

City of Edgerton Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan 2008-2013



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CITY OF EDGERTON COMPREHENSIVE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2008-2013

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Section 1: Introduction

As the demand for leisure and recreational activities continues to grow throughout the country, the City of Edgerton has taken the proper steps to not only create a solid recreational base, but also to maintain and improve recreational opportunities within the community. With the update of this plan, the City of Edgerton continues to recognize the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents and visitors. Recreational needs can only be met by properly located sites convenient to potential users that provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities. These sites should possess natural characteristics appropriate to their intended functions. Providing these facilities has become an accepted responsibility of government at all levels - local, county, state, and federal. The increasing demand for outdoor recreation has produced three areas of concern for local government decision makers:

- The need to improve existing facilities and provide additional facilities to meet current and future demand for recreational activities.
- The need to provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with natural resources.
- The need to provide recreational opportunities and facilities in a manner compatible with limited fiscal resources.

Planning is an integral element in identifying community needs and providing facilities efficiently, effectively and economically. The approval of this plan by the Common Council and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will enable the City of Edgerton to be eligible for the next five years to pursue funding through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the State Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Program (ADLP), the Urban Greenspace Program and through other state grant-in-aid programs.

1. The 2008 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan Goals and Objectives

The initial task in preparing any type of planning document includes the formulation of a series of goals and objectives that outline the City's intent throughout the planning process. These goals and objectives will serve as a guide for the City to follow in providing a desirable community-wide park and recreation system.

Mission Statement - The overall purpose of the park system and reason for the recreation provision.

Goal - A broad statement of direction and purpose. A goal should be based on the stated needs of the community. A goal should be long-range and timeless as well as idealistic.

Objective - Defined as a quantifiable aim within a limited time frame. Objectives should be derived from stated goals, quantifiable, specific and within a limited time frame.

A goal provides the City with its long-term destination; objectives act as mile markers along the way. All recommendations listed in the plan are specifically designed to address the goals and objectives listed here.

City of Edgerton Park and Recreation Mission Statement

The City of Edgerton's Park and Recreation mission is to provide the City of Edgerton with an improved quality of life enhanced through athletic, recreational and leisure activities for all age groups.

City of Edgerton Park and Recreation Goals and Objectives

Goal: Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs.

Objectives:

- Acquire additional lands for active and passive recreational use based on current demand, demands created by increasing populations, and environmental significance of the land.
- Acquire 12 acres of land suitable for active recreation for every 1,000 new residents.
- Acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use by explicitly stating acceptable characteristics of land in the parkland dedication ordinance.

Goal: Ensure that open space, recreational facilities and programs are designed to meet the special needs of all residents, especially senior citizens and the differently abled.

Objectives:

- Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facilities and play areas.
- Achieve compliance with accessibility requirements in existing facilities by 2012.
- Encourage participation of senior and differently-abled citizens at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs.
- Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to communication between the City and the public. This is in reference to the standard language that government agencies should use on their agendas and other public meeting documents stating that the city/county etc. will accommodate those with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting.

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

Objectives:

- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan before subdivision plats are approved.
- Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via the zoning ordinances.
- Continually evaluate and update the subdivision ordinance so that it adequately addresses the recreational needs of City residents.

Goal: Coordinate development efforts and the use and maintenance of recreational facilities between the City of Edgerton, Edgerton School District, and appropriate recreation associations.

Objectives:

- Coordinate the public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative City/School/Sports Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the City, school district, and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the City. Agreements will be reviewed every two years.

Goal: Stress the benefits of larger neighborhood and community parks that provide a wide range of facilities over the development of small playground and tot-lot facilities.

Objectives:

- Analyze the location, size and function of existing and proposed parks as annexations, residential development or land use changes occur.
- Use Park Service Area Criteria to help determine the location of future park sites (see Table 2-1).

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

Objectives:

- Continue funding the replacement of old and deteriorating recreation equipment in all City parks.
- Continually monitor and maintain existing park equipment to ensure its longevity and safety.

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

Objectives:

- Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- Nurture the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- Update the City's Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan every five years to maintain grant eligibility.
- Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.

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

Objectives:

- Use the Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan's Capital Improvements Program as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
 - Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park use.

2. Inventory of City of Edgerton Parks and Open Spaces and School Facilities

Mini Parks

Dickinson Park

Dickinson Park is a 0.3 acre park bordered on all sides by streets. Park improvements include play equipment in fair condition and a very substandard single hoop basketball court.

Neighborhood Parks

Fishing Pond Park

Fishing Pond Park is a centrally located 2.5 acre park containing a 2-acre pond. The park is bordered on the north by commercial and industrial uses and on the south and west by wetlands. The pond is occasionally stocked by the local Conservation Club and is the site of the annual Fishing Derby. It is adjacent to the High Street Marsh Trail but is not connected to the trail. Improvements include benches, a walking path, an unimproved parking area, and an historic cabin restoration.

Hain Road Park

This 0.6-acre park was recently dedicated. Playground equipment and landscaping will be installed in 2009.

Kienbaum Park

This 1.4-acre park is located on the northeast side of the City, adjacent to a stormwater control area. Both the park and the stormwater control area should be expanded as the adjoining area develops to provide a large open space area in this part of the community. Expansion of the park would also provide an opportunity to improve access onto a public street. The park has playground equipment and open space for informal ball sports.

Orchard Heights Park

The 14-acre park was recently dedicated. It contains playground equipment, a full sized soccer field, a stormwater detention basin, and the connection to a trail that will extend south for approximately ½ mile along the east side of Orchard Heights Subdivision.

Winston Drive Park

This 2.1-acre park located on the west side of the community is easily accessible from the High Street Marsh Trail. The park contains playground equipment and open space.

Community Parks

Central Park

Central Park is a centrally located 8.9-acre park that is bisected by Saunder's Creek. The majority of the park is in the 100-year floodplain. It is the most intensively used and fully developed park in the community. Park improvements include the aquatic center, playground equipment, two shelters, basketball, multi-use path, skatepark, and restrooms. Many community programs are held in the park, such as Tobacco Heritage Days, an art fair, and concerts in the park. The local V.F.W. organization owns property north of Central Park, which can be used for outdoor activities.

Racetrack Park

This 53-acre park has ample open space, tree canopied slopes, and a wooded creek area. This park is the site of organized ball sports as well as many community festivals. The five-field softball/baseball complex was recently improved and is in excellent condition. Soccer leagues are held at Racetrack Park. The park contains various shelters, a concession stand, restrooms, play equipment, horseshoe pits, a tractor pull area, a walking trail, and playground equipment. The conservation club leases a portion of the park for their clubhouse and trap shoot facilities. The conservation club also maintains the deer pen where several white tailed deer are kept.

Conservancy Parks

Hain Road Wetland

This 14-acre wetland is part of the High Street Marsh. The High Street Marsh is an important natural area that is utilized for flood control. Access to the conservancy is possible from the High Street Marsh trail, which extends from the end of West High Street to Heritage Court.

Heritage Valley Estates Wetland

The 0.5-acre open space serves as the western trailhead for the High Street Marsh Trail.

West Meadows Park

West Meadows Park is a beautiful mature oak/hickory woods with many native woodland flowers. The park is 1.5 acres in size and improvements include benches and a trail.

Whispering Pines Park

This 2.3-acre conservancy has severe slopes with mature woods. The park is almost entirely landlocked, making it difficult to identify as a park.

Special Use Parks

Edgerton Aquatic Facility

The Aquatic Facility consists of a zero depth pool with slides, a diving well, a concession stand and a bathhouse. The facility is in excellent condition and continues to be an important amenity to the community.

Edgerton Community Elementary, Middle and High Schools

The joint campus provides the following outdoor recreation facilities:

- 1 Full Size Football Field
- 1 Quarter Mile Track
- 1 Full Size Baseball Field
- 7 Tennis Courts
- Playground equipment

Yahara Elementary School

This elementary School provides the following outdoor recreation facilities:

- 2 Acres of Lawn Area
- 1 Large Playground
- 1 Small Playground

Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

St. John's Park

St. John's Park is a 0.5-acre parcel that is currently leased by the City from St. John's Church. The park contains playground equipment and a small outdated backstop.

Tri-County Center

The Tri-County Community Center is located at 116 Swift Street, in a building originally constructed as a high school. The building contains a large gymnasium and various meeting rooms. The gym is available for rent and is used for roller-skating, dances, walking, volleyball and community gatherings. Several groups meet there regularly including a senior's group.

Towne Country Club Golf Course

This 18-hole, private golf course is open to the public. The clubhouse is available for rent for community activities.

3. Inventory of Nearby County and State of Wisconsin Facilities

Rock County Parks

Gibbs Lake County Park

Gibbs Lake County Park is 299 acres in size and includes 3/4 of the shoreline of Gibbs Lake and the northern half of the shoreline of Little Gibbs Lake. The park is located 5 miles southwest of Edgerton. Gibbs Lake Park features a hiking and cross-country ski trail, bridle path, boat landing and launching area, and a parking lot. Drinking water, toilets, picnic tables, and grills are also provided.

Murwin County Park

This 40+ acre park includes a substantial amount of the shoreline of the Yahara River in the Town of Fulton approximately 2 miles southwest of the City. The park provides exceptional picnic areas on the Yahara River and is an excellent place to launch canoes to travel downstream on the Rock River to the City of Janesville's Traxler Park for take-out. The shoreline of the Yahara River within the park provides excellent fishing and bird watching opportunities.

Section 2: Analysis of the Edgerton Park and Open Space System

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

1. Classification of existing parkland and a comparison to national acreage standards
2. Comparison to generally accepted service area standards
3. Comparison to regional quantitative studies – the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the Dane and Rock Counties Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
4. Solicitation of public input and discerning local recreational facility needs

It is important to use all four of these methods in determining the need for additional parks and/or recreational facilities in the City of Edgerton. Each method focuses on one specific element of providing suitable parks and open space and types of facilities. Taken individually, they do not provide an accurate representation of community-wide recreation needs. However, used collectively, recreation needs and wants can be aggregated and identified and additional parks and recreation facilities can be justified.

This report uses the above four methods of analysis to develop a set of recommendations, which are listed in Section Three.

1. Parkland Classification and Analysis

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the community's park needs are being met. A community should have a number of different types of parks to serve the various needs of the residents. They may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs have not truly been met in terms of accessibility and recreational activity variety. Table 2-1 explains the seven park classifications, their associated use, service areas, desirable size and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification.

Table 2-1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/ 1,000 Pop
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A. Local/Close-to-Home Space

Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼ mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood)	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A
Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
Total Local Space = 6.25 to 10.5 AC/1,000				

B. Regional Space

Regional/Metro-politan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A
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C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community

Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the	Variable
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Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/ 1,000 Pop
	hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (NOTE: the above components may occur in the "linear park")		resource and provide maximum use	
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

Table from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, NRPA, 1983, pages 56, 57.

Once a community's existing parks have been classified, a comparison can be made between the national standard acres per 1,000 population for each park type and existing park acreage.

For this plan, the acreage standard for local park space is most relevant. The standard of 10.5-acres/1,000 population (taken from Table 2-1) is used as a basis for determining acreage needs. This acreage should be distributed among park types as follows:

Park Standards

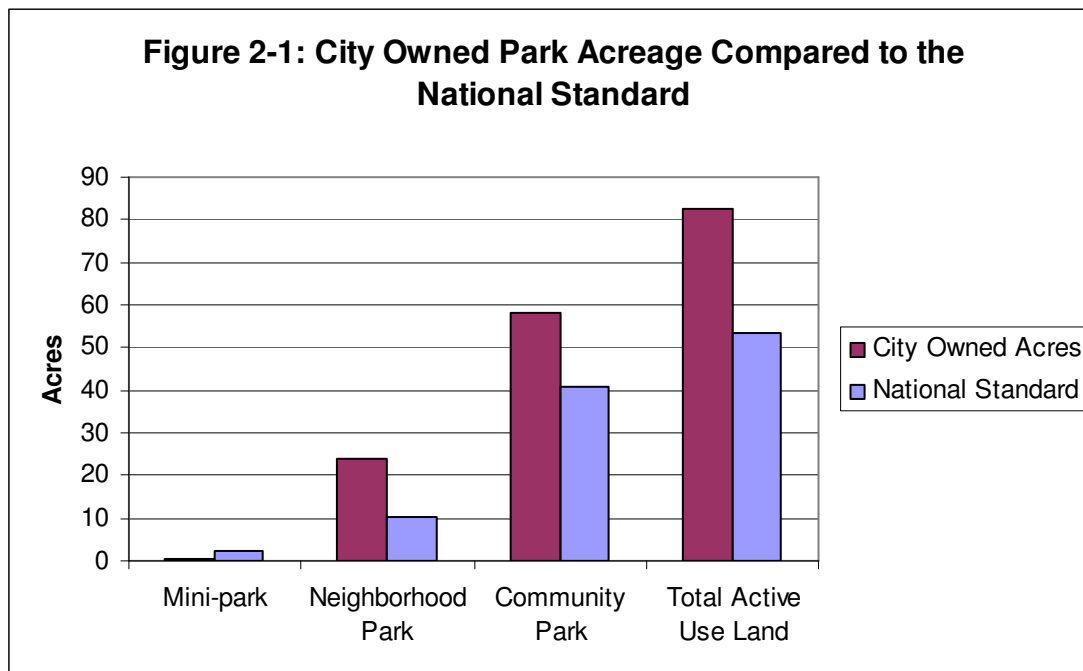
Mini Parks	0.5 acres/1,000 population
Neighborhood Parks	2.0 acres/1,000 population
Community Parks	8.0 acres/1,000 population
Total	10.5 acres/1,000 population

Source: Table from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, NRPA, 1983, pages 56, 57.

The City of Edgerton currently has 82.7 acres of land in active park classifications or 16.3 acres/1,000 residents (population of 5,070 (based on DOA estimates in 2005). As mentioned above, the national standard is 10.5 acres/1,000 residents. The City of Edgerton currently meets the national standard for active use parks in terms of total acreage. However, there is a deficiency in the mini-park category. The goal of the park system should be to provide a diverse park system that is accessible to a majority of the population and offers sufficient facilities for the community's recreation needs. By increasing the mini- park acreage, Edgerton will reach this goal.

Table 2-2 City of Edgerton Recreation Areas by Park Classification

Mini-Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Community Parks		Conservancy		Special Use	
	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
Dickinson	0.3	Fishing Pond Park	5.5	Racetrack Park	53.0	Hain Road Wetland	13.5	Aquatic Facility	3.6
		Hain Road Park	0.6	Central Park	5.3	Heritage Valley Estates	0.5		
		Kienbaum Park	1.4			West Meadows Park	1.5		
		Orchard Heights Park	14.0			Whispering Pines Park	2.3		
		Winston Drive Park	2.1						
TOTALS	0.3		23.6		58.3		17.8		3.6



Note: National standard calculated by multiplying the standard for each park type per 1,000 residents by the number of residents. Acres needed to meet national standards are based on 2005 population estimates from the Wisconsin Department of Administration, (approximately 5,070).

2. Park Service Area Requirements

The second method of evaluating a community's parkland needs and adequacy of service is to plot park service areas on a base map and identify areas that are underserved. Utilizing the park service radii criteria established by the NRPA, park service areas were mapped for existing neighborhood and community parks in Edgerton.

Community Parks

The national standard service area for a community park is a 1-mile radius. While Edgerton's "Community Park" services most of the central part of the City, the neighborhoods northwest and southeast of the center are underserved. Please see Map 3 in Appendix C.

Mini- and Neighborhood Parks

All residents of the City of Edgerton should have reasonable access to City parks. Specifically, all City residents should reside within the park service area of a neighborhood park or a mini park. The national standard service area for a neighborhood park is a ½ mile radius and for a mini park it is a ¼ mile radius.

Map 3 demonstrates that there is a need for mini-parks and neighborhood parks within the community. Specifically those neighborhoods northwest, southeast and east of the center of the city are currently underserved. Please see Appendix C.

3. Review of State and Regional Park and Recreation Studies

The third method of determining recreation needs in the community uses local, regional, and state recreation studies that apply to the area. These quantitative studies are statistically defensible surveys, polls, and other instruments that help identify user input from uniform sets of questions. These studies are very useful since they are a good indicator of recreation needs as perceived by recreation users. The two studies available at this time are the *2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*, the *Rock County Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan 2008-2010*, the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2006-2011*, and the *Jefferson County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan 2005-2010*.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

1. Protect, restore and enhance Wisconsin's natural resources for outdoor recreation.
2. Continue to improve and develop Wisconsin outdoor recreation facilities.
3. Understand the threats and opportunities of Wisconsin's developing urban areas and areas of rapid population growth.
4. Promote Wisconsin outdoor recreation as a means to better health and wellness for state citizens.

The 2005-2010 SCORP examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions, each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. Together, the SCORP regions represent a wide spectrum of outdoor recreation settings offered across the Wisconsin landscape. With its comprehensive statewide and regional focus, this plan will guide the allocation of

limited recreation funds to acquire additional recreation and conservation lands and support the continued development of outdoor recreation opportunities. A partial list of the projected trends in Wisconsin outdoor activities, as determined by the SCORP is as follows: Bird watching, wildlife viewing and photography, picnicking, road biking, skateboarding, walking, dog parks and water parks.

Rock County Park, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan 2008-2013 Draft

The Rock County POROS plan is currently being updated. It is expected that the goals and objectives of the plan will be in alignment with the purpose of the Edgerton Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan – to increase and maintain recreational opportunities for citizens, while preserving land for its best and highest use.

Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2006-2011

Dane County recently updated their Parks and Open Space Plan and the goals of the plan are consistent with those of this plan. Of particular relevance is the goal to “Provide sufficient parkland and recreation facilities to meet the demand of Dane County residents without adversely affecting existing natural resources”. IN addition, the Dane County Plan notes the State of Wisconsin DOA forecast of a 120% increase in the number of Dane County residents aged 60 or older by the year 2030. This projection is also true for the majority of the country and as such, there may be an increased need in the number and type of recreational facilities preferred by this demographic group – such as picnic areas and hiking and biking trails.

Jefferson County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2005-2010

This plan seeks to continue to provide experiences in nature and opportunities for hiking, picnicking, fishing, boating and bike riding for county residents. Further, the addition of high quality natural resource areas for outdoor activities will also be pursued to meet the needs of county residents. Specifically, the following visions for the parks system are in alignment with the Edgerton plan:

- Provide multiple recreational facilities and activities for all ages and abilities in a way that balances recreation and conservation values.
- Continue to acquire recreational lands and natural resource areas for public use.
- Sustain a high standard in the design, construction, accessibility, maintenance, safety and management of the Parks.

4. Public Input

A Public Informational Meeting was held at the Edgerton Library on July 7th, 2008, with about 20 people in attendance. A brief summary of the parks system and planning process to date was provided. Attendees were asked to comment on the parks and make known their hopes and concerns for the parks and recreation facilities located in Edgerton. The following comments were collected:

- a. Residents of the Orchard Heights neighborhood in attendance requested improvements to Orchard Heights park be included in the CIP.
- b. Graffiti is a problem at Central Park; residents offered to help remove it.
- c. Adult soccer and volleyball are both offered at the Community Center.
- d. Roller-skating is available at the Community Center.
- e. Orchard Heights park amenities could include a full-size soccer field, sledding hill, small shelter or sunshade, sand volleyball, tot lot equipment to supplement existing play equipment, recycling bins
- f. And adult exercise course was requested.
- g. Improvement to the pitted soccer fields at Racetrack park were requested.

- h. Upgrades to the play equipment at St. John's Park were requested, existing structures are aged.
- i. Establish a Friends Group for the park system.
- j. Requested improvements to Fishing Pond Park include upgrading the pier and replacing the broken aereator.

Existing Edgerton Sports Associations

These groups currently use the facilities available in the City and at a minimum, would like to see the resources maintained. For a complete listing of available recreation programs and contacts, see Appendix E.

There are many sports associations and High School teams that use the public and private recreational facilities. These organizations include:

- Albion Tigers Baseball
- Baseball- T-ball
- Baseball – Little League
- Basketball – Boys and Girls
- Golf
- Horseshoe League
- Men's Dartboard League
- Rollerskating
- Soccer
- Softball – girls
- Swim Club
- Tennis
- Trap Shooting
- Volleyball
- Youth Wrestling
- Adult and Youth Soccer
- Adult Volleyball

Section 3: Recommendations

1. City-wide Improvements

The following is a list of recommendations for the entire parks system for the City of Edgerton. The list of recommendations may seem overwhelming; however, they are meant to be long-term and should be implemented over a period of years. Specifically, the City-wide improvements should be implemented over a ten to twenty year period, and the Capital Improvements Program for specific sites implemented within a five-year period. If all of the City-wide recommendations are implemented, the Edgerton Park and Recreation System will be significantly improved.

General Recommendations for the Whole Park System

Accessible Restrooms

- Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including shelters and restrooms. As park toilet buildings are built or upgraded, they should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users.

Playground Safety Surfaces

- Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a CPSC-approved layer of resilient safety surface. Commonly used resilient surfaces are recycled rubber or wood chips. To meet the Federal ADA requirements, the City of Edgerton should consider using “Wood Carpet” or a similar product that provides wheelchair accessibility as well as a resilient surface.

Specific Recommendations for the Whole Park System

- Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the City’s Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan.
- Develop a City-wide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects City parks, county and state parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region. Cooperate with various transportation agencies to provide safe crossings at major street and highway intersections.

-

Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development through revenue generating activities (fees) such as

- Increase the subdivision impact fee
 - Consider a recreation center impact fee
 - Continue to pursue grants and private donations

- Consider the creation of a subcommittee to improve upon joint use policies and agreements between the City, School District, County and recreation associations to help develop recommendations for future park facilities.

- Perform systematic routine maintenance of the following park facilities and equipment.
 - Play equipment
 - Courts and fields
 - Benches and picnic tables
 - Trail systems
 - Restrooms and shelters

2. Individual Park Recommendations

The following section details the improvements requested by the Parks Committee for each park within the Edgerton system. These items will also be included in the 5 year CIP budget.

All Parks

All parks should have an identification sign. Parks identification signs should be similar to support visitor recognition. Many parks need trees or other landscaping.

Community Parks

Central Park

Improvements include a new roof for the bathhouse and concession stands, new pool slide and diving boards, the addition of a funbrella-like product for shade, additional off-street parking, landscaping of the trees near the pool, replacement of the sidewalk over the storm sewer and repainting the pool surface.

Racetrack Park

Requests include road resurfacing park roads and reconfiguring the access roads in accordance with the Racetrack Park Master Plan, relocating the dog park, adding Frisbee golf and a basketball hoop, and improvement the condition of the pavement around the large shelter.

Neighborhood Parks

Fishpond Park

The following improvements are recommended: a new pier, the addition of benches, an aerator pump, signage for the cabin and a trail connection to the High Street Marsh Trail.

Kienbaum Park

A sidewalk should be constructed from Ladd Lane to the park, for improved access.

Orchard Heights Park

Future improvements should include paved access to the play equipment, addition of landscaping and trees, addition of benches and soccer standards, a shelter and trail connections to the future trails planned for the neighborhood.

St. John's Park

A new backstop is requested. This park is leased by the City.

Winston Drive Park

The addition of Frisbee golf, funnel ball, a backstop, and volleyball facilities are all requested improvements. In addition, a new backstop is recommended.

Mini Parks

Dickinson Park

Recommendations for improvements to this park include upgrading the play equipment and safety surfacing, adding an accessible swing and trash receptacles. The basketball court could also be replaced with funnelball.

Conservancy Parks

West Meadows Park

Trail improvement and benches are the recommended improvements for this park.

Whispering Pines Park

Park signage for identification purposes is recommended, along with sidewalk access and additional trails.

3. Future Parks

Park Locations from the City of Edgerton Comprehensive Plan

From the City of Edgerton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use found in Appendix F, there are several new passive/active recreation areas designated for future park use – with in each neighborhood. In addition, it is the recommendation of this plan that the City acquire the land immediately adjacent to Central Park currently owned by the local VFW if it become available.

Future Trail Systems

Future links in the existing trail system were also identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan. These include an off-road trail from East Fulton Street, following Saunders Creek, terminating at the existing section north of Elm High Drive. A trail through the future hospital site on the east side of the community that will ultimately connect through Neville to the Rock County trail in the Milton/Janesville area. A trail in the areas of Racetrack Park going northwest from the City will connect to the future Lower Yahara Trail planned in Dane County. A trail going southwest to Indianford may also connect to a future trail along the Yahara River.

4. Capital Improvements Plan 2008-2012

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

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

The capital improvements program for each park is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the park. Generally, capital improvements are ranked in the following manner:

- Improvements to Existing Facilities that will:
 - Correct health and safety hazards
 - Upgrade deficient facilities
 - Modernize adequate but outdated facilities
- Installation of facilities as deemed appropriate and necessary through public demand (public meetings, Park Board input, expected population growth)
- Development of new facilities as deemed necessary through comparison to NRPA park and recreation standards

Specifically, improvements to existing facilities rank the highest in the capital improvements program, while new facilities are usually ranked lower, according to their relative need in the park. Improvements that correct health and safety hazards are always the highest ranking priority. Improvements that are deemed necessary through comparison to national park and recreation standards are usually ranked the lowest. The following two tables depict the total dollars to be spent for each park annually until 2012 and the total by year for each park.

Edgerton Capital Improvements Plan 2008 – 2012

Park	Recommendation	Unit Cost	Total	Year
Central Park	New Roof for bathhouse and concession stand	\$23,000	\$23,000	2009
	New pool slide	\$5,000	\$5,000	2011
	New diving boards	\$4,000	\$4,000	2011
	Funbrella sunshade	\$3,000	\$3,000	2008
	Addition of trees near pool	\$0	\$0	2008
	Additional off-street parking	\$15,000	\$15,000	2011
	Sidewalk replacement	\$4.50/sf	\$20,000	2010
	Paint pool		\$38,000	2010
Dickinson	New Playground Equipment and safety surface		\$20,000	2012
	Trash receptacles		\$0	2009
	Accessible swing		\$1,200	2012
	Funnelball		\$600	2012
Fishpond	Pier		\$3,000	2011
	Benches		\$1,000	2011
	Aerator		\$2,000	2011
	Cabin signage		\$200	2009
	Trail connection to High Street Marsh Trail		\$1,500	2010
Hain Road	Playground Equipment		\$20,000	2009
	Sidewalk access to park equipment		\$5,000	2010
Kienbaum	Sidewalk access from Ladd Lane		\$5,000	2010
Orchard Heights	Sidewalk access to play equipment		\$5,000	2009
	Landscape Improvements		\$1,000	2009
	Benches		\$1,000	2009
	Soccer standards			
	Shelter or sun-shade			
	Trail improvements to connect to future trail			
Racetrack	Resurface Park roads			
	Reconfigure roads in accordance with master plan			
	Relocate dog park			
	Add Frisbee Golf course – 9 holes			
	Basketball hoop			

Racetrack	Replace pavement around large shelter			
St. Johns (leased)	New backstop			
West Meadows	Benches			
	Trail Improvement			
Whispering Pines	Park signage			
Winston Drive	Frisbee Golf course – 9 holes			
	Funnel ball			
	Volleyball court			
	New Backstop			

Section 4: Implementation

1. Park Acquisition and Development Mechanisms

Parkland Dedication Ordinance

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

The City of Edgerton ordinance (Section 23.05 of Chapter 23 - Land Divisions) covers dedication of lands procedures. Currently, a 1,300 square foot minimum per single family unit and for each housing unit within a multi-family development or condominium is required from the developer. If there is no land deemed suitable for park development, a parkland impact fee in the sum of \$338? per single family lot or each family unit within a multi-family development or condominium will be collected by the City.

2. Suggestions for Improving the Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Land Dedication

The ordinance currently reads that land should be dedicated by the developer in new developments when parklands are required by the City Council or shown on the Master Plan or Official Map. This is an excellent way to collect land for the parks system. Planning for new parks should closely follow the demand and infrastructure capacity for new development within clearly delineated areas.

Usable Lands

An issue often discussed regarding dedication ordinances is what type of land is acceptable for parkland. The intent of any parkland dedication ordinance should be to focus on producing land for neighborhood parks. Edgerton should add language to Section 23.05 that states greenways, wetlands and lands located in the 100-year floodplain shall not be accepted as dedicated parkland. This insures that parkland for new neighborhood parks will be of higher quality, and usable space.

Because the intent of parkland dedication requirements is to provide sufficient recreation lands for new residents, neighborhood parks should be developed within new developments. Neighborhood parks are designed to provide active and passive recreation activities and organized league recreation, as well as informal “pick up” play. The primary user ranges from 5 to 15 years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of 1/2 mile radius includes the entire neighborhood; with some neighborhood overlap if features are unique. The average neighborhood park commonly ranges from 5 to 10 acres in size and serves from 1,000 to 5,000 people – basically one park for every elementary school.

An improved Edgerton ordinance would include the following land specifications for negotiation with developers in planned neighborhoods:

- Land should be contiguous and in a configuration to serve the development(s) with proposed recreational components. Careful consideration should also be made for providing connections to other new or expected subdivisions. In cases where several new subdivisions are being developed within a “planned neighborhood”, the opportunity to develop a larger neighborhood park (5 to 10 acres) in a central location should be explored as the best option rather than several smaller parks that are less land intensive.
- Parkland shall have a minimum of 25% of the total perimeter as public roadway frontage.
- Secondary access shall be a minimum of 60 feet wide.

Park Improvement Impact Fees

The City of Edgerton currently collects \$552/unit in “impact fees” at the time the building permit is issued for a new home. These impact fees fund improvements to the City’s park system to meet increased demand placed on it by new residents. These fees go into a separate account to be spent on capital development of parks (or improvements to existing parks) to serve the new residents. The basis for the imposition of the park impact fees is the City of Edgerton “Report on Park Impact Fees and Public Facilities Needs Assessment” prepared by Virchow Krause and Company, LLP, November 7th 2006.

2. Grant Information for Park Acquisition and Development

The state and federal government provides money to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. It is important to note that most of the programs require that a local government submit to the WDNR a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved by resolution by the submitting local government. By adopting the 2008 Comprehensive Park and Open Space Master Plan with a resolution, the City of Edgerton has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs until the year 2012. This section provides general information and contact names for many of the grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities. The Grant Information Matrix in Appendix G is divided into two sections, the Stewardship Program and other grant programs.

The Stewardship Program was created by the 1989 Wisconsin Legislature. It originally provided for a 10-year program/\$250 million fund to enhance Wisconsin’s outdoor recreational resources. In 1999, the Stewardship Program was re-authorized for another 10 years. The program contains funds for state and local governments, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs). To encourage partnerships and cooperation between the WDNR, local governments and NCOs, the Stewardship Program provides a matching grant that is available to non-profit organizations for the acquisition of land or land rights for a variety of land conservation and recreational purposes. The Grant Information Matrix (located in the Appendix G) contains only those specific Stewardship funds for which local governments or NCOs are eligible to apply.

Other grant programs listed in the grant information matrix include the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grant program for the acquisition and development of local parks and the Urban Forestry Program, which contains state and federal funds for the development and preservation of urban forests, including park trees and a program to fund boat launching facilities. The Safe Routes to School program is a Wisconsin Department of Transportation sponsored program that supplies federal grant money to local governments for improving routes to and from school.

See the Appendix G for a list of various grant programs focused on parks, open space and trails.

Appendices

A – Existing Facilities/Inventory and Analysis Matrix

B – Map 1 – Existing Parks and Open Space

C – Map 2 – Community Park Service Areas

D – Map 3 – Neighborhood and Mini-parks Service Areas

E – Summary Table of Sports Associations and School District Sports Facility Needs

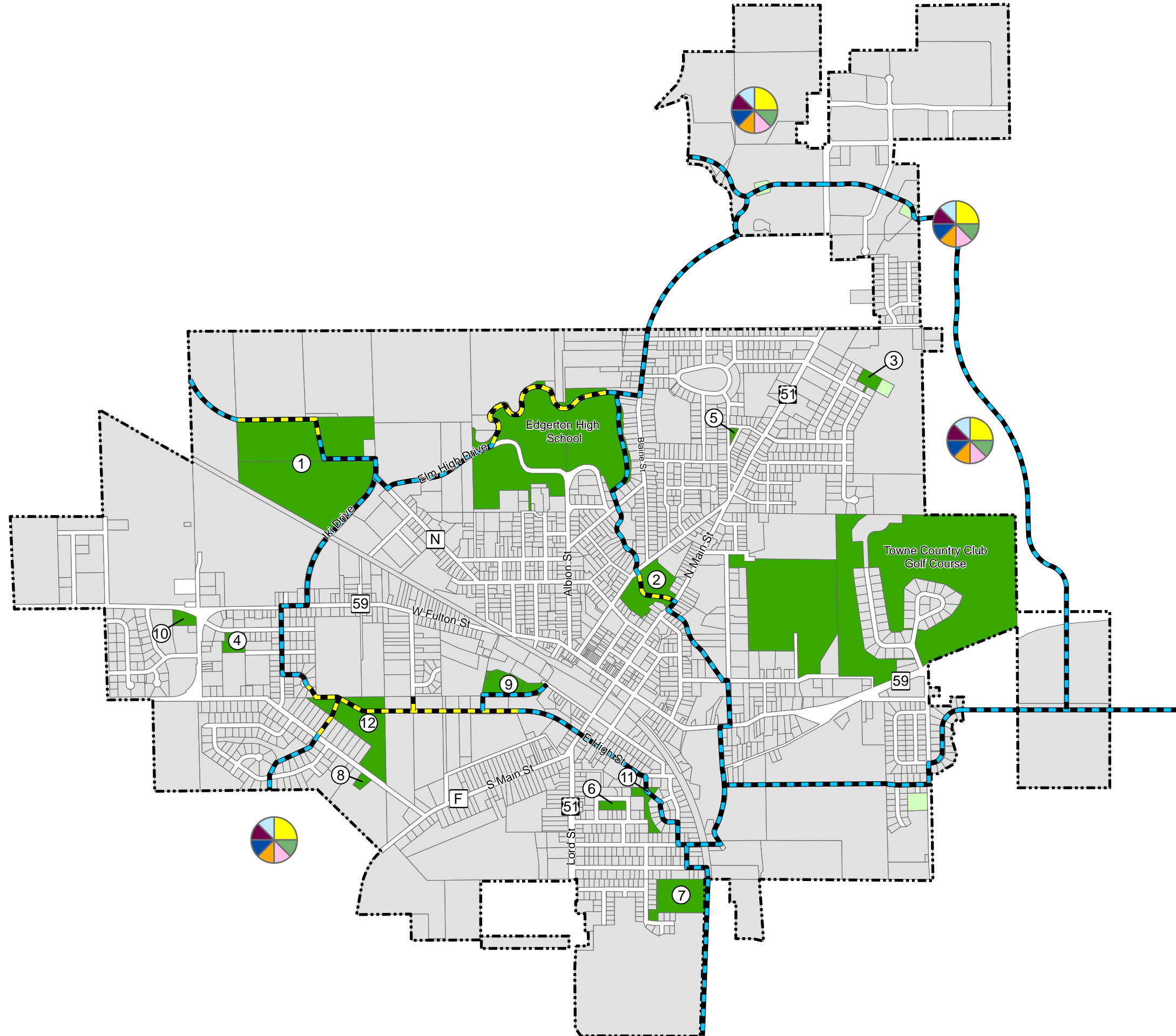
F – Comprehensive Master Plan Future Land Use Map

G – Grant Information Matrix

Appendix A – Existing Facilities/Inventory and Analysis Matrix

[illegible]

Appendix B – Map 1 – Existing Parks and Open Space



Legend

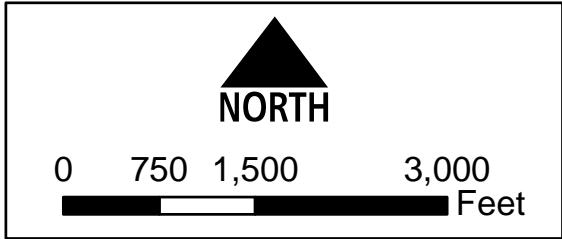
- Existing Bike Path
- Proposed Bike Path
- Existing Park
- Future Park
- Municipal Boundary

Future Planned Neighborhood

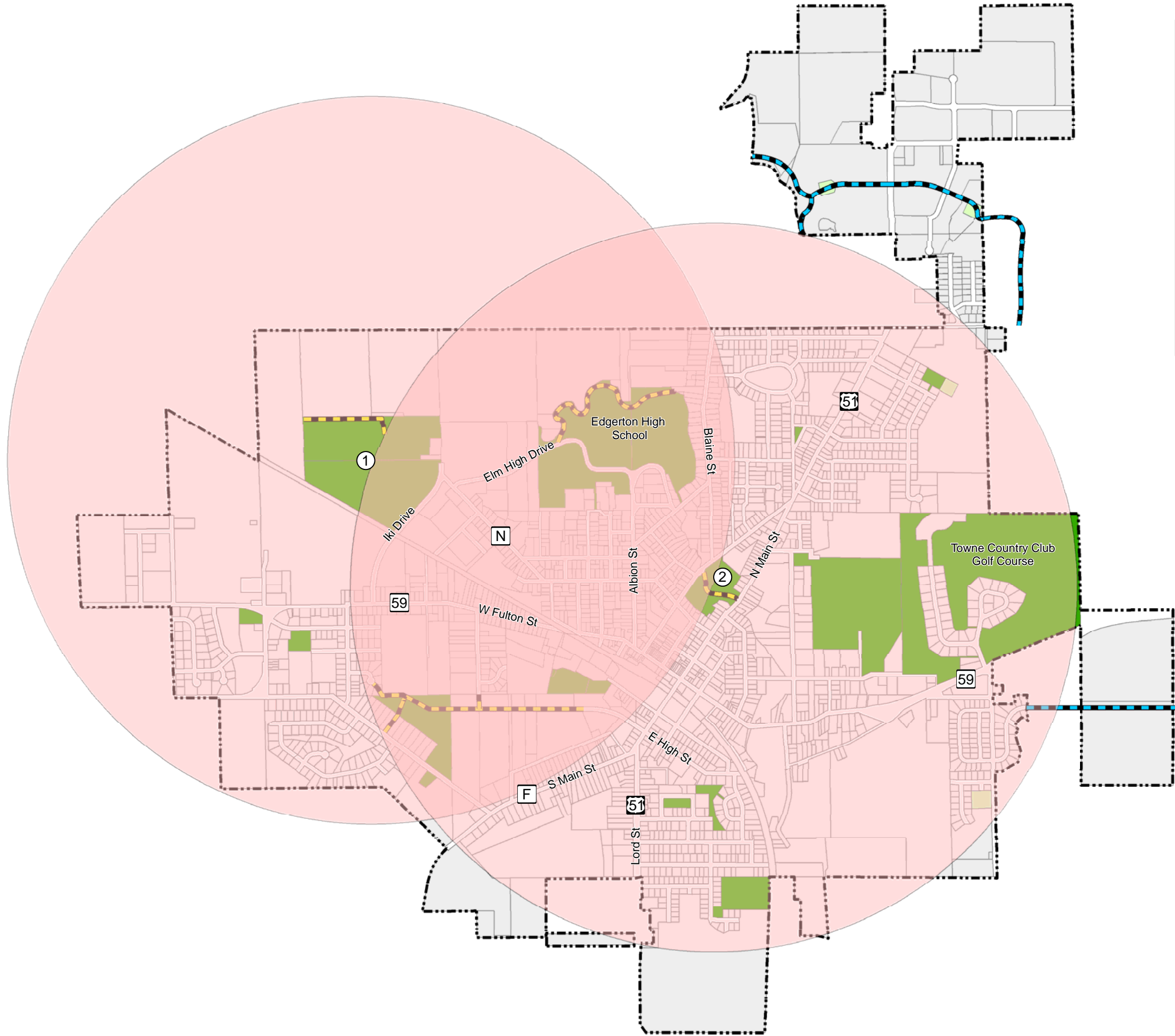
- A. Single Family
- B. Parks & Open Space
- C. Neighborhood Business
- D. Neighborhood Office
- E. Institutional
- F. Mixed Residential
- G. Two-Family

Parks

- Racetrack Park - CP
- Central Park - CP
- Kienbaum Park - NP
- Winston Drive Park - NP
- Dickinson Park - MP
- St. John's Park - NP
- Orchard Heights Park - NP
- Windfield Park - NP
- Fish Pond Park - NP
- West Meadows Park - CONS
- Whispering Pines Park - CONS
- Hain Road Wetland - CONS



Appendix C – Map 2 – Community Park Service Areas

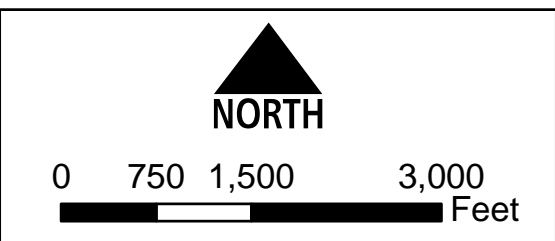


Legend

- Community Park Service Area (1 Mile)
- Existing Bike Path
- Proposed Bike Path
- Municipal Boundary

Parks

1. Racetrack Park - CP
2. Central Park - CP



City of Edgerton Park & Outdoor Recreation Plan

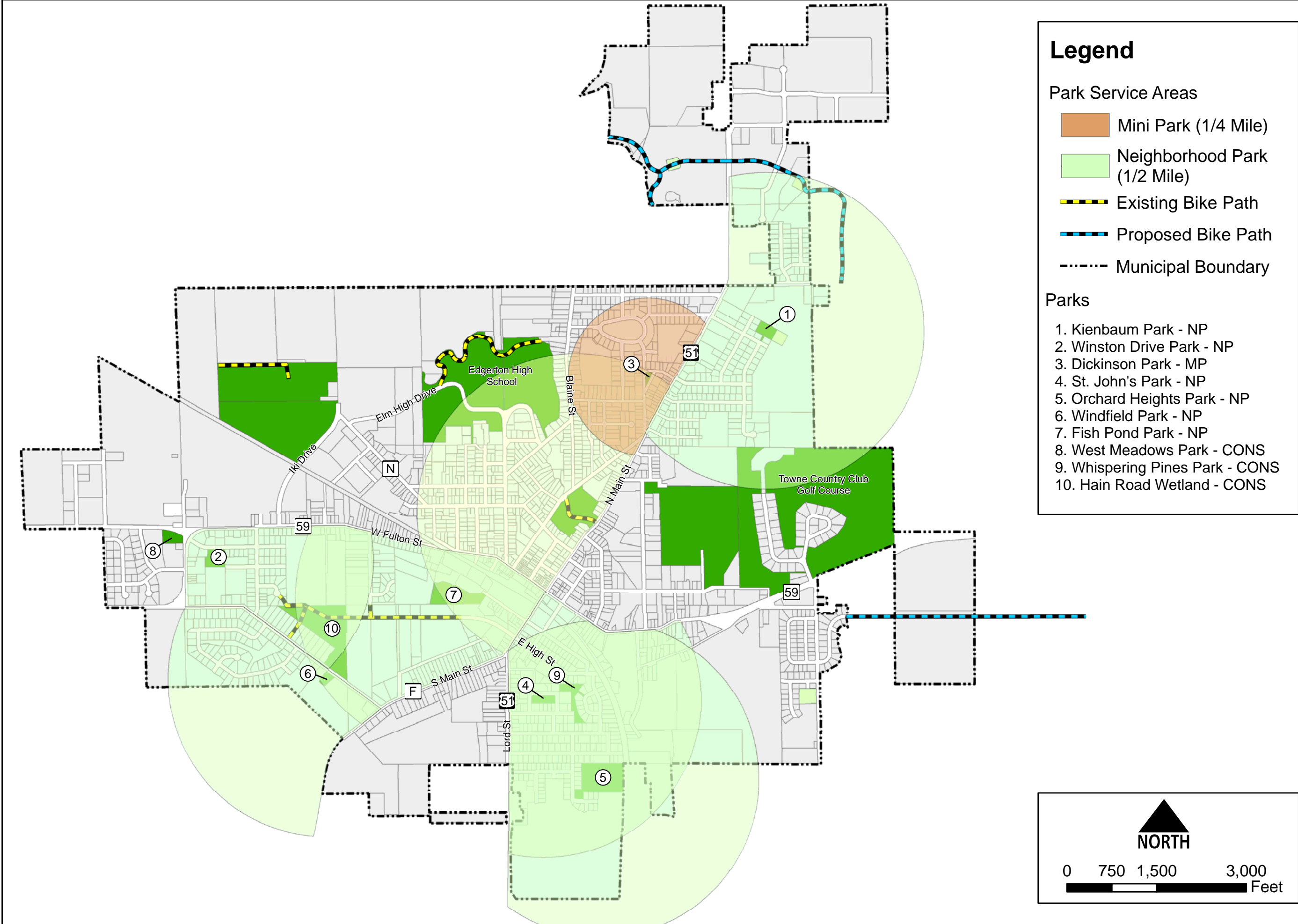
Edgerton, Wisconsin

Community Park Service Areas



Project # 2328
October 2008
APPENDIX C

Appendix D – Map 3 – Neighborhood and Mini-parks Service Areas



Appendix E – Summary Table of Sports Associations and School District Sports Facility Needs

Appendix E

Existing Recreation Programs Available to City of Edgerton Residents

Albion Tigers Baseball

Ages: Adult

Contact: Matt Towns - 884-3155

Baseball-T-ball

Ages:

Contact: Mark Gregory-884-9260

Baseball-Little League

Ages:

Contact: Mark Gregory-884-9260

Basketball- Boy's

Ages:

Contact : Daryl Fox - 884-6908

Basketball-Girl's

Ages:

Contact - Mike Schmidt - 884-9764

Golf

Contact: Towne Country Club - 884-4231

Horseshoe League

Contact: Al Koepp - 884-9865

Men's Dartboard League

Contact: Local Churches for info

Rollerskating

Ages: any

Contact: 884-9601

Soccer

Ages: Kindergarten - 8th grade

Contact: Eric Kim - 322-4422

Softball-Girl's

Ages: 2nd grade - 7th grade

Contact - Jim Raymond - 884-8711

Mike Schmidt - 884-9764

Swim Club

Winter Program-High School

Contact: Laura Olson - 884-9402

Summer Program - City Pool

Contact: Pool Office-884-3232

Tennis

Ages: Middle & High School

Contact: Barb Brown - 884-9393

Trap Shooting

Contact: John Learn - 884-4350

Volleyball

Contact: John Nelson - 884-3594

Youth Wrestling

Ages: Kindergarten - 8th grade

Contact: Brent Harry - 884-2180

Ideas for additional recreation programs:

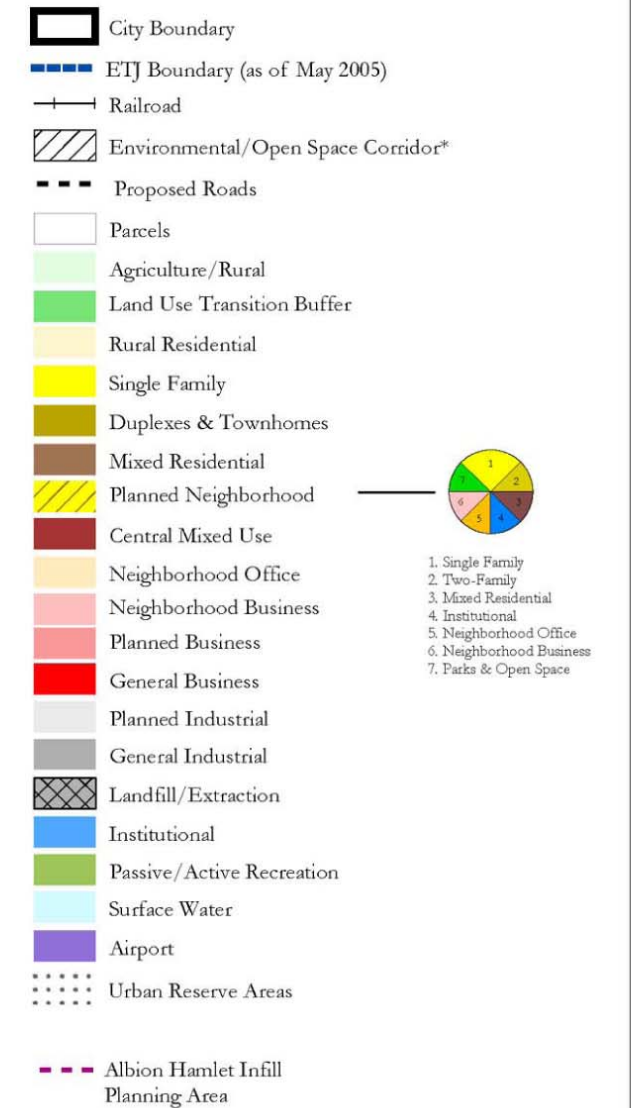
Program	Necessary Facilities
Adult softball league	Outdoor field
Adult soccer league	Outdoor field
Adult kickball league	Outdoor field
Adult dodge ball	Indoor gym
Mini ball soccer	Small outdoor field
Craft classes	Indoor room
Senior card clubs	Indoor room
Flag football	Outdoor field
Ultimate Frisbee league	Outdoor field
Adult enrichment courses	Indoor room
Wrestling	Indoor room

Tumbling/Dance	Indoor room
Adult Water Fitness	Assisted Living Center Pool
Martial Arts	Indoor room

Appendix F – Comprehensive Master Plan Future Land Use Map

Appendix F

Future Land Use - City

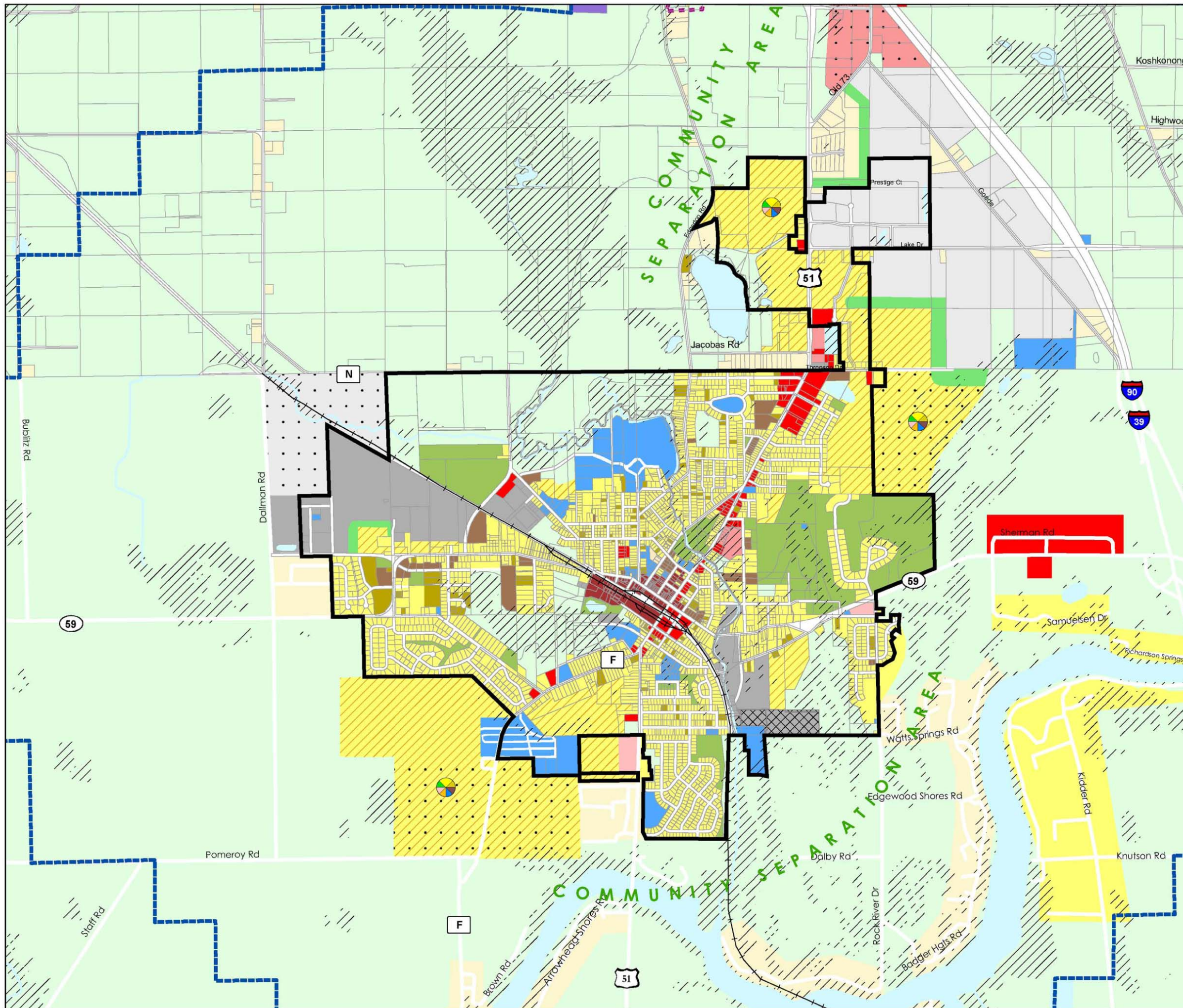


Shapes on map represent general recommendations for future land use. Actual boundaries between different land use types and associated zoning districts may vary somewhat from representations on this map. Not all lands shown in a future developed land use category are immediately appropriate for development, rezoning, or subdivision.

*Environmental Corridor includes floodplains, wetlands and slopes of 12% and greater.

Date: Sept 2006

Sources:
Parcels: Dane County Land Information Office 2001
Municipal Boundaries: Dane County Land Information Office 2001
Floodplain: DNR FEMA Web Viewer



Appendix G – Grant Information Matrix

APPENDIX G – GRANT PROGRAMS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Grant	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<p>Lake Planning Grant</p> <p>§ Small-scale projects are intended for lakes where a detailed plan is unwarranted, is in place, or needs updating. Also, a small-scale project is an ideal starting place for lake groups just getting started in management plan development.</p> <p>§ Large-scale projects are designed to address more detailed and comprehensive planning needs for lakes. The goal of these grants is to develop local lake management plans.</p>	<p>25% local match required.</p> <p>Small-scale projects - \$3,000</p> <p>Large-scale projects - \$10,000</p> <p>\$625,000 avail. per year.</p>	<p>February 1 August 1</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>
<p>Lake Protection and Classification Grants</p> <p>§ Designed to assist lake users, lake communities and local governments as they undertake projects to protect and restore lakes and their ecosystems. Eligible projects include:</p> <p>§ Purchase of property or a conservation easement</p> <p>§ Restoration of wetlands</p> <p>§ Development of local regulations or ordinances</p> <p>§ Lake classification projects that allow counties to design and implement local land and water management programs that are tailored to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures (these grants are limited to \$50,000).</p> <p>§ Lake improvement projects recommended in a DNR-approved plan including watershed management, lake restoration, diagnostic feasibility studies, and pollution prevention and control.</p>	<p>25% local match required.</p> <p>\$200,000 per project</p>	<p>May 1</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>
<p>River Planning and Protection Grants</p> <p>§ Designed to protect rivers under a program that aims to prevent water quality, fisheries habitat, and natural beauty from deteriorating as the number of homes and recreational, industrial, and other uses increases along rivers.</p>	<p>River Planning Grants</p> <p>25% local match required</p> <p>\$10,000 maximum grant award</p> <p>River Mgmt. Grants</p> <p>25% local match required</p>	<p>May 1</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>

Grant	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
	\$50,000 maximum grant award		
<p>Recreational Trails Program</p> <p>\$ Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easement or property for trails.</p> <p>\$ May only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county or state trail plan included or reference in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by the federal LAWCON.</p>	<p>Up to 80% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project.</p> <p>Payments are reimbursements on costs incurred after project approval.</p>	<p>Application due May 1</p> <p>Application packet to be ready in January</p>	<p>WisDNR</p>
<p>All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)</p> <p>\$ Provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes. Eligible projects include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes 2) purchase of liability insurance 3) acquisition of easements 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas. 	<p>Up to 100% funded - dependent on project</p>	<p>April 15</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>
<p>Land Recycling Loan(Brownfields) Program</p> <p>\$ Loans with a 0% interest rate are available to remedy environmental contamination of sites or facilities at which environmental contamination has affected groundwater or surface water or threatens to affect groundwater or surface water.</p>	<p>0% loan program</p>	<p>Continual</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>
<p>Local Water Quality Management Planning Aids</p> <p>\$ Funds to assist in the development and implementation of areawide water quality management planning activities.</p> <p>Eligible projects include local and regional water resource management and watershed planning activities; sewer service area plans and amendments; regional wastewater facility planning initiatives; and, identification and protection of water quality sensitive areas known as</p>	<p>Determined on project basis</p>	<p>October 31</p>	<p>WiDNR</p>

Grant	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
environmental corridors.			
Recreational Boating Facilities \$ Construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities.	50% local match required	April 15	WiDNR
Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program \$ Acquisition and Development of Local Parks \$ Land and Water Conservation Fund Program \$ Urban Green Space Program \$ Urban Rivers Grant Program \$ Streambank Protection \$ National Recreational Trails Act Program	Rules under revision as of 10/17/02	May 1	WiDNR
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program) \$ Funds are available to assist local communities acquiring land for developing public outdoor recreation. \$ Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas are eligible projects. Priority is given to the acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreation land exists.	50% local match required.	May 1	WiDNR
Urban Forestry (Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program) \$ Provide technical service and financial assistance to communities for developing urban forestry programs. Priorities include: 1) Communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan; 2) Communities needing worker training; and 3) Communities needing to conduct a street tree inventory. Eligible projects include 1) Undertaking street tree inventories; 2) Training for city tree workers; 3) Developing urban open space programs; 4) Developing urban forestry plans; 5) Developing a tree ordinance; 6) Developing a public awareness program; and, 7) Tree planting and maintenance.	50% local match required.	May 1	WiDNR

Grant	Maximum Award	Application Due Date	Granting Agency
<p>Urban Green Space (Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program)</p> <p>\$ Provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, to protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas.</p>	50% local match required.	May 1	WiDNR
<p>Urban Rivers (Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program)</p> <p>\$ Improve outdoor recreation opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, economic revitalization through the improvement of the environmental quality in urban river corridors, and preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas.</p>	50% local match required.	May 1	WiDNR
<p>Safe Routes to School</p> <p>SRTS programs encourage children ages K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. SRTS Programs improve walking and biking travel options, promote healthier lifestyles in children at an early age and decrease auto-related emissions near schools.</p>	100% grant	March 2008	WiDOT
<p>Urban Wildlife Damage and Abatement Control</p> <p>\$ Funds are available for a variety of cost-effective wildlife damage and control measures for white-tailed deer and Canada geese.</p>	50% local match required. \$5,000 maximum grant award.	May 1	WiDNR