APPENDIX

2024 Village of DeForest **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan** (CORP)

Draft: September 2024

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PART 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF RECOMMENDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

This section provides classifications and definitions for the different types of park and recreational facilities within the Village. Parks are inventoried and classified based on standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), discussion with Village Staff, site visits conducted at each facility, and a review of past planning documents. Complete park descriptions, inventories, and recommendations for improvements for all park and recreation facilities can be found in Chapter 5.

MINI PARK

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated population within their immediate geographic vicinity, oftentimes with amenities that are geared towards a specific demographic within the population, such as tot lot playgrounds for children or passive open space areas for the enjoyment of adults.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Low-intensity active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, grass fields, or limited sports courts.
- Passive recreation facilities such as internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and nature study area.
- Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Suited for infill development in residential neighborhoods and areas of pedestrian activity
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Geographically centered with safe walking and biking access
- 2 acres in size or less

Mini Parks within DeForest:

- Dahl Park
- Dale Jenkins Park
- Hank's Hollow Park
- O'Donnell Park
- Star Gazer Park
- Sunnybrook Park
- Tierney Park
- Village Square Park
- Future Parks
    - Rivers Turn Development (Phase 3)
    - Adjacent to Ziggy Baseball Park
    - Buhler Park
    - Yahara Grove (River Road Development)
    - Beer Garden at Savannah Brooks

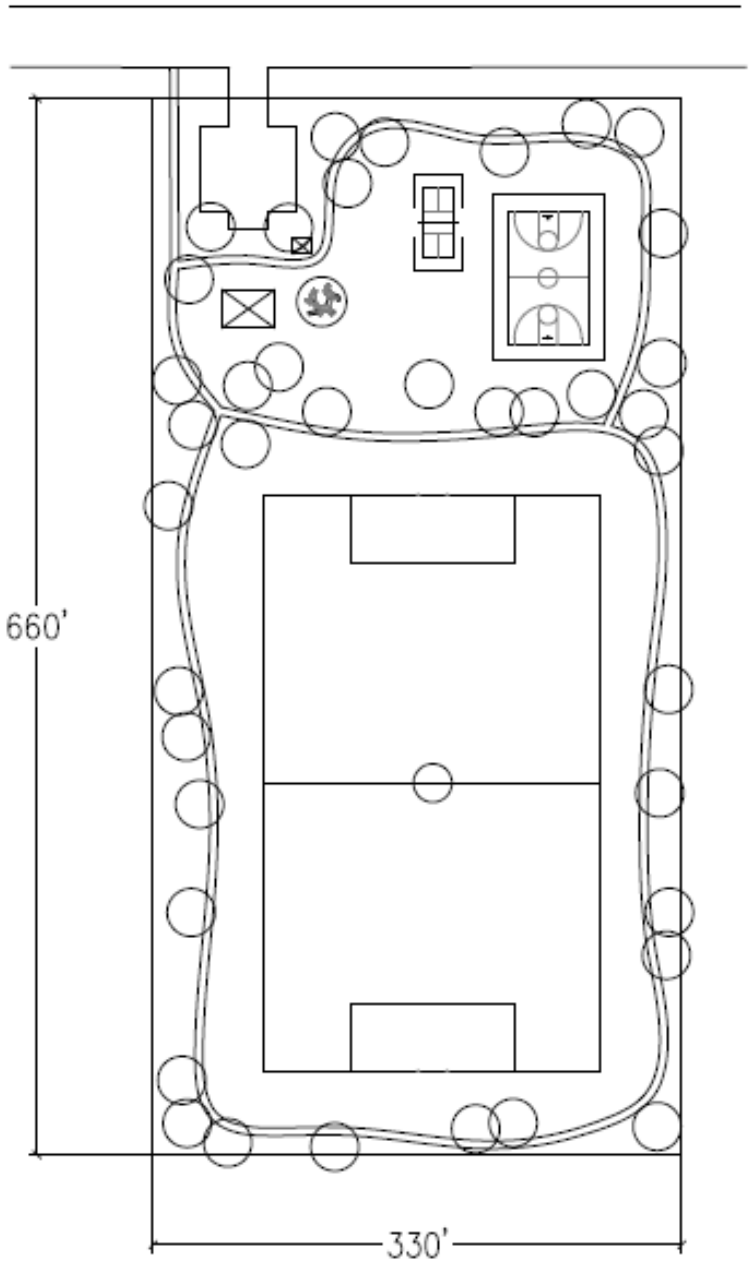
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

General Description:
These parks are designed specifically to accommodate residents living within the service area. They are often characterized by active recreational facilities such as a playground or baseball and soccer fields but can also incorporate passive recreational areas for picnicking and nature study.

Basic Facilities & Activities:
- Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), pickleball/tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, and ice-skating rinks.
- Passive recreation facilities such as internal trails (with connections to larger regional system), picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and nature study area.
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, concessions, and restrooms.
- Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade.
- Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.
- Adequate on-street and off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:
- Suited for intense development
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Geographically centered with safe walking and biking access
- May be developed as a shared school-park facility
- 3-10 acres in size

Neighborhood Parks within DeForest:
- Conservancy Commons Park
- Liberty Land Park
- Veterans Memorial Park
- Western Green Park
- Yahara Park
- Future Parks
    - Iver Munson Park (not built yet)
    - The Knolls
    - Morrisonville Road Area
    - Ballweg Area (north of Fleet Farm)



Model 5-Acre Neighborhood Park

COMMUNITY PARK

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

Basic Facilities & Activities:

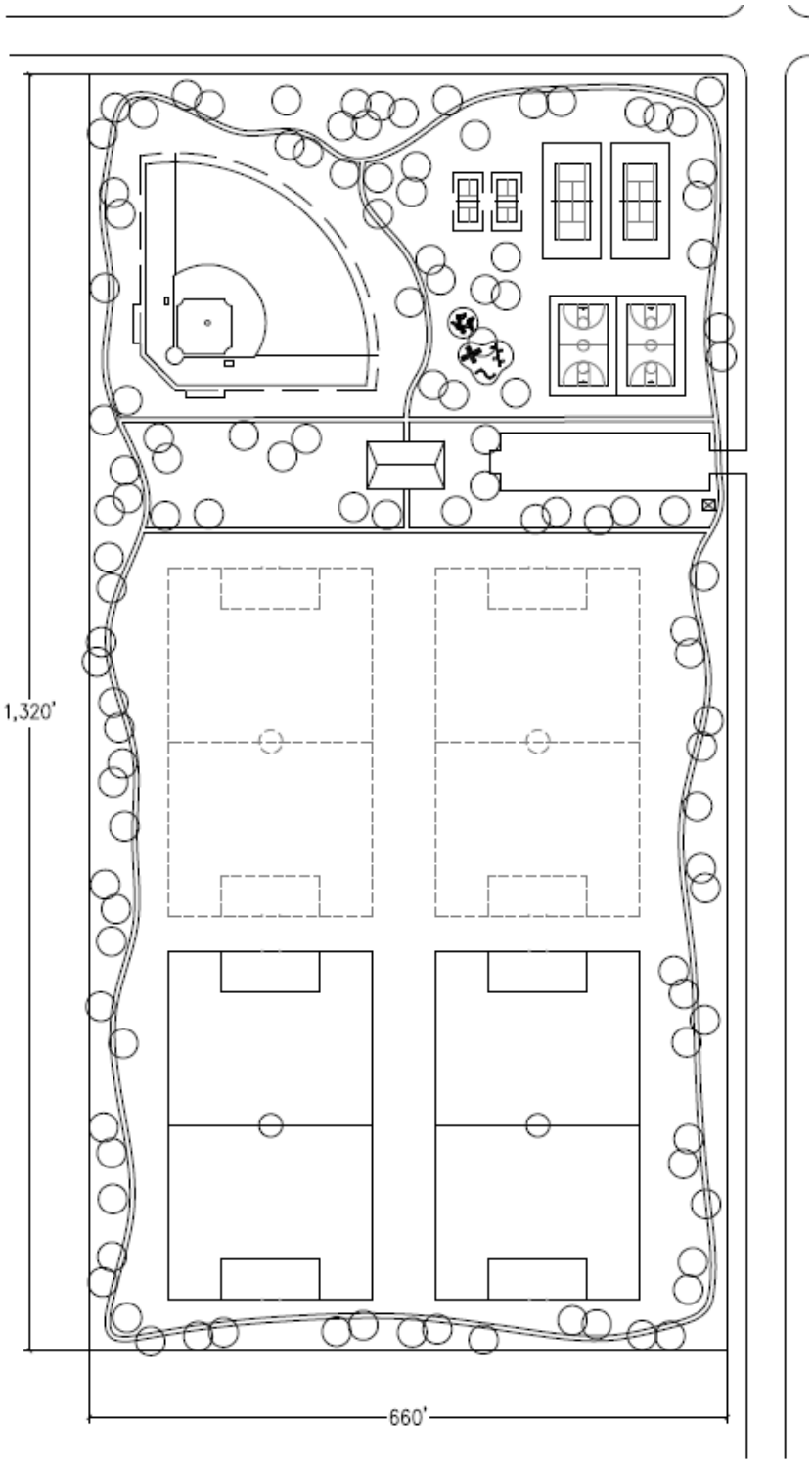
- Active recreation facilities such as playground equipment, playfields (softball, soccer, football, etc.), pickleball/tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts, shuffleboard areas, horseshoe courts, ice skating areas, swimming pools, swimming beaches, archery ranges, disc golf areas, or dog parks.
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas, individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, natural study areas, and ornamental gardens.
- Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park.
- Community Center building with multi-use rooms for crafts, theater, restrooms, social activities, and senior adult use.
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, concessions, and restrooms.
- Landscaped areas which provide buffering and shade.
- Lighting for security at night. Lighting must be designed to be direct cut-off and not spill into adjacent properties.
- Adequate off-street parking spaces.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

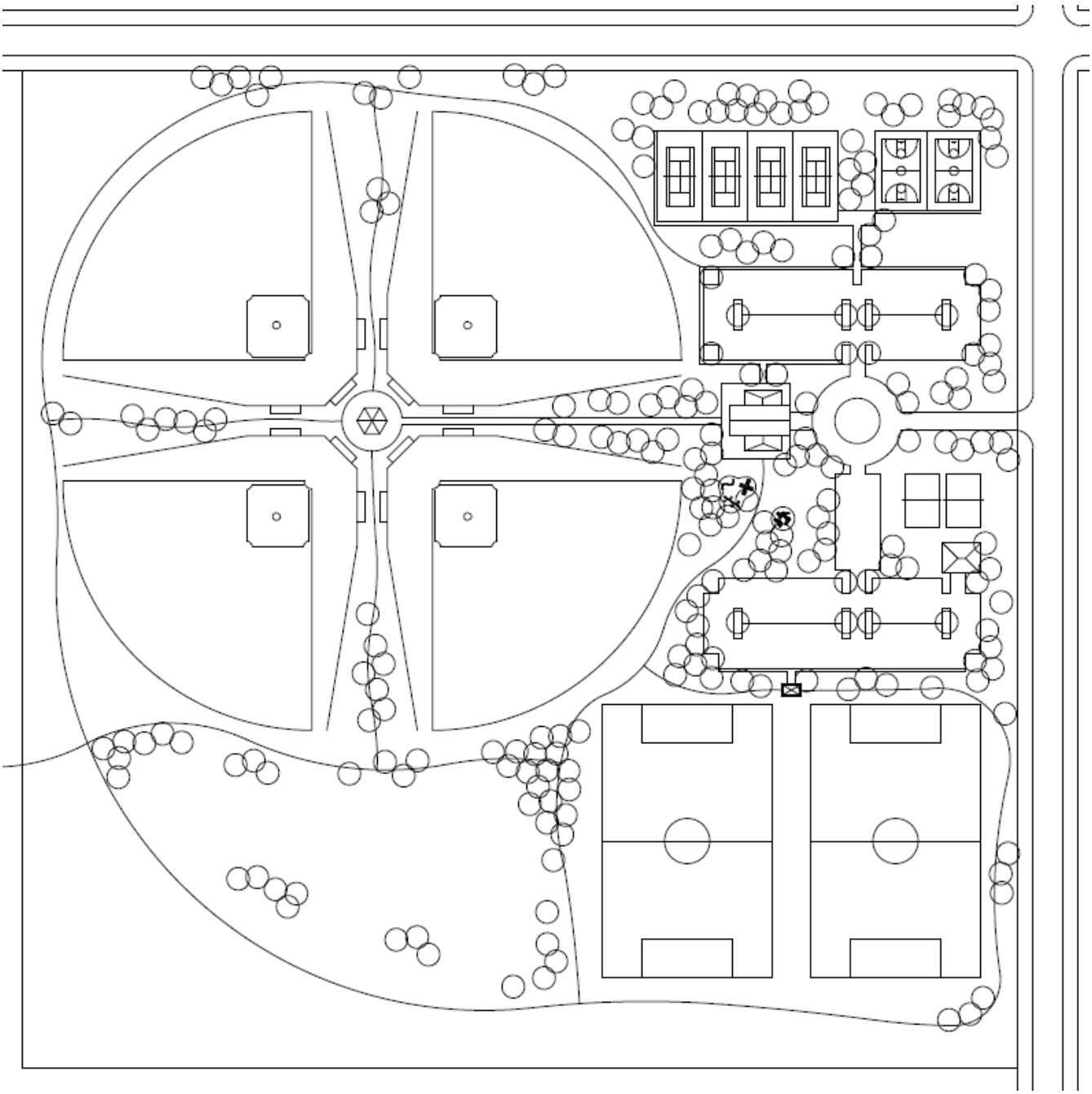
- Suited for intense development
- May include natural areas, such as water bodies or wooded areas
- Easily accessible to the neighborhood population
- Easily accessible for walking and biking
- Serves neighborhood and community recreational needs
- 10+ aces in size

Community Parks within DeForest:

- Fireman's Park



Model 20-Acre Community Park



Model 40-Acre Community Park

SPECIAL USE PARKS AND FACILITIES

General Description:

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

Examples of Special Use Parks and Facilities are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as golf courses, dog parks, athletic complexes, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use. Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors, wildlife habitats, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, mountain biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses.
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas.
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms.
- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, and information booths.
- Lighting for security at night.
- Off-street parking spaces, if appropriate to the area.
- Historic/Cultural/Social – historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, public buildings, zoo, and amphitheaters

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Variable, depending on use

Special Use Parks within DeForest:

- Deforest Athletic Complex
- Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park
- Rivers Turn Park
- Future Parks
    - East River Mountain Bike Park
    - Bakke Sensory Park
    - Sunfish Pond (within Upper Yahara River Corridor)
    - North Industrial Skate Park and Pump Track

NATURAL AREAS

General Description:

Permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for passive recreational use and are not intended for intensive active recreation use. These lands often include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, environmental corridors, wildlife habitat, areas of endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in other adopted components of the Village's Comprehensive Plan. These sites are often appropriate areas for walking trails, fishing, picnicking, and scenic viewing areas.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

- Passive, nature-based, and low impact recreational facilities.

Desirable Site Characteristics:

- Variable, depending on resource being protected.

Natural Areas within DeForest:

- Bakke Conservancy
- Chapel Green Park
- Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area
- Upper Yahara River Corridor (to include Diamond Drive)
- Reigstad Park

SCHOOL PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

General Description:

School parks and recreational facilities have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These are typically owned and maintained by the school district but are open to all neighborhood residents when school is not in session. This plan will not offer recommendations for improvements in these parks, but they should be considered when analyzing facilities available to the community.

Basic Facilities & Activities:

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

Desirable Site Characteristics:

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

School Park and Recreational Facilities within DeForest:

- Eagle Point Elementary School
- Yahara Elementary School
- DeForest Area Middle School
- DeForest Area High School

RECREATION TRAILS

General Description:

Recreation trails accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, nature study, and cross-country skiing. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space areas and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. There are three primary types of off-street recreation trails: paved multi-use paths, unpaved paths, and water trials.

- Paved multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, scooters, skateboards, wheelchairs, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks.
- Unpaved trails provide connections between urbanized areas, and access within certain sensitive park and open space areas. Walkways may be restricted to pedestrian use only because of environmental conditions. In certain locations, they may also be suitable for equestrian and/or bicycle use. Unpaved trails are often sited along creeks, streams, rivers, forests, field boundaries, and other natural and conservancy areas.
- Water trails exist along non-intermittent rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks. They provide connectivity throughout an area by non-motorized recreational boat travel (ex. paddling sports). Often, this facility type includes various access points along an established water corridor that provides water-based travel from one point to another. Strategically placed water access points provide opportunities to connect communities, parks, and other destinations together and serve as recreation-based options for residents and tourists.

Several trail corridors exist within the Village and additional trails are proposed 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 the Yahara River Water Trail providing residents paddle sports opportunities when water levels are high.

Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:

- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of 10 feet to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, scooters, skateboards, wheelchairs, walking, running, and skating. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards should be applied to all design, markings, and signage.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of 10 feet wide but could be reduced to 8 feet for a short distance because of physical constraints. They are typically surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Maximum 15 mph design speed per Village Ordinance.

Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails:

- Because these trail facilities often travel through sensitive environmental areas, they are generally not paved. Rather, they are surfaced with crushed limestone, wood chips, hard packed earth, or mowed grass.

Recreational Trails within DeForest:

- 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)
- River Road Trail (Woods Glen Court to West North Street)

ON-STREET BICYCLE FACILITIES

General Description:

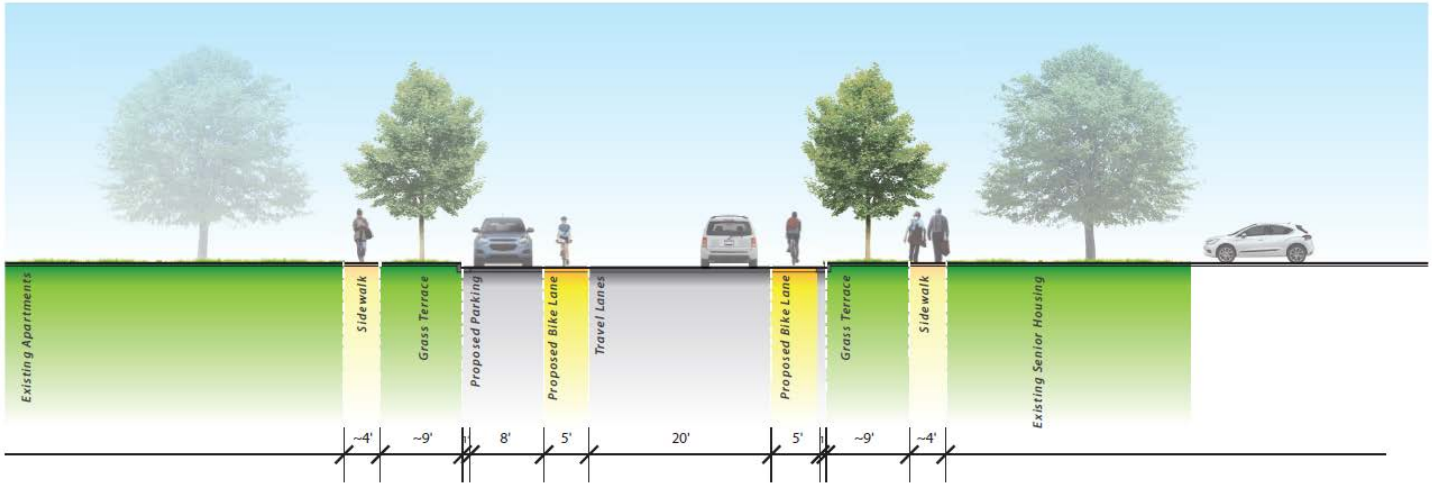
Safe and connected pedestrian and bicycle networks help facilitate and encourage non-motorized transportation, which has positive benefits for community health, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and lowers Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). In order to help area communities establish effective alternative transportation networks, the Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization published a series of pedestrian and bicycle facility, policy, and street standards for use in the metropolitan region. The Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities, Policies, and Street Standards report details locally-adopted requirements along with national recommendations and best practices to help local planning and engineering staff and elected officials make informed decisions regarding development and design standards to make roadways safer for all users. The report details standards and design requirements used by Madison area cities, villages, and select towns when constructing or reconstructing transportation facilities and features design elements and policy recommendations from the Institute of Transportation Engineers, National Association of City Transportation Officials, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Complete Streets Coalition.

There are a wide variety of on-street bicycle facilities including bike routes, bike lanes, cycle tracks, sharrows, bike boxes, and paved shoulders. Bicycle routes, bike boulevards, and sharrows are the pre-identified and preferred streets for bicycle travel within an urban area. Many times, they are marked by signage on or along the road. Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). Striping bicycle lanes establishes a designated traffic channel that promotes an orderly flow for both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that are 32 feet or wider. Depending on the size of the roadway and traffic volumes, bike lanes are typically buffered with striping, bollards, or on-street vehicle parking. An even greater level of separation is in the form of an on-street bike facility that is commonly referred to as a cycle track. These facilities are often used for one-way streets in areas that are the most heavily traveled by bicyclists, such as a downtown setting. Additionally, bike boxes are commonly used in conjunction with other on-street facilities. These are dedicated painted areas for bicyclists to stop ahead of vehicles at potentially dangerous or heavily traveled intersections.

Paved shoulders are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes. Paved shoulders are ideal for higher volume streets or highways (more than 1,000 vehicles per day) with rural cross sections (i.e. no curb and gutter).

Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:

- Shared bicycle and vehicle lanes can be used on any lane width but should follow the AASHTO standards for marking and signage.
- Minimum width should be 5 feet.
- When used alongside a parking lane (minimum 7 feet), bike lanes should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.
- Where shared bike lanes and parallel on-street parking are used, minimum combined width should be 12 feet.
- Any lane markings or signage should meet the AASHTO standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.



Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:

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

TRAILHEADS

Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the community's system and help connect off-street and on-street facilities. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps, or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.

PART 2: DATA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

POPULATION TRENDS AND FORECASTS

FIGURE 1.1: POPULATION COMPARISON

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023**	2000-2010	2010-2023
Village of DeForest	**4,882**	**7,368**	**8,963**	**10,811**	**11,674**	**22%**	**30%**
Village of Windsor*	4,620	5,286	6,345	8,754	9,758	20%	54%
Village of Waunakee	5,897	8,995	12,097	14,879	16,165	34%	34%
Village of McFarland	5,232	6,416	7,808	8,991	9,625	22%	23%
Village of Cottage Grove	1,131	4,059	6,192	7,303	9,218	53%	49%
Village of Oregon	4,519	7,514	9,231	11,179	11,940	23%	29%
Dane County	367,085	426,526	488,073	561,504	590,056	14%	21%
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,893,718	5,951,400	6%	5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 – 2020 Census.
**The Village of Windsor incorporated in 2015. Data prior to this year is derived from the Town of Windsor.*
***WisDOA annual municipal population estimates, 2023.*

Predicting future population growth is challenging and somewhat inexact. It should be noted that DeForest's actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, market conditions, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations. Figure 1.2 below depicts seven population projection methods. This set of projections was prepared specifically for this Plan and by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. All are projected through 2045. These forecasts provide the basis for determining future need for parks and open spaces.

FIGURE 1.2: VILLAGE OF DEFOREST POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Projection Method	Year							Percentage Increase	
	2010	2023*	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2023-2035	2023-2045
WisDOA Projections**	8,963	11,674	10,560	11,150	11,610	12,010	-	-1%	-
Linear Growth 1990-2023 (1)	**8,963**	**11,674**	**12,291**	**13,321**	**14,350**	**15,379**	**16,408**	**23%**	**41%**
Linear Growth 2000-2023 (1)	8,963	11,674	12,236	13,172	14,108	15,044	15,980	21%	37%
Linear Growth 2010-2023 (1)	8,963	11,674	12,300	13,342	14,385	15,428	16,470	23%	41%
Compounded Growth 1990-2023 (2)	8,963	11,674	13,214	16,244	19,969	24,549	30,178	71%	159%
Compounded Growth 2000-2023 (2)	8,963	11,674	12,587	14,269	16,177	18,339	20,790	39%	78%
Compounded Growth 2010-2023 (2)	8,963	11,674	12,508	14,032	15,743	17,661	19,814	35%	70%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2020 Census.
**WisDOA Population Projection, 2023*
***Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 population estimate.*
1. Extrapolated based on the average annual population change over the given years.
2. Extrapolated based on the average annual percent change over the given years.

These projections were derived using the following methodologies:

- **Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) Projection**: In 2013, the State Department of Administration forecasted population change for all communities in Wisconsin based on 2010 U.S. Census data.
- **Linear Growth Rate (1990-2023, 2000-2023, 2010-2023):** These projections were calculated using the average annual population change over the time period and projecting that rate forward to 2045. The average annual population change for the various time periods ranged from 187 to 209 new people per year.
- **Annual Compounded Percentage Growth Rate (1990-2023, 2000-2023, 2010-2023):** These estimations are determined utilizing the annual average percentage change over the time period and extrapolating that rate forward to 2045. The average annual percentage change for the three time periods ranged from 2.3% to 4.2% growth.

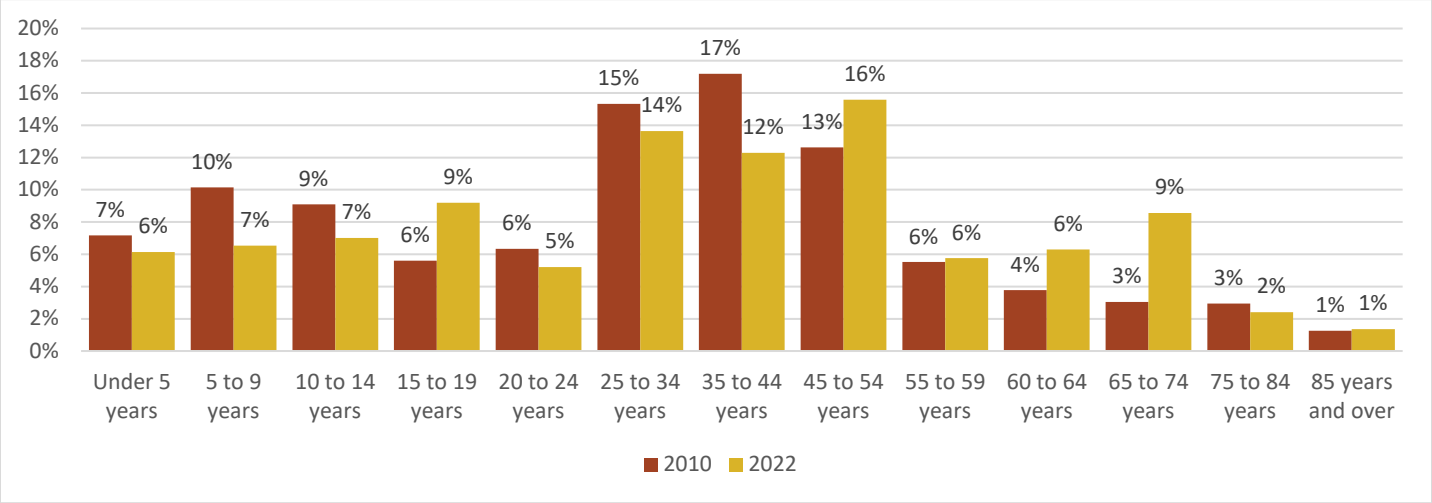
AGE AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION

FIGURE 1.3: AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Median Age			Percent Under 18			Percent Over 65		
	2000	2010	2022	2000	2010	2022	2000	2010	2022
Village of DeForest	**33**	**33**	**37**	**29%**	**30%**	**27%**	**8%**	**7%**	**12%**
Village of Windsor	36	38	39	28%	24%	26%	4%	14%	15%
Village of Waunakee	35	38	39	31%	32%	28%	9%	10%	13%
Village of McFarland	37	40	40	28%	27%	25%	8%	10%	15%
Village of Cottage Grove	31	34	40	33%	32%	26%	7%	8%	14%
Village of Oregon	34	37	40	31%	29%	26%	9%	10%	12%
Dane County	33	34	36	22%	22%	20%	9%	10%	14%
Wisconsin	36	39	40	26%	24%	22%	13%	14%	18%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 1.4: DEFOREST POPULATION PYRAMID



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2020 Census.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

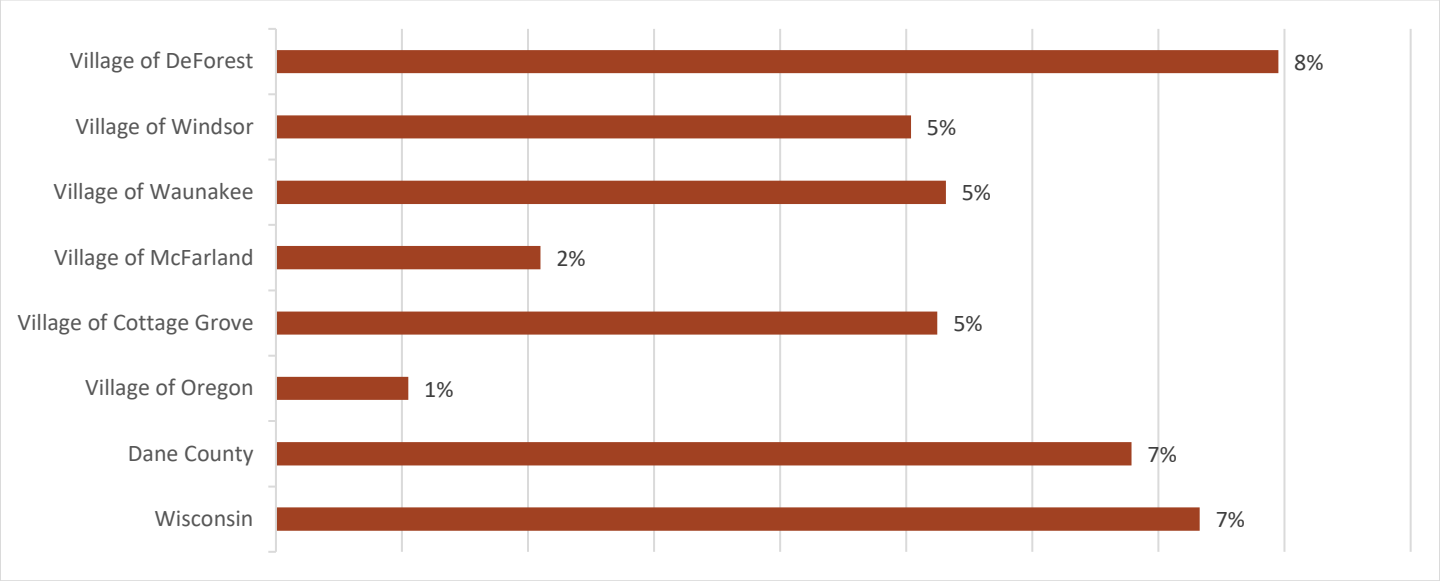
RACIAL & ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

FIGURE 1.5: RACE AND ETHNICITY COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022

	White	African American	American Indian	Asian	Other	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino
Village of DeForest	**83%**	**2%**	**0%**	**3%**	**0%**	**12%**	**8%**
Village of Windsor	93%	0%	0%	3%	0%	3%	5%
Village of Waunakee	89%	2%	0%	2%	1%	5%	5%
Village of McFarland	93%	0%	0%	2%	0%	4%	2%
Village of Cottage Grove	85%	0%	0%	8%	0%	7%	5%
Village of Oregon	91%	3%	0%	0%	0%	5%	1%
Dane County	81%	5%	0%	6%	1%	7%	7%
Wisconsin	83%	6%	1%	3%	2%	5%	7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 1.6: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION OF HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 1.7: DEFOREST RACE AND ETHNICITY

	2000	2010	2020	2022*
White	95%	93%	87%	83%
African American	1%	2%	2%	2%
American Indian	0%	0%	0%	0%
Asian	1%	1%	3%	3%
Other	1%	1%	2%	0%
Two Or More Races	1%	2%	6%	12%
Hispanic Or Latino	2%	4%	5%	8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2020 Census.
**Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

HOUSEHOLD TRENDS

FIGURE 1.8: 2022 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTIC COMPARISONS

	Total Housing Units	Vacant Units	Percent Owner Occupied	Average Household Size
Village of DeForest	**4,203**	**58**	**79%**	**2.59**
Village of Windsor	3,360	174	74%	2.75
Village of Waunakee	5,577	181	78%	2.72
Village of McFarland	3,722	50	75%	2.47
Village of Cottage Grove	3,158	29	78%	2.40
Village of Oregon	4,873	191	72%	2.39
Dane County	250,416	9,617	58%	2.26
Wisconsin	2,734,511	309,023	68%	2.37

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 1.9: 2020 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTIC COMPARISONS, CONTINUED

	Owner-Occupied Home Value	Median Owner-Occupied Costs Per Month (With A Mortgage)	Gross Rent Per Month	Median Household Income
Village of DeForest	**$287,300**	**$1,903**	**$1,278**	**$97,381**
Village of Windsor	$386,200	$2,219	$1,296	$110,000
Village of Waunakee	$442,700	$2,378	$1,179	$132,305
Village of McFarland	$338,700	$2,145	$1,339	$91,029
Village of Cottage Grove	$361,100	$2,356	$1,453	$123,750
Village of Oregon	$338,000	$1,930	$1,164	$95,453
Dane County	$342,900	$2,045	$1,268	$84,297
Wisconsin	$231,400	$1,602	$992	$72,458

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

FIGURE 1.10: PROJECTED HOUSEHOLDS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD

	Number of Households						Additional HH	
	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2020-2030	2020-2040
Linear Growth 1990-2023 (1)	**3,400**	**4,163**	**4,612**	**5,046**	**5,487**	**5,938**	**883**	**1,775**
Linear Growth 2000-2023 (1)	3,400	4,163	4,591	4,989	5,395	5,808	826	1,645
Linear Growth 2010-2023 (1)	3,400	4,163	4,615	5,054	5,501	5,957	891	1,794
Compounded Growth 1990-2023 (2)	3,400	4,163	4,958	6,153	7,636	9,478	1,990	5,315
Compounded Growth 2000-2023 (2)	3,400	4,163	4,723	5,405	6,186	7,081	1,242	2,918
Compounded Growth 2010-2023 (2)	3,400	4,163	4,693	5,315	6,020	6,819	1,152	2,656
Projected Household Size***	2.63	2.69	2.67	2.64	2.62	2.59	-	-

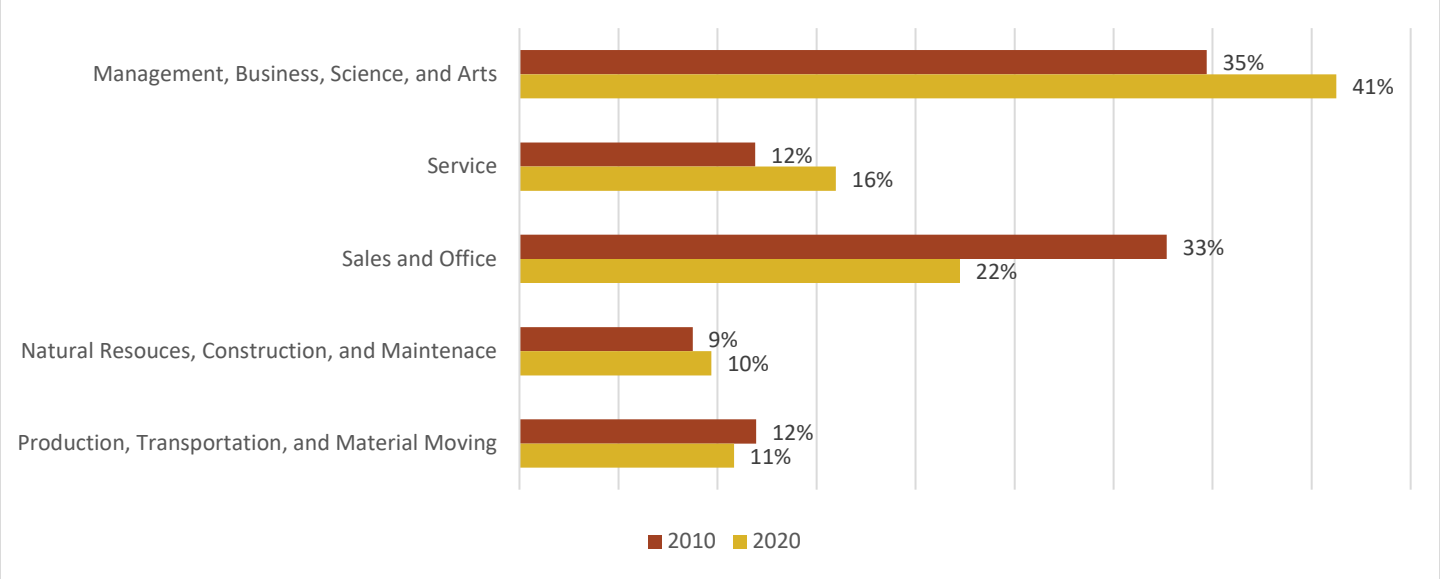
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990-2020 Census.

****Projected household sizes were estimated based on the average annual household size change between 2000 and 2020 which showed a minimal -0.025% decrease per five-year period.*

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

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

FIGURE 1.11: OCCUPATION BY INDUSTRY, DEFOREST



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 20005-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

PUBLIC HEALTH & LIVABILITY TRENDS

FIGURE 1.12: PUBLIC HEALTH CONTEXT

	Adult Obesity	Physical Inactivity	Access to Exercise Opportunities
Dane County	**28%**	**16%**	**94%**
Dodge County	36%	21%	71%
Columbia County	35%	19%	75%
Jefferson County	33%	18%	75%
Rock County	35%	21%	88%
Sauk County	37%	20%	74%

Source: 2024 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

FIGURE 1.13: PUBLIC HEALTH CONTEXT, CONTINUED

	Diagnosed With Diabetes*	Leading Cause of Death**	Life Expectancy***
Dane County	**6.0%**	**Cancer (143.8 per 100,000 people)**	**81.2**
Dodge County	8.9%	Heart Disease (250.7 per 100,000 people)	77.2
Columbia County	7.3%	Heart Disease (226.5 per 100,000 people)	78.4
Jefferson County	6.0%	Cancer (196.8 per 100,000 people)	78.7
Rock County	8.4%	Cancer (208.1 per 100,000 people)	77.1
Sauk County	7.8%	Cancer (253.7 per 100,000 people)	78.2

**Source: CDC, 2021.*
***Source: 2017 Wisconsin Public Health Profiles, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.*
****Source: 2024 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.*

FIGURE 1.14: LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN WISCONSIN

Mortality Rate per 100,000			
Cause of Death	2013	2022	Percent change (2013 to 2022)
Heart disease	159.4	166.3	4.1%
Cancer	165.5	145.1	-14.1%
Unintentional injuries	45.9	74.4	38.3%
COVID-19	–	36.5	–
Stroke	35.8	35.2	-1.7%
Chronic lower respiratory	40.3	33.7	-19.6%
Alzheimer's disease	22.8	30.3	24.8%
Diabetes	18.5	19.1	3.1%
Suicide	14.4	15.1	4.6%
Chronic liver disease	9.1	12.6	27.8%

Source: WI Department of Health Services, 2022

FIGURE 1.15: AARP LIVABILITY SCORE

	Overall Livability Score (0 – 100)	Housing	Neighborhood	Transportation
Village of DeForest	**61**	**54**	**51**	**43**
Village of Windsor	58	47	48	38
Village of Waunakee	63	51	53	47
Village of McFarland	65	50	60	51
Village of Cottage Grove	59	45	54	38
Village of Oregon	61	51	53	49
Dane County	64	55	58	60
Wisconsin	56	53	49	54

Source: AARP Livability Index, 2024

FIGURE 1.16: AARP LIVABILITY SCORE, CONTINUED

	Environment	Health	Engagement	Opportunity
Village of DeForest	**67**	**71**	**65**	**73**
Village of Windsor	66	71	63	76
Village of Waunakee	69	73	69	80
Village of McFarland	65	71	77	83
Village of Cottage Grove	58	73	72	76
Village of Oregon	69	71	62	73
Dane County	61	70	75	71
Wisconsin	55	55	60	64

Source: AARP Livability Index, 2024

PART 3: REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS AND REPORTS

A critical step in the park planning process is the examination of past planning efforts in the Village and other related municipal, county, and state plans. A comprehensive understanding of how the Village and its surrounding area have evolved over time and of how this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan can support additional future planning efforts helps establish guidelines for the recommendations and implementation strategies of this Plan.

Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways this Plan can be adapted so that its goals, objectives, and policies align and coordinate with ongoing planning efforts within the Village, County, and region. The following is a summary of information from existing plans that informs the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Village of DeForest Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

PLAN REVIEW SUMMARY

Village of DeForest Park and Open Space Plan (2019)

In 2019, the last Village of DeForest Park and Open Space Plan was completed. This document served as the basis for this 2024 update and provided guidance for the development of the Village's park and recreation system between the years 2020-2024. The updated plan features the same overarching elements of this previous plan and builds upon the goals, objectives, and recommendations found within it.

Key recommendations of the 2019 plan include:

- Standardize and upgrade the level-of-service at each Village park through key improvements at each location
- Expand the bicycle, pedestrian, and multi-use trail network to connect existing park and recreation facilities with neighborhoods, schools, areas of activity and employment, and regional active transportation system facilities
- Increasing the attraction to and usage of park and recreation facilities by diversifying the types of facilities and activities available within the park system and improving existing parks with multi-purpose uses
- Develop new parkland to supply an adequate number of large sports fields and athletic facilities to meet community demand
- Focus land acquisition on parcels in developing growth areas, between parks or within corridors or parkways, and strategically use small parcels to accommodate play equipment to serve immediate area residents and promote healthy lifestyles
- Utilization of alternative funding sources for plan implementation
- Construct a splash pad in a future improvement phase of Fireman's Park
- Develop and improve facilities at the dedicated parkland sites described as Fox Hill Estates Park, Rivers Turn 3rd Addition Park, and Iver Munson Park
- Create a new community park at one of the four identified alternative sites within the Village's north side and northern future growth area where there are currently gaps in park service areas
- New facilities including a basketball court at Stargazer Park, playground equipment at Sunnybrook Park, a shade structure at Village Square Park, trailways and a shade structure at Marvin and Marie Schweers Dog Park, and new parking areas, improved ADA access, restrooms, and natural areas for preservation at many parks

In total, the 2019 Plan provided guidance for the Village between its adoption and the development of this new plan. All relevant remaining key goals, objectives, and recommendations were incorporated into this plan and its recommendations.

Village of DeForest Comprehensive Plan (2023)

The Village's Comprehensive Plan, updated in 2023, provides guidance on how and where the Village might grow, develop, and change over the next twenty years. The Plan provides an overall vision, goals, objectives and policies, and specific issues and opportunities for the community, and covers all nine essential elements of the state statutes governing long-term comprehensive planning. Some of the key opportunities and recommendations within the Village's Comprehensive Plan related to Village parks, recreation, and natural resources include:

- Enhance and transform downtown recreational opportunities by pursuing improvements that make the downtown a center for gathering, activity, and recreation. This includes siting a permanent skate park, expanding Community and Senior Center Programming, enhancing trail connections, making stormwater and street tree improvements, and making several major improvements to Fireman's Park.
- Plan and implement a comprehensive network of sidewalks and bicycle routes that increase access to residents in the Village by serving neighborhoods, schools, parks, playgrounds, employment areas, and activity centers.
- Refine and protect environmental corridors and increase access to the Upper Yahara River Corridor.
- Diversify recreational opportunities by preserving and improving park, open space, and recreational facilities currently available in the Village.
- Exploring the creation of a new community park/sports complex and aquatic center to meet community recreational demand.
- Preserving valued natural features & characteristics of the Village to serve as wildlife corridors, recreational trails, and stormwater management areas.

Many of the issues, opportunities, goals, objectives, and recommendations identified in the DeForest Comprehensive Plan are still relevant and applicable in 2024 and are reflected and supported throughout this Plan. This plan builds upon Comprehensive Plan information and recommendations, providing strategic updates to key areas to further advance and prioritize future park and recreation planning, development, upgrades, and integration of the park and recreation system into the community.

One of the Village's Comprehensive Plan goals is to encourage and support a range of transportation choices while providing access to natural areas and open spaces through the existing path and trailway network. This CORP provides specific recommendations for the implementation of trail network expansions and multimodal transportation facility options that help accomplish this goal. Creating an integrated, efficient, and economical transportation system that offers mobility, convenience, and safety to meet the needs of all citizens is a goal supported by both this plan and the community's existing Comprehensive Plan.

Village of DeForest Ecological Assessment & Management Plan (2015)

In 2015, an ecological assessment was conducted of the Village of DeForest's conservation parks, which include Western Green Park, Veterans Memorial Park and Bakke Conservancy. 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:

- Search for and eradicate Japanese hedgeparsley colonies
- Continue to eradicate crown vetch colony
- Continue maintenance of native planting in oak woodland
- Continue to foliar-treat willow re-sprouts and seedlings with herbicide
- Eradicate white sweet clover from recently forestry-mowed areas
- Eradicate cottonwood seedlings and Canada thistle in the infiltration basins
- Eradicate wild parsnip and Canada thistle
- Plant native vegetation in the wildlife scrapes

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 Village 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 Village's Downtown Strategy Plan, which in 2015 was incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. 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.

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 continues 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:

- Focus on efforts to reduce non-point pollution through continued dialogue and cooperative efforts with contributing Drainage Districts, agricultural landowners, neighboring municipalities, Dane County Land Conservation Department and 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.
- Implement no-mow buffer zones to reduce sedimentation and the flow of nutrients into the river. Education and cooperation of adjacent riparian property owners in residential and urban areas will also be necessary.

Upper Yahara Riverside Habitat Assessment & Yahara River Streambank Erosion Assessment and Five-Year Plan

In 2022, the Village commissioned these two plans to identify and address streambank erosion along the Yahara River. Increased flood peaks and water volumes caused by higher levels of suspended sediment created by land-use changes and development are degrading the streambank and reducing the river's capacity and flow efficiency. These studies provided indications of erosion rates and the root causes of the riverbanks' instability, which were used to create a five-year plan prioritizing areas for future streambank restoration projects. Recommendations for restoring this riparian environment and clearing river blockages for canoe travel are supported within this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Safe Routes to School Plan and Sidewalk Policy (2011)

Working with the DeForest Area School District and the then 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 the Safe Routes to School Plan with the 2011 Park and Open Space Plan. Based in part on the recommendations of both plans and recent community discussions about sidewalks, the Village adopted a sidewalk policy.

Regional Transportation Plan (Greater Madison MPO)

The Greater Madison MPO serves as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Madison area, which includes most, but not all, of Dane County. The MPO's Connect Greater Madison Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2050 guides future transportation policy and investments for the region. Different levels of government use the plan to coordinate transportation projects. Prepared in conjunction with CARPC's 2050 Regional Development Framework, the RTP focuses on similar goals, uses the same growth projections, and shares many performance indicators with the Framework.

Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County (2015)

The plan recommends bicycle facility improvements for the Madison urban area and rural Dane County. In the Village of DeForest vicinity, the Plan recommends adding a priority shared-use path between Waunakee and DeForest along Highway 19, a path along Highway 19 between the Village and Heatherstone Drive in Sun Prairie, a North Street Corridor Path along Main Street to connect to Highway 51, and a Lake Road Corridor Path from Highway 19 to Vinburn Road. The recommendations of this plan were used to inform the proposed bicycle and pedestrian network connections recommended in this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update. The Greater Madison MPO is currently working on an Active Transportation Plan as of the writing of this Plan. They have also established a Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities, Policies, and Street Standards report to provide guidance on policy and facility design for municipalities in the region.

Dane County Park and Open Space Plan

The current Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2018-2023 seeks to identify significant cultural, historical, and natural resources that should be considered for possible protection, preservation, or restoration over the five-year planning period. The purpose of the plan is threefold:

1. To guide the decisions of the County and other providers of open space and recreational lands in the area in order to provide for the increasing demand for recreation facilities.
2. To recommend proposals for recreation and open space improvements within the County.
3. To maintain Dane County's eligibility for recreation grant funds with updates completed approximately every five years.

The plan details an inventory of the existing parks and facilities in Dane County, facility specific recommendations, preservation and protection initiatives, and ongoing projects and programs. This includes planning and acquisition priorities for regional bicycle, pedestrian, and water trail systems. The current Plan identifies countywide recreation needs and Dane County's role in providing facilities to meet anticipated demands. The Plan contains several recommendations related to the Village of DeForest, including developing a partnership to create a regional off-road shared-use bicycle trail along the Yahara River that would provide connections to Token Creek County Park and Cherokee Marsh, and partnering with the Village on recreational management of the Yahara Headwaters Natural Resource Area. As of the writing of this plan, the Dane County Park and Open Space Plan was being updated.

Dane County Comprehensive Plan (2012)

The County's Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2011, provides guidance on how and where the County might grow, develop, and change over the next twenty years. The Plan provides an overall vision, goals, objectives and policies, and specific issues and opportunities facing the County, and covers all nine essential elements of the state statutes governing long-term comprehensive planning.

The Dane County Comprehensive Plan includes recommendations for a number of different components of the countywide transportation system designed to serve the County's development through 2032. These components include transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streets and roadways, vehicle occupancy, paratransit, rail and air transportation, parking, and corridor preservation. While the Plan does not include Village-specific recommendations, the Village and the County have many similar transportation goals and policies such as expanding the bike and pedestrian network and encouraging a range of transportation options.

Some of the key opportunities and recommendations within the County's Comprehensive Plan include:

Transportation Goals:

- Support a transportation system which, through its location, capacity, and design, will effectively serve the existing land use development pattern and meet anticipated transportation demand generated by planned land uses.
- Build public facilities such as schools and parks near neighborhoods and complete sidewalk gaps along local routes to such facilities.

Diversify Recreational Opportunities:

- The County should work with local communities to establish programming to activate park and recreational spaces with activities for all ages, demographics, and abilities.
- Preserve and enhance park, open space, and recreational opportunities currently available in the County.

Additional recommendations include:

- Preserving the valuable natural features, resources, & characteristics of the County
- Protecting water quality
- Building on natural resource-based tourism opportunities
- Accommodating active and passive recreation areas
- Creating well-planned development, amenities, and transportation system connections
- Enhancing natural stormwater management

Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Directions (2015-2020) and Wisconsin Trail Network Plan (2003)

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has developed these two plans for its entire systems of state parks and trails. There are not specific recommendations related to DeForest, however the plan identifies several area state trail facilities that should be considered in regional bicycle and pedestrian network connection planning. Opportunities to link local active transportation networks to County and State facilities could help create even more extensive connectivity with existing state trails such as the Upper Yahara River Trail.

The Wisconsin State Park System Strategic Plan set forth five strategic directions:

- Provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities and settings
- Conserve, manage, and interpret natural, cultural, and scenic resources
- Actively promote excellence in our workforce
- Strengthen the Wisconsin State Park System financial condition
- Build and strengthen outreach and partnerships

The Wisconsin State Trails Network Plan provides a vision for establishing trail network connectivity statewide; and focuses on abandoned rail, road, utility line, natural features and resources, interstate, and public lands. The plan recognizes the important role that trails developed by local units of governments serve as critical links. Under the plan, WDNR staff will continue to work with local governments and encourage them to connect trails onto this network as they update local plans.

The 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus. Key overarching issues, factors, and goals for outdoor recreation include:

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

Each of these factors are important to consider in any decision-making related to the future needs and demands of the community. To prioritize recreational facilities and programming, the plan states that key goals also include:

- Boosting participation in outdoor recreation
- Growing partnerships
- Providing high-quality experiences
- Improving data to enhance visitor experiences
- Enhancing funding and financial stability

Many of the goals within this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan are also reflected in this Plan and were heard throughout the public participation process as goals directly applicable to the Village of DeForest.

Wisconsin's Changing Climate Report (2022)

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders formed as a partnership between UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, published a comprehensive study evaluating climate change impacts on Wisconsin communities.

Wisconsin's climate continues to change. In the 10 years since the 2011 WICCI Assessment report, new data shows continued warming, increases in rain and snow, and more frequent extreme rainfall events. The effects of climate change are felt in nearly every region in the state and affect the places we work and play, including farms, lakes and rivers, forests, and the built environment. All regions of Wisconsin have reported their wettest decade in recorded history over the past ten years, and average precipitation has increased by 17% (about five inches) since 1950. The average daily temperature across the state has increased by three degrees Fahrenheit over the same time period, and the last two decades have been the warmest on record. It is projected that extreme precipitation and weather events will increase in the future.

The report calls for actions by communities across the state to decrease carbon emissions by investing in solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate impacts. Many of the goals, objectives, and recommendations of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan align with this report, serving to preserve the natural environment and decrease automobile dependency by providing alternative means of transportation to the Village of DeForest's various park and recreational amenities.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (2006)

In the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, the DNR identified those key places around the state that are critical to meeting Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation needs over the next 50 years. The Report indicates that DeForest lies within the Southeast Glacial Plains ecological landscape and identifies several sites in Dane County proximate to the Village, including the Upper Yahara River and Lakes and Patrick Marsh. In addition to these features, the area provides significant hiking, hunting, environmental and ecological studying opportunities near DeForest. Continued forest management and strategic expansions of outdoor recreational facilities are important in maintaining the area's character. The report recommends that the expansion of future recreational opportunities should be accomplished by restoring somewhat degraded natural areas to provide a range of hiking, biking, horseback, and other types of trails. To the greatest practical degree, buffering, linking, and expanding existing public lands would enable considerably more conservation and recreational opportunities.

Connect 2050 Wisconsin Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (2022)

Connections 2050 links statewide transportation policy to implementation, planning, programming, and other Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) activities. The plan calls for improved system integration for passengers and freight, as well as modernization to correct outdated infrastructure design and combine technological advancements with more traditional transportation infrastructure designs.

The Plan sets policy directions for the state trunk highway system, public transit, intercity travel, freight movement, bicycle and pedestrian travel, and funding, project scheduling and prioritization decisions. As part of the Connections 2050 planning process, WisDOT identified 37 System-level Priority Corridors. The corridor maps identify specific projects; however, the Plan does not guarantee that all potential projects will be implemented. No specific projects were identified within the Plan for the DeForest area.

Wisconsin Healthy Communities (2019-2024)

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has recently started recognizing communities throughout the state on their pursuit of improved public health through the designation of Wisconsin Healthy Communities. The purpose of the designation is to recognize and encourage local efforts that improve the overall community's health and well-being. It also aims to promote collaboration centered around health improvement. Communities are recognized as Gold, Silver, or Bronze depending on how well they are pursuing public health improvement efforts. While DeForest has not formally been recognized to this point, the City of Stoughton has been recognized with a Bronze designation.

Recommendations in this Plan can serve as the foundation for various initiatives that will support the creation of a healthier community in DeForest, including the activation of critical street network connections with multimodal transportation options, increased green space and park connectivity, and community programming at public amenities to support physical and social activity.

PART 4: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The relationship between the Village of DeForest and its natural features and environment provides a valuable point of reference for park and open space planning. It sets up a framework for analysis, suggests possible locational advantages for certain land uses so that they exist in harmony with the community's natural characteristics, highlights key resources that the park and recreation system might feature, and hints at the relationship between the Village and the rest of the region.

In growing communities like the Village of DeForest, planning often focuses on such issues as land use, transportation, and infrastructure. Issues pertaining to natural, cultural, and agricultural resources tend to receive less attention, and sometimes cohesive and consistent goals and policies regarding these features are lacking in a growing community's plan. These resources, however, are critical to the long-term health, vitality, and sustainability of every community. Since these resources also help define a community and strongly affect its quality of life, they must be examined as a part of the planning process. The Village's topography and natural, rural character result in a great backdrop for its parks system and can be particularly exhibited in the parks focused on passive, nature-based recreation.

Because of the vital functions performed by natural, cultural, and agricultural resource features in and around the Village of DeForest, unplanned urban development into these areas is inappropriate and should be discouraged. The incompatibility of urban development within natural resource areas, for instance, can be evidenced by the widespread, serious, and costly problems that are often encountered when development occurs within these areas. Examples of such problems include failing foundations and structures, wet basements, excessive operation of sump pumps, excessive clear water infiltration into sanitary sewers, and poor stormwater drainage.

The Village is located high in the watershed along the Yahara River and is therefore responsible for ensuring that all new or existing development does not negatively impact this important resource. When development is proposed in close proximity to the Yahara River and other natural areas, it is critical that the developer identify how they will address direct environmental impacts such as land and habitat disturbance, vegetation clearing, and the alteration of existing topography as well as secondary impacts such as stormwater runoff, increased impervious surfaces, and other impacts of the development.

The Yahara River in combination with the Village's rural setting combine to help create the community's natural character. In order for the Village to maintain these features that make DeForest desirable to both new and existing residents alike, it must strike a balance between promoting new development and preserving the natural environment. This Plan will examine ways to build upon the community's natural resources and character through coordinated park and recreational facility planning to establish and promote a community identity, while at the same time preserving natural features and overall character that makes DeForest unique.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Landscape and Topography

The topography of the Village has a significant impact on its natural and scenic resources, as well as on the feasibility of new infill, brownfield, and greenfield development, stormwater management, and erosion control. Natural areas include woodlands, wetlands, stream corridors, and other areas that are not farmed or developed and are largely in a natural state.

The physical geography and topography of DeForest is characteristic of the rolling moraine terrain in the central portion of Dane County east of the "driftless" (unglaciated) area. DeForest is located in the Yahara River Basin, a ground moraine area consisting of relatively flat or undulating glacial deposits, including many wetland areas formed by the glaciers from 10,000 to 20,000 years ago. Topographic relief ranges from about 1,030 feet above sea level near Campbell Hill Park to 860 feet above sea level adjacent to Token Creek. The Village lies within the Upper Yahara portion of the Yahara River Basin and the Token Creek basin. The Yahara River and Token Creek provide the predominant surface drainage within the watershed. Both of these are regionally important watersheds.

While highly subjective, scenic beauty and natural characteristics are also an important element of many community identities in this part of the country. Part of the goal of this plan, in conjunction with the Village's adopted Comprehensive Plan, is to ensure that residents can continue to enjoy passive open spaces and vistas of unspoiled nature, while increasing access to existing recreational facilities and incorporating more active recreational resources into the community, such as neighborhood and community parks.

General Soils Information

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining the best and most cost-effective locations for new development. Modern engineering technology and practice can typically overcome most problems associated with the varying characteristics of soil types, however, the financial and environmental costs associated with certain soil quality limitations can be prohibitive to development. Problems that limit development on certain soils include slumping, poor drainage, erosion, steep slopes, and high-water tables. As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service and according to the Soil Survey of Dane County, the soils in the Village of DeForest 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. Areas less suitable for intensive development may be appropriate for parks and recreational spaces. Steep slopes require erosion control efforts.

Soils within the floodplain of the Yahara River and Token Creek include Otter silt loam, Houton much 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 tables and occasional flooding. In the Token Creek floodplain, soils are generally unsuitable for development due to high water tables and hydric conditions. In areas along these water bodies, efforts should be made to reestablish natural vegetation to restore native habitat and provide a natural solution to riverbank erosion.

Productive Agricultural Lands

Agriculture continues to play a role in shaping the character and history of the DeForest area. This agricultural landscape enhances DeForest's aesthetic appeal. Agriculture remains an important part of the economy of the area and the dominant land use in the Towns surrounding the Village. The seasonal changes of growing crops, the colors and textures of farm fields, and the architecturally significant farm buildings all contribute to the rural character of the areas surrounding the Village and passive recreational enjoyment. The area around the Village features an abundance of high-quality agricultural soils of some of the highest quality in the country. The transition of these lands to development uses should only occur following annexation into the Village and the exhaustion of infill development opportunities, consistent with the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Large tracks of land preserved for agricultural use must be maintained and conflicts between agriculture and other land uses must be minimized. To accomplish this, cooperation between the Village and neighboring towns is paramount to guide land use decisions that balance providing opportunities for economic growth with the preservation of a character and way of life that defines the region.

Considering the importance agricultural lands have to the Village's identity, and current relatively high development costs, it is recommended that the Village focus its new development efforts upon those farmlands that are immediately adjacent to current development and infrastructure to maximize the return on the Village's investment in utilities in these areas. Low impact, conservation-oriented farming practices within and adjacent to the Village should be encouraged to try and minimize the conflicts between existing farm operations and adjacent development. It is also recommended that those farmlands comprised of larger or numerous contiguous parcels continue to be farmed as unobtrusively as possible until such time as infrastructure may be extended in a cost-effective manner and development may be accommodated in a compact and efficient manner. Through intergovernmental agreements and carefully planned zoning, the Village should support the long-term farmland preservation of its surrounding area.

Waterways & Stream Corridors

Within the State of Wisconsin, waterways are generally governed as a component of the State's Public Trust Doctrine, as described in Article IX Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution and interpreted over time by Wisconsin Courts and the State Attorney General's office. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the public trust doctrine declares that all navigable waters are "common highways and forever free," and are held in trust by the WDNR for the public. As a result of subsequent citizen action and court decisions, the public interest, once primarily interpreted to protect public rights to transportation on navigable waters, has been broadened to include protected public rights to water quality and quantity, recreational activities, and scenic beauty.

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine requires the state to intervene to protect public rights in the commercial or recreational use of navigable waters. The WDNR, as the state agent charged with this responsibility, can do so through permitting requirements for water projects, through court action to stop nuisances in navigable waters, and through statutes authorizing local zoning ordinances that limit development along navigable waterways. The court has ruled WDNR staff must consider the cumulative impacts of individual projects in their decisions when reviewing projects that could impact Wisconsin lakes and rivers.

Surface water is one of the most important natural resources available in a community. Lakes, rivers, and streams offer enjoyment, peace, and solitude. Surface waters provide recreational and tourism opportunities to anglers, boaters, hunters, water skiers, swimmers, sailors, and casual observers alike. Surface waters provide an end source for drainage after heavy rains, provide habitat for countless plants, fish, and animals, are a source of drinking water for many communities, and are a source of process water for industry and agriculture. Lands immediately adjacent to such waters have an abundance of cultural and archeological significance because they were often the location of Native American and early European settlements. For all these reasons and more, surface waters are typically the most important natural resource a community contains.

Because of their importance, numerous federal, state, and local laws and regulations have been created to protect surface waters. They range from the commerce clause of the United States Constitution to county shoreland and floodplain zoning regulations. The most heavily regulated waters are those that are determined to be natural and "navigable." All lakes, rivers, flowages, ponds, and streams, no matter how small, should be assumed to be navigable until determined otherwise by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). According to the WDNR Waterway and Wetland Handbook: "Using the direction in DeGayner v. D.N.R., 70 Wis. 2d 936 (1975), a stream is navigable-in-fact if it is navigable by canoe or skiff on a recurring basis (i.e., annually during spring thaw) and has a discernable bed and banks."

Map 1 identifies the surface water resources and watersheds within the Village of DeForest. Surface water in the Village drains to Token Creek or directly to the Yahara River.

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. 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 water quality of the Upper Yahara River is good relative to other monitored streams in Dane County. 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.

With the southern expansion of the Village, the Village's planning area now includes the Token Creek. The Token Creek has been subjected to a concerted restoration effort in recent years, spearheaded by the non-profit Token Creek Watershed Association.

The Village considers the Yahara River, Token Creek, and their associated watersheds to be invaluable and irreplaceable resources. The Village takes its role as steward of these resources very seriously and intends to ensure that sensitive surface waters, wetlands, and groundwater resources within these watershed areas are maintained and enhanced.

Drainage Basin & Wetlands

The Village of DeForest is located in the Upper Yahara portion of the Yahara River Basin and the Token Creek basin. There are 257 acres of wetland in the Dane County region according to the Dane County Land Conservation Department. The significant wetlands located in the DeForest area are associated with floodplains. Wetlands are found in the northwest, central, and southwest parts of DeForest along the Yahara River. Many of the wetlands in the surrounding area have been drained through the use of drainage ditches for agricultural practices. As the municipalities and towns of this watershed continue to grow, stormwater management and construction site erosion control have become more important.

Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are composites of the best elements of a natural resource base occurring in a linear pattern on the landscape. In Dane County, environmental corridors and environmentally sensitive areas are part of a countywide system of continuous open space consisting of rivers, streams, wetlands, floodways, and woodlands. These corridors are essential to the maintenance of ecological balance and diversity and the preservation of natural beauty. Because environmental corridors are located in developed and developing areas, it is important to preserve and protect them as natural open space. Doing so serves the dual purpose of protecting environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources from disturbance and development and/or reserving lands needed for open space and recreational uses.

Environmental corridors generally lie along the Yahara River environmental corridor, DeForest's conservancy areas, and undisturbed natural areas on the edges of developed farmland. Environmental corridor features include:

- Surface waters and their undeveloped shorelands and floodlands
- Wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitats
- Rugged terrain and high relief topography
- Parks
- Unique vegetation or geology

Almost all of Dane County's remaining high-value wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat areas, major bodies of surface water, delineated shorelands, and floodlands are contained within these corridors. They also provide recreational, scenic, and historic value through existing and potential recreation sites, scenic areas and vistas, and scientifically significant areas.

Environmental corridors are the most important individual elements of a natural resource base and have immeasurable environmental, ecological, and recreational value. Because of this, protection of environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, is an essential objective of this Plan. In addition, while inappropriate for development, environmental corridors can be ideal locations for passive recreational opportunities like trails, nature-oriented parks, and other low impact recreational uses. In general, these areas are protected from development and are maintained in their existing agricultural, conservation, or open space use. Within the Village, the most significant environmental corridors are those that follow the Yahara River and Token Creek. This environmental corridor is vital to the community's drainage, water quality, recreation, wildlife habitat, and open space amenities.

Woodlands Areas

Woodlands in DeForest are generally limited to areas associated with steep slopes and waterways, such as the Yahara River and Token Creek. It is highly unlikely that the woodlands along these water bodies will be developed due to the presence of wetlands in this area, but their preservation should be ensured. Even small areas of woods provide habitat for songbirds and small mammals, as well as enjoyment for the general public. Other areas of preserved woodlands are scattered throughout the Village and the surrounding area. There are several wooded areas located in the Conservancy Place development area east of River Road, in the Village and in the Town of Windsor east of Highway 51, around Cherokee Marsh, and in the Town of Vienna west of Highway I.

Wildlife Habitat & Rare Species Occurrences

WDNR's Natural Heritage Inventory program maintains data on the general location and status of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species. This data is obtained through field inventory. Areas of wet mesic prairie and floodplain forest still exist around DeForest, containing several rare plants. There are several species or ecological communities that are sensitive or of special concern within DeForest's planning area, either in the Village or its surrounding towns. These include one bird, four species of invertebrates, five types of plants, and five types of ecological communities. Effective protection of natural communities helps maintain populations of many native plants and animals, their interactions, and the ecological processes upon which they are dependent. More specific information on location and type of species is available from the WDNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Climate

Climate is an important consideration for determining the range of recreational activities that should be provided for in the Village. The DeForest area has a continental climate characterized by significant changes in weather. Winters are cloudy, cold, and snowy. Lakes and rivers usually begin to freeze over in December and remain ice covered until March. During the spring, periods of warm weather alternate with cold spells. By the end of March, nearly all precipitation is in the form of rain. Summers are warm and at times hot and humid. Cool periods are also common during the summer months. Fall is generally mild during the day with cool clear nights. The change from fall to winter is often abrupt, as is the change from summer to fall.

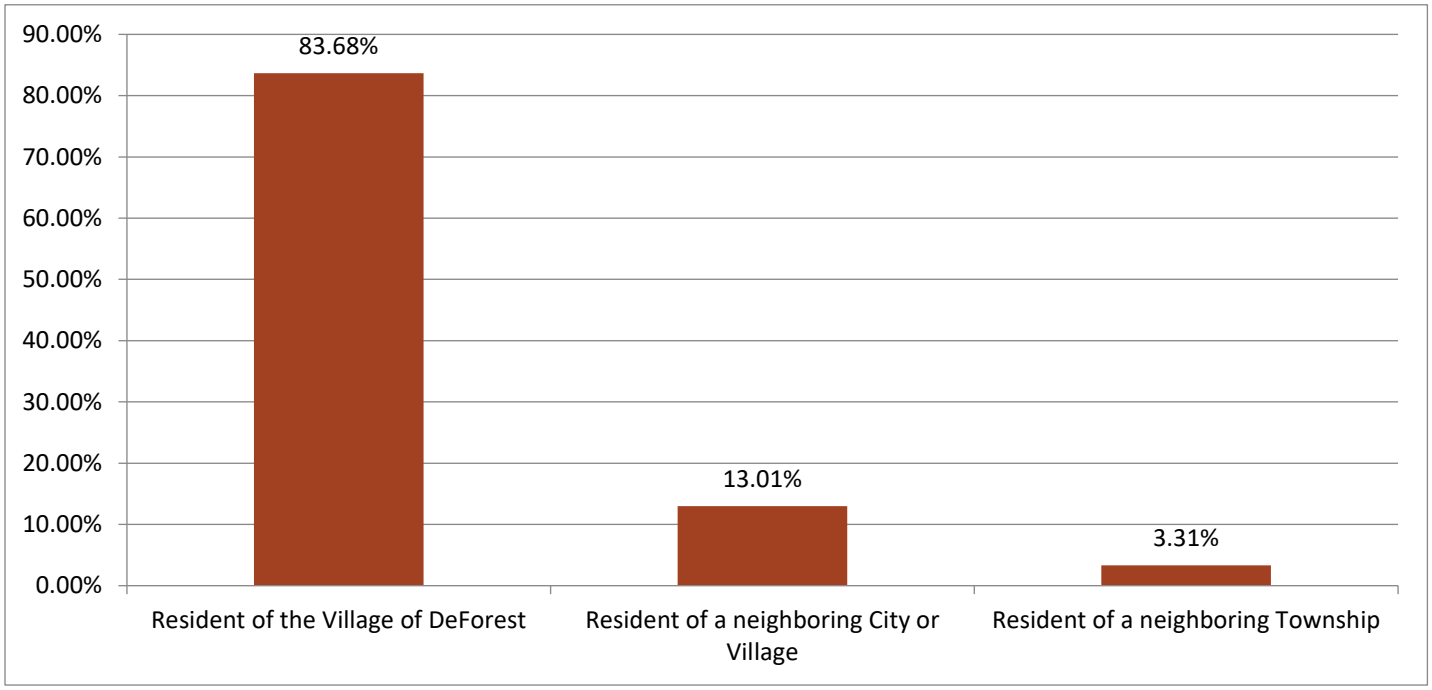
PART 5: PUBLIC INPUT RESPONSES

ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

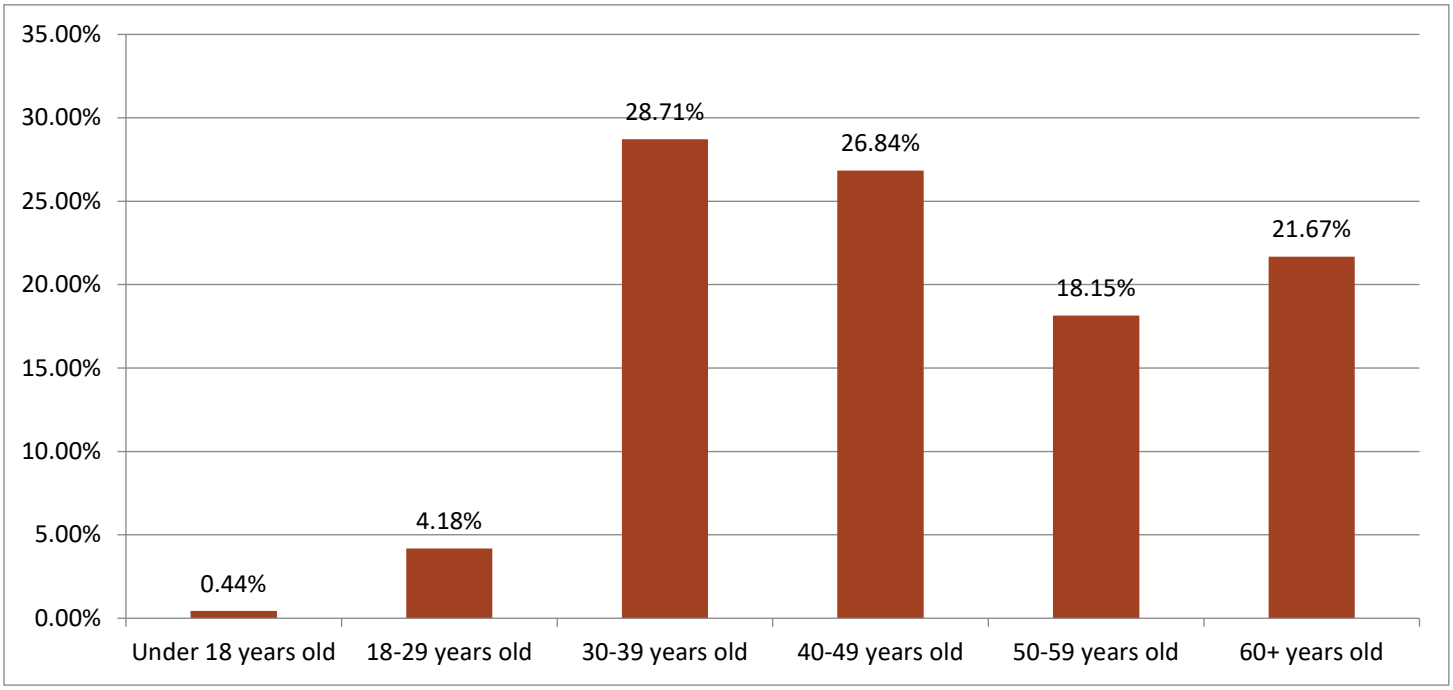
The Village of DeForest conducted an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey from April 1, 2024 to April 22, 2024. In total, 912 people provided feedback. Overall, the survey focused on obtaining public opinion and feedback on the current levels of park use, current conditions, and future needs of the DeForest park and recreation system.

The results of the survey, along with the other public input generated during the process, were used to form the core recommendations of the Plan. The following is a summary of all responses received. In many cases, percentages total to more than 100 percent, as respondents were allowed to select more than one response. Additionally, comments written-in were summarized and inventoried below.

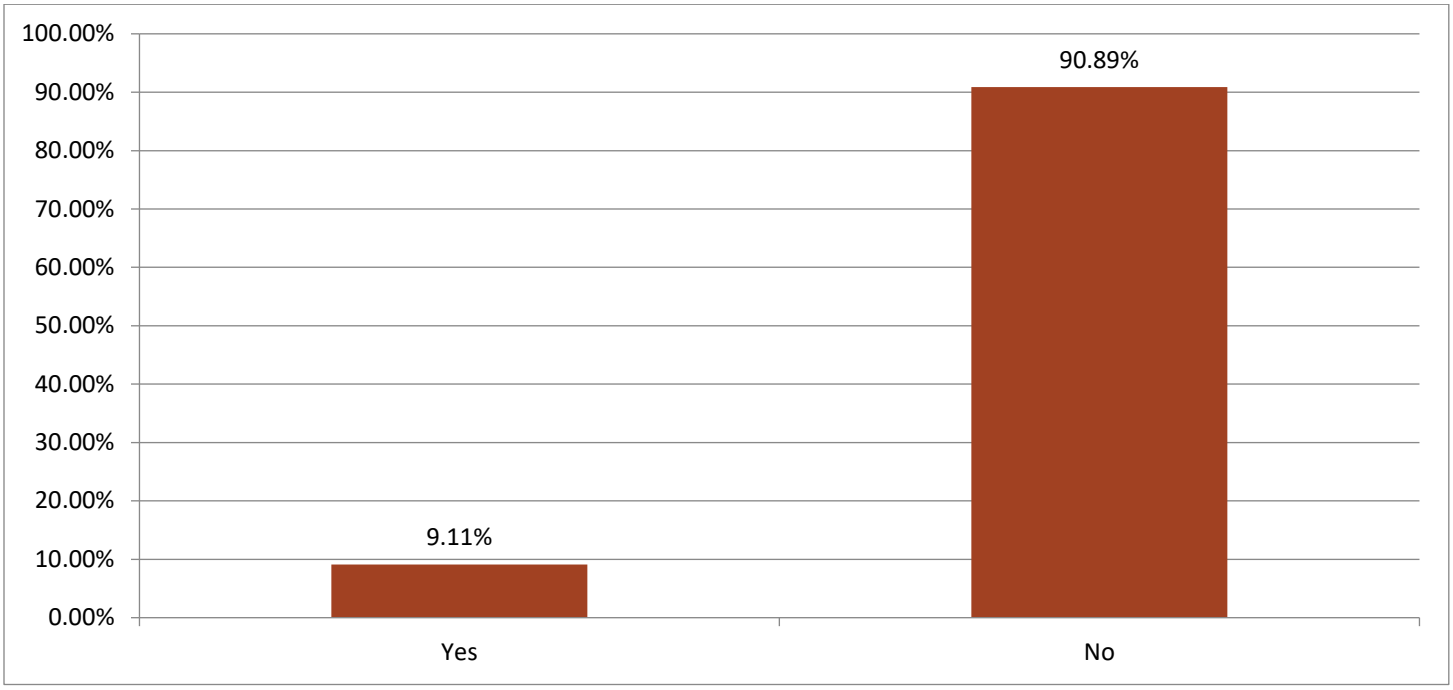
Question 1: Please select the statement that best describes where you live.



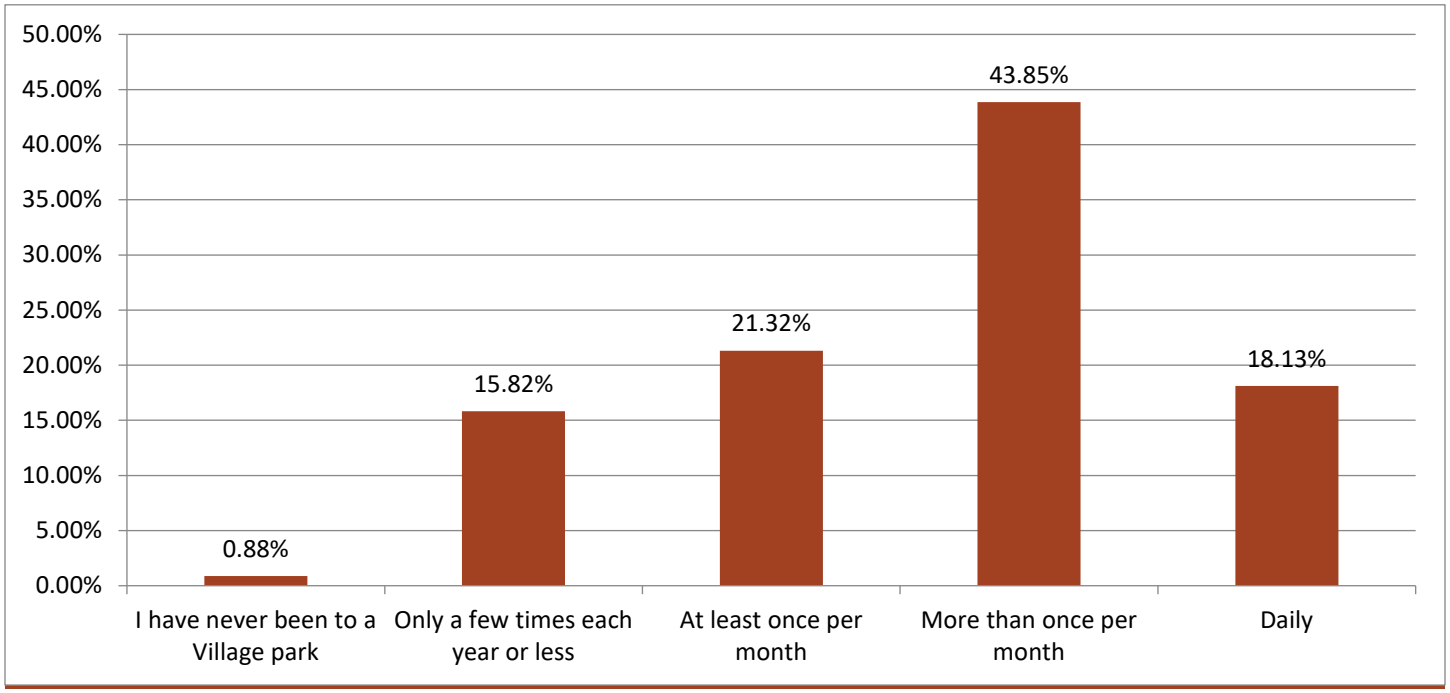
Question 2: What is your age?



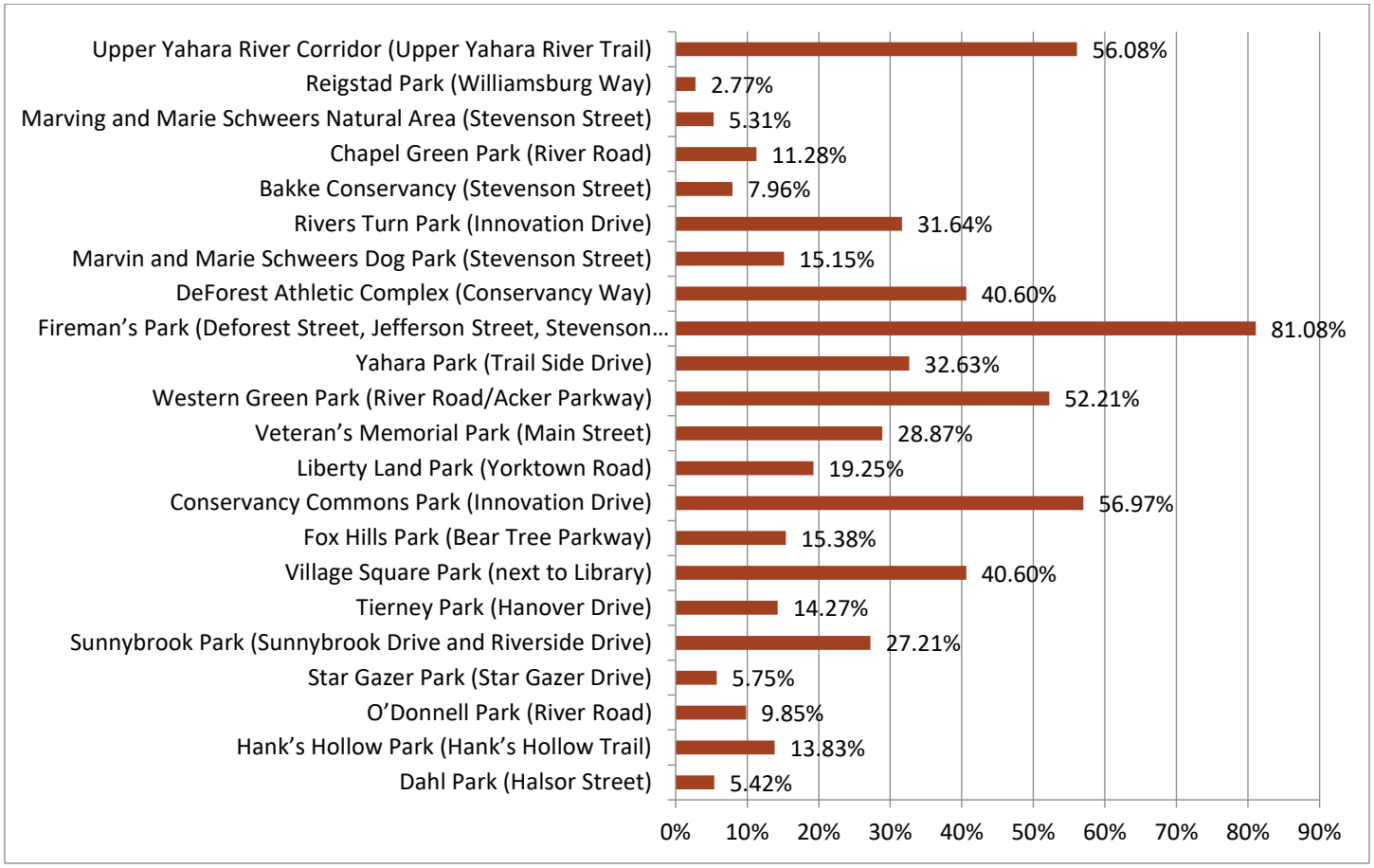
Question 3: Do any members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?



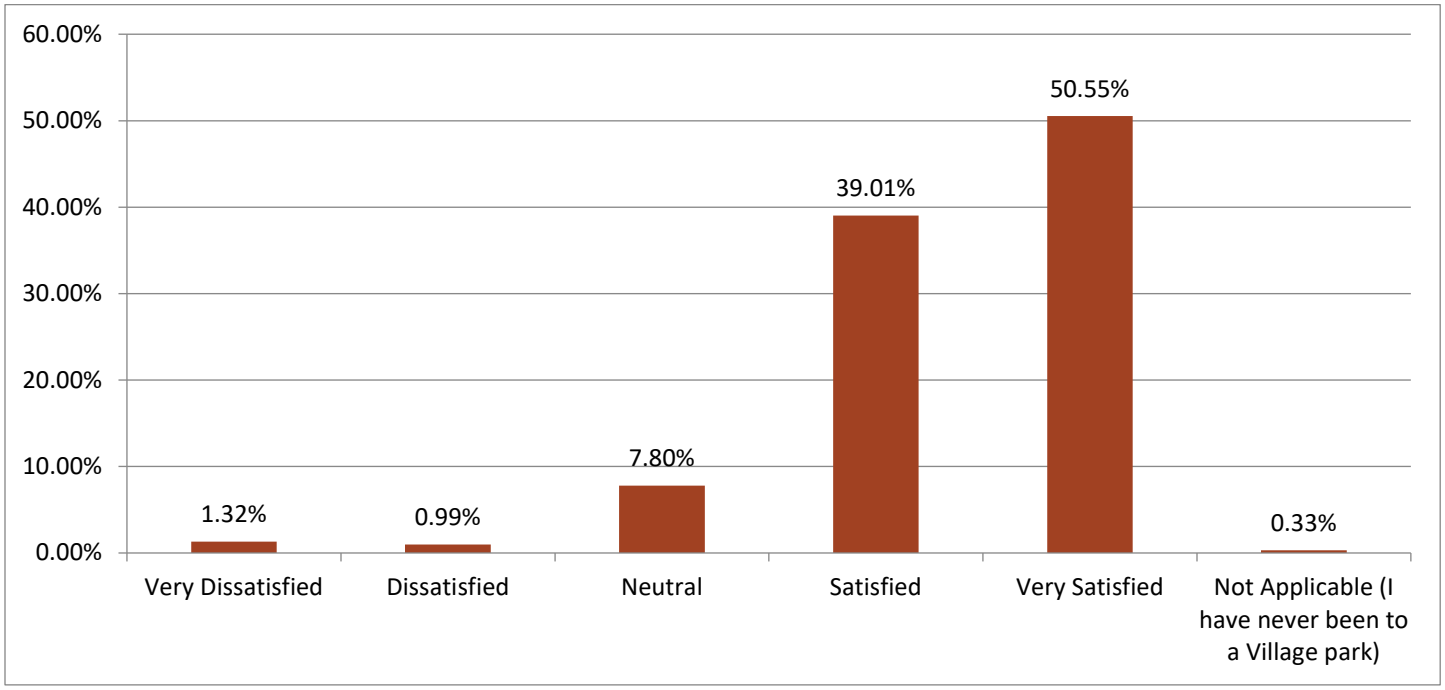
Question 4: How often do you or members of your household visit a Village park?



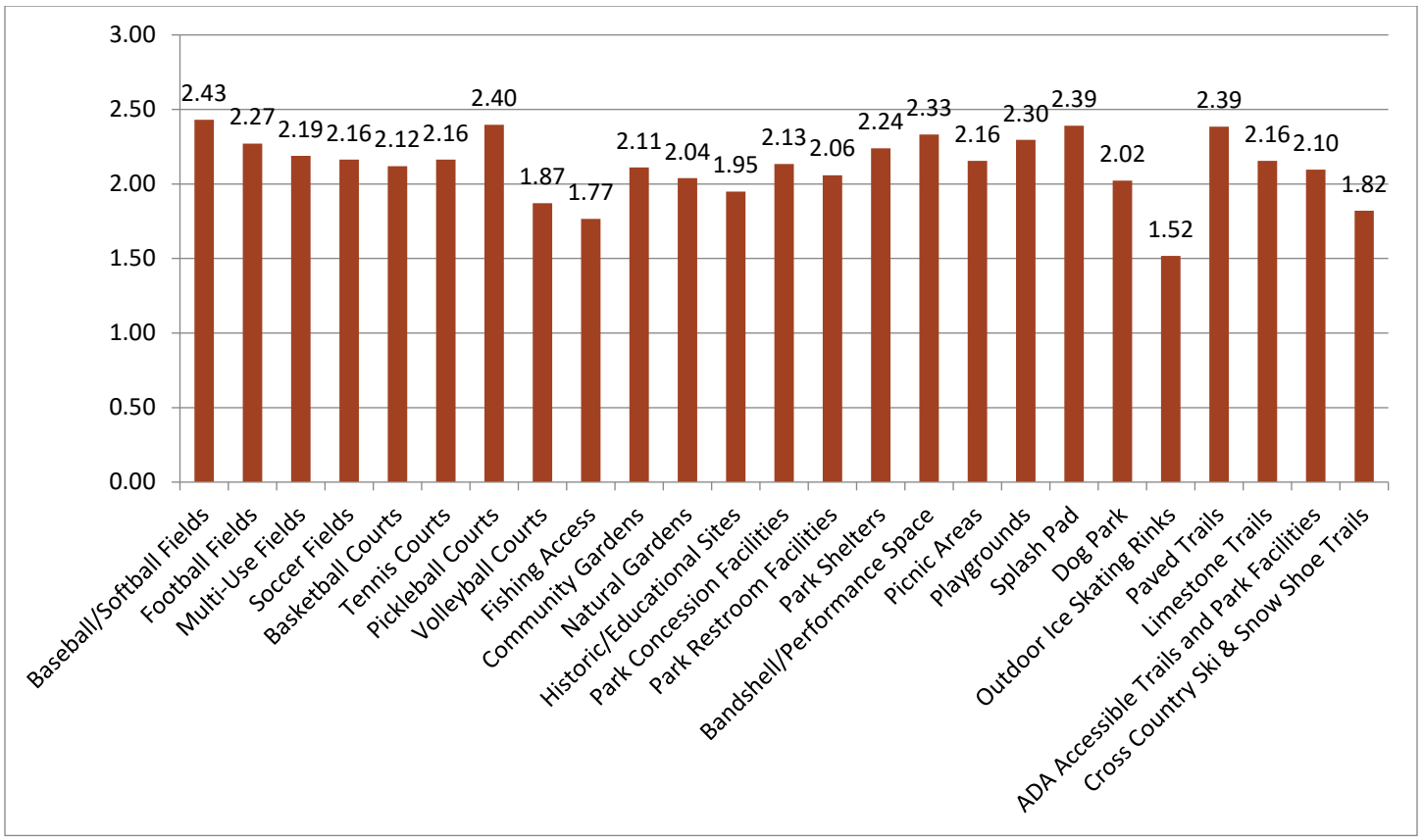
Question 5: If you or anyone in your household has visited a Village park in the past year, which location(s) did you visit? (Select all that apply)



Question 6: Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the level of maintenance and appearance of the Village's parks?

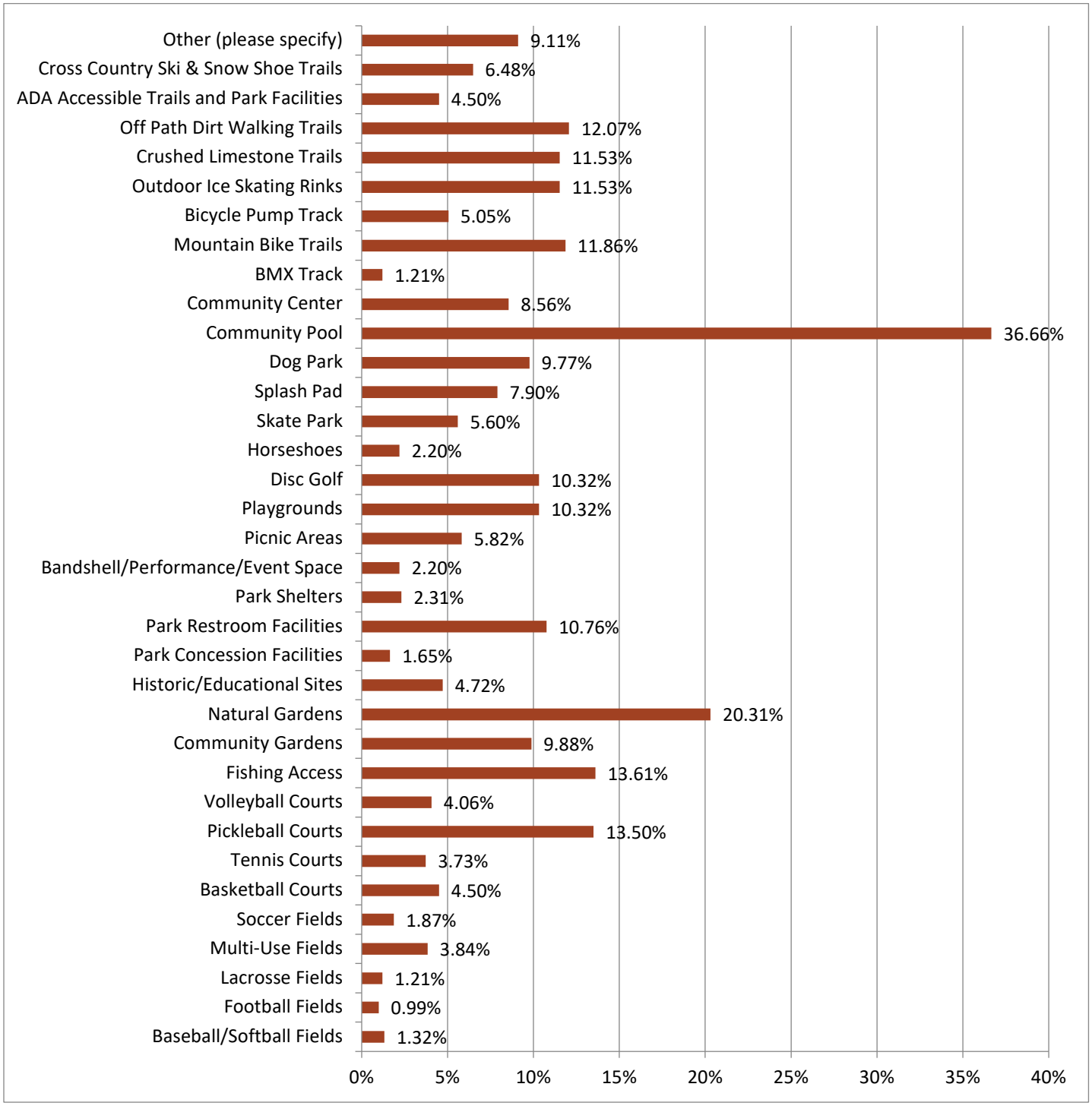


Question 7: Please indicate the overall condition of each type of existing recreational facility that DeForest offers. (Excellent / Good / Need Improvement/Poor / Not Applicable)



Weighted average includes all responses gathered and weighted for Excellent (3), Good (2), and Needs Improvement (1) selected choices. All No Opinion responses were removed from the weighted analysis.

Question 8: Which of the following types of recreation facilities would you like to see more of in DeForest? (Please select your top three from the list below)



Other Comments (82 responses):

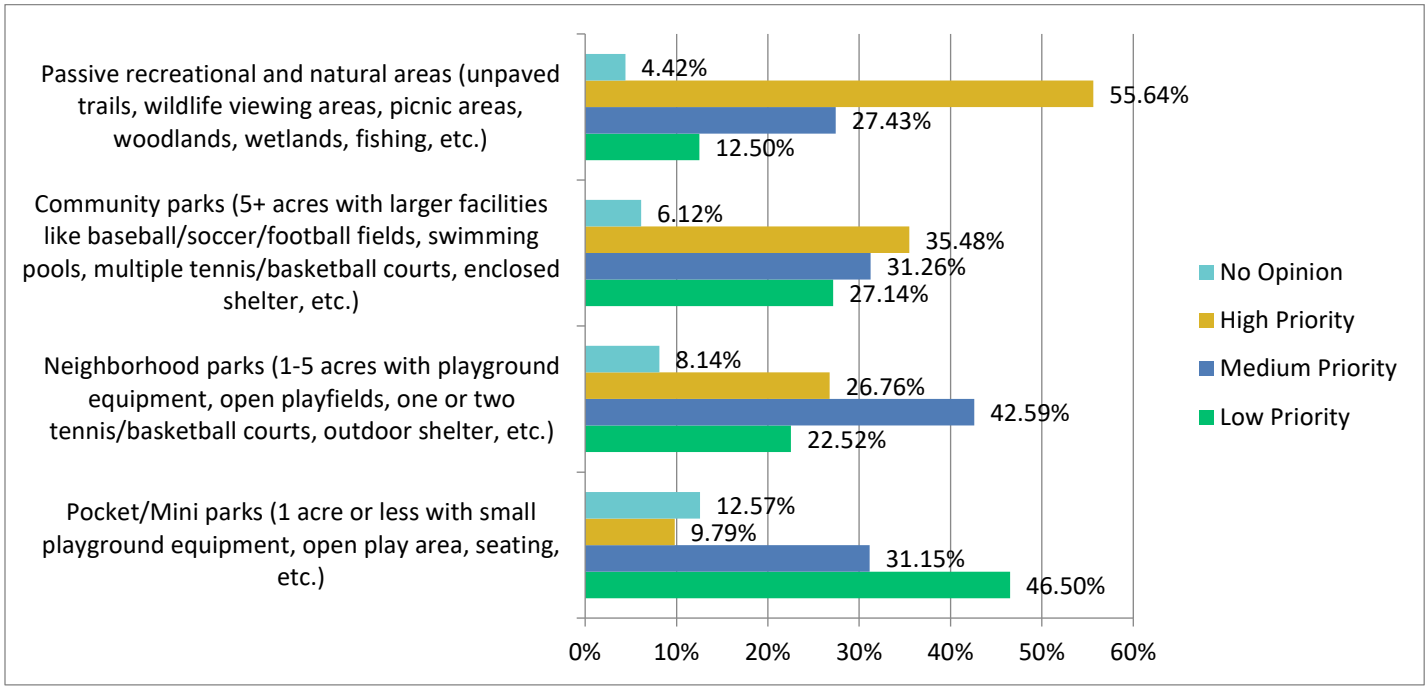
Positive Feedback Summary: River seating/access and swim area are appreciated, paved trails are wonderful, more trees are desired around newer parks to help with wind, skate park is desired (note: indoor and outdoor facilities bot mentioned), suggestions for repositioning the bandshell for better comfort during concerts, natural conservancy areas are highly valued, desire for mountain bike trails and promotion of non-contact sports activities for kids, outdoor ping pong tables are suggested, winter port-potties or other restrooms on paved trails are requested, desire for a hockey rink, running track, and quarter track, positive feedback on the current state of facilities given the size of DeForest.

Suggestions for Improvement Summary: Indoor athletic facility for multi-purpose use, addition of badminton facilities, desire for indoor ice skating facility, shaded areas and playgrounds at parks - especially the sports complex, request for more trash cans along the trails, desire for more natural areas for wildlife habitat and quiet enjoyment, mixed opinions about the number of disc golf courses, request for off-road motorcycle areas, desire for running trails and bocce ball courts, more green spaces with trees are desired, continued paving and expansion of walking/biking trails, desire for parks that allow dogs, request for a pool facility, request to maintain current natural spaces and focus on First Nations historical sites and engagement with the Ho Chunk Tribe, desire for canoe/kayak launching sites, desire for more bike trails and trail connections to other municipalities, desire for a recreation center for children and teens, desire for upgrades to current parks and splash pads, request for tennis courts and sand volleyball courts, request for more walking trails connecting the east and west sides of the community, request for porta-potties on the Upper Yahara River Trail.

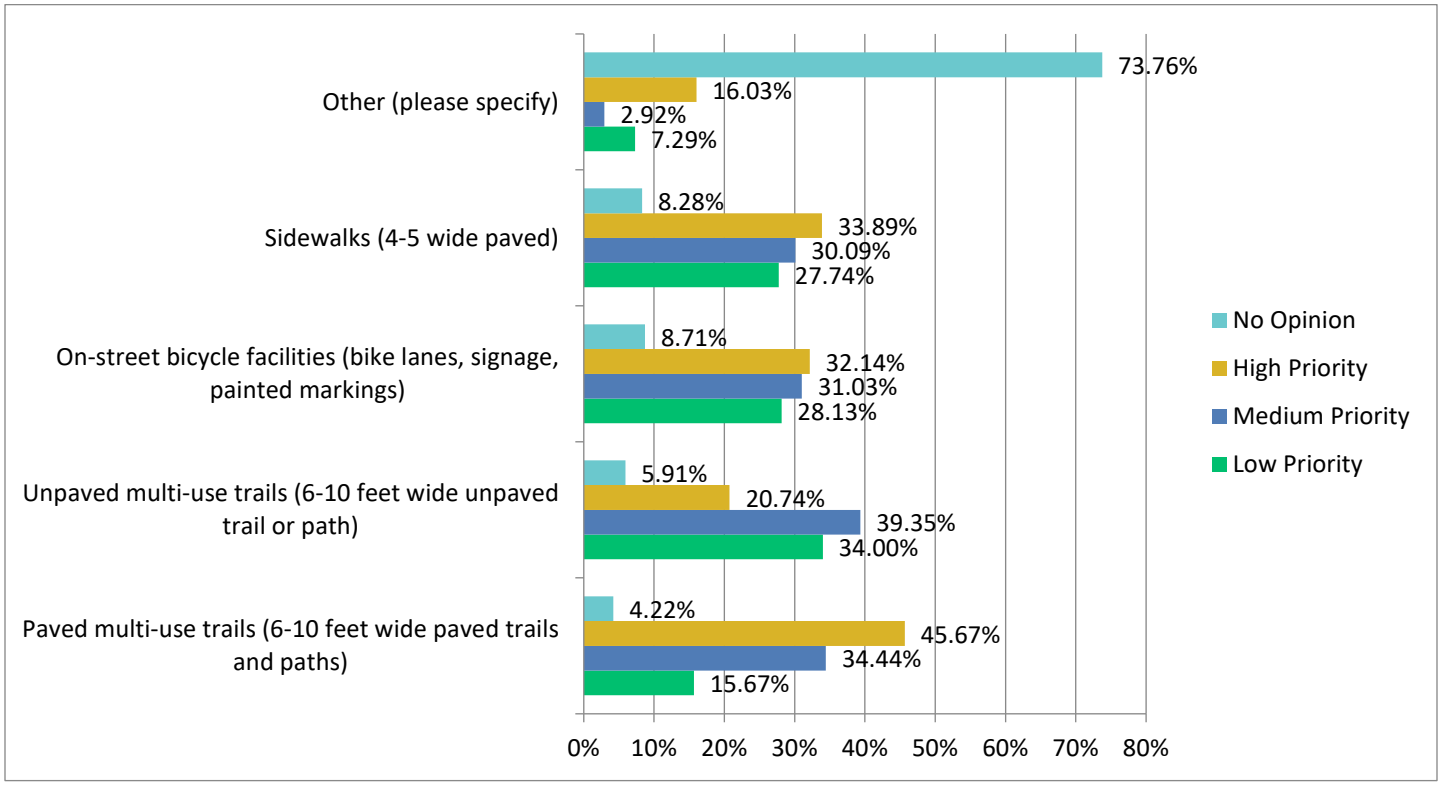
All Comments
River seating/river access, river swim areas
Paved trails are wonderful!
More trees surrounding newer parks to help with wind
Skate park (Note on pool: indoor & outdoor facility)
band shell shouldn't burn up the musicians. re-position for everyone to be comfortable at our concerts?
Natural Conservancy areas by far #1
We have ample space for mountain bike trails which help kids and also maintain a space for wildlife and natural areas. The mountain bike team promotes activity for kids that don't want contact sports and is needed in our community.
Outdoor ping pong tables
Winter porta-potties or other restrooms on the paved trails
Hockey Rink
Running track/quarter track
Everything is pretty good for the size of deforest
None
Indoor athletic facility (multi purpose use)
Badminton
indoor ice skating
Shaded areas at parks, playground at the sports complex
a few more trash cans along the trails are needed
Natural areas for wildlife habitat, walking and quiet enjoyment
Disc golf
None. There are too many already.
Not directly related, the community needs a larger grocery presence.
Off road motorcycle area
Running trails
Bocce Courts
Green spaces with trees
continue to pave all walking/bike trails and add to them
Or parks that allow dogs. As a tax payer invested a lot in children play areas. Many families have dogs and children and would like all in the family a place to play.
Let's get a proper pool!!
We need more things to do for the age group between 15-20.
None,we have enough already.
No bike trails
Maintaining current natural spaces, such as the conservancy land in Conservancy Place
canoe/kayak launching sites
Lawn bowling courts
Please no more funding for baseball - we are overbuilt. Need more focus on First Nations historical sites / engagement with HoChunk tribe
Bike trail along CV
Bicycle trails
Trails specifically for bikes, e skate boards. It's not sage to use trails with folks using them too who have e equipment or who use mountain bikes off trail and cut people off on the trail
More trail connections to other municipalities for extended biking and running

More Bike Paths. Paved or Gravel.
Pool
Natural Areas
Disc golf course
Conservation Areas
Wildlife/bird
Hiking trails
Safe quite walking paths to enjoy nature and wildlife
Upgrade current parks, splash pads
Rec center or something for tween/teens. They are bored in this town especially with bowling alley falling apart. So all they do it cause trouble
Don't need any
Natural areas to sustain wildlife
Golf course
Very happy with existing facilities and opportunities
Protected natural areas
Paved bike trails
I love the conservancy and would love it even more if it could be expanded and left alone. It's gorgeous, peaceful and a safe haven for many animals. It's incredibly sad and sickening to see it slowly chipped away for poorly built, cookie cutter duplexes and subdivisions.
Canopies or shade structures over some of the park benches on the Western Green trail.
No Pool!
Bocce ball courts
Sand Volleyball
Place for older kids to enjoy
Walking paths in nature not neighborhood
No further parks are needed before roads get improved
A tennis court with a hitting wall—please!!
Kayak access places
Rec center for tweens
Walking trails that connect East and West sides of Deforest. Walking/biking trails/sidewalks along cty hwy v, Windsor Rd. and Holum st.
Recreation center for all activities
More shade and seating
None
Nothing
Nothing, already sufficiently developed
Outdoor pool
None. We have a huge density of parks and spend a ton of money on it already and what we need to do is maintain what we have without increasing expenses any further.
Bocce courts?
Add. Bocce Courts - probably just one location, but at least 4 courts, good quality bed
water fountains at trail heads
Porta Potty(s) on the Upper Yahara River trail please

Question 9: Which of the following types of parks would you like to see more of in DeForest? For each category below, indicate the level of priority. (Low Priority, Medium Priority, High Priority, No Opinion)



Question 10: Which of the following types of active transportation would you like to see more of in the DeForest? For each category below, indicate the level of priority. (Low Priority, Medium Priority, High Priority, No Opinion)



Other Comments (76 responses):

Positive Feedback Summary: More Pickleball courts are requested, desire for sidewalks on both sides of the street, positive feedback on recent improvements to river road and Windsor Road, desire for canoe/kayak launch locations with improvements, suggestions for signage and rules/regulations throughout parks, desire for mountain bike trails to prepare young kids for biking and NICA teams, request for outdoor ice rinks and cross-country ski trails, desire for bike repair stations along the Yahara Park Trail, request for street lights in neighborhoods, desire for an outdoor aquatic center, request for park signage/marketing, desire for bike lanes or trails on Hwy V, request for buses to Madison and Portage, desire for bike repair stations along the Yahara Park Trail, desire for walking/biking accommodations along Hwy V, request for crosswalks on Main Street, desire for outdoor roller/inline skating rink, request for all-terrain wheelchairs for residents or visitors to use, desire for better street lights on some residential streets, request for better connection/walking/biking for main roads like County V and North Town Road, desire for an off-road bike trail system.

