

**City of Whitewater**  
**Parks and Recreation Board Agenda**  
**Monday, March 4, 2013 - 5:00pm**  
Community Room – 1st Floor, City Municipal Building  
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**Consent Agenda:**

CA-A	Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of February 4, 2013
CA-B	Receipt and acknowledgement of Urban Forestry Commission minutes of January 22, 2013
CA-C	Expedited approval of the following items, per staff recommendation:

**Hearing of Citizen Comments:**

No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated in the agenda.

**Staff Reports:**

Parks & Recreation Director	Sports Coordinator, Website URL
Recreation & Community Events Programmer	Freeze Fest Recap, Wellfest, Creative Writing Class
Senior Coordinator	Chili Cook-off Recap, Valentine’s Day events, meal site funding, intern projects update

**Considerations:**

C-1	Discussion and possible action on extended hours of Parks & Recreation Department
C-2	Discussion and possible action on future Parks & Recreation Board Meeting dates
C-3	Discussion and review of Fall 2012 Recreation Program financials
C-4	Discussion and possible action related to the site plan for Treyton’s Field of Dreams
C-5	Direction and possible action related to forestry issues and EAB public education
C-6	Discussion and direction related to library building expansion
C-7	Introduction to Strategic Plan Process and discussion of Goals & Objectives
C-8	Request for future agenda items
C-9	<b>Executive Session</b> Adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 19.85 (l)(e) “Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.” Item to be discussed: Acquisition of real estate to expand Starin Park.

# Memo

**To:** Parks and Recreation Board  
**From:** Matt Amundson, Parks and Recreation Director  
**Date:** February 26, 2013  
**Re:** March 4, 2013 Meeting

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## **C-1 Discussion and possible action on extended hours of Parks & Recreation Department**

The extended Thursday hours to 6:00 pm and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month from 8-11am have generated zero contact with the public. This will have included 8 Thursdays and 3 Saturdays at the time of this meeting. As staff we are looking for input on continuing the extended hours or attempting to try something different. On a related note, online registration has increased from 54.73% in 2012 to 69.62 % in 2013 from Jan 1 – Feb 28. Facility reservations remain unchanged over the same time period.

## **C-2 Discussion and possible action on future Parks & Recreation Board Meeting dates**

I would like to discuss the Board's thoughts on moving our regularly scheduled meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. This would put the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Parks & Recreation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, and UFC on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

## **C-3 Discussion and review of Fall 2012 Recreation Program financials**

The financial report for this past fall has been included in the packet.

## **C-4 Discussion and possible action related to the site plan for Treyton's Field of Dreams**

Mike Kilar and I recently had an opportunity to tour concession stands in Milton and Fort Atkinson. I took the information we learned on these tours to Strand & Associates and as a result are proposing a few changes to the site plan. I have included a revised site plan in your packet that illustrates the following changes:

- location of concession/restroom building moved outside of the Field of Dreams site, across the trail
- expanded bleacher seating behind backstop
- shade structure/picnic table areas

## **C-5 Direction and possible action related to forestry issues and EAB public education**

I have placed this item on the agenda to discuss holding a public education forum for property owners related to the EAB and what property owners can do to best protect their ash trees.

**C-6 Discussion and direction related to library building expansion**

At the February 18<sup>th</sup> Library Board meeting I was asked to attend and discuss the concept of looking at a library expansion project that could include space for Senior programming and even the possibility of a community center. I would like to update the Parks & Recreation Board with this matter and get thoughts and input from the Board.

**C-7 Introduction to Strategic Plan Process and discussion of Goals & Objectives**

In the packet I have included the goals and objectives from the last Park and Open Space plan that should serve as a starting point for this discussion.

Your consideration of these matters is greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Matt Amundson,  
Parks & Recreation Director

**City of Whitewater**  
**Parks and Recreation Board**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, February 4, 2013 - 5:00pm**  
Cravath Lakefront Room - 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building  
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Jen Kaina, Teri Smith, Bruce Parker, Brandon Knedler, Ken Kidd, Rachel DePorter, and Kim Gosh

Staff: Matt Amundson, Deb Weberpal, Michelle Dujardin

Guests: Karen Coburn, Blake Scharine, Tiiu-Gray-Fow, Richard Helmick, Dave Saalsaa

**Consent Agenda: Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of January 7, 2012, Receipt and acknowledgement of Urban Forestry Commission minutes of December 4, 2012, and Expedited approval of the following items, per staff recommendation: C1 (Approval of request by Minneiska Ski Team to be included in facility reservation policy as a partner organization)**

No items to be removed from consent agenda. Kidd moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Smith. Ayes: Kaina, Smith, Parker, Knedler, DePorter, Kidd, and Gosh Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jaeger. Motion passed.

**Hearing of Citizen Comments:**

No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated in the agenda.

No Citizen Comments

**Staff Reports:**

Parks & Recreation Director

- Sports Coordinator: 5 Candidates have been selected for an interview; each candidate will receive a 30 minutes tour of Whitewater parks & facilities, and then meet with the interview team. Jeff Behrens is not able to be part of the interview panel.
- Strive: The program is up and running with Youth Baseball and Softball. Participants can register through the current settings. Whitewater, Fort Atkinson, and Milton are the test cities for Strive. The ultimate goal is to be completely mobile by summer.
- Treyton's Field of Dreams: The updated site plan is going to Council Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Golden State Foods made a donation of \$50,000.
- Discover Whitewater Series: The half marathon/5K/Fun Run will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2013. A committee has been established and is moving forward with plans. The committee is also working on a health expo leading up to the event.
- Website & Social Media: The department is looking how to expand our presence through media. We are currently working on domain name for the department, if anyone has ideas please send to Matt.

Recreation & Community Events Programmer:

- Freeze Fest: Freeze Fest 2013 will take place Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at Cravath Lakefront Park. As of January 29, 2013 there were 182 plungers, 3 chili cook off registrants. The Chamber of Commerce has also joined Freeze Fest and will be taking over the horse drawn wagon ride offering in store savings all day during the Freeze Fest.
- Tourism: Whitewater Tourism Council, Downtown Whitewater, Inc., and Whitewater Chamber of Commerce are coming together to be housed in one location downtown.

- W3 Wellfest: March 10<sup>th</sup> at Whitewater High School. Cooking classes, healthy seminars, and resource fair will be filling the High School. If anyone is interested in being part of the resource fair, contact W3.
- Slim Down Challenge: W3 is partnering with Fort Health Care in providing a healthy 12 week challenge of staying healthy and active. Teams need to be a minimum of 4 people but up to a maximum of 6 people. To register, visit [www.forthhealthcareslimdown.com](http://www.forthhealthcareslimdown.com)

#### Senior Coordinator

- Haney lecture series: The program is averaging over 60 participants per lecture. We are very excited to have home schooled children attending lectures.
- Chili Cook Off at Freeze Fest: Registrations are due by Friday. Looking for one more judge and participants.
- Newsletter Advertising Contact Referrals: If you know of anyone knew that would like advertise, please contact Deb.
- Community Senior Resource Meeting: A meeting will be held twice a year to explore and make sure we don't duplicate sources. A senior resource fair is being created for the first week of May.
- Classical Turkey Tour: Trips are part of fundraising and benefits Seniors In The Park directly.

#### Considerations:

##### **Appointment to Whitewater Aquatic Center Board.**

Amundson stated due to scheduling conflicts Jen Kaina is not able to continue serving on the Aquatic Center Board. The Aquatic Center Board is the third Thursday of the Month at the Aquatic Center at 7am. DePorter makes the motion to nominate Teri Smith for Whitewater Aquatic Center Board. Seconded by Kaina. Ayes: Kaina, Smith, Parker, Knedler, DePorter, Kidd, and Gosh Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jaeger .

Smith accepted nomination.

##### **Discussion and possible action on ideas for possible educational programming to create awareness of Emerald Ash Borer treatment options among private homeowners (Urban Forestry Commission)**

Amundson referred to packet for proposed EAB document. Kidd complemented information and questioned the elimination of the wording on page 12 "Possibility of partnership with City of Whitewater to help defray cost". Kidd commented the statement on page 13 "The City of Whitewater does not endorse soil applied products due to high toxicity of products and increased chance of harm to mammals and aquatics species" , should highlight the caution but not be a blanket statement.

Gray: Commented that the topic of partnership was brought as a suggestion

Weberpal: Suggested using the TV Show Park Bench to talk about EAB in April.

Smith: Suggested taking the statement and replacing the word "high" with "possible"

Knedler. Suggests changing the statement to read: The City of Whitewater recommends carefully following the manufacturing instructions when applying soil applied products due to high toxicity of products and potential harm.

Smith moved to accept the Information for homeowners on Emerald Ash Borer with the deletion of the sentence on page 12 "Possibility of partnership with City of Whitewater to help defray cost" and the sentence adjustment on page 13 to read "The City of Whitewater recommends carefully following the manufacturing instructions when applying soil applied products due to high toxicity of products and potential

harm. “ Seconded by Kaina. Ayes: Kaina, Smith, Parker, Knedler, DePorter, Kidd, and Gosh Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jaeger . Motion passed.

### **Discussion and possible action related to future tree planting in Cravath Lakefront Park**

Amundson commented that concerns were raised over trees that were planted at Cravath Lakefront Park and their impact to the ability to host events in the park. Amundson stated City Manager, Cameron Clapper has stated the two newly planted trees located on the top area of the park will be relocated in the lower end of the park due to problems these trees currently pose to events. Amundson also informed the audience that any board member can request an agenda item and it will be on a future agenda.

Amundson referred to minutes from the Parks& Recreation Board Minutes of November 2 , 2009 and Whitewater Street Corridor Redevelopment Plan 9/6/94 in regards to tree planting.

Parker: Stated that event set up, moving of equipment, the weight of equipment damaging root system, safety concerns, and growing events will be constricted by these additional trees. Parker recommends we have a plan that we adopt for future discussions. Parker suggests that trees being moved could also be used as replacement trees for those ash trees marked to be taken down.

Gray: This is a much bigger issue than just a few trees, but what is this park suppose to be. Gray proposed a spring meeting with all stakeholders that use the park.

Knedler: Any group who would like to come to the Park & