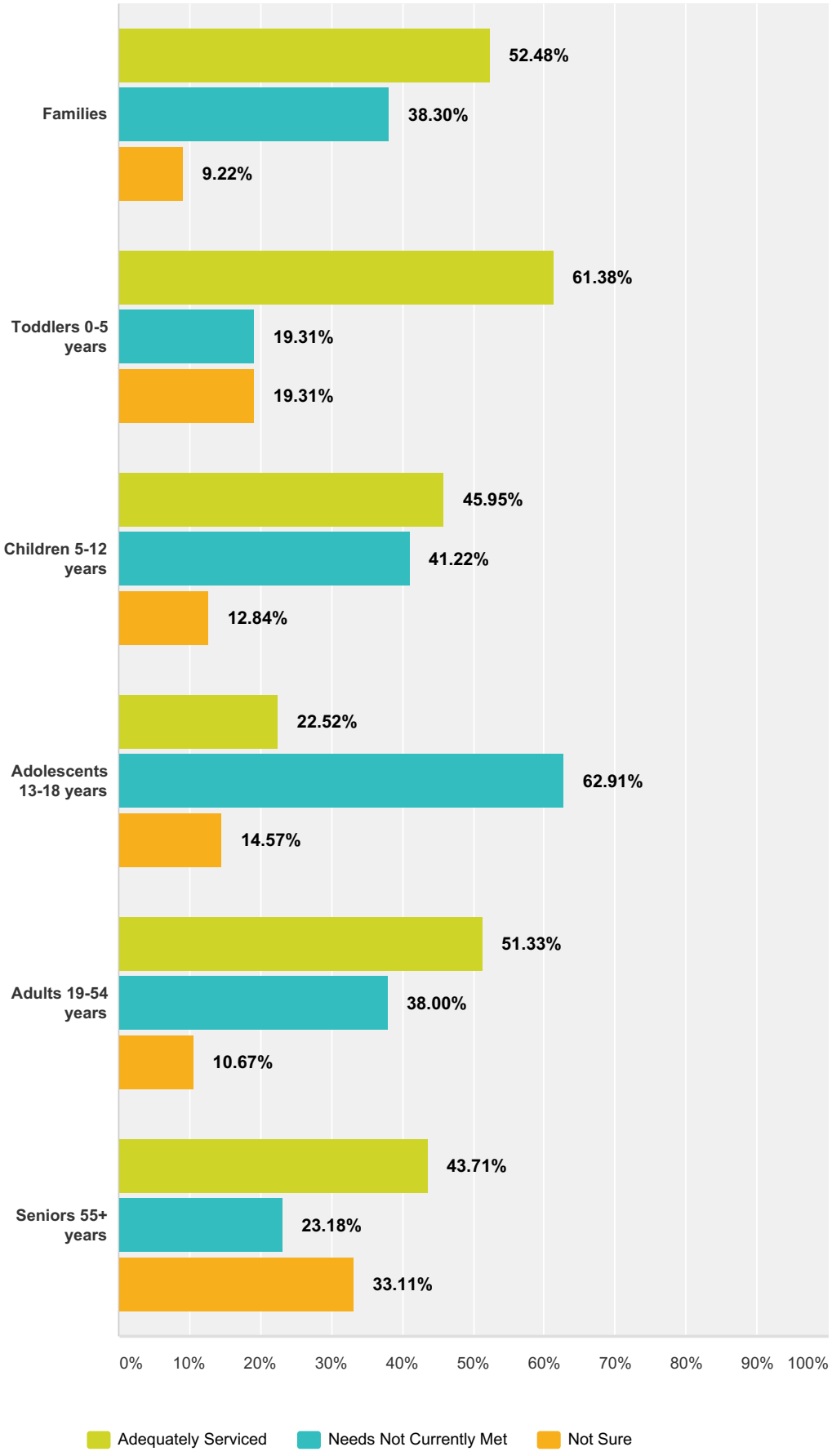


	Sufficient	More needed in the future	Not Applicable	Total
Baseball/Softball Fields	**47.14%** 66	**45.71%** 64	**7.14%** 10	140
Football Fields	**46.04%** 64	**43.17%** 60	**10.79%** 15	139
LaCrosse Fields	**32.35%** 44	**37.50%** 51	**30.15%** 41	136
Multi-Use Fields	**37.23%** 51	**48.91%** 67	**13.87%** 19	137
Soccer Fields	**56.12%** 78	**30.22%** 42	**13.67%** 19	139
Basketball Courts	**23.36%** 32	**64.23%** 88	**12.41%** 17	137
Tennis Courts	**36.76%** 50	**50.74%** 69	**12.50%** 17	136
Pickleball Courts	**21.09%** 27	**21.09%** 27	**57.81%** 74	128
Volleyball Courts	**22.96%** 31	**47.41%** 64	**29.63%** 40	135
Boating	**13.85%** 18	**29.23%** 38	**56.92%** 74	130
Fishing Access	**37.04%** 50	**40.74%** 55	**22.22%** 30	135
Community Gardens	**41.98%** 55	**48.85%** 64	**9.16%** 12	131

Natural Gardens	**46.97%** 62	**39.39%** 52	**13.64%** 18	132
Historic/Educational Sites	**54.33%** 69	**27.56%** 35	**18.11%** 23	127
Park Concession Facilities	**34.81%** 47	**54.07%** 73	**11.11%** 15	135
Park Restroom Facilities	**34.04%** 48	**63.12%** 89	**2.84%** 4	141
Park Shelters	**46.76%** 65	**50.36%** 70	**2.88%** 4	139
Bandshell/Performance Space	**22.14%** 29	**55.73%** 73	**22.14%** 29	131
Picnic Areas	**48.53%** 66	**47.79%** 65	**3.68%** 5	136
Playgrounds	**54.35%** 75	**42.75%** 59	**2.90%** 4	138
Disc Golf	**18.60%** 24	**47.29%** 61	**34.11%** 44	129
Horseshoes	**42.19%** 54	**29.69%** 38	**28.13%** 36	128
Skate Park	**39.84%** 51	**28.13%** 36	**32.03%** 41	128
Splash Pad	**41.30%** 57	**50.72%** 70	**7.97%** 11	138
Community Pool	**9.52%** 14	**78.23%** 115	**12.24%** 18	147
Community Center	**46.21%** 61	**38.64%** 51	**15.15%** 20	132
BMX Track	**40.16%** 51	**14.17%** 18	**45.67%** 58	127
Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks	**37.31%** 50	**48.51%** 65	**14.18%** 19	134
ADA Accessible Trails	**46.46%** 59	**31.50%** 40	**22.05%** 28	127
Birding Trails	**59.84%** 76	**19.69%** 25	**20.47%** 26	127
Cross Country Ski Trails	**39.85%** 53	**39.10%** 52	**21.05%** 28	133
Dog Walking Trails	**51.88%** 69	**36.84%** 49	**11.28%** 15	133
Dog Park	**62.69%** 84	**26.12%** 35	**11.19%** 15	134
Hiking Trails	**49.29%** 69	**45.71%** 64	**5.00%** 7	140
Shared Use Trails	**49.30%** 70	**42.96%** 61	**7.75%** 11	142
Snow Shoe Trails	**37.78%** 51	**37.04%** 50	**25.19%** 34	135

Q4 Considering the various age groups of people in the DeForest area, please indicate whether the existing facilities adequately meet their needs. If needs are not currently met, please specify what is lacking in the blank box below.

Answered: 158 Skipped: 143


Families
52.48%
38.30%
9.22%
Toddlers 0-5 years
61.38%
19.31%
19.31%
Children 5-12 years
45.95%
41.22%
12.84%
Adolescents 13-18 years
22.52%
62.91%
14.57%
Adults 19-54 years
51.33%
38.00%
10.67%
Seniors 55+ years
43.71%
23.18%
33.11%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Adequately Serviced
Needs Not Currently Met
Not Sure

	Adequately Serviced	Needs Not Currently Met	Not Sure	Total
Families	**52.48%** 74	**38.30%** 54	**9.22%** 13	141
Toddlers 0-5 years	**61.38%** 89	**19.31%** 28	**19.31%** 28	145
Children 5-12 years	**45.95%** 68	**41.22%** 61	**12.84%** 19	148
Adolescents 13-18 years	**22.52%** 34	**62.91%** 95	**14.57%** 22	151
Adults 19-54 years	**51.33%** 77	**38.00%** 57	**10.67%** 16	150
Seniors 55+ years	**43.71%** 66	**23.18%** 35	**33.11%** 50	151

Q5 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for families?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 184

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**95.73%**	112
Facilities/amenities 2	**81.20%**	95
Not Sure	**5.13%**	6

Q6 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for pre-school children?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 194

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**88.79%**	95
Facilities/amenities 2	**62.62%**	67
Not Sure	**11.21%**	12

Q7 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for children 5-12 years of age?

Answered: 99 Skipped: 202

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**83.84%**	83
Facilities/amenities 2	**62.63%**	62
Not Sure	**18.18%**	18

Q8 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for adolescents?

Answered: 87 Skipped: 214

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**57.47%**	50
Facilities/amenities 2	**32.18%**	28
Not Sure	**43.68%**	38

Q9 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for adults 19-54 years of age?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 207

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**84.04%**	79
Facilities/amenities 2	**42.55%**	40
Not Sure	**18.09%**	17

Q10 What are the two most popular park facilities/amenities currently provided for Seniors 55+ years of age?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 211

Answer Choices	Responses	
Facilities/amenities 1	**65.56%**	59
Facilities/amenities 2	**24.44%**	22
Not Sure	**36.67%**	33

Q11 State which outdoor recreation activity(s) you predict will gain in popularity in this area over the next 5 years.

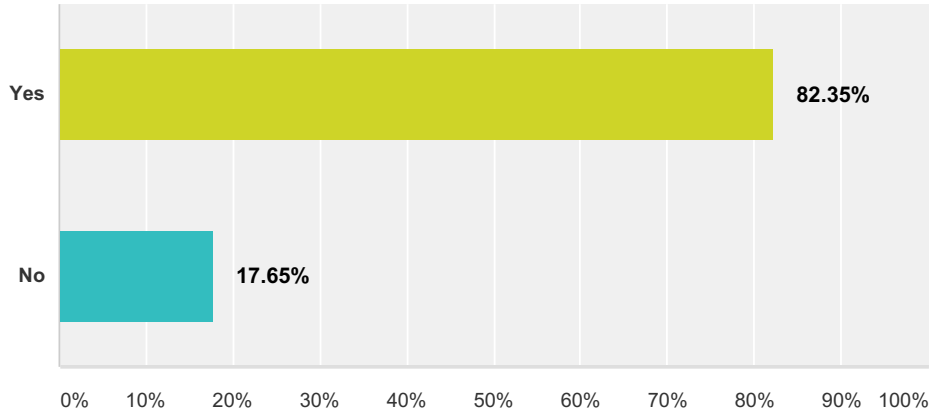
Answered: 108 Skipped: 193

Q12 Are there park facilities/amenities that are not currently provided in your area? If so, tell us what you would like.

Answered: 110 Skipped: 191

Q13 Would you be willing to pay more in taxes or user fees for that facility/service?

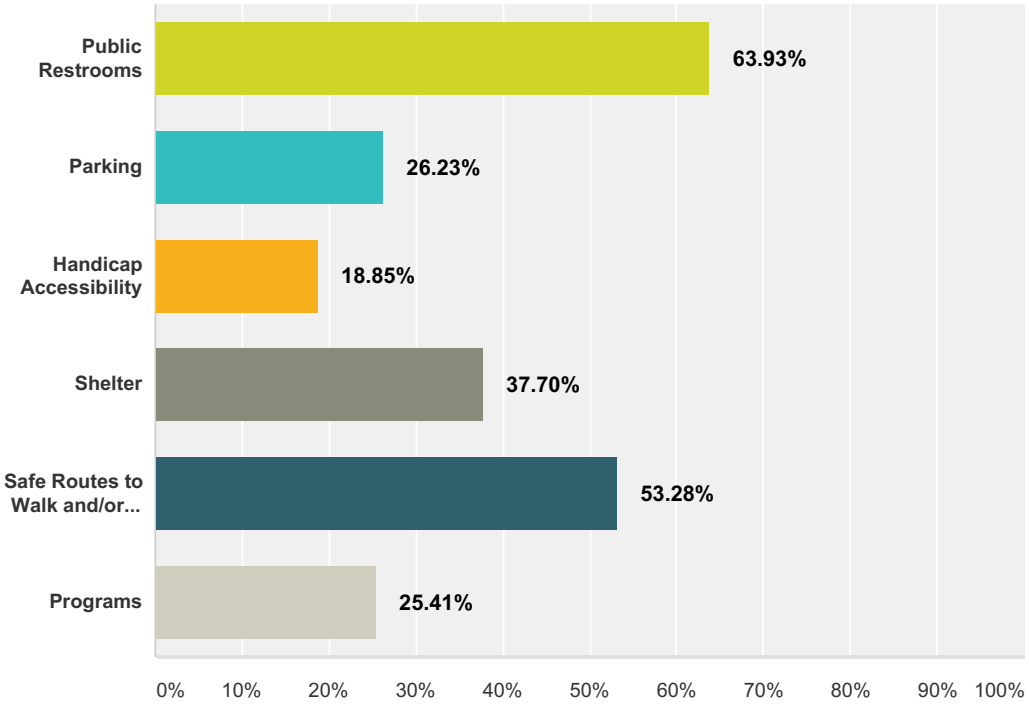
Answered: 136 Skipped: 165



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**82.35%**	112
No	**17.65%**	24
Total		**136**

Q14 Please indicate which if any of the following support components at existing park facilities in DeForest need improvement. Select all that apply.

Answered: 122 Skipped: 179



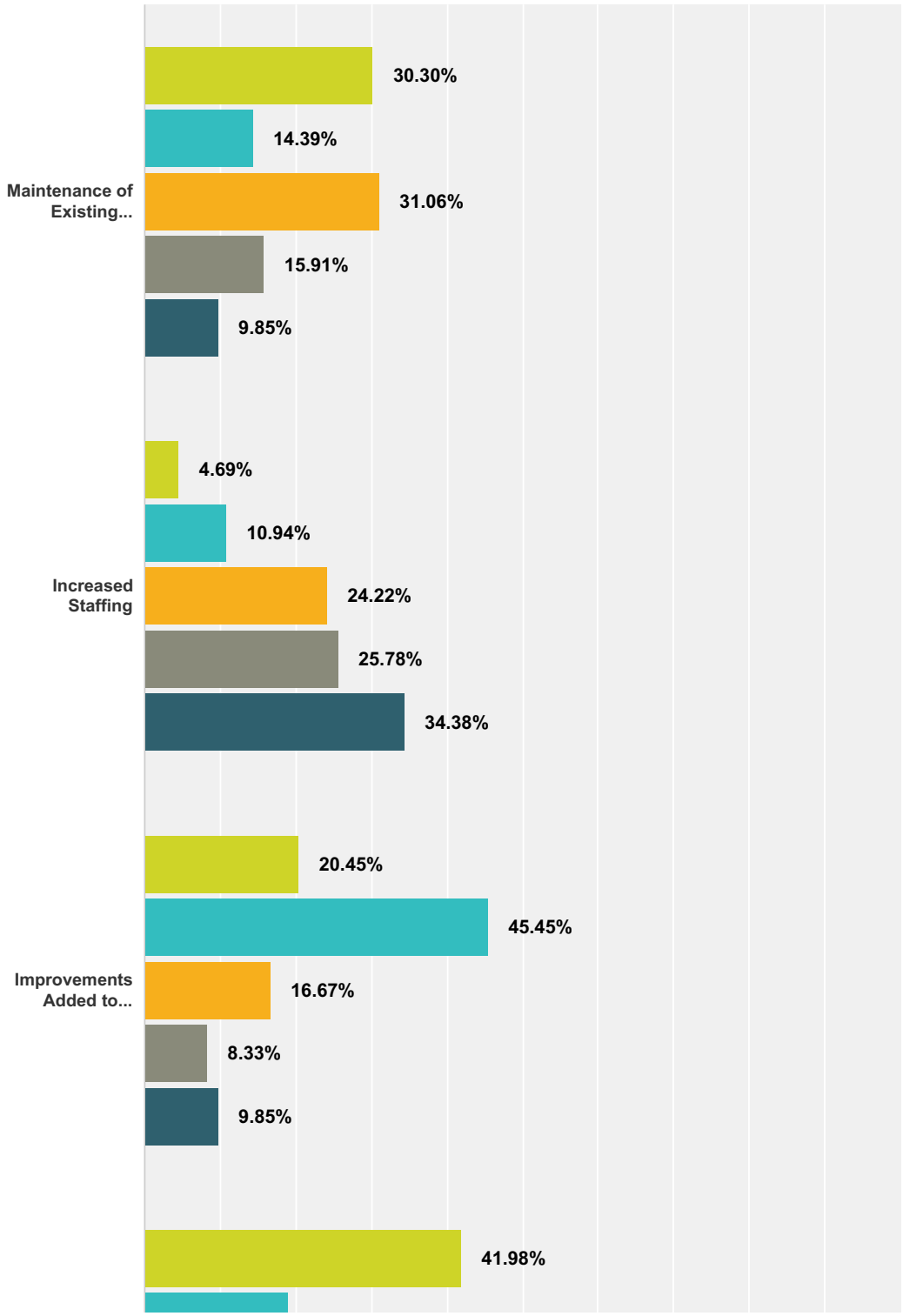
Answer Choices	Responses	
Public Restrooms	**63.93%**	78
Parking	**26.23%**	32
Handicap Accessibility	**18.85%**	23
Shelter	**37.70%**	46
Safe Routes to Walk and/or Bike to the Facility	**53.28%**	65
Programs	**25.41%**	31
Total Respondents: 122		

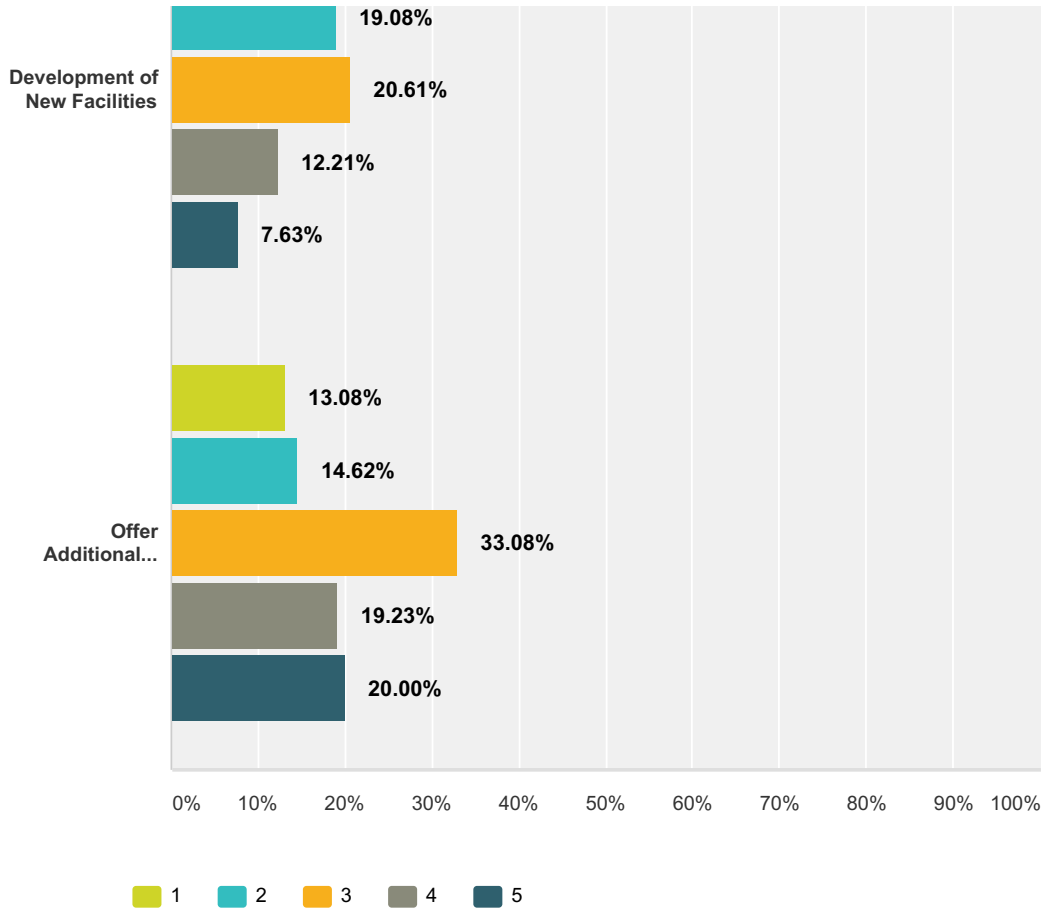
Q15 Please indicate the park locations and support components that need improvement below.

Answered: 74 Skipped: 227

Q16 Considering the needs the Village of DeForest has for additional outdoor recreational facilities, resources, and programs, please rate the following in order of importance with 1 being the most urgent and 5 being the least urgent.

Answered: 133 Skipped: 168





	1	2	3	4	5	Total Respondents
Maintenance of Existing Facilities	**30.30%** 40	**14.39%** 19	**31.06%** 41	**15.91%** 21	**9.85%** 13	132
Increased Staffing	**4.69%** 6	**10.94%** 14	**24.22%** 31	**25.78%** 33	**34.38%** 44	128
Improvements Added to Existing Facilities	**20.45%** 27	**45.45%** 60	**16.67%** 22	**8.33%** 11	**9.85%** 13	132
Development of New Facilities	**41.98%** 55	**19.08%** 25	**20.61%** 27	**12.21%** 16	**7.63%** 10	131
Offer Additional Programs	**13.08%** 17	**14.62%** 19	**33.08%** 43	**19.23%** 25	**20.00%** 26	130

Appendix B:

Facilities Matrix

Appendix C:

Maps

Appendix D:

Northern DeForest Open Space and Development Concept