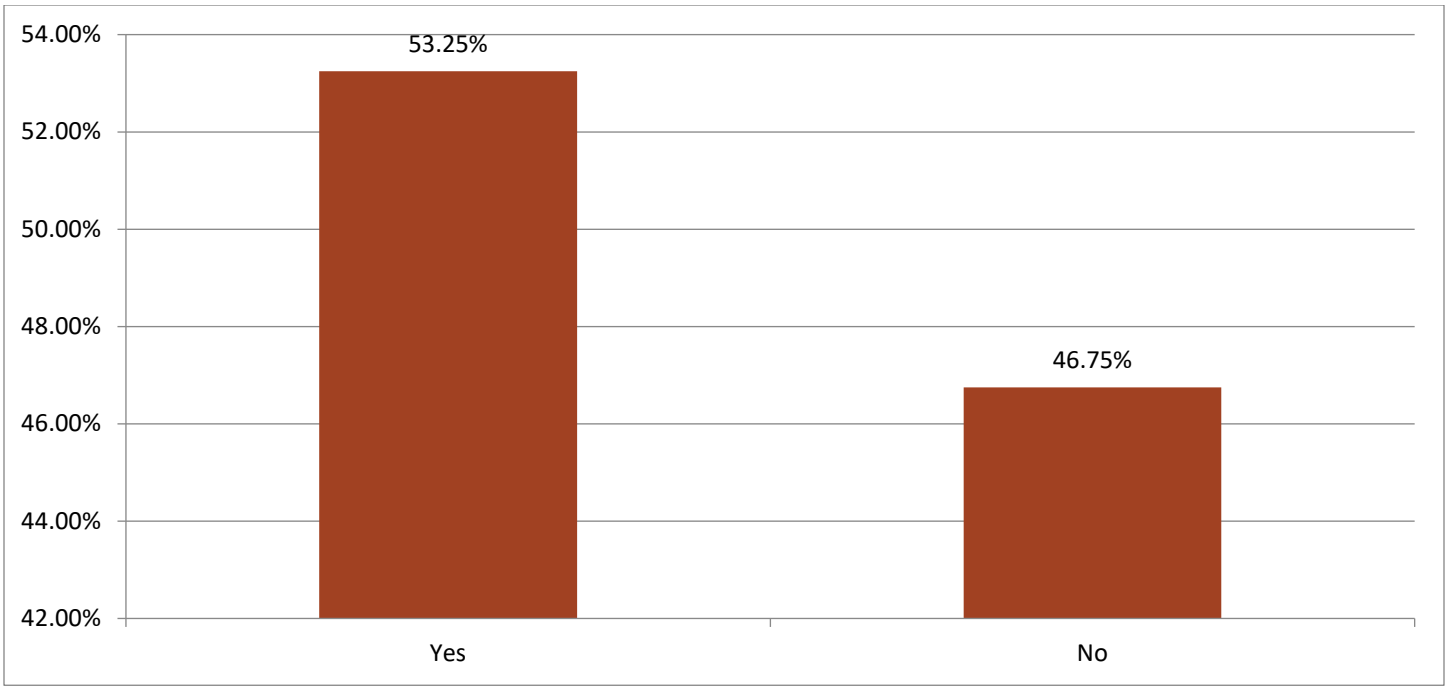
Suggestions for Improvement Summary: desire for more mountain bike trails, desire for better connection of existing trails, desire for dirt mountain bike trails, request for smaller trails, desire to make the village more walkable with sidewalks or connected trails, desire for painted lanes at high school streets instead of bike lanes, desire for safe crossing over Highway 19, desire for undeveloped natural areas, request for parking lots for those accessing trails on Innovation Drive, desire for bike route signs and maps, suggestions for BMX and mountain biking in conservancy areas, desire for crosswalks/pedestrian crossing lights for entrances to parks, request for bike lanes, desire for a community pool, priority on maintaining current facilities without increasing costs.

All Comments
More Pickleball courts please
Bike trail connecting to token creek
Require sidewalks on both sides of the street
Mountain Bike Trails
Mountain bike trails
Mountain bike trails
MTB Trail
Mountain bike trails
provide more access for unmotorized trails combining with Windsor trails since our communities are intermingled

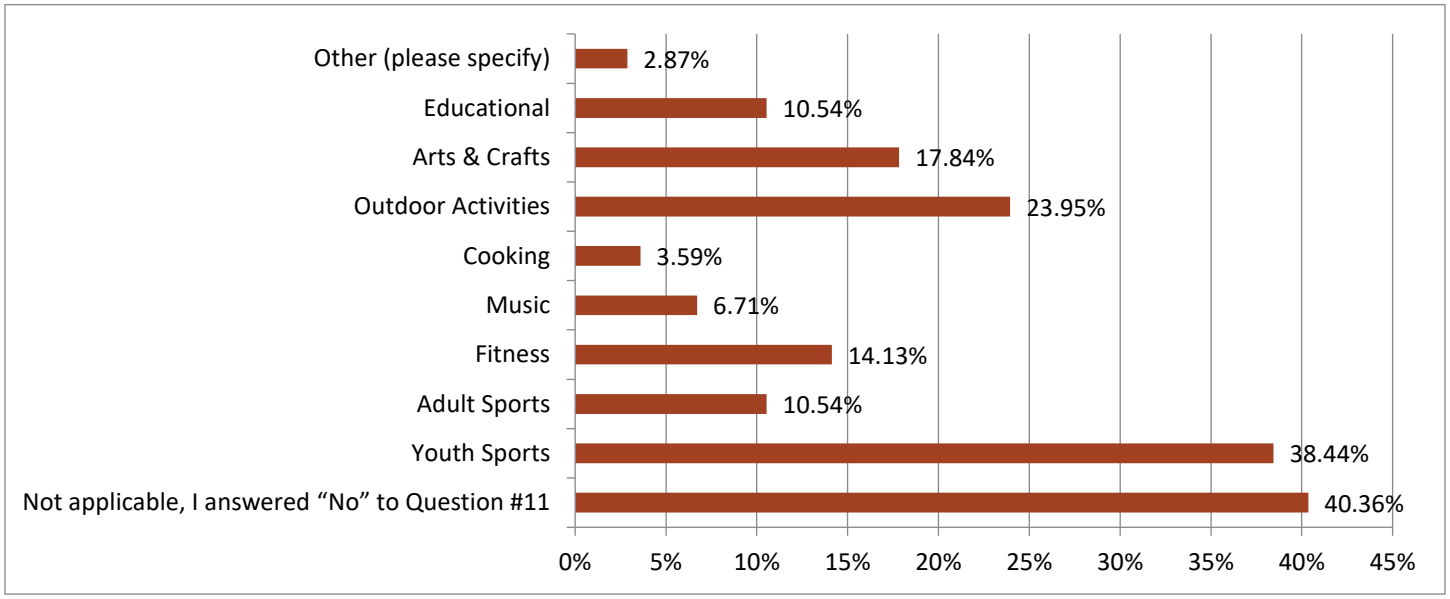
Mountain bike trails
Canoe \ kayak launch locations with improvements. Large limestone steps for instance.
Added rules and regulations signage throughout.
Mountain bike trails to prep young kids for lifetime biking and Nica teams.
A safe way to leave Savannah Brooks by foot or bike
Bike lane or trail on Hwy V - SUPER dangerous road
Off-road mountain bike trails like Quarry Ridge, Seminole, Blackhawk,
Outdoor ice rinks
10' paths sound nice until they go through my front yard
Badminton court
Continuing to connect neighborhoods with bike paths or wide sidewalks. Excited for the improvements that were made on river road and Windsor rd.
Disc golf course
Please maintain the currently paved trails where they are cracking, buckling and eroding.
Buses to Madison and portage
Do NOT destroy exiting parks with Disc golf or BMX trails
Street lights in neighborhoods
Would like an outdoor aquatic center
Park signage/marketing
Community pool
bike repair stations along the Yahara Park Trail
walking/biking accommodations along hwy V
Lake rd from Deforest to Windsor needs a path for bikers, walkers
Places and walkways to allow dogs.
We have enough.
Cross-country ski trails and outdoor ice rink
NA
PLEASE to bike safety!!!!
Bike trail OR bike lane next to CV
We need a pool and a disc golf course
mtn. bike trails
Mountain bike trails
Need more crosswalks on Main Street
Connecting the bike paths, traffic lights to help with this, especially connecting savannah Brooks neighborhood
Outdoor roller/inline skating rink
It would be great to have some all terrain wheelchairs for residents or visitors to use
Better street lights on some residential streets
MTB Singletrack
Mountain bike trail system
mountain bike trails
Sidewalks on lake street to get to the parks and paths
Dirt mountain bike trails
Trails that are smaller than 6ft
It would be nice to make the village more walkable (sidewalks or connect trails)
Why can’t you paint lanes at high school streets instead of wasting money on bike lanes?
Safe crossing over 19
Undeveloped natural areas
Community pool
Canoe "Trail"
Most important is to make sure the trails connect up.
Better connection/walking/biking for the main roads. County V (yes I know its county, but there must be a way to push this) and north town road. Many older kids/teens would like easy walking and biking access from that side of Windsor to over by the high school/Fireman’s park area. North town rd is unsafe to do so as is
Off road bike trails
We need a space for family’s to enjoy mountain bikes. There is a shortage of trails in the area, it’s a half hour drive to the nearest trails and not safe to ride on roads to get to them.

More bmx trails in conservancy
NO MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
Mountain bike trails
Mountain bike trails in DeForest
Crushed limestone walking paths
Path connecting innovation drive to town along CV
There needs to be parking lots for those accessing trails on innovation drive. The street is too busy for two lane traffic and two sided parking.
Bike route signs and maps
Mountain bike trails
BMX and Mountain biking in conservancy areas.
There is no need for a bike trail in this community
Cross walks/pedestrian crossing lights for entrances to parks
Bike lanes, bike lanes, bike lanes!!!
Community Pool
Cross country ski trails
Maintaining what we have without increasing costs is the highest priority of everything

Question 11: Do you or does someone in your household participate in recreational programming in DeForest?



Question 12: If you answered "Yes" to Question #11, what types of programs do you or a member of your family participate in? (select all that apply)



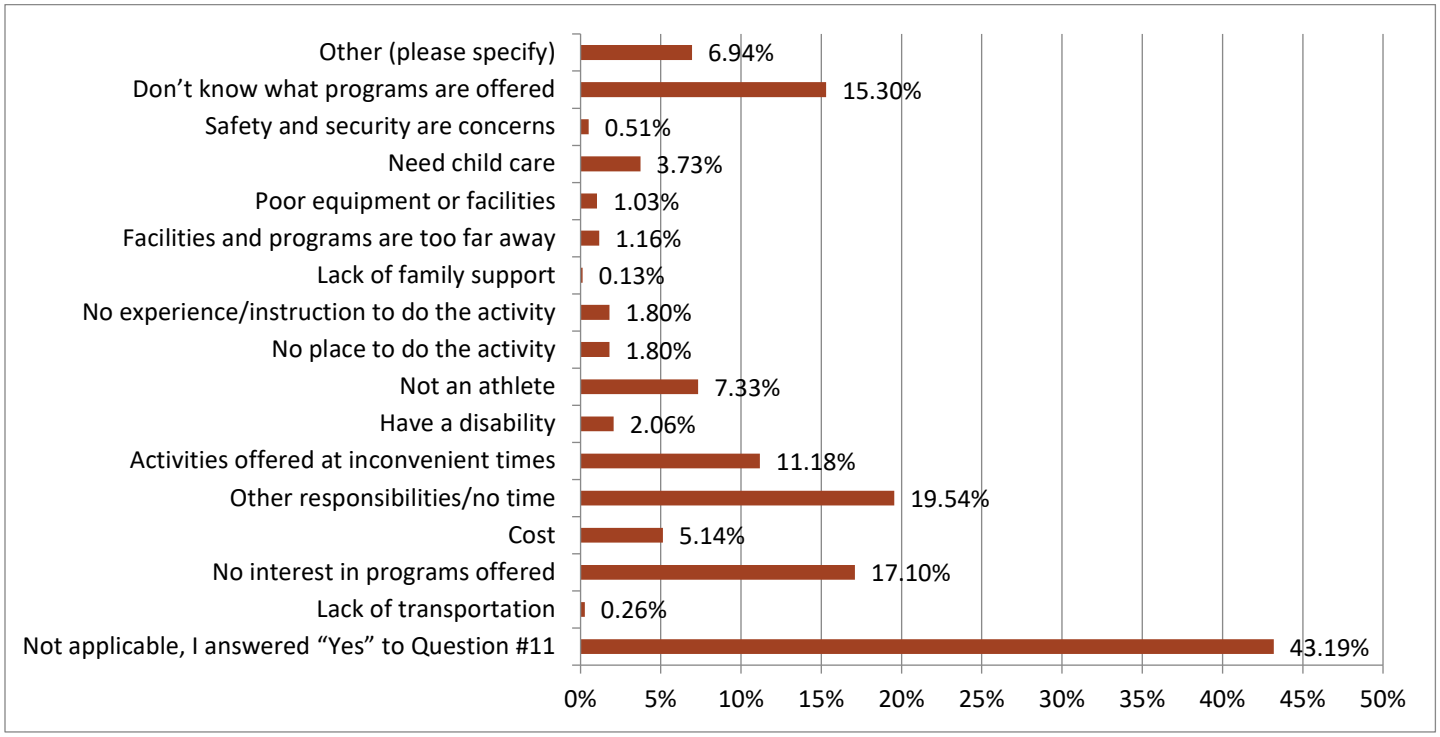
Other Comments (23 responses):

Positive Feedback Summary: Interest in summer camps and police department activities, positive feedback on youth sports and other programming, interest in Fireman's Park and library activities, desire for adult yoga classes, interest in horse experience classes, desire for kid home safety and babysitting classes, interest in river clean-up events, interest in Werq classes, desire for elder classes, love for the Farmers Market, interest in dance classes, desire for indoor winter sports, especially pickleball, interest in children's activities, including mountain biking, interest in community gardens, desire for bird-watching activities.

Suggestions for improvement: Desire for more affordable options for community programs and activities, mixed opinion on taxpayer subsidization of community programs, with some suggesting that user fees should cover 100% of costs.

All Comments
Summer Camps
Police department activities
We are not aware of these programs before now
Mainly youth sports but the other programming looks interesting too.
Fireman's Park and library activities
Yoga adult
horse experience class
Kid home along safety, babysitting
River Clean Up
Werq
Elder classes
Farmers Market we love.
Dance
Indoor winter sports…pickleball
Children activities
Mountain biking
Dance
More affordable options
Dance
community gardens
Babysitting
Bird watching
We used to participate and the taxpayers should not be subsidizing any of this including the director of recreation position. User fee should cover 100% of these costs.

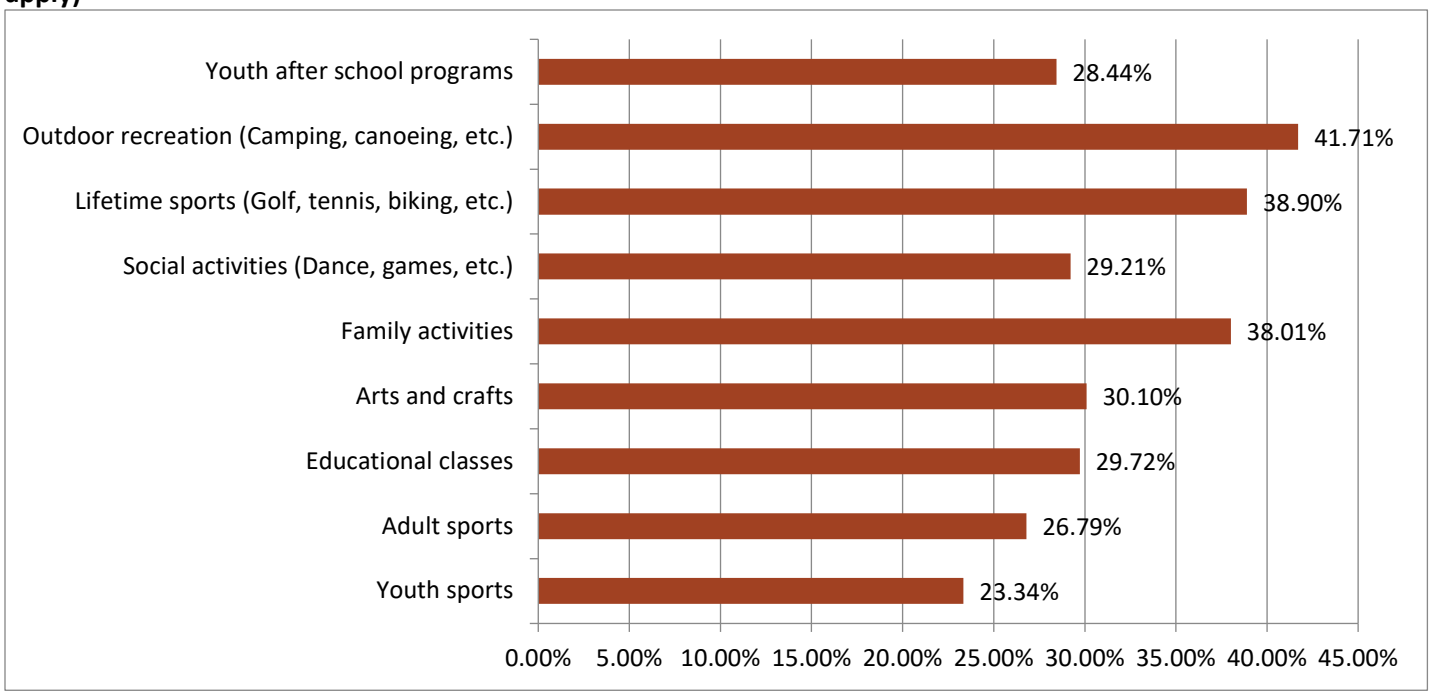
Question 13: If you answered "No" to Question #11, what is the main reason(s) you don't participate in recreational programs at this time? (select all that apply)



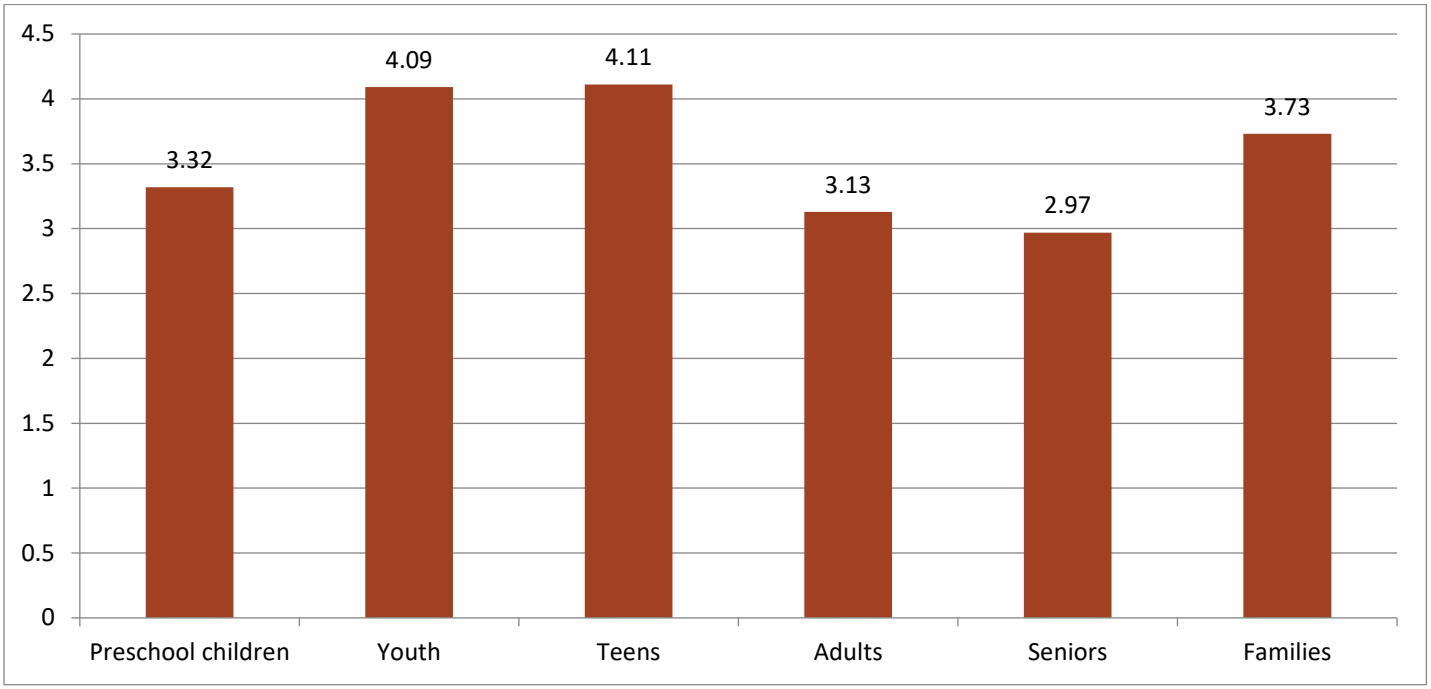
All Comments
Lack of time
Will be participating in the future
I live in Madison, but will travel for disc golf!
Not living in town
Have no kids
Prefer club sports
Back to back surgeries
I enjoy free time alone walking our natural areas
we need to have mountain bike trails for the deforest mountain bike team. There is ample space and this use promotes wildlife and natural areas
Children aged out of park and rec
Health reasons
Lack of communication
One child needs accommodation
Just moved here
New to area
Too much money spent on pandering g to parks
Lack of programs for toddlers
Member at Sun Prairie Athletic club
No Parking
Would like more workout classes for adults
Have infant children that take up all my time
Busy with young children so will be using more in the future.
Age mostly, we hike, bike and enjoy the outdoors.
Not enough offerings, lack rec programming that is if interest to me or any of my children
Many areas don't allow dogs.
No community pool to swim in
I walk and bike almost everyday on the trails.
Club volleyball
Old age
Too much effing baseball seriously

live in a neighboring community
I go to waunakee village center for their fitness gym and facilities. Deforest does not have the same for folks 50 and above
More of a solo athlete
More programs needed for young adults 13yo -16yo
Programs get filled too quickly
Participate elsewhere
Kidd are to old,participated in everything when they were younger
I'm a daily walker on Upper Yahara River trail
Not enough pickleball courts
Need for more senior citizen activities
Time of program
no kids
Age
Windsor is now considered non resident yet we are Deforest school district and Deforest for many other things.
Have other priorities
Do not live in deforest
Park in our neighborhood needs new updated equipment
Often not enough spots open
Children not old enough yet
Not welcoming to minorities
Recently moved here
Use the programs at the community center currently
Don't know people involved
Hate the noise in my backyard that's now a poorly planned park

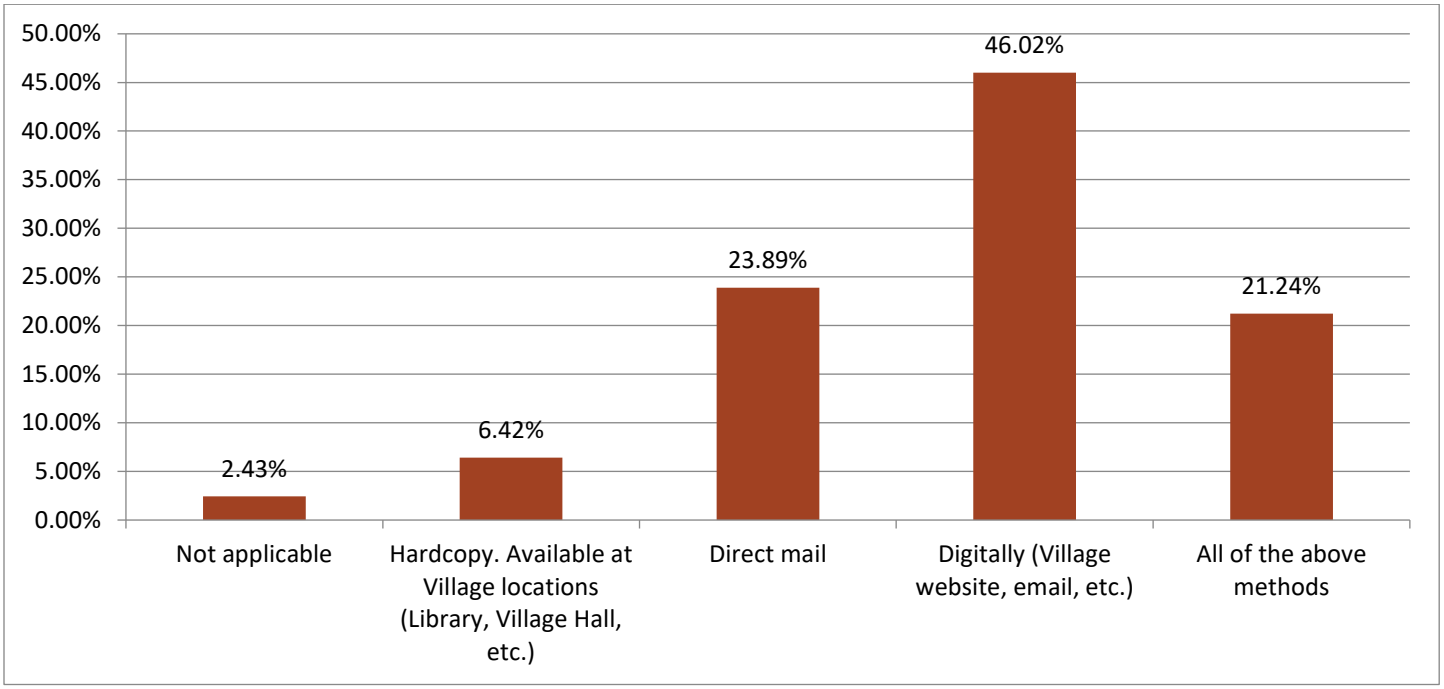
Question 14: Would you like DeForest to offer more of any of the following types of programming? (select all that apply)



Question 15: Please prioritize which group needs more recreational programming choices? (1 – Highest priority, the Village needs to provide more recreational programming for this group. 6 – Lowest priority, there is enough recreational programming for this group)



Question 16: How do you prefer to receive the Village Activity Guide?



Question 17: Please share any additional comments that could assist the Village in improving parks, trails, open spaces, or recreational facilities and services. (fill in the blank)

Note: all response left blank, commenting “none” or “N/A” have been removed.

All Comments
Protecting and maintaining current natural plant and wildlife areas such as the Yahara River corridor, Western Green, oak savannas, and all sensitive conservancy lands is critical. These are jewels unique to DeForest and are places enjoyed and used by all ages. Acquiring additional natural areas before they're all gone should be a priority as well. Too much open land is quickly being developed, and once it's gone, it's too late. Residents aren't seeing acquisitions and preservation of open spaces and parkland that correlates proportionally with the rise in population that accompanies all of this building, much of which is very dense multi unit dwellings. Thoughtful planning to correct this density problem needs to begin now so DeForest doesn't become just another crowded village that has nothing special to offer.
More pickleball courts please
The facilities need to be made more accessible to seniors and adults with mobility issues.
I know we need more affordable housing, but try to keep as many natural areas as possible, for the physical and mental health of residents.
Went to Golden, CO last summer and they have a beautiful stone tiered retaining wall/seating area directly on the Clear Creek. Multiple places to sit or wade into the river. Fishing and tubing entry areas. I feel like we are incredibly lucky to have a beautiful river flowing through town and could bring in tourism if the river had some development along it. I understand preservation of the river but could certainly be utilized.
I feel mountain biking off the Upper Yahara River Trail should NOT be allowed due to danger to walkers/bikers on the trail as well as disturbing the wildlife.
What is being done for safety on yahara trails?
Continue to build out the DeForest Athletic Complex. Having a playground, pickleball, tennis, skatepark, and other recreational activities would make it a true athletic complex.
Connect trails to other communities
Thank you for all you do!
We would love more bike trails connecting token creek to the rest of deforest. I would also like to see the restrooms open in the winter at parks and more shade around playgrounds. Would love more nature classes for preschool aged children.
I am against mountain biking off the path in the upper yahara River trail. Allowing mountain biking in the woods would result in damage to the wildlife and limit the enjoyment I experience form a peaceful walk that I take almost daily.
Please no mountain bike trails in the conservancy. Area is too small and too much traffic (including children and dogs) to have bikes crossing the trail. A space dedicated only to off road biking without so many pedestrians would be better suited. Dogs should also be leashed at all times and cyclists yield to pedestrians. There is signage but people do not follow these rules which can be dangerous.
I wish the program safe Kids 101 was offered quarterly. With the increase in childcare so many kids are being sent home alone while parents are working, this is a staple program that I wish was offered more or more sessions were available. I would love to get my kids into this program, but it was full with a massive waiting list!
Access to equipment/fields for growing sports like Lacrosse and public pools. Comparing to Waunakee.
There is aggressive winds in some of the new parks and planting mature trees will help future generations.
Coordinate more clean up days, invite volunteer organizations to assist (like the Girl Scouts), & advertise well in advance so more community members can participate.
No need for an outdoor pool. We've already built one at the high school that we can't use very much and how do you plan to staff it and who will monitor it during open hours. To much liability for minimal gain. Also, how do we regulate who can use it? Every community who wants to come in and use our resources at our cost. It's a waste of taxpayers money.
Please consider adding a disc golf course. There is community of people love to play in the Madison area. While there are several options, there is a need for more courses. People will travel to DeForest to throw. It is relatively inexpensive to set up a course and even less to maintain. I would recommend contacting Mike Batka (owner of disc golf store Glide) or Patrick and Taija Zwank (owners of Mad Mando) for questions. They have a wealth of knowledge regarding all aspects of course creation and management. They are also very nice folks.
With the popularity of pickleball more courts are needed. It would be best to add more at Firemen's Park so that if you go to that site you have greater chances of getting on a court or waiting less time. This would be better then putting 1-2 courts in various parks. At least 4 more courts should be added at Firemen’s.
Disc golf course needed
Pave the trail section around the LL Lutheran Church and Paradise Circle.
Interactive murals/sensory walls
Keep up the good work.

Lib. Land wellhouse has bathrooms. why must there be unsightly portapoddy all summer long? I love and appreciate the parks, edible parks, tree city, natural parks A LOT! Many thanks to all you all!
free disc golf course
Preserve, maintain, and expand Mountain bike trails
Mountain biking trails are a huge priority for our family. It is a wonderful activity that encourages community and a passion for preserving the outdoors. Please make DeForest a bikeable community from end to end. The acres of property for sale near Eagle Point Elementary at the site of the old Holum Education Center should be purchased for the creation of a bike park like Valmont Bike Park in Boulder: https://bouldercolorado.gov/locations/valmont-bike-park
Keep the walking trails semi-wild. Increasing trails while cutting down all the trees and nature beside them is not what we're asking for.
The village is doing wonderful in providing so many different activities for all the ages groups and needs nothing more at this point. It is not the villages job to entertain everyone all the time.
Would be nice to have indoor volleyball courts available for public use in winter as well as outdoor volleyball courts in summer. A community swimming pool would be great too. All of which would need to be proritized by popular demand.
We need tennis, pickleball and basket ball courts in every neighborhood (like Waunakee). We need mountain bike trails. This sport is growing and we have no land/facilities for this group to use unlike baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, football
We love all of the outdoor opportunities in Deforest as well as the beauty of the natural areas. Our one request is to protect the upper Yahara River trail and conservancy by keeping mountain bikes on the paved trails.
I LOVE the dog park, but I do not like how the fire hydrants sit in the middle where dogs run...i have seen multiple dogs run into them and get hurt. They would be great sitting near the entrance so dogs can sniff, but aren't in the way of dogs hitting them while running around.
No Mountain Bike Trails in Current DeForest Parks.
I've always thought that a natural playground like cam rock park would be awesome. Also more native plantings in smaller parks. For example, hanks hollow park has a lot of unusable space by the drainage area - a great place for a small native rain garden of sorts. Also maintenance of the existing native plantings to remove invasive a would be sweet!
More hiking trails and biking trails. Also more bike lanes connecting neighborhoods to schools.
Mountain bike trails would help.
Please do not negatively impact the Conservancy Trail by allowing off path Mountain Biking. There is delicate areas of trail that bring migratory birds yearly that could be chased away.
I would really like to see Mt Bike trails in Deforest, there are lots of other communities that are implementing there own trails and it brings people from outside the community to spend money while in the area.
We would love to see a community outdoor pool in Deforest!
We need mountain bike trails
I have expressed the need for mountain bike trails. Our surrounding communities have them and we have just as good areas for them. The objection regarding wildlife is not accurate, mountain biking not only does not bother them it promotes the natural area since the dedication to the program preserves the area and the actual amount of time its used is small. Since we are allowing uncontrolled development in our village we need to do something that preserves some of the natural area
Intramural sports for high school age children.
Canoe \ kayak launch locations with improvements. Large limestone steps for instance. More pickleball courts maybe in the new(not yet built) rivers turn Park near abs
They do a great job on the trails
Please continue presenting a community pool as an idea. It would be amazing to have that here, rather than driving to other communities.
I run very often and LOVE the new paved trails around town. Keep those coming!! One comment regarding the "conservancy" area. There is NOT much being conserved as far as open natural spaces. Way too many townhouses going in. It's no longer a "conservancy".
Better signage for conservancy Yahara River trail use. (More prominent).
More bicycling like City of Fitchburg!!!
Please stop building housing in some of our best trail/wildlife areas. There are other areas you could use. And please prioritize installing a sidewalk on South Street up to River Road
Don't spend hundreds of thousands or more on any more large facilities. Offer a dirt walking path that is FLAT and not around weeds or in the woods.
Thank you for making the village a great place to live, play and learn!
I feel very strongly about improving the biking on Hwy V. I am a road cyclist and it is really dangerous to get out of town on the north side. I would also like to see something happen with the mountain bike trails. These can be very safe and not harmful to the environment when done correctly.
Don't. You are destroying the parks as it is. Stop messing with mother nature.

DeForest is known for its nature areas. Keep as much as possible natural.
Pool
We would love to see more pickle ball courts added. The village does a great job with all of their outdoor recreation areas.
More communication on what is available for leagues, youth programs, etc. More tennis, pickleball courts. Would like to see deforest get involved in ultimate Frisbee, maybe join MUFA. More security check points on walking trails.
We held a birthday party at Fireman's Park shelter and our son uses a wheelchair. There was no place to change him with people seeing him or placing him on the ground.
Provide short or adjustable basketball hoops. Offer more non- sports options for kids who might have a disability.
The current walking trails in beautiful wooded areas should not be considered for mountain biking. That should be in a totally different and separate area.
Bring back the charging stations at the athletic Complex. They were great when watching games.
More connectivity or bike lanes on cv .
A paid swimming pool would be good.
Money and taxes is a big issue so I'm not okay with raising taxes for more of something that we already have. If my rent keeps going up we will have to move out of deforest. Need to have a sustainable way to maintain and or build parks. Thank you.
BUILD A COMMUNITY POOL
We appreciate all that you do and that you are asking for feedback!
Think ahead and be visionary and state-of-the-art in your plans. Bring the latest trends in recreation here to Deforest/Windsor. Make this great place even better. Increase rec funding and land allocation, more paved trails (accessible to all), and let's get mountain bike trails for beginners to advanced (could easily find volunteers on community, appoint Trail stewards to maintain and manage trails), community swimming pool with a diving board so our kids can learn to swim! Thank you!
It would be awesome to have a community pool!
Overall I think outdoor recreational focus in Deforest and Windsor is excellent, well ahead of other areas we see. Keep up the good work!
More family parks with dog parks near by
Deforest needs to stop spending money it does not have and stop borrowing g on the future. Pay your debt before you borrow more money
I'd like to see some clearing of invasives to give our old bur oaks some space, plant more native trees, shrubs. We have lost a lot of trees lately with development in the area.
Playground bathrooms need to be open when it is a nice day outside
Deforest needs to continue to invest in green space and outdoor activities as the community grows. Invest now for the future. DeForest is a well managed town that is responsive to the community needs.
More restrooms along trails and at parks
For a smaller (but expanding village) the amenities the village offers will need to increase as population increases.
More trash bins on trails
An outdoor pool with lawn space to picnic, play sports, or go hiking would be great if they had the space
Be thoughtful when making choices for new activities and amenities offered. Don't fix what isn't broken. Continue to listen to the residents.
A fenced area by splash pad for toddlers would be helpful
A pool would be an amazing addition to deforest. Not sure why it got turned down
A community outdoor pool would be great
More bathrooms at the parks would be helpful for changing toddlers. More benches to sit on while nursing babies while toddlers play.
No mountain bike paths, unless they are on the other side of the interstate. Only small tryout areas of disc golf, if really necessary, they can and should go to token creek. No culling the deer herd.
Great job!!!!
Dog parks
This may not necessarily be a parks issue but I moved to Deforest for the lack of city/suburb feel. I understand tax base, etc but we're losing that country/nature feel.
We need a wide paved sidewalk from Windsor into DeFo- on CV/Lake Road. Then we can walk into DeFo from Windsor and not get killed on that road.
We love our parks
It would be great to have all fitness and a lot of the activities in one location. Having a community and fitness center would be a great thing to work towards.

Stop prioritizing building housing and commercial properties and keep our natural areas! So mad all the natural area was lost over by Conservancy Place—that name is ironic and insulting now. Wr need greenspace, farmland and animals both wild and livestock.
Would love to see a playground area added to the sports complex.
Free disc golf course that doesn't require a permit
Benches along the walk ways and bike path for people like me who need to stop and rest because of health issues.
Making sure trails are in good condition
More basketball hoops at small parks appreciated.
Bicycle Tire air pump stations along the trail and more drinking fountains. E-bike rentals, kayak waterway entrances. More unpaved nature hiking trails.
There's a huge desire to have disc golf courses here in DeForest. It would add another activity for people to do and will bring money to the town.
Bathrooms need to be open year around. No use in having bathrooms when they are closed on a nice day in March.
Pickleball courts would be nice to not have maxed out with leagues so people cant use.
Athletic complex fields all need work behind the home plate. Fences are curling up and allowing pitches to pass through. Other complexes we have been to have boards or harder surfaces covering the fences to prevent this. Additional batting cages at the complex would also be a welcomed addition. We have too many splash pads and things geared towards young kids, and not enough activities and spaces for middle school and high school kids. A community pool would be amazing. More adult only and family activities (with more things for older kids).
I have heard the village is considering hosting a craft beer festival. That would be a great idea. Also more live music in the bandshell please.
We need to keep natural areas for native plants and animals. The Yahara River corridor and its tramway are NOT for mountain biking, disc golf or any other ideas people have that would cut down trees and drive out wildlife. Left alone means left alone period.
I have lived here for 30 years. We need more child care facilities, buildings for businesses, and 55+ housing.
Because of the farm fields that DeForest is expanding into, there are limited natural areas available for future conservancy space development. It is important that we protect the Yahara River Corridor at all costs as a primary natural wildlife and plant protected area. It is a jewel for DeForest. The other sensitive habitats in Western Green and the remaining forests must not be compromised. Once this type of natural conservancy space disappears, it cannot be re-established. Any available natural wooded areas should also be highly considered for purchase in the near future.
More bike trails
Many of us are sorely lacking ability to walk to and from the downtown shopping area (or bike to it). This is due to lack of streets and bike lanes. I've seen kids trying to bike along the shoulders, which is unsafe.
Preservation and additional protection of the already established natural areas along the Yahara River corridor, all oak savannas and woodlands, Western Green Park and prairie, sedge meadows, wildlife habitats, and all other environmentally sensitive areas is critical and a very high priority. Acquisition of more natural area passive recreation property is needed as the land around DeForest continues to be developed and open land is becoming scarce. Acquisition of open land for additional active recreation activities is also much needed. DeForest is deficient in meeting the ratio of residents vs. acreage dedicated to parks and open spaces. With the number of residential properties and thus population increasing so rapidly, we need to make sure we plan open spaces accordingly so DeForest doesn't become even more dense with commercial and residential properties without providing parkland to balance this out in a well planned manner.
It would be beneficial if restroom facilities were open earlier in the year and stay open later into the year.
The vast majority of resident like our parks and do not want to se them ruined with Disc golf or BMX . The villiage is welcome to find other areas for these activities. Leave western green park and the yahara watershed for wildlife.
Remove additional registrations fee for non-residents that reside within the school district boundaries.
The village needs to comply with existing ordinances and the impact on the environment. Many of these activities pose negative effects on it. We only have so much land space and cannot make all these groups happy. Stick with the Village plan to protect the environment. Don't make suggestions here that are clearly in conflict with the protection of our natural areas. Dirt bikes are outlawed in our existing ordinances. Anything that compacts the soil or ruins flora is a violation of our own local laws. Look it up! It is in the Parks section!!
More street lights, it would be wonderful to see a path paved in a woodsy area that is unpaved- more of a “hiking” feel
Educate the public on who can use the trails.
Would love to see expanded sidewalk access around Yahara Elementary School neighborhoods. I'd like to be able to walk on sidewalks/paths from Yahara all the way to the library
I don’t feel a outdoor pool is necessary. It is expensive to build and the maintenance is very expensive.
I love what is established already! Am grandmother to 5 children and we take advantage of all parks. Would love to see community swimming pool

Have no interest in your department since you decided against the disc golf holes for no good reason
My kids enjoy using the sand boxes at area parks and note they are often over run with weeds. Overall the parks are in great condition and we love them!
All restrooms and parks are spotless. Never any trash, always clean and well illuminated. We just ask for more family events.
bicycle lock areas
A good number of parks in one of the questions I was unaware of, so raising awareness would be a good thing.
More trees and benches along paved trails would be useful. Please stop cutting down all the trees along the river paths, or at least replace them if it's because they're dying. The trail at Western Green is really losing its appeal.
I love the idea of even more walking trails through "natural" area like the upper yahara river trail and western green. I would also like to see a community pool. And it would be great to have more hardcourt (basketball volleyball etc) facilities. We have put a lot of money toward the baseball fields, ice rink, and football. Let's get a true indoor facility
The splash pad serves such a small demographic. An outdoor community pool would serve all age groups.
More than one pickle ball court.
Too many facilities for a village this size now. Taxes are too high now, DONT expand and cost even more money!
Work on improving the conservancies rather than trying to disrupt them with courses or playgrounds. Please leave them in tact- they are extremely important and the highest importance reason I live here.
More trails
More trash can available throughout trails would help with waste disposal
I would like to see more ADA accessible restrooms along our park trails/parks. I would also like to see more bike repair stations along the trails.
I love the trails; however, some dog walkers will leave their doggie doo behind in bags. Maybe if there were more trash receptacles then they wouldn't leave them behind on the trails.
The village does a great job of this, perhaps its time to try to keep expenses in line in order to stabilize property taxes. Expansion is not the beat all to end all. Stability is critical. This town needs expanded and definitive services such as grocery. The present grocery is underserving the community and I go elsewhere.
More trash cans! I see too much dog pooped (bagged and unbagged) sitting there being gross.
No public pool. People can use the one at the high school and the season is too short in Wisconsin to make it economical.
We desperately need a community pool that keeps the pre-teen and teens out of trouble During the summer and also provides families a during the summer and also provides families a budget phone budget Budget friendly option that is local instead of having the drive far to go to a pool. We also need to have concessions at the pool at a lower price point.
New to community. I look forward to learning more about DeForest
No more baseball fields please.
Paved trails are great. Need to keep adult bikers OFF these trails, especially on motorized bikes. It's not safe and they will not comply with any speed limits.
Parking
I really appreciate the band shell and summer programs!
Love to see more trees and natural areas in and around houses. Everyone loves seeing wildlife that comes with those areas.
Community pool would be great
I am interested in a mountain bike trail along Yahara river.
I appreciate the paved trail system and sidewalks around town. Would like to see more and have them all connected.
Would love to see a community pool
Keep up the good work, Appreciate being heard through this survey and other community workshops/open houses.
We need parks that allow dogs!
The Village does a great job overall. Please make sure the walking/biking paths are plowed after every snowstorm, they get so much use that if a wet snow sits over a weekend it often refreezes and makes them difficult to use.
Don't allow the minority few with "loud voices" bully the rest of the residents in the village just because they scream "the birds, the mountain bikes, the skateboarders, the deer, on so on". We all deserve the opportunity to do different types of activities within the PUBLIC parks.
Stop ruining our nature areas with housing. We need more outdoor activities for everyone. Winter activities lacking. Ice rinks? No summer fishing places available besides sunfish which was overrun with housing.
Disc golf please.
We need more thing for the age group between 15-20
Increased walking paths, increased programs/activities for older school aged kids (cooking classes, art classes, sports lessons etc).
Parks that feel accessible/available to all residents, not just those who live in the area, and parks with a lot of bird houses along with trees that help feed the birds.
We have enough already.
Cooking classes, walking groups, nature exploring would be great

Thank you for the survey. I believe the Village is moving in the right direction.
what about adult classes at the high school for metal shop, wood shop, etc.
I did not answer some of the questions because I am not aware of offerings for children. I do love the outdoor spaces the village has especially the walking/biking trails.
Note amount of use of each project to see which needs to be expanded or minimize.
More restroom facilities along the conservancy park walking path
I think DeForest should place a very high priority on conserving the remaining conservancy land in Conservancy Place.
Thank you for asking!!!!
-Better maintenance (keeping the river clear) for canoes/kayaks as well as a canoe/kayak launch site and then downstream a take out site is necessary. -Dogs run loose on the sledding hill while families are there all winter long. -How about a free putting green, so the man who lives on Innovation Dr stops hitting golf balls across the street into the sledding hill? -What about all of the yard waste and fireplace ash that people improperly dispose of into the outlots instead of taking it to the yard waste site?
Having an extensive dedicated mountain bike trail in the village would be amazing. If the village is interested in doing this, please contact the Capital Off Road Pathfinders Inc (CORP) for assistance with planning and building. Madcitydirt.com.
Clean and safe bathrooms in parks, bike safety on streets, more options for activities outside standard business hours!
Do not need an outdoor pool!!!
Snow removal on paved trails.
Pickleball is exploding. Need more courts or a plan for existing courts (challenge court rules)
The Village is doing a fantastic job with our outdoor spaces - in a lot of ways we are the envy of other Dane County municipalities - but we need to do a better job with boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball. There’s a real opportunity for soccer for us - everybody on the east and north side of Madison and in DeFo/Windsor hates driving all the way to Reddan Park all the way down in Verona- no disrespect to them but is a long drive
Overall, we love our parks!
Only do what is necessary to maintain what we currently have. The Village taxes are already too high as it stands. This is not Madison, Waunakee or Sun Prairie.
DeForest has a really good bike trail system, except the city is divided into 2 parts, east and west, separated by CV. CV is currently dangerous for biking. If there was a bike lane or trail, I could easliy ride my bike to downtown or the PicknSave "mall" area.
My taxes are to high now stop spending
There has been a significant number of trees and wooded areas cut down. This is very disheartening as there appears to be little to no efforts in attempting to maintain the nature areas, especially near the trails. With all of the new building, our beautiful trails through nature are just becoming sidewalks. What impact is this elimination of the wooded areas having on the wildlife?
There is a high demand for bicycling from my neighbors and friends. Expanding paths and connecting them to other communities should be a priority.
More access to water fun-community outdoor pool
We love our natural areas.
Community pool!
Bigger slides for playgrounds. More basketball courts in neighborhood parks. More fun activities
More workout classes
We desperately need a pool and a disc golf store
Reconstruct Hwy V
Need more spaces for wildlife only!
Having moved here from a city where building parks was a priority and maintaining them was not, we have been very impressed with parks here!
Outdoor ice rink similar to Monona Restroom facilities at all parks
Please do NOT put any bike/mountain bike trails within the conservancy. The conservancy is a huge draw for Deforest. People enjoy the beautiful trails within the conservancy. There has already been enough home building around the conservancy, please don't disrupt the peaceful beauty any further. Mountain biking can be done in other areas.
You guys do a great job making Deforest feel like a natural clean safe community. I would like to see the beauty of our natural areas preserved.
Bike paths everywhere. Bike lanes on roads are still dangerous.
Community pool and add more to Chapel Green park
It would be great to have a few signs by the basketball courts at Fireman's Park. Foul language is really frustrating to have to listen to when playing pickleball.

Make a better effort to get people to clean up after their dogs
Love the trails for walking and biking. Always appreciate more options/more distances
Provide more pet waste garbage cans along trails.
No mountain bike trails on paved/ unpaved trails!!!
Baseball/softball field at deforest fireman's park needs a face lift. Concert shell at fireman's is a pretty design but does a poor job projecting sound forward with the open slat design. Would be better with a solid surface in back.
We love how deforest prioritizes walking/bike trails and nature! Connecting all the bike paths would be a huge asset to those of us living further out of town
I have epilepsy. I also have a dog and a full time job. I love fireman's park, but wish the sidewalk layout was more consistent around town. I think kids would love a skate park and I personally would love to know where I could play tennis and help with public gardens.
Whatever DOESN'T increase my property taxes!!!
There is no open gyms in the area for teens. High school students need a place to go when weather is bad but they still want to be active. We pay all this money in taxes for these schools and no one is allowed to use them.
Pool would be beyind nice. I know you're looking for a spot bit with all the growth in deforest seems like it's find it now or never.
Great job collaborating with local businesses and schools. I feel access to the high school weight room for the community could be offered on a pass based system to provide pass holders with regular schedules hours of us outside school program times. Additionally, an open gym for youth 5 and under could be provided on a weekly basis during the winter months. There was a grant based program providing this service at one point pre-2020, which offered young families with a space to let little kids enjoy the gym during cold months. For youth sports, coaches are always needed. To help with coaching shortages, offering volunteer or low pay options for high school players to assist would possibly help.
There could be more street lights
Keep the conservancy natural. Even this questionnaire asks what should change, not what should not change. Leave room for nature.
you all do an amazing job!
More basketball courts. And having better quality basketball courts (ex. Better backboards, hoops, flooring- polymeric rubber?
We LOVE what deforest has done and just want more of the same! Parks, trails, sidewalks, splash pads!
Would love to see a community pool
I'd love to see more fishing areas
Love the variety and the new programs offered each year. Please keep it up! Also, please keep increasing the number of programs as the DeForest population keeps growing. It's not fun to not be able to get into programs because they fill up within minutes.
Provide trash bags, gloves and pickers to do more community trash cleanups of trails and river culverts. Remove trees and keep river cleat from weeds and debris for canoes , kayaks and tubing. Provide easy and more entries and exit access for water activities. Patrol trails for bikes that speed and women hiking solo safety . (have had minor issues) Also check that ALL dogs are leashed regardless of how good they think their dog is.
A disc golf course would be a great addition to the village. It would be nice to have a beginner to intermediate disc golf course in DeForest. This is a lifetime sport anyone can do. I think it would be especially good to have a course for youth in DeForest as it seems to me there isn't a lot for that age group to do. It is relatively cheap to play. A golf disc can be purchased for $8-$20. I'm 67 years old and play year round 4-5 times a week weather permitting. I also play often with my daughter and grandchildren.
I don't visit the village often but would visit more and consider visiting more or even moving from Madison if there were better bicycling facilities like Fitchburg, Middleton, McFarland, and Sun prairie have.
I'd love to see a skate park (think cottage grove.) Or an all abilities park (think lacrosse or McFarland just created one - even a small scale size.) A natural park - (Marshall, WI made with trees and what not.) More nature centered activities (I know it's not through monona but I'd love activities similar to the Aldo Leopold Nature Center) Did we even have an outdoor ice rink in deforest?? I'd love this and didn't see anything about it. And…. MORE SHADE at our parks and splash pads for infants or grandparents going. People fight over the fireman park shade by the splash pad. The park off river road o'Donnell could have more there with the amount of space available. Same with other parks in the area. Do bathrooms really have to be closed in the winter. This past month with nice weather my kids just had to go to the bathroom in the grass … :)
DeForest provides an abundance of activities, our facilities and parks are phenomenal. I think yu can slow down for awhile.....stop adding new activities and parks.
Please don't do anything that will scare away the amazing wildlife that we so frequently see between Western Green Park and south along the trails to Upper Yahara River Trail Head. It's already unfortunate that those condos got built so close to Sunfish Pond.
Leave more trees and vegetation in the Upper Yahara River Trail vs cutting so much down. Replace old signage that is faded and unreadable about the nature in the area. Fencing was replaced. Also, don't allow bikers to carve trails through the woods which

disrupts the wildlife and can be scary for hikers when they come flying out onto a trail unexpectedly. There are homes that back to the woods, where I'm guessing. they'd lose privacy, too.
My son & his friends would appreciate & frequently use approved mountain bike trails and a skateboad/scooter park. They also really enjoy fishing, so would appreciate better access to public fishing areas.
We love that we chose to move to DeForest. Our son loves getting into programs during the summer with the parks and rec program and we use the parks often (besides winter). We use the paved trail almost daily to take our dog for a walk and our son's favorite place in the summer has become the splash pad. I would love to see these areas maintained well and kept looking their best for years to come.
DeForest has a great mountain biking club, however, it isn't easy to train for events. This group encourages respect for trails and others and continues to grow in its popularity. I think it should be encouraged more.
We need more mountain bike trails and less baseball fields. White people need to get over themselves and let the city build trails. Everyone in this city feel like its "their" park when it is everyones and we need to build parks for everyone. I mean, look at that ugly golf thing and the 100 baseball fields we have. No on cared because it wasn't "their" park. When they are dead, the trails and parks will still be there.
Better maps of trails and how the link together along with access points.
Have more trash cans available on park trails and also dog poop bags so that the dog owners pick up their dog poop:
Mountain bike trails are missing from DeForest and would greatly improve the trail offerings. There are countless plans for pedestrians but making DeForest more bike friendly would be amazing.
I would like to see better maps of recreation trails for biking and fishing. We're new here and it is hard to find any good maps of either.
While I use the trails daily, they have become increasingly more dangerous. Specifically having issues with bikes coming from off the path riding.
Yoga classes on the weekends and outside of normal work hours would be fabulous
We need a community pool, a rec center for teenagers to hang out, a fieldhouse with 6 basketball courts (there is not enough to support all the local leagues)
I wish the age range for the youth activities was structured differently. More for 3/4 year olds and my son was super bummed there were no basketball camps for 6 year olds for summer (only 7+) but he was able to play during the school year when he was 6. There were a few activities that my 8 and 6.5 yr old could do but my 3.5yr old can't or my 8 yr old could but my 6.5yr old couldnt like CSI and basketball. This is a hard request as I understand at these ages the skill readiness really varies but it would be nice to see a kindergarten basketball summer camp and 4k summer bowling. Also growing the fishing opportunities in the deforest area would be amazing! For all ages, it's a great outdoor alternative for families and children who may not be into sports. It is inexpensive for families to do and creates great memories!
Thank you
The Yahara trail is an incredible resource for our community. We live near it and walk on it daily. It's always kept up very nicely. Parks are great too especially fireman's park. I think we desperately need a community rec facility for youth and teens. More bike paths connecting all of deforest and Windsor would be a great addition as well.
Having basketball courts near the athletic complex - thought this was in the plan and would be an excellent asset to the area
A pool
Trying to connect the village either by biking/walking. Less reliance on cars to visit the various parks and downtown.
Please create a space for tween / teens they need somewhere to be instead of being inappropriate at parks and making families leave due to disrespect and profanity.
Why do village workers use sidewalks as "roadways " to destroy the trails and sidewalks with the heavy vehicles????
Please provide programming for neurodiverse children who can't play regular sports or participate in other activities. Offer an option for accommodations and get high school kids to volunteer as aides. These children are left out of everything- birthday parties, school sports, school clubs. Some communities like waunakee and Middleton have partnered with CI Therapies to offer classes for this group through their rec departments. At least make an effort to be more inclusive by putting a statement in your guide like other cities have. Something about trying to be inclusive and to contact you if assistance will be needed in a class or sport. This is something that's so important to me that my family is considering leaving Deforest so we can be in a community that is more inclusive with their rec department. I would also like to see more options for kids and teens who aren't into sports. Why isn't there a youth or teen center in Deforest? Especially when there aren't places for the kids to easily go and hang out after school or during the summer. There isn't a pool, so a teen center would be a nice way to meet up with friends.
Bike trails just for people riding bikes. Separate trails for walkers.
Our parks trails and natural areas are one of the hidden gems of our community. The wildlife that resides in the natural areas is important, and should not be discounted by further development.

Please NO natural biking trails. They should stay on the walk paths
It would be great to have another dog park near conservancy/Windsor. Having a dog park similar to Boneyard in Madison would be nice
Protect existing wildlife and natural areas. The village is named deFOREST for a reason!
Please don't allow mountain bike trails in the woodland conservancy areas. No disc golf either. Peaceful walking paths are the best.
No biking in conservancy place wooded areas!!!!
Keep the conservancy dedicated to wildlife, environmental protection and safety on the paved trails. No mountain bikes.
Keep people on the trails, whether on foot or bike. Concern with erosion/water run off, loss of habitat for plants and animals, introduction of invasive species.
Please protect our natural spaces especially along the river corridor. Bikes should be kept on the paved paths only and not in the woods and crossing the paths. Safety is a big issue that I'm very concerned about. I'm also really angry that parents have not stopped their kids from damaging the woods with their man-made bike trails that have made it difficult to hike in those areas.
Who is running this show? A new pool for $$$? We have this at the High School. We are not credit cards. I live within my means, the village should do also.
More pickleball courts in Fox Hill Estates
Bikes should be limited to existing asphalt trails. Bikes and hikers/walkers should not be on the same single track off road trails. If you want bikes to be able to ride off road build a specific site for that.
Keep up the good work
Provide more pet waste stations. Specifically the entrance on innovation close to larkspure. A lot of people park there to walk their dogs on the trail.
More paved walkway/biking trails.
1. Licenced landscape architects need to be hired to help the Village plan and design even it's smallest parks and open spaces. The pocket park on the south side of the library between the buildings is a disappointment. Everything was just paved. There's no garden space or impervious space. No design of the hardscape that makes this place special or unique....it actually created a safety hazard with tripping and grade changes. It's disappointing and a missed opportunity. 2. Deforest needs to do a better job improving and Maintaining it's urban forest and street trees. We need more shade trees and not small serviceberries, magnolias, Japanese tree lilacs that will never provide much shade and have minimal stormwater management benefits. There are missed opportunities where large shade trees species should be planted but instead small ornamental species are. There are some narrow terraces but they can still support trees.... N Main Street at the Norske Nook is an example with large, beautiful honey locust shade trees. There are empty street terraces and new street projects should look at ways to add street trees. 3. Deforest needs more natural areas and trails like the one along the river that actual go through natural areas without degrading them. Those trails are so much more enjoyable and beneficial for mental health that paths along roadsides and through developments with little to no trees. Plant more trees along those paths. 4. Overall Deforest does have great parks. Fireman's Park is great. All the small parks and paths throughout the community. Don't stop and be proactive about planning where these spaces will be in advance of new development. 6. Does Deforest have standards and guidelines for planting street trees so developers are planting appropriate species and providing enough soil for them to grow to their full size and be health? 5. Protect existing natural areas like those along the Yahara Riverway and find more of those opportunities. Keep the prairie restoration near Western Green as Prairie. Look for more opportunities for these types of passive recreation spaces / wildlife habitat and don't fill them with active recreation like frisbee golf or mountain biking....find other locations for them though.
More village activities/sports and after school activities for K-3rd grade students.
Provide maps for bike and pedestrian paths from the neighborhoods to key community locations (like the library and parks).
Need additional dog park near Conservancy Place area similar to Boneyard in Madison.
The idea of off road bike trails would be great for my family!
Giving kids a space to bike would make a massive positive difference of anyone growing up in the area. It gives the option to lean a sport they can do forever. Community trails also serve as a source of education about our natural resources and the importance of forest maintenance.
Please stop stripping away and messing with beautiful nature areas. Add to them, so there's more opportunity for hiking on unpaved paths, or exploring nature. Add to the conservancy, or create another one, or create a park like Token Creek. Groomed parks, while lovely and functional for some, are fairly mind numbing and pointless if you aren't a parent throwing a birthday party at a splash pad.
Kids from 10-16 need more in this community to keep them occupied. It's great to have the sports we do, but not every kid has access, transportation, funds, or even desire for what's already here. A well-done skate park and community pool set up with concessions would be a great addition to DeForest as many other communities already offer these amenities to the benefit of their residents.

Continue tying bike trails together
Parks, trails, and rec programming are one of the Village's biggest strengths/assets - continue prioritizing this and keep up the good work! We always appreciate efforts to make walking/biking to parks safer/easier.
Restrooms in parks need to be available 12 mos/yr to accommodate runners. Portables at a minimum.
I think DeForest would benefit from another dog park closer to the Conservancy/Windsor area. It would be really cool to have something similar to the Boneyard in Madison. They have drinks, music, engaging activities, picnic benches, and lots of room for dogs to run.
It might be nice in the future to have a shade tree or two planted near Liberty Land's playground/connecting path area. The existing large willow tree near the shelter looks like it is half dead, so will probably be gone in a few years. A bench at the playground would be nice too. The community garden's raised bed looks like it is about to collapse...maybe a new one with a sturdier design could be installed? Long-term, it would be great to see the village transform minimally used grassy areas into small pocket prairies. Instead of mowing large grassy areas that don't get used much, maybe increase native plantings instead. Village Square Park (across from library) could really use either a shade structure or more shade trees to make the space more comfortable/useful. Add another trash receptacle next to north compost area of community garden? Last season I saw so much trash IN the compost area. I don't know if some people are too lazy to walk to a trash can or plain dumb, but maybe there should be a trash can there to help them out.
install a disc golf course more trails dog park
More off road biking for all.
Trails are great, but not connecting. Heritage gardens is step child compared to Conservancy and Yahara River.
I do not think that we should be taking away more conservancy areas or allowing mountain biking in those areas. We barely have any areas left for natural wildlife
Deforest is known for its natural areas. Keep it natural.
NO MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS PRESERVE the natural areas
Please make mountain bike trails a priority. The village does well with a lot of things, but are missing all the benefits of mountain bike trails.
We need more activities for teens in DeForest area. mountain bike trails would be a great start. And pump track. Also a community center for kids and teens to hang out at. Ways to keep kids outside and in nature is essential. Helps keep off electric devices and appreciate nature with friends.
Mountain bike trails are a good thing.
Trails are really impressive...one suggestion...those random-one-off exercise stations scattered throughout the trails
Portable toilets closer to the pickleball courts in Firemen’s Park.
We need to make sure we maintain and emphasize the importance of parks that have historically been part of DeForest rather than just adding new ones at our perimeters
No bike clubs thru the Conservancy woods
I really wanted to find winter activities this last year but didn’t know if ice skating was offered. I also don’t really understand if any lakes are available for use throughout deforest, they seem private. Would be cool to know what’s available for the community!
more fish in Sunfish pond
Have Windsor residents be apart of the rec program pricing again. More age 3 and under programs at afternoon/evening times for working parents.
I like that the trails are becoming more connected and cover more area. Please continue to expand the trails/paths. Please do not add biking trails to conservancy areas close to homes. Off road bike trails should be separated from peaceful walking trails for safety reasons.
Restrooms need to be open longer
Disability access, more native plants and less mowed, chemically altered spaces
A community pool is long overdue and was voted on years ago.
None. Support the mountain bikers
Doing a great job
No mountain bike trail through Conservancy. It will ruin what little woods and wildlife habitat there is left. Conservancy neighborhood isn't very focused on conservancy because they just keep cutting down trees and destroying wildlife habitats
The village has been removing a lot of previous open space in the name of the "athletic complex." The voltage has also removed a majority of the green space off innovation for duplexes and townhomes. A major reason why people move to DeForest is to have that sense of being in the middle of a city. A large portion of trees were recently cut down near the bridge on Innovation with no

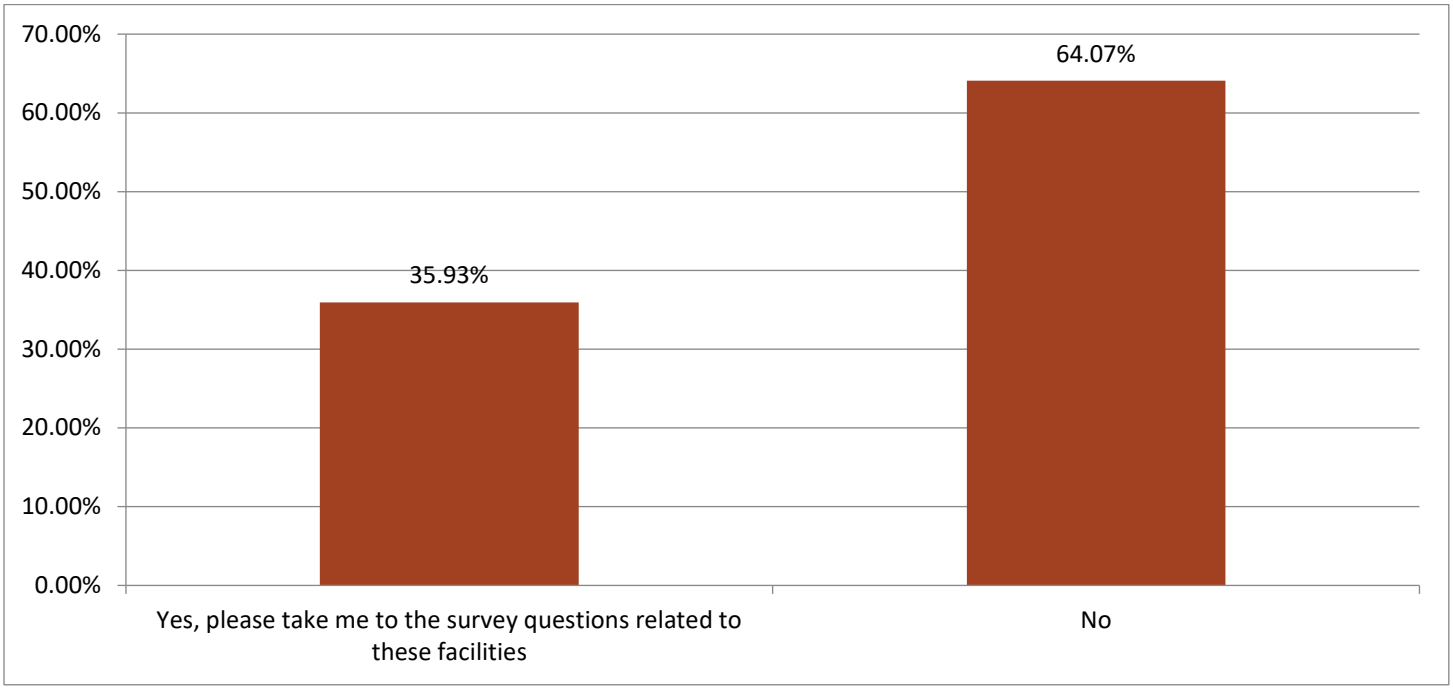
answer as to what will replace them. People love the trail systems here (directly next to the bridge), it would be nice to focus efforts on enhancing them, not necessarily expanding them. Planting mature trees, easier access to the yahara River from the trails, shallow shore entry to the river with mulch or stone so it isn't a mud pit, more dog waste cans, bicycle lanes on the trails and parking for non-residents on innovation. My biggest wish for our village would be to add more trees throughout the Conservancy however, even if not mature trees.
Keep the conservancy natural and for wildlife. Do not create a mountain bike trail there. Would very much welcome having canoe or kayak opportunities on the Yahara.
The park in the conservancy neighborhood is no longer meeting the needs of this area. Many multi housing units came into the area and last year literally this park was underutilized and I heard it was due to lack of enough playground equipment and want for more active splash pad.
DeForest needs an outdoor pool and more pickleball courts. A pickleball league and more classes beyond the basics would also be helpful. Continue adding more walking and biking trails too.
Great work being done - keep it up!
I wish we had lifeguards at high school to lead senior adult exercise classes and later open swim times at high school pool. I was told the reason we can't get staff at pool is because we dont pay enough.
Volunteer opportunities
No off trail mountain biking in conservancy please. This destroys natural areas, negatively affects wildlife, affects runoff, and is dangerous for multi-users.
I would love to see community toy boxes at parks such as sand toys.
As an employee of the DeForest Athletic Complex and youth member of our community, I appreciate the beautiful parks and complexes DeForest has to offer, and I would like to see continued development of the commercial land in the Innovation/Conservancy Neighborhood, while continuing to preserve the beautiful conservancy.
Stop building condos on trails. Sunfish pond is a run off pond. I don't enjoy looking into someone's living room walking on a trail. You aren't "preserving" anything.
Kids complain a lot about no basketball hoops especially in areas with HOAs that make it difficult to add one.
More summer programs for kids, breaking up with different time frames. Summer day camps
Maintain the parks better - add sand to sandboxes (Tierney Park), take care of rock overflow and add more as needed (Tierney Park), pave or improve the path the leads from neighborhood to Token Creek park through the woods.
More benches and replace the ones that are falling apart.
Build the park off Bluestem, we would love it and use it often!
Outdoor pool
Love how the trail system connects different neighborhoods/parks.
Love open spaces and wildlife in deforest, the small town feel.
My family and I live in conservancy place. This area has grown significantly in the last few years and more kid friendly parks, splash pads, etc geared toward young kids is greatly needed. I would also really enjoy an outdoor community pool
Online registration has been nice and adequate.
We don't need a mountain bike trail in this community. There are enough options. This is a small population. Look at the size of sports like football, basketball, baseball, pickle ball and tennis and focus on places and spaces for those. Bikes can go anywhere
I think the village is doing a great job, but the more our area grows, the more our needs will increase! I know many Windsor people use our facilities and activities, so it will be interesting to see if that ch ages when the Windsor central city park is complete (Fireman's Park?) and they have more of their own facilities. Would love more natural areas and wild grown areas.
Would like a community pool
Would really like an outdoor pool similar to sun prairie aquatic center
Events that bring people out.
Minimal event spaces available during cold weather months
Please do not put in pickleball courts. Part of the reason I sold my last house recently is because Madison converted the eight tennis courts across the street from my home into pickleball courts. We were subjected to as much as 12 hours a day, seven days a week, of incessant wiffleball thwacking that could easily be heard inside the house. It was torturous, inescapable noise. Do not do this to the residents of DeForest.
I think yall do a phenomenal job- I wish things wouldn't fill so quickly (the current offerings had more sessions/space)
The village does an amazing job maintaining trails- except for the invasive weeds at the dog park. The burrs are horrible!
Love Yahara trail but it's crowded
Please don't do anything that takes away even more space from the wildlife. Please don't hurt the deer!
The trails are wonderful. My very tiny wish is that they looped more so a person doesn't go back and forth. But the village has done an excellent job connecting neighborhoods with these beautiful recreational areas.
It seems like special interest groups with connections to the past/present village presidents get priority in what happens. Residents voices and concerns are ignored and they just give up. Who is sailing this ship??

Please add a small dog park area in DeForest that is fenced in. I would prefer if it separated into two sides a small dog side and a large dog side.
I'd love to have an outdoor ice rink in the winter that is not dependent on Sunfish Pond being safe
More things for pre school kids that are on the weekends so that working parents have the opportunity to utilize this activity too
More sidewalks along South St connecting it to River Rs
I think the village is growing and the need for kids and adults to make it to different parts of town via biking or walking is more important. I think the Yahara bike path is super helpful and increasing it to include the river road was wonderful! Efforts like this makes me and other active families proud of DeFo. I think Waunakee has made great efforts in connecting their town with paths and I hope we continue. Personally, I would like to somehow connect the neighborhoods split by the busy CV. I know there is conflict with trail bike riding vs walking/nature paths. Would be great if both could have their own "wins".
Would like to see a little better maintenance of trees along the Upper Yahara River Trail. Many many dead trees.
Outdoor pool please
DeForest is known for it's natural areas. Please keep them natural.
A pool would be amazing! So many community members end up giving money to other places to utilize their swimming facilities (Sun Prairie, Columbus).
More Senior programs
No comment, I love the trails here!
Better upkeep of Libertyland park
Keep Conservancy trail area free of any mountain bike courses.
Would love a full size outdoor ice rink with goals.
Concern is how you plan to pay for this?? I wish you would think more about tax decrease vs adding more services
Keeping wildlife areas in the town is crucial to maintaining its beauty and peaceful setting. We have lost so much conservancy space and surrounding areas to building that it has become disheartening to walk many of the paths. We have also been hearing about a pool for years. Please prioritize it as it is one of the lacking areas compared to surrounding communities like Waunakee and Sun Prairie.
Would love to see trail expansion/connection north to Morrisonville!
The teens in this town are desperate for something to do. Can we find a wide open space, but not in Western Green, for a great disc golf course & a biking trail? Please preserve Western Green as a beautiful habitat. We used to have a skate park too, but that disappeared. People really enjoy pickleball, so more pickleball courts.
Pickelball League
Would love bike lanes and a bike club or running club. An ice rink would be lovely.
No mountain biking in parks. Because of their speed it makes it dangerous for walkers,joggers and others riding bikes. Create a place for them if we can afford it.
Preserve the nature spaces. Keep people and bikes on existing trails.
Sidewalks not needed in lower traffic, residential areas. A disc golf course should be developed near the River Rd Athletic Complex, not in Western Green or similar natural areas.
More bike path accessible on major thoroughfares like CV and North Town Road that connects neighborhoods directly to downtown Deforest shopping and business district.
I am proud to live somewhere that prioritizes outdoor activities and natural areas
Lower volume on bands/music. I live over a mile away and anytime there is a concert I have to hear it loudly which I shouldn't be able to do at this distance. There are many loud concerts I have to endure, often late at night when it keeps my kids up
User education/awareness of multi users of the paths. I.e. walkers and bikers wearing headphones and being unaware of bikes passing. (Unable to hear "passing on your left"……). Perhaps a "one bud" rule?
Not sure
Keep water fountains and restroom clean
I'd like a track to run on, or if that's not possible (yet), then maybe draw on fireman's park trail to mark 1/4 mile or etc
Updated equipment with adequate shade and seating for parents/younger kids would be a plus.
We need more sports/activities that aren't about balls. Running, archery, etc. and day time weekday activities for toddlers would be great.
We love all the parks but would love to see more playgrounds.
Would be nice to have a park or more than one, that are nature based. Meaning not plastic bright colored equipment. Google nature playground…lots of ideas. Other communities have them and they are so important and becoming more wanted.
Would love to see a community pool
Water fountains with restrooms would be nice at each neighborhood park.
Trail or sidewalks along Hwy V to connect Interstate to High School. Trail or sidewalks along CV - very hazardous walking from Walgreens to Windsor.
THANK YOU for all you do! So thankful for the great walking trails, community gardens, etc. THANK YOU!

Sun Prairie Park & Rec is a comprehensive program to strive towards. Need longer bike trails, closer to +20 miles. Wish we had something like Glacier Drumlin in Cottage Grove. Wish we had outdoor swim program. Savanah Brooks is an island with no way to bike or walk anywhere but Token Creek Park. Need safe access to rest of Village via bike. Not sure how anyone is going to get to new hockey rink other than by car.
Get some trail access for those of us who live on the East side of Deforest. Everything seems to be developing on the west side without considering how others will be able to utilize it.
More pickleball courts and outdoor ice rink for winter
We need more garbage cans and dog trash bags I think this could go a long way in keeping trails and play spaces trash and poop free
Less natural area interruption
Better snow removal of sidewalks
Small group kayak excursions/ or tubing down the Yahara river? Maybe kayak rentals?
Make sure to maintain what we have without increasing costs. Make sure that user fees cover all the cost of recreational programming and covers the cost of the director with no taxpayer subsidy.
Do not put in any off-road mountain biking trails!! Let’s keep our natural areas natural. In addition, as an older citizen I have no desire for high-speed cyclists whizzing by me when I’m out walking. There are enough of the adults that whiz by on their bikes.
Dedicate greenspace for families/family activities especially as it relates to nature.
no pool no off trail biking
If a mountain bike path is approved in the conservancy, I do not think it should cross the paved path. There are too many children, pets, walkers using the path and bikes crossing could be hazardous.
We need a community pool.
I like the idea of a disc golf course. just not within an existing park like what was proposed in the western green park
Please increase activities offered for teens. Most things like summer art camps cut off at age 12 and then adult offerings begin at 16 or 18.
Clean up creek at yahara park. Full of sediment!!
Great work. We are so privileged to have our great trail system. I'd like more information plagues along the trails or a QR Code "Scan and Learn" I know there are QR Code's posted along the trails already. Are those for emergencies or to report issues needing addressed. That would be a good option. Maybe even a rec session devoted to trail safety etc. Why you have to stay on it. How you approach someone walking from behind on a bike etc. How to report issues and updates.
Please leave natural areas in Western Green park as they are. We do not need a disc golf course there (or any other recreational activity). It is nice to have a walking trail and relatively untouched natural area in center of town - something Waunakee is lacking and one of the reasons we like it where we are.
I would only like more Pickleball or Tennis courts with Pickleball option. On the tennis court it would be great to have a board to practice individuallyl. We already have way too many parks and splash pads. There are plenty of options for families to walk or drive to the parks. We also have plenty of paths for walking and biking. Our entertainment facilities are great. If you keep adding then our already high taxes might push us out of DeForest.
Don't raise taxes
We need bathroom and water fountain facilities at trail heads. The fact that there isn't a bathroom by sunfish pond where so many people park is ridiculous. And the port a potty there never has soap. There really isn't much access throughout our village to these types of facilities, unless you're at an actual park like Fireman's and the splash pad. People with disabilities suffer from lack of access, as do most people.
Deforest would benefit from a skateboard park. The sport is very different than it used to be and it is now popular with many ages and especially the younger generations - both boys and girls. The nearest skate parks are in Waunakee and Sun Prairie which is a shame for all the youth who participate in the sport. Deforest would also benefit from real cross country ski trails - i.e. trails that are groomed with a real groomer. We have to travel to Gov. Nelson park, Lodi, or Token Creek County Park to access cross country ski trails.
Quit wasting money on clearing out the Yahara River Corridor. Quercus is making a fortune off the Village in a battle with invasive plant species that are here to stay. Maybe more taxpayers should be asking to see the budget on that adventure. Leave the deer alone also, as the Village grows they will disperse naturally. I love seeing them in town and in my yard.
The planning of neighborhood parks is awful. We are told nothing then given a "plan" without input, then told we'll be able to give input, then no input allowed. Trees added randomly, no planned landscaping. Threats of loud sports courts - pickle ball, tennis and basketball for example in what's essentially our back yards. No idea what's happening. Bike classes outside our yards with no communication. Try to give feedback and we are told "lucky you have a park". Beg to differ with how it's been handled.
Would love to see indoor faculty like Keva for soccer/ football and basketball and artificial field for soccer/ football. Weather is crummy for months on end here and demand is high for gym time for many sports .

Restrooms and water fountains at older parka needs to be maintained and updated. Specifically western green. The fountain leaks and is outdated. I also think the paved trail and bridge could be maintained better in the winter.
Skate park and community swimming pool needed
There needs to be more programs for children that have both parents that work. I find it very challenging when programs are offered during the day during the work week. Finding weekend programs are extremely challenging.

Question 18: Would you like to provide additional feedback on potential future facilities and uses within Iver Munson Park and a park to be named later within Conservancy Place?



Question 19: Please provide your thoughts on what future park facilities and uses you would like to see included within Iver Munson Park. (fill in the blank)

All Comments
Natural prairie, trees, habitat for birds and other wildlife. Possibly community garden.
Soccer fields
Ball diamond for neighborhood kids, pickle ball courts, full basketball court and shelter with bathrooms.
Community Pool
Playground, splashpad, park facilities
Unsure
Native flower garden and shaded picnic area. Trees.
Multi use sports fields like lacrosse facilities. Public pool. Large play ground equipment.
Disc golf course!
Ropes or challenge course
8 pickleball courts Sand volleyball courts Shelter Disc golf Restrooms
Ice skating rink, pool
Splash pad, picnic area, toddler playground
Fenced in area, restrooms
Playground
no dogs, no Frisbee golf
Shelter. Accessible play area. Picnic area
natural area, trees, community gardens. maybe room for a beginners; bmx trail?
disc golf baskets
Pickle ball, tennis and basketball court
Pickleball courts
It is next to another park. I don't want to see a repeat of uses. BMX track, mtb trail
Biking, shelters, soccer, basketball courts
Tennis court
Pool
A community pool would be great, having additional basketball courts as well as safe, ADA playground equipment! The equipment at the star Gazer pocket park is kind of dangerous (especially with the mulch way lower than the equipment says it's supposed to be for safety). The slide especially is terrifying for parents of little and big kids, so It would be great if there were some safer equipment at Iver Mason with ADA in mind.
Pickleball
Tennis courts and/or baseball field
no thoughts
A community pool
Waste of money.
Hockey Rink, Lacrosse Fields
N/a
Playground equipment and splash pad
This is too close to cradle hill park and is a waste of an opportunity for a park in deforest. Rethink this
Tennis, pickleball, walking trail.
Pool
Large motor skills for older kids like skate park or bike track.
Mountain bike trail with bumps and berms and twists and turns and looping back and forth around the circumference, pickle ball courts, natural playground with wood tree trunks (like Madison Children's Museum or Cambridge park). Bike pump track! And a Nijs Adventure playground like the brand new one at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg.
Looks small. Playground? Pickleball?
Pickle ball, tennis court
Disc golf
Shelter with restrooms, playground
Shelter,bathroom, water fountain, basketball, swings etc, picnic tables

Trees, open space
Disc golf, playground or pool
Playground community garden
Restrooms
Leave the area as natural as possible
Green space for soccer and preschool sports. Dirt field with backstop for neighborhood pick up games of kickball, softball, baseball…
Picnic area with shelter and walking paths
Not sure why you would put a park directly across the street from another existing park. If this is really happening then it should offer something the other park does not have.
Not sure
Splash pad
public swimming pool, provided there's enough room
Wildlife learning center, community gardens, community pool, disc golf course
Pool, gardens, shelter, picnic spot, dog exercising area (off leash)
Pickle ball and tennis courts
Splash pad, multiuser field, and playground
Community pool
Dog run area Batting cages
Possible community garden? Might work for bike skills training?
Dog Park
Swimming pool
Trails connecting to conservancy across cv.
Skate park,basketball courts, volleyball
Pickle ball
Fitness course
Skate park
4 season party room/community center. Full playground with splash pad.
Hiking trails
Area that allows pets
DOG FRIENDLY- volleyball courts, soccer goal, open space to multi sport use, well lit with natural landscape.
Idk where this is from the map.
Green space
Soccer fields with concessions
Restrooms, walking trails
Dog park spaces
Community pool!!
Children play ground Walking trails
Athletic field for the kids so they don’t have to drive to a place to use them.
Since there is a splash pad and playground near by, pickleball or disc golf would be major considerations.
Stage area, picnic area/ flower garden
Pickleball court
No opinion.
Community garden or community pool
The simplest possible facility.
Volleyball, disc golf another dog park
Park or dog park
Passive facility
Swim pool
Would be great!
Bigger shelter with all session rooms (like fireman’s) and a big playground
Jumping mat
Playing fields, ropes/challenge course/ninja course
A pool or garden/orchard would be great with multigenerational educational programming around gardening

Pool
Outdoor ice rink Volley ball courts Climbing wall
No familiar with this park
ball diamond, pump track (different things to compliment Cradle Hill Park)
Great question - that is already a great park. Expanded/updated playground equipment and maybe a “bike park” for kids like the one at Windsor park?
Sledding hill for winter. Restroom- male and female Flower garden Meditation area Adults only area would be nice so we all have a place for quiet time Quiet Area for reading and relaxing for adults Keep it natural as much as possible.
Community Center or maybe a town outdoor pool
Is that a bike path? Could a pump track go here so folks could bike to it?
All abilities park!!! Lacrosse and McFarland have something. Think rock walls into the ground. Baby areas, swings and spinners for all abilities, sensory slides
soccer fields and tennis courts
Indoor/outdoor rental shelter, ADA playground
Skateboard/scooter park, could be included with bike pump track
I'd love to see more places that appeal to pre teens and teenagers. I feel that our community has so much to offer for elementary school ages kids but not much for them as they get older.
Play/picnic area. Nature center/trail. Bathroom facilities. Tennis, pickle ball or basketball court
pump track, mtb single track.
Playground, basketball court, multi-use field for football, etc, shelter
Dirt bike trails
It would be amazing to have a community pool somewhere in deforest. My family spends a ton of time outside and live biking and swimming.
Large community pool with slides, concession stand, event space
Sports fields, accessible play areas, covered picnic areas
Frisbee, soccer
Swimming pool
Aquatic center
A bike pump track or skate park would be great here
Shelter, bathroom, picnic tables, playground horseshoe pit
no dogs or Frisbee golf allowed
More shade trees. Outdoor seating. Shaded outdoor seating. Skate park maybe? Basketball. There should be a comprehensive plan that looks at Mason and Cradle Hill Parks as one space to better provide and organize amenities. Provide a Small prairie/ butterfly garden.
Large playground with multi age equipment. Community pool - no more splash pads, only applicable for young children. Full size basketball courts, separate tennis court from basketball courts
Playground, dog park.
Basketball courts, tennis, swimming pool
Skate park
volleyball courts, green areas
I don't know where this is
Prairie area with paths going through it and/or a natural playground!
Skateboarding, trick bike track.
No public pool. Splash pad at Cradle Hill Park is good enough
A large playground would be nice with structures for all ages
Playground
community pool
Pump track for bikes. Pickle ball courts.
Community pool

Areas for families with children, looking at all ages to include playgrounds, picnic, and smaller sort (basketball for instance) options. We don't need large area facilities here, we are good in that area.
None
Space together, some rec opportunities
No opinion
Splash pad, shelter, restrooms
Walking trails with garden, and lots of trees for shaded picnic area, disc golf
Pickleball Splash pad Youth programming
Not familiar with area or types of families living there.
Play ground
A mix of toddler/preschool sized play equipment and older elementary equipment.
Ice rink, bike and roller blade area
Outdoor ice skating rink. Set up basketball hoops in it for that during summer and hockey/skating in the winter.
Pickleball and basketball courts
Basketball courts, pickle ball, playground
More shelters, another play ground, skate park
Basketball court or community pool
Dedicate Pickleball courts not multi-use
Basketball courts, playground equipment and baseball fields
Basketball courts, baseball field, tennis courts and pickle ball
I think another city park (what you call the 1-5 acre parks) would be amazing. I live in Heritage Gardens that butts up against there. Some more facilities would be great.
Sports fields, whatever it is will need shade
Basketball
Seating. Shelter, activities Open grass area. Basketball court
Basketball tennis or volleyball courts would be great. That area already has a splash pad, playground and shelter. So maybe a baseball/softball diamond? I live close so selfishly would love a pool, but it isn't I. The most accessible part of town.
Playground, horseshoes,
Pickle ball courts
We don't need the standard playground equipment found in every park. Covered areas for neighborhoods to be able to have "block parties"?
Basketball court, pickleball, outdoor ice rink
Any activity that doesn't disrupt the wildlife that have already been displaced due to the village growth.
skate board activities, pickle ball, or a wooden large scale park apparatus like at Angel Park speedway?
Pool
Mountain bike trails
Picnic shelter/ bathrooms/ playground equipment
Link to paved paths and have standard playground facilities.
Community pool with concessions and changing facilities. This would blend well with the splash pad and there are already baseball fields and play equipment there.
Pump track
Shelter, sand volleyball, picnic area, bathroom, bubbler
Community pool.
The park facilities at Iver Mason should compliment, but not duplicate what is at Cradle Hill Park.
Shaded picnic area. Playground equipment
Pickleball courts, designated baseball and soccer courts
Mountain bike trail (if it makes sense there), track to run on, or maybe bike track similar to one at Windsor Community Park
A larger play area, outdoor skate rink, outdoor shuffleboard,
A track or bike park would be nice
Mini-golf course; playground for kids from preK - 6th grade.
Skate park or pump track?
Playground
Looks like another neighborhood park and the ushers should be complementary to what winds are already has

Volleyball Family oriented parkour surfaces - not advanced courses
Parking! Cradle Hill has hosted events before but not enough parking to handle the crowd.
Some basic skateboard park features would benefit a LOT of youth in Deforest.
Interesting that it is next to a Windsor park. Don't duplicate what they have obviously. Is it big enough for a soccer/lacrosse/football/baseball field?
Walking trails
Artificial complex or indoor facility like keva
Could be a great location to re-explore outdoor pool talks

Question 20: Please provide your thoughts on what future park facilities and uses you'd like to see included within a park to be named later within the Conservancy Place Development. (fill in the blank)

All Comments
Wild flower gardens, walking path, educational exploration
Swimming pool
shelter, toilets, playground equipment, splash pad, picnic tables, soccer & flag football
Open green space
Shelter, Band Shell, Bathrooms, Multi-Use fields, picnic area
Toddler friendly playground, splash pad, restrooms, grills, nature play area, tree shade and walking trails. Would love more community events like food trucks, music, etc.
Green space, picnic area, walking trail
Unsure
I would prefer that it remain a Green space like the park in Sunnybrook did for 20 plus years!
It would be great to have a park with a playset for children and to have a splashpad. Thank you!
Native flower gardens and shaded picnic area
Lacrosse facilities. Pool. Playground.
Disc golf course!
Basketball court, pickle ball court
Sand volleyball court; Shelter; Restrooms; Pickleball courts
Basketball courts, pool, ice skating rink
Playground
Playground
Playground
no dogs, no Frisbee golf
Shelter playground
natural park, community gardens, playground with shady seating for old people.
disc golf putting basket
A local herd of deer pass through this area every day. It'd be great to see some of the this stay wetland and undeveloped so the deer can continue to pass through here. A play structure with some green space for small early youth sports or something would be great here though. There are not many play structures in conservancy place relative to the number of households/kids in the area.
Grass volleyball court and pickle ball courts.
While I would love to see pickle ball courts in Conservancy this is not an ideal place due to the proximity of homes. Probably best to have a play structure, benches and picnic area
Pickleball courts
Mtb trail, bmx park,
Basketball hoops, soccer field, pool, shelters, playground.
Tennis/pickle ball
Mountain bike trails
Sport courts for teens- then they have a place to hang that isn't on the equipment for younger kids in conservancy.
Playground with shelter
Pickleball
Playground, splash pad
basketball court
Please stop the building of more housing in Conservancy.

A neighborhood park
People are installing their own swing sets so they can keep an eye on their kids. Why are we wasting money on these over-priced swing sets that no-one uses. I would suggest a more simpler robust of outdoor use such as bird watching and walking.
Hockey Rink
Something completely ADA accessible and/or a commincation board so non-verbal kiddos can communicate with peers when playing
Community garden
Playground and field for playing ball or practice. Possibly basketball court/ pickleball court
Tennis, pool, oversized playground.
I like this green space. Deer go through here daily.
Nature based play area
Ninja playground like the brand new one at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg with ninja warrior obstacles. It's so cool! My 7 year old and friends played her for a long time trying to sharpen their skills on the challenges! This would be so cool somewhere in Deforest!
Pickle ball, tennis, basketball
Playgrounds
Nice shelter for events that residents can rent, playground, restrooms, handicap accessible, volleyball,
Shelter with restrooms and playground
Shelter, restroom, water fountain, picnic tables, basketball hoop, volleyball
Trees
Playground, splash pad, or disc golf
Playground
Needs some green space!
Playground restrooms walking trail
This area already has a park and doesn't need another! Just keep the land natural there and stop all the construction!
Small park and shade structure for picnics.
Picnic area with walking paths and restrooms
Mixed use for small children and a shelter with bathrooms.
Picnic area. Love the park in Williamsburg subdivision.
Restrooms play equipment
botanical garden / ice rink
Outdoor Pool
Community gym, park with large outdoor facilities, nice park
Pool, dog off leash area, picnic, shelter, wildlife education
Pickle ball and basketball courts
Pickle ball and tennis courts
Multiuser field, playgrounds
Community pool and lots of pickle ball courts
Dog run (enclosed); Community pool; Outdoor shelter
Possible community garden?
Playground, dog Park
Tennis courts
Playground, basketball and sand vb
Pickle ball and tennis courts
Fitness course
Skate park, ice rink
4 season party room/community center. Full playground with splash pad.
Pavillion and playground equipment
Hiking trails
No preference
Playground. Pavilion. Splash pad. Bocce Court. Tennis courts.
Fishing access
Dog park and small playground
Pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, splash pad, picnic tables
Restrooms and links up to walking paths
Allow dogs.

Community pool!!
Children’s playground
Playground for young kids.
Playground equipment…
Stage!!!
Pickleball, volleyball, zip line, stage. Something to some older children to do.
Basketball court
Splash pad, basketball hoops, shelter, playground equipment
Green space and a play structure.
Community garden
People in conservancy probably don’t want this park so just plant trees to keep the quiet!
Volleyball basketball play ground
Park
Playground equipment.
Kids
Ball diamond
Mountain bike trails
Would be great!
Smaller park with small shelter/ restrooms and water fountain
Splash pad
Basketball court, tennis court
A children's garden, sand box, small playground
Pool
Playground equipment
natural playground
Play equipment , splash pad, park shelter
Have a place for adults only! Where we can have a friend meetup place and a tranquil place for adults in the area. We need our own space . Bathrooms, tables with umbrellas, comfortable seating for reading or listening to music through our earbuds a place to stretch before our hike and after our hike. Water fountain.
no opinion
Green space or walking path around the outside to separate the park from people’s backyards. A loop for small kids to scooter/bike. Maybe some small rollers or berms for kids on strider bikes to get speed and practice gliding on.
Something that can actually grow with children. Western green is a good example of a park that is for a variety of ages and can grow with kids. O’Donnel park was poorly designed. Swings, climbing structures, monkey bars, baby slide
soccer fields and tennis courts
Pool
I'd love to see more places that appeal to pre teens and teenagers. I feel that our community has so much to offer for elementary school ages kids but not much for them as they get older.
Picnic/play area. Trails that lead to bike trail. Bathroom facilities.
pump track, mtb single track.
Pickleball courts and/or basketball courts
Pool. More trails.
Park facilities
Covered picnic areas with bathroom facilities, splash pad
Basketball court, wooden dream park(like sun prairie)
Swimming pool
A neighborhood park. Activities that families/homes in that area favor. Not activities that could be disruptive to the neighborhood. Homes in that immediate area should each be consulted rather than surprised by what is decided. Go door to door and ask.
Playground, park shelter, picnic area
Shelter bathrooms
Small shelter like at rivers turn, pickleball
Picnic area
no dogs or Frisbee golf allowed
Playground, shaded seating, large shade trees, native prairie garden,

Playground
Large playground with multi age equipment. No more splash pads, only applicable for young children. Full size basketball courts, separate tennis court from basketball courts
Playground, dog park, shelter
A section of MTB trails near the river, by the current paved path would be ideal.
Playground, shelter, bathrooms
Skate park
volleyball courts, paved trails,
I don't know where this is
Dog park!! (Similar to the Boneyard in Madison)
If a playground is installed, parent/toddler swings are nice for parents of littles.
Skateboarding, trick bike, exercise course
No pool. Waste of tax payer money
A playground with activities for all ages
Playground, bathrooms
basketball courts
Shelter/picnic area Sports area -- basketball, pickle ball courts
Picnic area, playground for older kids
Pickleball. Basketball. Playground.
Again, this should serve the people that live there. Families who need green space options for their children that are local to their community.
Swings, playground
Basketball and pickle ball courts!!! There are close walking playgrounds but not basketball or pickle ball courts in this neighborhood
Please add playground and restrooms!!
Lots of green space!!! Wild flowers. Or maybe NO park would be best.
Please keep it low profile due to its proximity to single family homes. Small playground equipment (slides, swings, etc) and possibly open space for multi-use.
Pickleball courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts
Large kids park with many playground options and a more interactive splash pad.
Playground, tennis court, bathroom, food/coffee truck
Playground and pavilion
Playground equipment for variety of ages 1-10yo
No off trail mountain biking!!
Basketball and volleyball courts
Playground equipment and sand box, bathrooms, shelter
Pickleball; Play equipment; Youth programs; Multi use green space; Splash pad
I would like to see Pickle-ball courts, trail access, an interactive playground (similar to the one at Fireman's Park), and a water station/simple pavilion!
Picnic areas, shelter, open field for general play (football, soccer). Higher level play equipment - climbing wall, etc. No pickleball or basketball please! People with houses directly attached don't need to listen to that. NO SKATE PARK.
Biking
Basketball hoops, sand Volleyball, picnic shelters, and disc golf.
Focus heavily on playground equipment since the other park in the neighborhood does not have a lot. Paved walking path around the park perimeter for walking
Pickleball courts would be perfect since Fireman's park is down town we need one closer
A playground and picnic area and pavilion!
Splash pad, child playground, paved paths, pickle ball court
Pickleball, basketball, tennis courts, park pavilion, green space with trees
Playground, multi-use field, paved bike trail leading to it
Playground and splash pad. Also a space for toddlers as well, not just older kids. Having a fenced in space for kids to play without running off would be beneficial as well as helping to keep wildlife out as their feces have been prevalent in our trails and yards.
Multi purpose fields. Basketball court.
Community pool
Dedicated pickleball courts and playground

Basketball courts, playground, splash pad
Basketball courts, baseball field, tennis courts and pickle ball
Playground
Basketball, open space for kids to play pick up games, bathrooms.
Pickleball courts
Playground equipment
Mostly green space. No pickleball due to the unbearable noise.
Hopefully this park is constructed in a manner, and with amenities, that are respectful to the existing homes bordering this space. Something that is primarily green space and does not function as a major, noisy attraction.
Park shelter and multi use fields, maybe a playground- doesn’t seem big enough for any of the larger options
Splash pad, play ground , sledding hill
We don't need the standard playground equipment found in every park. Covered areas for neighborhoods to be able to have "block parties"?
Basketball, pickleball, outdoor ice rink, restrooms, playground
large wooden park like angel park speedway? skateboard?
Playground equipment
Pool
Mountain bike trail
Bathrooms/water
Link to paved trails and standard playground facilities.
Pickle ball courts.
Play set with bathroom/concession enclosure and ball field
Playground, basketball court
Shelter, bathroom, picnic area, horse shoes, bocce ball, tables to play cards and/ or chess
Ice rink.
Park Shelter and playground equipment.
Unique park
Playground equipment, community garden and/or picnic area
Maybe mountain bike trail, track to run on,or bike track for little kids learning to ride
Ice rink
Accessibility playground
Unpaved natural area, highlight meadow wildflowers, birds, pollinators…like a mini walkabout arboretum for quiet reflection.
Looks like a neighborhood park complimentary to river's turn and Conservancy place
Playground, splash pad, plenty of shaded seating/picnic spots,
Bocce courts
restroom, water fountain
Some basic skateboard park features would benefit a LOT of youth in Deforest.
Playground equipment
Walking trails
See previous answer
Expand the drainage pond and keep stocked for youth fishing and utilize for ice skating in winter months

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

On April 17, 2024, planning consultants hosted a public workshop in the Village Hall Commons Room to engage the community in discussions about key community park and recreation amenities, challenges, needs, and recommended improvements for the future park and recreation system of the community. Consultants led a presentation highlighting the planning process, existing park and recreation system conditions, and facilitated discussions using comment boards to allow residents to provide feedback on their favorite park system features, areas for improvements to existing facilities, and future opportunities to improve the park system. The public also had the opportunity to vote on priority initiatives to be focused on during the planning process. The feedback received during this event informed the development of this Plan and its recommendations. An inventory of feedback received at the event can be found below.

Likes and Values Prompts

What do you like about the parks and recreation offerings in DeForest today?	• Amazing wildlife • Tree lighting with reindeer riverfest • Music and festivals • Enjoying the river views and wildlife • Great trail system for biking/hiking, providing exercise opportunities, and community connections • Wildlife, birds, so much to see and enjoy, love the system • Great dog park • Love the peace and quiet and so much nature • Yahara trail • Parks and trails throughout the community • Love the river • We have so many wonderful rec programs and rec, parks, trails, and nature. Great balance – leave it as is please • Free dog park tag • Wonderful trail system • Birding • Riverfest, concerts, and historical re-enactments • Staff does an awesome job • Beautiful upper Yahara River corridor full of amazing plants and wildlife • Great outdoor music and programs • 4th of July celebration • Electronic recycling
What park, feature, or program do you use most often or that you value the most?	• Walking on Western Green Trail and Upper Yahara Trail • Music and events at Fireman's Park • Birding and wildlife viewing at conservancy • Walking in Western Green Park • Enjoying nature in its natural state walking the trails • The walking trails – love them • Love Western Green and Upper Yahara River Trail – so beautiful • Events at Fireman's Park • Splash pad, shelter, playground path at Fireman's Park • Yahara path and bike lands on roads • Western Green paths and prairie

Existing Facilities Analysis Prompts

Conservancy and Natural Areas: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Bakke Conservancy	• Leave it alone! • Prevent pond from overgrowth of weeds and ponds weeds • Signage
Chapel Green Park	• Keep it natural and maintain the fences for kids
Marvin and Marie Schweers Natural Area	• Trail maintenance (wider?) • Control weeds, cut shorter, maintain fencing
Reigstad Park	• Maintain and children's activity linkages to Token Creek
Upper Yahara River Corridor	• We need a Village naturalist! • Improve habitat • Keep snags for woodpeckers • Nature walks • Birding walks • Keep bikes on pavement to protect habitat • No off road biking • This is a sensitive environmental area and needs protection through ordinances. 350 people have signed a petition to keep it this way. • Love this area, erosion control needed, ecological inventory and management, can trees that fall into river be removed for improved canoeing • Keep as is, no bikes • More dog waste cans
Community and Special Use Parks: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Fireman's Park	• More shade at splash park, fix bubblers
DeForest Athletic Complex	• Sponsorship for the sign • More trees to screen wind and views of the interstate
Marvie and Marie Schweers Dog Park	• More dog agility stuff • Dog obstacle course • Maintain and keep weeds down • Spray for ticks
Rivers Turn Park	• Winter sledding • Please preserve this wonderful sledding hill be not allowing mountain biking practice here • No mountain bikes! • No mountain bikes in wooded area
Mini Parks: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Dahl Park	• Check with neighbors
Hank's Hollow Park	• Check with neighbors
O'Donnell Park	• Add some shad • Basketball hoop • Shade trees for all parks to make summers in parks safer and more enjoyable
Star Gazer Park	• No responses
Sunnybrook Park	• Tennis/pickleball • Clean up the trespassing off-road bikes, not village, but volunteers • The bike club should restore the trespassing bike trails • More trees
Tierney Park	• No responses
Village Square Park	• Playground
Fox Hills Park	• No responses

Neighborhood Parks: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Conservancy Commons Park	• Love the animals at the riverfest • Maintain/add entertainment venue
Liberty Land Park	• Pickleball and more gardens • The raised bed gardens need fixing • Needs work to maintain • Update little kids play equipment • More swings • Light path and playground • Shelter with bathrooms
Veterans Memorial Park	• Working bubblers • Standalone toilet • More entertainment venues • Toilets – good idea • Lights are too bright, are lights on timers?
Western Green Park	• Soccer field • Put a bench closer to water to sit on and fish • Fix informational sign on the loop • Trim tree suckers • Put doggy bags by the old Indian trail and new bridge • Keep as conservancy, no developments ever! • Keep prairie as prairie, add educational signage
Yahara Park	• Maintain
Bike and Pedestrian Facilities: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Paved Multi-Use Trails	• We need to connect south DeForest to schools • More overall park signage and wayfinding • Just maintain! Keep speed limits, all bikes on paved paths • More trails connections and link parks and open spaces together. Extent bike/walk path north from Veterans Park • Better signage
Unpaved Multi-Use Trails	• Keep for hiking • Leave the trails as is – they are beautiful walking paths • Unpaved trails should only be for foot traffic • Foot trails only, no bikes
On-Street Bicycle Facilities	• We need bicycle lands on the street • Lane marking would help • More of these like south street
Sidewalks	• Maintain existing!
Mountain Biking Trails	• Get it done already • This is such a small group of people from DeForest in this group – don't do it • Please, no need for mountain bike trails • This is an activity that would serve a small group of people. Please find a location other than conservancy. • No! • No more bike trails in the conservancy • No mountain bike trails near bodies of water • No biking in protected areas

Overall Existing Facilities and Programming: What could be improved? What does that improvement include?	
Maintenance and Appearance Within Recreational Areas	• Cleaner tables • Trim around trees when mowed • Make sure all bubblers work • I think they look great • Maintain • More shade tree species • Plowing that doesn't remove next season's flower beds
Safety Within Recreational Areas	• Don't let bikes on hiking trails! • No bikes in wooded areas or off Village trails in conservancies • No biking off paved trails • No biking
ADA Accessibility Within Recreational Areas	• More ADA for adults and kids in wheel chairs • More
Recreational Programming Offerings	• Keep affordable and available to families of all means • More adult classes other than exercise ones • We have enough!

Future Opportunities for the Park and Recreation System Prompts

Within these two areas, what would you like to see included?	
Iver Mason Park	• Skate park • Playground for older kids • Horse shoes • Bocce Ball • More trees and structures for shad
Park Yet To Be Named (Within Conservancy Place)	• Shelter • Pickleball • Pickleball or tennis
What would you like to see more of in DeForest? What types of facilities or programming could be added or expanded?	
Active Recreation	• Walking and biking paths - along roadways and through nature areas (like Yahara River Path) • No off road bicycling in conservancy • You are doing a great job. I think we have enough for now. • No disc golf in Western Green Park please • No disc golf or activity that ruins soils, flowers, or trees • As climate change, we need an outdoor pool • Disc golf • Ice skating • Snow shoeing paths • Winter sledding • Pump track • Skate board park • Skate park • Horse shoes • Bocce ball • Mountain biking, but not in conservancy • Disc golf but not in natural areas or Western Green Park

Passive Recreation	• Community gardens don't work • No camping facilities • Fishing foot access to river • Canoe trail • Urban forest and street trees along sidewalks and paths • Birding • Environmental education • Fire pits you can reserve • Expand conservancy areas with walking only trails. They area a resource we cannot replace if developed • Always more!
Supporting Amenities	• Portable restrooms seasonally available in parks without facilities now • Bathrooms strategically placed in parks along trails/path system • More shade structures and large shade trees in parks for cool places during the summer
Bicycle and Pedestrian	• No off road biking • No off trail/path for bikes through conservancies • No off-pavement biking and signs specifying • Keep regulations intact for trails, paths, and signage requirements
Recreational Programming	• You're doing great. We have enough especially with the addition of U10 soccer and ice rink opportunities • Don't we have enough?
More Parkland Overall	• No • More trails, paths, parks, and conservancy as Village expands – create interconnected system • Find home for mountain biking that doesn't negatively affect conservancy

Prioritization Polling

Please help us prioritize what comes next. The Village of DeForest should…	Sticker Dots
Improve existing active recreation facilities	1
Improve existing passive recreation facilities	7
Improve existing conservancy and natural areas	11
Improve existing trails, paths, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities	2
Improve existing recreational programming	0
Add additional active recreation facilities	2
Add additional passive recreation facilities	5
Add additional trails, paths, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities	5
Add additional parkland (any type)	2
Add new recreational programming	2

General Written Comment Form Responses:

Yard waste site should be open more
We have lived in the Village for 13 years and have seen all these paved trails come into being in that time. Thank you! We are frequent users (biking and walking) of the trail system and love to see new trails. DeForest has a unique feel – please preserve the natural areas that lend a country element.
Once we have a plan, let's follow it. Don't let a handful of trustees play political games with it.

Other Submitted Comments:

Will there be another workshop scheduled for residents who could not make this meeting? If so, when?
When will the open house regarding this plan be held?
Please prioritize preservation, continued restoration and protection of all current conservancy and sensitive environmental areas including the Upper Yahara River corridor, Western Green Park and restored prairie, wooded areas, oak savannas, sedge meadows and all other current plant and wildlife habitats. Please install signage in these areas to make it clear they are protected and are not to be disturbed or altered.
Please use available funds to purchase available open land for both active use parks and for natural areas for passive recreational use. Due to the extensive building and growth that has been happening, this should be a priority as DeForest is already deficient in meeting the suggested criteria for the ratio of population to open parkland. All of these new residents will be needing access to parkland.
In reference to open land: Is DeForest investigating purchase of the land that's currently for sale, such as several parcels on CV, parcels off of River Road, land north of V and east of 51? There's a low parcel north of North & South Restaurant that has been for sale for a number of years...could it possibly be beautified and serve some purpose?
Please use whatever means possible to obtain grants, donations, estate giving, fund raising, naming rights, developer donations, etc. to assist in the purchase and expansion of parkland.
Please make all documents that substantiated need for and established current parks available to Vandewalle so they can make the most informed suggestions possible. These might include: prior Parks and Open Spaces Plans, Taylor and other conservation reports, grants we've received, developer donation documents, DNR reports, applications to be designated a tree and bird city, etc.
What is the total dollar amount DeForest has taken in over the past few years for the fees required for each new building permit and what has this money been used for? With over 600 building permits issued in the past year, this fund must be quickly growing.
Many residents are wondering why DeForest and Windsor aren't collaborating on park and natural area lands. They already work together on the senior center, library, schools, housing surveys, fire & EMS, etc. DeForest citizens think that since there are certainly many Windsor residents using the recreational options we've funded, it would benefit everyone if both communities worked together to plan, fund and maintain these places and opportunities. Perhaps larger parcels could then not be so cost prohibitive and unattainable if we shared the acquisition costs with Windsor. The youth of the DeForest/Windsor area who live in Windsor and attend our schools are surely one example of a segment of the local population who use many of the DeForest park facilities, but their families pay no taxes towards the funding. It sounds like, for activities with a cost, Windsor residents pay an up-charge, but it probably doesn't cover anywhere near the real cost to DeForest taxpayers.
Has the village thought of forming a "Friends of DeForest Parks" volunteer group? These residents could help maintain kiosks, work in the natural areas, monitor safety issues, etc.

STAFF AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE KICKOFF MEETINGS

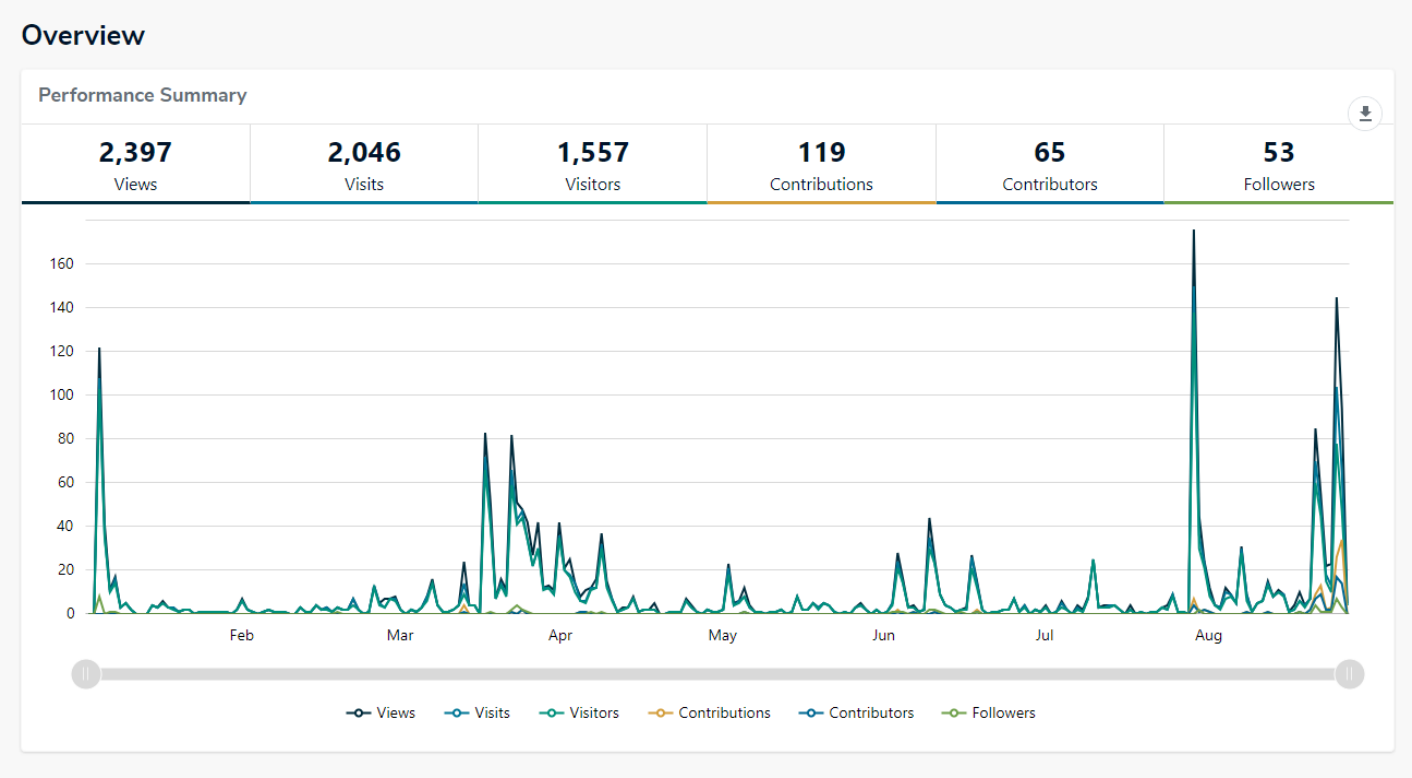
Consultants facilitated a project kickoff meeting with Village staff on March 15th and another with the Public Service Committee on March 18th. Conversation with Staff centered on discussions related to coordinating the planning process, updates on existing park and recreation system amenities and conditions, public engagement strategies, and the need for the plan to provide direction on the types of uses and activities appropriate for each park within the system. The Committee kickoff meeting explored the same topics, additionally covering the need and desire for the plan to address mountain biking trails and future park identification within the Village's growth areas and discussion about whether walking and biking pathways are appropriate uses for areas designated for permanent environmental conservation. The discussions held with each of these groups helped frame the development of the plan and many of its recommendations.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE REVIEW MEETING

In August 2024, a draft review meeting was held with the Public Service Committee. An overview of the plan and its key recommendations was provided, in addition to an overview of the public feedback received through the online survey and public workshop. Committee members provided feedback on their impressions of the draft and identified a items that could be further revised and refined within the Final Draft.

ONLINE PUBLIC DRAFT REVIEW

Over the course of the planning project, the Village provided an online feedback comment opportunity on the Engage DeForest website. Between August 19 and September 11, 2024, the Village also posted the Draft Plan to this website. In total, this featured an opportunity to provide comments on the draft materials via a web map, Idea Wall, and open comment format. The website's total views, visits, and interactions are provided below. In conjunction with the Open House event feedback obtained, this information was utilized to develop the Final Draft Plan. An inventory of feedback received at the event can be found below.



Idea Wall

Responses	Up Votes	Down Votes
Consider scheduling pickleball courts and starting pickleball leagues similar to surrounding communities. This may require additional courts	1	0
Consider scheduling pickleball courts and starting pickleball leagues similar to surrounding communities. This may require additional courts	0	0
Keep taxes down by maintaining what we have already invested in. Let developers create new spaces for their neighborhoods.	5	0
Outdoor community pool!	5	16
Teen center/ropes course/skate park/public community areas for all, but with older children in mind.	10	4
Outdoor pool!! Fundraise thru community events. More swim lessons available throughout the year - contract with the HS for this.	11	18
Small off leash dog run/ mini dog park area near cradle hill park!	3	10
Outdoor pool!	11	21
Outdoor community pool and more opportunities for open swim and swim lessons at the indoor pool during cooler months	12	18
Update the Conservancy Park play area and splash bad. This neighborhood has grown exponentially and the park is way too small.	9	0
There should be a campground near a small body of water. It would be a small investment that would be prosperous for the community.	1	12

Community outdoor swimming pool for neighboring area also. All children should learn how to swim. This can help, thank you. JH	13	21
My kids love Gaga Ball, Can we get this added!	8	1
A second community garden location!	5	3
Add basketball court at Shane O'Donnell park	8	0
Additional shade structures at Fireman's Park splashpad.	20	0

Open Comment Results

Responses	Up Votes	Down Votes
I should note, that like most unpaved MTB trails in Wisconsin. I would recommend these new MTB specific paths would be for non-motorized use only. Another differentiator from other (paved) bike trails in our community and another way to continue to minimize ecological impact.	0	0
I like the proposed ideas for the River East mountain bike park. I think a sustainable, narrow, unpaved set of trails make sense for the community (leveraging both IMBA and Madison Bicycle Adventure trail recommendations). Per the notes discussed in the comprehensive plan, I believe a dedicated path with signage (including making it clear off path use is prohibited) makes the most sense to minimize congestion and cross-traffic on existing mixed use trails. Additionally I believe dedicated trails (vs spur trails) could help provide a clearer and more consistent message to trail users that staying on path is key consideration for the safety of both the local ecology, riders, and trespass concerns. Considerations to sensitive areas in the proposed bike path routing as well as possible short term closures / use moratoriums around any key mating / birth timeframes can also be better controlled and enforced with a clearly defined dedicated path. Finally, I believe a well supported community mountain bike park can also be a chance to teach community members, especially children, best practices for maintaining sustainable trails. Users of these proposed MTB trails will be proud of such an area — leading to even lower trail maintenance and enforcement costs (due to volunteering and self enforcement) as well as increased education around best practices for sustainability.	0	0
In Deforest, close to their homes. They're (their parents) are taxpayers like. You are and they have their right to enjoy the beautiful environment we have here just like you have.	0	0
not sure what you're talking about Kathy, the mountain bike trails will have no "mini-motor cycles" and E-Bikes are not motorcycles, we still have to use pedals, they just "assist" your efforts in pedaling a bike. Please get more informed before denying kids their right to have a trail	0	0
Please build more bike trails. Nature and bike trails can coex	0	0
I one hundred percent agree.	0	0
Totally disagree Twila, sorry	0	0
totally agree, this project is environmentally sound so people that don't want this might have another reason for opposing it.	0	0
totally disaagree, this project is environmentally sound so people that don't want this might have another reason for opposing it.	0	0
totally disagree, this project is environmentally sound so people that don't want this might have another reason for opposing it.	0	0
totally agree	0	0
"I'm incredibly excited about the how the parks dept. has found a place for adding mountain bike trails to our neighborhood that works for everyone, especially for our kids! These trails would provide a fantastic opportunity for them to get outdoors, stay active, and develop their biking skills in a safe and fun environment. It's a great way to encourage healthy habits, build confidence, and foster a love for nature. Plus, having dedicated trails will offer a space where they can ride safely and enjoyably, away from traffic and other hazards. Let's support this initiative and give our kids a wonderful new place to explore and have fun in Defo. Thank you parks dept. for all of your hard work!	0	0
I'd really like to see this happen for the community! We need more projects that help build strong kids and a better community experience.	1	0
totally agre	0	0
I think the proposed site is ideal for the Mountain bike trail, if all environmental methods are used and followed it does make the site perfect for the proposed use. I think everyone can agree that the main issue is making sure the wildlife and the river are respected and that will be done in any site so proposing another site seems pointless	0	0
You're prob confusing BICYCLES with motorcycles. It's a Mountain bike we're talking about	0	0

a Trail will NOT remove wildlife access to nutrition, safe and community, also it’s not fast paced.	0	0
I don’t hear anyone disagreeing to the addition of a mountain bike trail in DeForest. No one is disputing the benefits of exercise or activity for kids and adults alike. The proposed location is where the disagreement lies. Rivers are natural connectors. They give wildlife access to nutrition, safety, and community. Is there an alternate location for this fast paced venue?	0	0
Totally agre	0	0
totally agree, my son is really excited about the environmental aspect and the respect Mountain bikers (like him) have for nature that he’s even thinking about a career on environmental studies. Seeing the transformative results already	0	0
Agreed, minimal impact:	0	0
Our family is very excited about the addition of a mountain bike trail in the Deforest area. We have ridden mountain bike trails all over the state and seen first hand that a well built trail has minimal impact on the wildlife's ability to coexist and thrive in those areas. Trail surfaces are typically just packed dirt and very narrow, not much wider than the trails the animals themselves create in that same environment, so natural vegetation and water run off are not negatively impacted. The goal of those in favor of the trail is to develop and build a trail using methods proven across the country to produce a trail that has a minimal impact on nature but a high impact on the community.	0	0
As a new mountain biker, I can share how amazing a trail would be for our MTB families! Our family tried mountain biking last year and we are hooked. Mountain biking is a fantastic silent sport that a wide variety of people can enjoy! Creating mountain bike trails is an amazing use of quiet, natural areas. Mountain biking is a quiet, extremely low impact sport to earth and nature. With the addition of mountain bike trails, DeForest businesses will also see an increase in business as our riders will be able to stay in town to ride. Trails will also attract others to DeForest who will most certainly support local business. I am excited to see this opportunity for our mountain biking community. We also know from study after study how negative it is for our kids and adults to spend so much screen time. By building a local trail in DeForest, we are offering our kids the opportunity to ride local and get off the screens and into nature and exercise.	0	0
My family fully supports Mountain Biking trails in the Deforest area. This will provide opportunities for children and adults who may not be interested in organized team sports and gives them an outlet to participate in a sport that offers them an opportunity to be active in the outdoors as well as building personal skills that will benefit them in the future.	0	0
My family is fully in support of mountain bike trails in the DeForest area! My kids love mountain biking but with a large family involved in many different activities it is hard for us to get our kids to the mountain bike trails in other communities. I would love for them to have something close to home!	0	0
Yes!	0	0
Agreed!	0	0
Yes!	0	0
Agreed!	0	0
Yes! My kids love mountain biking, too but it's hard to get them to the trails that are further away. It would be nice to have these trails close to home!	1	0
I agree! My kids love mountain biking these trails would be a wonderful addition to our community!	1	0
Deforest Athletic Complex is a perfect parking space for everyone and we can just ride our bike to the trail, the more riding time the better, ask any cyclist	0	0
Yes isn't it correct that the land where the mtb trails are proposed is currently owned by a developer? And they are trading it to the village for the ability to build somewhere else. So it seems mtb trails would be much less disturbing to the wildlife than a developer building condos there... I think this is honestly a win for the wildlife protectors AND a win for the mtb community!	1	0
Thank you for considering mountain biking trails in Deforest! We live in Windsor, not far from Sun Fish Pond, and would absolutely love to see these trails come to fruition. Both of my kids mountain bike and would thoroughly enjoy these trails. What a cool way to get off screens and enjoy nature! The mountain bike world is very conscious of our proximity to nature & wildlife, and the people we have been in community with over our years of mountain biking have always respected it. You have to. It's so important to give kids positive experiences in nature (mountian biking plays a huge role in this for my extremely active children!) so that when they grow up, they will fight to protect it. (Research has shown this!) If there can be a sort of compromise that can be reached - rules for respectful riding, perhaps "wildlife recovery" days where trails are closed, environmental trail experts to design the trails with the least disturbance to wildlife, etc - I think the trails are possible while still honoring the environment they are in. This would be an incredible addition to our community, and I hope both viewpoints can work together to make it happen!!	0	0

I love the idea of having a designated mountain bike trail in the community! I also feel that the spot the village chose is a great choice for this activity. My family is excited for this possibility!	1	0
Completely love and support the idea of MTB trails coming to Deforest. My son loves mountain biking, which has now become something we can do together as a family. We usually go to Camrock, Aldo Leopold, or Sycamore. It will be great to have trails here locally that kids and families can enjoy.	1	0
I would love to see the addition of mountain bike trails in Deforest and along the existing Yahara River trail system would be a great place for them. There are extensive trail systems in southeast, south, and a southwest Dane County, yet those of us in north and northeast Dane County need to leave our communities to mountain bike. Having this available in and near our homes would be a welcome addition. Mountain biking is an all ages activity that is fun for the whole family and makes areas with well made trails a destination. Contact the Washington County Parka System about the success their recently constructed Heritage Trails system has brought to what was an underutilized county park. CORP in Dane County as well as IMBA nationally have countless resources supporting the benefits of mountain biking and Deforest should join the ranks in support of mountain biking. Please add mountain bike trails in Deforest. I support this proposal to add out a bike trails.	1	0
Our DeFo family is expanding into more mountain biking activities. This summer, we found some fantastic hiking and mountain bike trails in the Wisconsin north woods that blend fantastically into the natural landscape. And most of the trails we were on double as cross country ski trails in the winter. With some careful planning, these trails have minimal impact on the environment. I fully support the proposal that includes the mountain bike park.	1	0
I have a son that is active in mountain biking in Deforest. They use the Innovation Drive area and follow the rules/guidelines. We would love for him to continue to participate in this sport in the area and use beautiful trails that Deforest has to offer. I am in full support of the proposal of the new mountain bike park in Deforest	1	0
We will not compromise the water source, please get your facts right	0	0
The trail will not be “IN”It will be along side it.	0	0
I see blue herons and deer on people’s backyard, they seem to have adapted well	0	0
are you saying it was a mistake houses and a path was built along that corridor? Maybe we should de-construct the path and the houses built along the Yahara River according to your statement	0	0
After coaching with many of the DeForest mountain bike people for a few years in a neighboring city and seeing the number of interested kids grow dramatically within their ranks, it’s great to see that they have an opportunity to add home trails and continue growing their community. The riders are drastically more environmentally friendly than the community at large and won’t establish trails without strict guidance on impacting the terrain	1	0
I support the creation of mountain bike trails. The mountain biking community is very conscious of the environment and coexisting with the current ecosystem. I’d dare to say that a mountain bike trail is much more eco friendly than a paved trail. Adding mountain bike trails also gives more reason for people to visit Deforest and support local businesses. When we go to CamRock, Quarry Ridge, Middleton or to trail systems out of the area, we routinely support the local restaurants and other businesses. Without the trails, we have no real reason to come to the community. We just got back from Bettonville, Arkansas. Their community has done amazing things to get all types of outdoor enthusiasts to share space on a massive scale, whether as mountain bikers, hikers, walkers, or the like. The same can certainly occur on a small scale here in Wisconsin at many local areas. Thank you for considering my comment.	1	0

I live in DeForest and walk the Yahara River Trail starting at Sunfish pond for 4 miles almost daily. I applaud the work that has gone into preserving this eco system along the river. The work done to protect and promote native plant species and wild life has been inspiring . Replacing the birdhouses, controlled burns, spraying, cutting down, planting … all wonderful and in the true spirit of responsible conservation. It is confusing to learn of plans to create a mountain bike path right next to the river bank/wooded area east of Sunfish pond. Instituting that plan would mean saying goodbye to very diverse and exciting wildlife that frequent this particular area.(Sandhill cranes, turkeys, great blue herons, deer, a multitude of small nesting birds, wood peckers, owls, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, mink, and turtles to name a few) The existing walking path already supports walkers and bikers. The path keeps traffic along side the river and woods, NOT DIRECTLY IN IT. The current Yahara River Walking Trail provides a calm, quiet space for people to exercise and to enjoy and observe nature. And while the existing path exposes the Conservancy to some human activity (as does all construction in undeveloped areas) it also functions like a buffer, giving space to the wildlife it supports. It affords the best to both worlds as this village expands. The current path already exists. A bike trail does not. Why further compromise this land? The Village has an opportunity to expand Conservancy land. And it should. There are other areas , away from this vital water source, that would serve this type of active, fast paced venue where bikers can enjoy their sport. I don't see anything "harmonious" happening between a fast moving bike and a Great Blue Heron. Let us keep the signage along the trail describing "what is here" not "what used to be".	0	0
Appreciate the effort DeForest is putting in to provide biking trails for our youngsters. Having grown up in the area, it's nice to see this community continue to foster opportunities for our youngsters to get off the couch. Thank you	1	1
I live very close to the proposed mountain bike trail. I am always amazed at the diversity of wildlife we see in the exact area being proposed. In less than three years we have seen Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagles in some of the dead trees. We have see Turkeys, Sandhills Cranes, Great Horned Owls (which love the pine trees on the Eastern side of the property) many nesting Snapping Turtles, and even a Black Mink or possibly a Weasel. All specifically in the proposed area. The Great Blue Heron and Great Horned Owl are especially shy birds. Many of these animals - which residents and non residents have the opportunity to observe from afar - will not nest if there is a lot of activity in the area. I am not at all against a Mountain Bike Trail. I would simply like to leave this small but unusually diverse area undisturbed. I encourage the Village to use an area that has already been partially developed. With the unique opportunity to actually expand the Conservancy, I would encourage the Village to do just that.	1	1
I am very excited to have mountain bike trails in Deforest. My family has been mountain biking for over ten years and we would love a place close to home to bike.	1	1
totally agree	1	1
I am happy to live in a community that loves nature and setting a positive example for our children. Giving kids (as well as adults) a way to positively interact with and in nature is so important. There are ways to construct safe mountain bike paths for the environment so they can be utilized. I would love for my children to be part of creating these trails to invest in the planning and labor. It takes to make an endeavor like this happen. Mountain biking is not only great exercise, but also a way to connect with nature and respect what it does.	1	1

As an avid mountain biker, 10 year Conservancy Neighborhood resident, and lover of the outdoors I do not want to damage the environment nor negatively impact the wildlife - neither do other people advocating for mountain bike trails. This is not an either/or situation where we can either have mountain bike trails or we can have natural environments with wildlife and natural vegetation. Both things can exist together. The current paved Upper Yahara River Trail (UYRT) is a great example of a trail and these natural areas co-existing. It runs through the through the same general area and type of landscape as the proposed MTB trails. The UYRT extends along the river, over sensitive wetlands, through the habitat of wildlife, is paved, and is 8-10' wide. This is viewed as a huge positive to our community (and I agree), yet it is exceedingly more invasive and destructive to the natural areas than the proposed MTB trails. It exhibits many of the aspects that people are citing as negatives of mountain bike trails, yet it does so on a much larger scale. It also has significantly more use than a small set of mountain bike trails would have. Despite the UYRT possessing all of these apparent negatives that many are saying about the MTB trails, the natural areas and wildlife are still thriving. This is what people who actually mountain bike understand about this situation - nature and mountain biking co-exist in nearly every place we have ride. The proposed MTB trails would be 12-18" wide, made of dirt, built to minimize erosion by following the natural contours of the land, and include elevated bridges over sensitive wetland sections. If you are arguing that the MTB trails would be the tipping point for the Upper Yahara River Corridor, I question your real world knowledge of mountain biking and mountain bike trails. I also wonder why you are not advocating for the removal of the Upper Yahara River Trail as it is far more invasive and destructive than the proposed MTB trails. If you do not have a significant amount of experience mountain biking, then I would strongly encourage you to visit some of the places where mountain bike trails exist and look at what is actually happening. At places like CamRock County park and Blue Mounds State Park you will see natural areas similar to our areas here in DeForest that include biking trails and hiking trails, as well as wildlife and vegetation all co-existing.	1	1
there’s a lot of misconceptions about a Mountain bike trail, one is that it will destroy the environment they were built in, these trails are meticulously planned and the footprint is small Compared to a BMX trail or a boardwalk for example. You don’t need dedicated parking for the trails as people can use the Deforest athletic complex and ride their bike to the trails. Let’s make this happen! Kids will have so much fun and learn to appreciate the wildlife and the environment	1	1
We have the only Upper Yahara River Conservancy in the world. There are mountain bike trails all over, many within a few miles. Put one in DeForest for the local kids, just not so close to the Conservancy. I'd rather see that strip of land used for a "walker's only" no bike path, since ebikes and mini-motor cycles have taken over the trail.	1	0
Our young family members are avid trail bikers and would greatly benefit from having a trail local to their homes instead of having to travel miles to bike.	1	1
Love the idea of Mountain Bike trails in Deforest, we usually go to Cambridge (CamRock) and we see how they take care of the trails and we also see deer on the trails all the time, it does not seem to disrupt the wild life and the maintenance of trails done by volunteer work resolves any erosion issues cited by some comments.It’s a great opportunity for kids to interact with nature and stay health. Yay to trails!!	1	0
Please find another place for the mountain bike trails that are not right along the river/through wetlands. There are ground nesting birds in that area besides the mammals that are attracted to the river. The Conservancy benefits the entire area, not just a few mountain bikers. Sunfish pond parking lot is full on weekends now. Where will out of town bikers park their cars?	1	0
As a resident of Deforest for 20 years, I am very excited about the plan of mountain bike trails in Deforest. It was very surprising to me to learn that some folks were so against trails. My family and I traveled to trails all around the country and bike towns are the best, the people are so nice and helpful and the vibe of community is strong. I know Defo will be a great bike town.	1	1
DeForest needs bike trails, but not in the Conservancy. As DeForest grows & changes, surely the Village can look at the big picture and plot out trails that are attractive to all bikers, but keep the green spaces in and around DeForest intact. We are so lucky to have a beautiful Conservancy, the Yaraha River & natural woods surrounding our village. Instead of fighting about who's right and wrong on the mountain bike trails, can the three sides (village, pro-bikers & pro-conservancy) sit down together & find a compromise? Remember, we are dealing with decisions that past village members have made and even though they may not seem like wise decisions now, they were thought to be back then. Perhaps the village should find some open space that would include a well planned bike trail & disc golf course. It seems like we're always trying to plunk something where it doesn't belong and then arguing about it. I'm betting when the sides come together & talk, there can be a well thought out vision of an area that all parties would find agreeable. Who's willing to put egos aside and be open to a discussion?	1	0

I have only lived here two months, but am enjoying the trails and parks. I think some way finding signage would be good along the trails for those of us who aren't adept with the maps on our phones. It would also be great if there were bike racks, either at playgrounds or where paths intersect. I would love to explore the paths without driving to a starting point. I would rather bike awhile and then walk when I get to the steep hills. My knees like that better too	1	1
I'm very excited to see that the village is planning designated mountain bike trails within the village. Having a designated area for off-road biking has been something the village has needed for a long time.	2	0
I am very excited to see DeForest pursuing mountain bike trails. This is a great way to both create outdoor spaces that people want to enjoy and honor the environment. The beautiful part of MTB trails is that they can exist without much, if any, impact to the wildlife, waterways, and general ecosystem. Great work, Deforest for proposing this amazing project	1	1
Totally agree	1	0
totally agree	1	0
I totally agree with these comments. It seems the majority of residents want to keep the conservancy a conservancy which by definition is a protected natural resource. Although the Village talks the talk & asks for input it seems they do whatever brings in more tax dollars. If that means cutting down every tree & cramming as many buildings in as possible, so be it. As far as the mtn bike trail— it seems there would be more options than in the conservancy.	1	0
As an avid hiker and biker, I appreciate the area's Ice Age Trails and mountain biking trails that exist within Dane County. As a long-time public school teacher AND a teacher of youth sailing on Lake Michigan for many years, I recognize the value of adventurous, outdoor activities for youth, activities that provide reachable challenges combined with a quest for building character. That said, I oppose the use of conservancy space for this purpose. I worry about the viability of maintaining this peaceful setting for wildlife as well as the long-term ramifications of water management and runoff. What are other options to consider?https://parks-lwrd.danecounty.gov/recreation/mountain/biking	1	0
It's important for the proposed mountain bike trails to go in the least environmentally sensitive areas. Please ensure that the conservancy is properly protected. Has the conservancy in the north end of the corridor ever recovered from the former trails that were there? If not, then maybe this is where the trails belong. If that area has recovered since the original neighborhood trails prior to the modern paved trails, then keep on looking...	1	0
I completely agree!	1	0
Protecting and preserving the conservancy should be a top priority. It is an ecologically sensitive area which studies have shown. The introduction of mountain bike trails here would further disrupt the already fragile ecosystem, lead to more erosion of the riverbed, and endanger the wildlife that depends on this space, all of which is already being affected by the current development in the area. We need to protect the integrity of our conservancy while finding alternative locations for the trails. I fully support the addition of mountain biking trails in our community, as I have a child on the team and see the positive impact it has, but the conservancy is not the place for them.	1	0
As a resident of Windsor who lives on the Windsor side of Conservancy, I fully support mountain bike trails on the Windsor/Deforest border. We need to preserve outdoor park/trail space before it gets developed into more condos!	1	0
New to DeForest and excited about this Recreation Plan, especially the new mountain bike trails!! Our family with 3 boys will definitely enjoy this.	1	1
As a family that resides in Windsor and loves the sport of Mountain Biking it is very encouraging that we might finally have a place to ride together with our friends and fellow residents and get all kids of all ages to engage in a healthy activity, staying in shape and learning to respect nature and the fellow riders and citizens that will share the space and in the process moving Wisconsin FORWARD.	2	1
Looking forward to Mt. Bike trails in deforest. They will be a welcome additions to the community.	1	1
As a leader of the local mountain bike team, I am beyond thrilled that there are mountain bike trails planned in DeForest. There has been so much negativity and misinformation shared by people who do not understand the sport. Our organization is eager to get some trails for practicing as well as to demonstrate to the community the benefit these trails bring to DeForest.	1	1
Shade should be placed over all play structures, in the summer that plastic is so hot for anyone to touch.	0	0

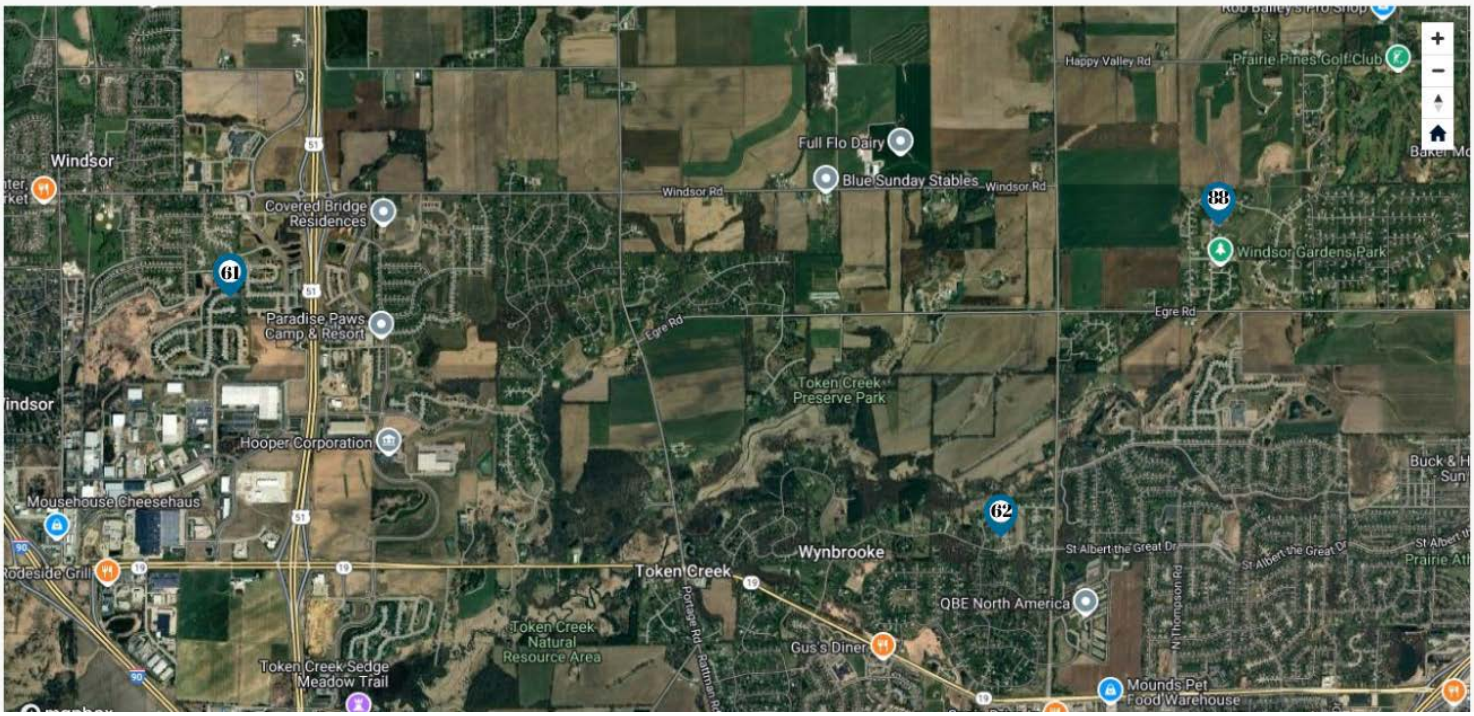
CORP Open Comments

As a leader of the local mountain bike team, I am beyond thrilled that there are mountain bike trails planned in DeForest. There has been so much negativity and misinformation shared by people who do not understand the sport. Our organization is eager to get some trails for practicing as well as to demonstrate to the community the benefit these trails bring to DeForest.
Shade should be placed over all play structures, in the summer that plastic is so hot for anyone to touch.

Map-Based Comments

Comment	Address	Up Votes	Down Votes	Average Score
I'm thrilled to see the development of mountain bike trails in our neighborhood! They offer a fantastic opportunity for outdoor exercise and family fun, while also helping to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Plus, they enhance our community's natural beauty and provide a safe, dedicated space for bikers of all skill levels to enjoy. It's wonderful to see Deforest investing in such a valuable and enriching amenity!	4533 Springs Court	2	0	2
My family and I have lived in De Forest for 20 years. We are very excited to hear about the possibility of mountain bike trails in the village. We have travelled around the state and to different parts of the country in the past few years to ride and have seen first hand how these trails can co-exist with a natural environment.	4529 Springs Court	10	0	10
I absolutely support the proposal to add a mountain bike park in DeForest. As the popularity of outdoor activity continues to grow, a well-designed mountain bike park would offer numerous benefits to our community, including: 1. Promoting outdoor recreation: Encouraging physical activity for residents of all ages, fostering a healthier lifestyle. 2. Economic growth: Attracting tourism and visitors from surrounding areas, benefiting local businesses. 3. Youth engagement: Providing a safe, designated area for younger riders to develop skills and enjoy mountain biking. 4. Environmental preservation: Creating a space that can be managed and maintained, preventing damage to other natural areas due to unsanctioned trails. Many neighboring cities have seen great success with mountain bike parks. These parks have become key attractions, drawing many visitors and contributing positively to the local economy. I believe that with careful planning, we can create a similar positive impact in DeForest. Thank you for considering this idea!	6686 Covered Bridge Trail	6	0	6
My family is very excited that mountain bike trails are being discussed and supported. We are daily users of the DeFo trail system: commuting to work, walking our dog, walking with friends, riding bikes as a family, and riding with the DeForest Mtb team as coaches. We have beautiful trails and a great community. Adding mountain bike trials that we can ride right in our hometown would be a great addition to our community. It would be a great way for the kids in our community to get outside more with friends and get exercise. I am all for supporting more ways within our community to get our kids outside to enjoy and appreciate nature.	945 West Mohawk Trail, DeForest	9	0	9
As a resident of Deforest for 20 years, I am very excited about the plan of mountain bike trails in Deforest. It was very surprising to me to learn that some folks were so against trails. My family and I traveled to trails all around the country and bike towns are the best, the people are so nice and helpful and the vibe of community is strong. I know Defo will be a great bike town.	945 West Mohawk Trail	8	0	8
Needs a shelter with electricity. Library and downtown visitors can use it.	136 Ethun Place	4	0	4
Perfect spot for a skatepark. What are we waiting for?	424 Deforest Street	2	0	2
Very poor location for a youth skatepark, pump track. Why hide this not only in a wetland area that will buckle concrete but provide a policing nightmare? A better spot is Firemen's Park	4356 East Yahara Road	3	0	3

New to DeForest and excited about this Recreation Plan, especially the new mountain bike trails!! Our family with 3 boys will definitely enjoy this.	7720 Catchfly Lane	11	0	11
Look forward to the mountain bike trails and more. What a great way to get kids away from screens and going outside! Doesn't hurt that this can bring in tax revenue from mountain biking visitors!	411 Old Indian Trail	9	0	9
We appreciate Deforest is considering putting in trails for mountain biking. It'd be so great to have a safe place to ride with our entire family.	6353 Hayden Road	9	0	9
Mountain bike trails in Windsor/Deforest would be wonderful and so nice for the DeFo Mountain Bike Club!	6622 Wolf Hollow Road	9	1	8
Please add mountain biking trails throughout this green space north of town.	604 Stevenson Street	7	2	5
This property (3.8 acres) should be purchased by DeForest for the purposes of a wildlife habitat/garden (similar to Olbrich) or as an extensive pump track system for mountain biking. Linking to Valmont Bike Park in Boulder for reference: https://bouldercolorado.gov/locations/valmont-bike-park	516 Columbia Avenue	3	1	2
I really liked the article in the Deforest paper about adding trails in this area. I think it will alleviate congestion on the Yahara trail and also give kids a place to enjoy nature.	6880 Valiant Drive	20	1	19
I highly value the addition of mountain bike and multi-use trails within the CORP. These types of trails can serve not only avid mountain bikers, but casual bikers and those interested in trying out the sport. I would love to see some features at a park where kids can practice different skills. Skinnies and rollers for both avid bikers and casual bikers would be amazing.	4634 Prairie Fire Court	18	1	17
Widen native plant buffer around pond to improve water quality related to runoff	4581 Windsor Road	8	0	8
Please control the weeds on Suicide Hill	216 Mohican Pass	1	0	1
A bench at Dahl park	800 East Holum Street	2	0	2
Please consider improvements to the Heritage Gardens Park, including additional mulch to levels indicated on playground equipment, lowering the bench that is inaccessible/impractical unless you are over 6 feet tall, consider equipment changes that are more accessible and toddler friendly (everything requires climbing), and possibly get neighborhood feedback on better utilization of the green space.	936 Star Gazer Drive	4	0	4
Pave paradise... So, Deforest gets a plot of land free from a developer (land that would be next to impossible to develop...wet lands and such and a tax write off), in exchange for changing zoning to allow even more houses on a different developer owned plot of land. Then, well sure. Instead of enlarging the conservancy, let's build a dirt bike track right next to the river that attracts wildlife, which attracts people to this area to hike, and then hopefully spend money in the village. The sandhill cranes, mallards, and blue herons that nest there can just find somewhere else, so 0.5% of the population can have their dirt bike trail.	4539 Springs Court	1	22	-21
Keep the dirt bike path away from the river. The river attracts wildlife, which attracts visitors, which is good for the village. The dirt bike path is good for less than 1/2 of 1% of the village.	4527 Springs Court	5	23	-18
Additional shade for splash pad and fireman's park near the farmers market and bandstand	300 Jefferson Street	3	0	3
Potential location of outdoor public community pool	7050 Lake Road	0	3	-3
Please add decorative street lights on North Towne Road between Hwy V and Vinburn Road. So much pedestrian and vehicle traffic on this road.	US Route 51	1	4	-3
Park equipment geared towards older kids/adults. i.e. Ninja warrior style	Western Green Park,	7	1	6
I would like to see this dead end trail continue between the field and the houses to connect back up to River Road by Jump Around Gymnastics.	126 Crooked Tree Drive	7	0	7
Please consider adding additional pickleball courts.	DeForest Fireman's Park	3	5	-2


Windsor
Covered Bridge Residences
Paradise Paws Camp & Resort
Hooper Corporation
Mousehouse Cheesehaus
Rodeside Grill
Token Creek Sedge Meadow Trail
Token Creek Natural Resource Area
Token Creek
Wynbrooke
Gus's Diner
QBE North America
Mounds Pet Food Warehouse
Token Creek Preserve Park
Full Flo Dairy
Blue Sunday Stables
Windsor Rd
Egre Rd
Happy Valley Rd
Prairie Pines Golf Club
Windsor Gardens Park
St Albert the Great Dr
Portage Rd
Pittman Rd
N Thompson Rd
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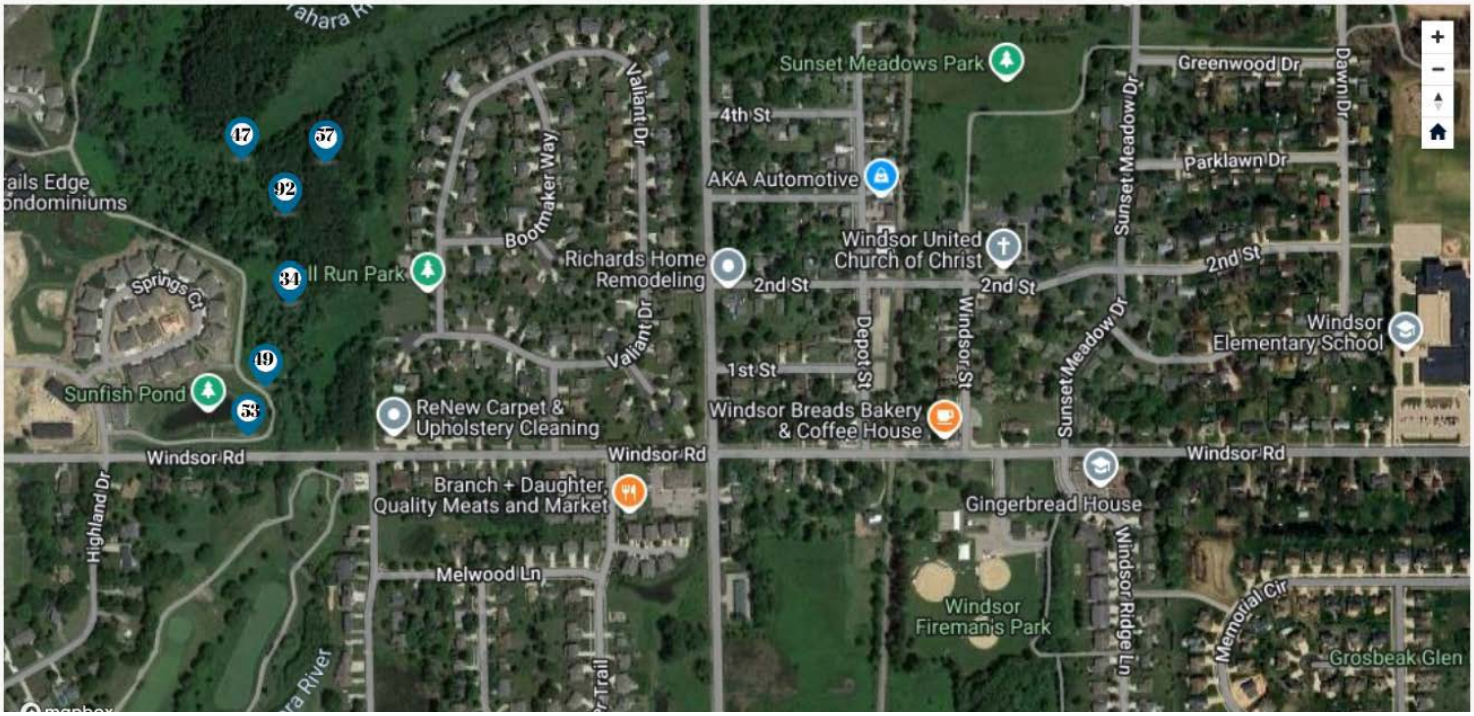
Sunset Meadows Park
Greenwood Dr
Dawn Dr
Parklawn Dr
4th St
AKA Automotive
Valiant Dr
Bootmaker Way
Richards Home Remodeling
Windsor United Church of Christ
2nd St
Sunset Meadow Dr
Windsor Elementary School
Depot St
Windsor St
1st St
Sunfish Pond
Springs Cr
ReNew Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
Windsor Breads Bakery & Coffee House
Windsor Rd
Branch + Daughter Quality Meats and Market
Gingerbread House
Highland Dr
Melwood Ln
Windsor Fireman's Park
Windsor Ridge Ln
Memorial Cir
Grosbeak Glen
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92
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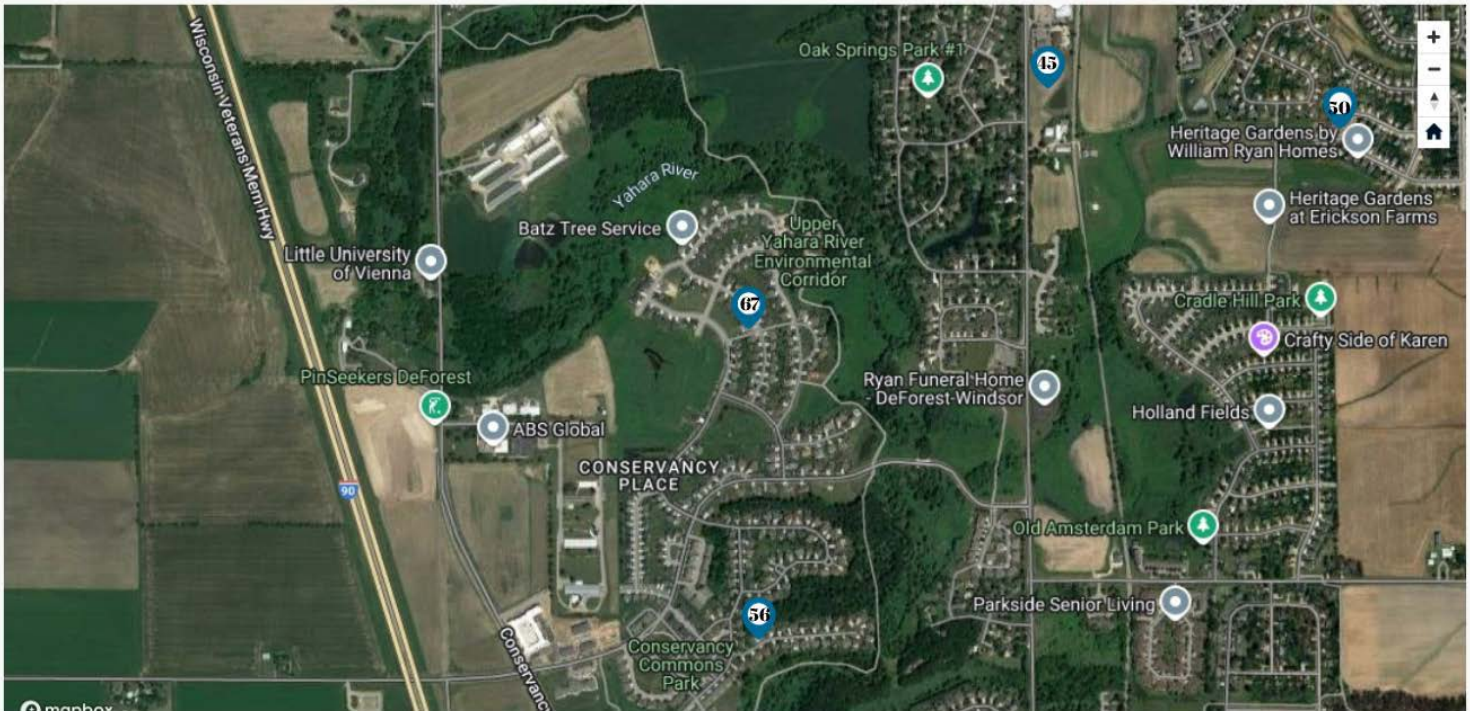
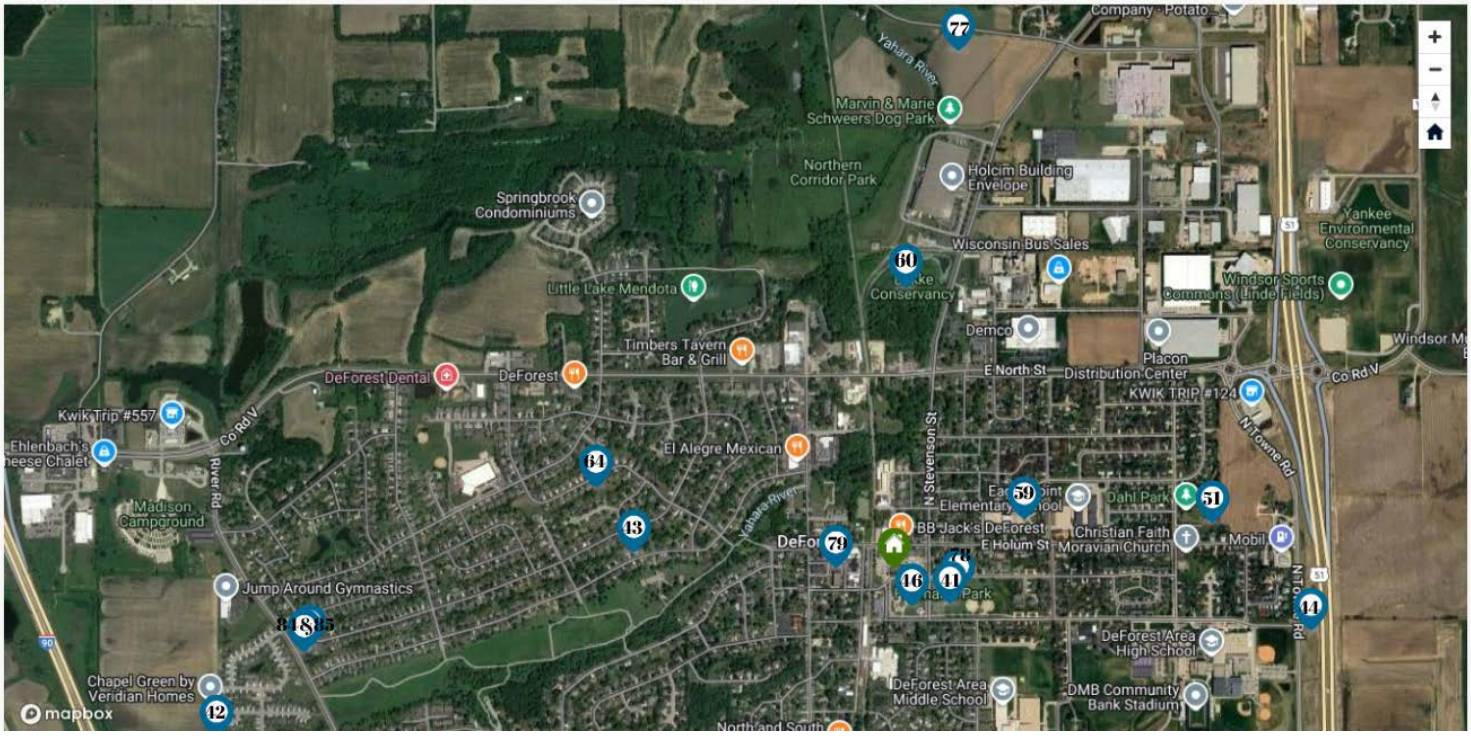

Wisconsin Veterans Mem Hwy
Oak Springs Park #1
45
50
Heritage Gardens by William Ryan Homes
Heritage Gardens at Erickson Farms
Yahara River
Batz Tree Service
Upper Yahara River Environmental Corridor
Little University of Vienna
67
Cradle Hill Park
Crafty Side of Karen
PinSeekers DeForest
Ryan Funeral Home - DeForest-Windsor
Holland Fields
ABS Global
CONSERVANCY PLACE
90
Old Amsterdam Park
Parkside Senior Living
56
Conservancy Commons Park
mapbox


Company - Potato
77
Yahara River
Marvin & Marie Schweers Dog Park
Northern Corridor Park
Holcim Building Envelope
Springbrook Condominiums
Yankee Environmental Conservancy
Wisconsin Bus Sales
60
Little Lake Mendota
Windsor Sports Commons (Linde Fields)
Demco
Timbers Tavern Bar & Grill
Placon
DeForest Dental
DeForest
E North St
Distribution Center
Co Rd V
KWIK TRIP #124
Kwik Trip #557
Co Rd V
El Alegre Mexican
N Towne Rd
N Stevenson St
64
59
Dahl Park
51
Madison Campground
River Rd
43
Yahara River
BB Jack's DeForest
E Holum St
Christian Faith Moravian Church
Mobil
79
Jump Around Gymnastics
16
11
44
DeForest Area High School
Chapel Green by Veridian Homes
DeForest Area Middle School
DMB Community Bank Stadium
42
mapbox

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

On September 10, 2024, planning consultants and Village staff attended the DeForest Public Safety Family Fun Night to engage attendees on the Draft Plan. The public had an opportunity to review draft materials, discuss key recommendations, and ask questions about the plan and process. The feedback received during this event informed the Final Draft Plan that was presented to the Public Service Committee, Plan Commission, and Village Board prior to adoption. In total, approximately 75 people came to the Village's booth during the event. An inventory of feedback received at the event can be found below.

Prioritization Board

Improve Existing	
Active Recreation Facilities	• Mountain bike area under development
Passive Recreation Facilities	• No comments received
Natural Areas	• No comments received
Trail, Paths, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	• No comments received
Recreational Programming	• No comments received
Add Additional	
Active Recreation Facilities	• Add mountain bike trails and park (4) • Nature playground
Passive Recreation Facilities	• No comments received
Natural Areas	• No comments received
Trail, Paths, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	• Add mountain bike trails
Recreational Programming	• No comments received

Top Likes Board

What do you enjoy most or use the most in DeForest today?	
Active Recreation Facilities	• Please make mountain bike trails a priority in our community! • Mountain bike park off Windsor Road would be great!! • Playgrounds and splash pads • I love mountain biking! Please give us a new park! • Skatepark • Replace toddler playset at Liberty Land Park • Mountain bike for DeForest • River trails and mountain biking • Playgrounds • Tables and shade for Village Square • Mountain bike trials for the team and bring more people to DeForest/Windsor
Passive Recreation Facilities	• Fishing • We need mountain bike trails! • Mountain bike trails in DeForest • We can't wait for mountain bike trails. Thank you. • Love mountain biking • Mountain bike trails • Mountain bike trails are cool • I think its awesome that there is a possibility of trails • I support the mountain bike trails and the DeForest team • I love mountain biking and would love trails!!
Natural Areas	• No comments received
Trail, Paths, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	• Mountain bike trails in DeForest (22)
Recreational Programming	• Swimming lessons as part of the physical education curriculum for all students

General Written Comment Form Responses:

Shade trees and open air shelters for shade are needed in all new parks
A pet waste container is needed on South Street at the May Apple Trailhead area
Well maintained and love the Village's parks (5+ responses)
Trail system in DeForest was a draw to moving to the community
Mountain bike trails are needed

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION MEETING

Placeholder to be filled in once this event is complete.

ADOPTION MEETINGS

Placeholder to be filled in once this event is complete.

PART 6: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

FIGURE 1.14: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson						
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	To acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• $4 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required • Priority for land acquisition ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Greenspace Program (UGS)	To acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas or to protect scenic or ecological features.	• $1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)	To acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• $1.6 million avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• Funds available to acquire development rights in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial developments are in place. ▪ May include enhancements of outdoor recreation.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Urban Rivers Grant Program (UR)	To acquire lands or rights in lands adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities.	• $800,000 avail. per yr. • 50% local match per project	May 1	• A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required ▪ Projects must comply with ADA	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	To acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	• 50% local match per project • Land acquisition • Development of recreational facilities	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in required.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	To maintain, develop, rehabilitate, and acquire land for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails.	• Grant assistance to develop or maintain trails up to 80%. • Awards up to $100,000. • Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and trailhead facilities. • Development of new trails, trail linkages, and trailhead facilities with some restrictions on federal lands. • Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities.	May 1	▪ 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. ▪ Funds may be used on trails that are referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan ▪ Projects must comply with ADA.	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP)						
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	To fund facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures, restoring railway depots, and landscaping near transportation facilities.	20% required match	January	▪ Construction projects must be over $100,000. ▪ Non-construction projects must be over $50,000.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx
Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STP-U)	To fund a range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	Spring	For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are $92.5 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-urban.aspx
Surface Transportation Program – Rural (STP-R)	To fund a wide range of transportation-related activities, including projects on higher function local roads and local safety improvements.	WisDOT recommends federal funding be approved at the 80% maximum but allows Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committees to provide as low as 50% federal funding at approval.	Spring	For 2022-2027 program development, total funds available are $43.3 million.	WisDOT	https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/stp-rural.aspx

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Section 402-Highway Safety Funds						
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	To develop and implement on a continuing basis stand-alone safety projects designed to reduce the number and severity of crashes on all streets and highways.	Federal funding ratio usually 90%, requiring a 10% match of state and/or local funds.	February	Funds highway safety projects at sites that have experienced a high crash history. Emphasis is on low-cost options that can be implemented quickly.	WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	https://wisconsindot.gov/pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx
Other Programs						
Urban Forestry Grants	To fund tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness.	$1,000-$25,000 grants awarded with a 50% local match	Oct 1	Urban forestry, training, and street tree inventory	Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/urbanforests/grants
Hazard Elimination Program	To improve railway-highway crossings	10% local match per project	August	Communities are encouraged to start working with the District Office.	WisDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	https://wisconsindot.gov/pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/highway/hsip.aspx
PeopleForBikes	To improve bicycling in the U.S.		Oct 31		People For Bikes	https://www.peopleforbikes.org/
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	To support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users.	$200,000-$50 million	Sept 15	Eligible projects: • Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan). • Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan. • Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.	US DOT	https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A
BLM Headquarters Wildlife Resource Management	To maintain, restore, and conserve species and their habitats.	$25,000-$1.5 million	April 4	• Protect biodiversity. • Identify, conserve, and restore priority habitats. • Promote resiliency to climate change and environmental stressors.	U.S. Dept of Interior	pglass@blm.gov
BLM Headquarters Recreation and Visitor Services	To provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities that benefit public and local communities.			Some goals: • Encourage, facilitate, and improve partnership with and access to public lands.	U.S. Dept of Interior	https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
				• Improve climate resiliency on public lands while enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities and activities. • Improve public health and safety at developed recreation sites and areas by updating and modernizing infrastructure. • Invite increased recreational access for all Americans to encourage enjoyment of BLM-managed public lands and waters.		
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)	To increase bird populations and wetland habitat while supporting local economies and American traditions such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, family farming, and cattle ranching.	Up to $2 million	Feb 5 July 8 Oct 13	Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement, and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds.	US Dept of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service	https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard
AARP Community Challenge	Small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages.	• Average grant amount $11,500. • 76% of grants less than $15,000.	March 25	• Improve public spaces, housing, transportation, and civic engagement. • Support diversity, equity, and inclusion. • Build engagement for programs under new federal laws. • Pursue innovative ideas that support people age 50 or older.	AARP	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/
AARP Small Dollar Big Impact	Small grants to fund projects that are designed to improve quality of life that are low-cost, short-term solutions with significant impacts on the community.	• Up to $1,000	Rolling	• Projects must use the AARP Livable Communities Resource Library in their development • Limited to Wisconsin communities	AARP	https://states.aarp.org/wisconsin/wisconsin-small-dollar-big-impact-grant/?cmp=RDRCT-ad28f936-20210219

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Private Donations	Local donations, fundraising and sponsorship opportunities by businesses and/or individuals					
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	To revitalize comprehensive downtown programs, including streetscapes.	Technical Assistance	No Date	• General downtown program. • May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping.	National Main Street Center	https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/main-street/
Aquatic Restoration Programs						
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Management Grants	To manage and educate on AIS.	$24,000-$150,000, depending on type of grant	Nov 15	Types of grants include: • AIS Prevention • Clean Boats, Clean Waters • AIS Population Management • Early Detection & Response • AIS Research & Demonstration	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG
Surface Water Restoration and Management Grants	To provide cost-sharing for surface water protection and restoration. Funding available for education, ecological assessments, planning, and implementation.	• Grants cover up to 75% of costs. • $25,000-$200,000, depending on type of grant.	Nov 15	Types of grants include: • Healthy Lakes & Rivers • Surface Water Restoration • Management Plan Implementation • Ordinance Development • Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition • Wetland Restoration Incentives	Wisconsin DNR	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html
Sustainability Programs						
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	To fund many different kinds of projects that benefit wildlife.	Grants vary by type, some open to annual applications, and some by invitation only.	Varies	Types of grants include: • Bird Protection Fund • C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund • Norma and Stanley DeBoer Quiet Trails Fund	Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	https://www.wisconservation.org/grant-programs/
Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants	Among other priorities, offers grants that allow for pocket parks and	Maximum $500,000	July 28	Types of grants: • Planning Grants	HUD	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_ho

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
	community gardens as part of their funding.			• Implementation Grants		using/programs/ph/cn/planninggrants
Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge	To help provide planning support, technical assistance, and training to foster placemaking activities in rural communities.	Maximum $250,000	Aug 15	Past recipients have reviewed critical water infrastructure needs and planned to turn vacant lots into green infrastructure.	USDA	https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/rural-placemaking-innovation-challenge
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program	Supports long-term wetland conservation by awarding up to $1 million for wetland conservation projects.	Not listed	Not listed		US Fish and Wildlife Service	https://www.fws.gov/story/national-coastal-wetlands-conservation-grants
Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant	To reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.	$25,000-$900,000, depending on type of grant and recipient	Jan 28	Can include parks and similar green spaces.	FEMA	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods
Urban & Community Forestry Program	Technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions to ensure a resilient and equitable tree canopy.			Some areas of focus: • Planning • Environmental Health	US Forest Service	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs	To support community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities.			Can include parks and similar green spaces.	HUD	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg/
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program	To develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.	$20,000-$50,000	Jan 25	Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation, community tree canopy enhancement, water quality monitoring and green infrastructure best management practices for managing run-off.	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program-2022-request-proposals
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Awards grants through invited proposals and the	Although unsolicited proposals not being considered, inquiries about future support		Areas of focus: • Land Conservation in an Era of Climate Change	Doris Duke Charitable	https://www.ddcf.org/grants/

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Environmental Grant	occasional funding competition.	for projects that fall within the Environment Program's four focuses can be submitted through a letter of inquiry.		• Wildlife and Energy Development • Strengthening the Conservation Field • Environmental Stewardship in the Tri-State Area	Foundation	
Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation Education and Environmental Grants for Wisconsin-based Organizations	To support local education and environmental causes.	Funds principally but not limited to the counties of Sheboygan and Ozaukee.	Feb 28		Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation	https://brucekrierfoundation.org/grantmaking/guidelines/
Cornell Douglas Foundation Grants	For nonprofits to advocate for environmental health and justice, encourage stewardship of the environment, and further respect for sustainability of resources.	Average grant amount $10,000.	Year-round	Some areas of focus: • Environmental Health & Justice • Land Conservation • Sustainability of Resources • Watershed Protection	Cornell Douglas Foundation	https://cornelldouglas.org/apply/
NiSource Charitable Foundation Grants	Among other areas of focus, these grants fund nonprofits' work on environmental stewardship: protection and restoration of natural resources, energy conservation, and environmental work.	Not listed	Not listed		NiSource Charitable Foundation	https://www.nisource.com/company/contact-us
Mitsubishi Corporation Grants	For nonprofits that work on environmental causes throughout the Americas, encompassing both the physical and social environments in which we live.	Not listed	Year-round	Areas of focus: • Biodiversity conservation • Sustainable development • Environmental justice • Environmental education	Mitsubishi Corporation	https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/us/en/mcfa/ https://www.mitsubishicorp.com/us/en/mcfa/
Lawrence Foundation Grants	For nonprofits to support environmental, education, human services, and other causes.	Not listed	April 30 Oct 31	Awards both program and operating grants with no geographical restrictions.	Lawrence Foundation	https://thelawrencefoundation.org/application-process

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Georgia-Pacific Foundation Grant	For nonprofits to support environmental programs (among several areas of focus).	Not listed	Rolling cycle	One area of focus: environmental programs that promote clean air and water, recycling, and land and resource conservation	Georgia-Pacific Foundation	https://www.gp.com/community
Waste Management Charitable Giving	For nonprofits to provide renewal resources to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to conserve and maintain wetlands, wildlife habitats, and green spaces.	Not listed	Year-round		Waste Management	https://www.wm.com/us/en/inside-wm/social-impact/community-impact
Patagonia Environmental Grants	Support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities.	$5,000-$20,000, according to program	Varies		Patagonia	https://www.patagonia.com/how-we-fund/
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund	One focus: Habitat protection	• Applications accepted by request only. • Most grants $10,000-$25,000.	April 30 Nov 30		SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund	https://swbg-conservationfund.org/grant-seekers/
Walmart Foundation National Giving Program Grant	For non-profits that operate on a national scope through affiliates in many states around the country or through programs that operate regionally/locally but seek funding to replicate program activities nationally.	$250,000 and above	Year-round	Areas of focus: • Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating • Sustainability • Women's Economic Empowerment • Career Opportunity	Walmart Foundation	https://walmart.org/how-we-give
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	To provide professional services to help achieve conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.	Does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants.	March 1	Contact the state program manager to discuss the proposed project and current application process.	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm

Program	Purpose	Funding Details	Dead-line	Notes	Admin Agency	Resource
Solar Programs						
High Energy Cost Grants	Assists with lowering energy costs for families and individuals in areas with extremely high per-household energy costs.	$100,000-$3 million	July 6	An allowable use of funds is for renewable energy facilities, including solar, wind, hydropower or biomass technologies used for on- or off-grid.	USDA	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs/high-energy-cost-grants
Solar for Good	To foster the expansion of solar power among nonprofits in Wisconsin.		Sept 1	Awards grant funding or solar panels to nonprofit organizations, helping them switch to clean, renewable, solar energy.	RENEW Wisconsin	https://www.renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood/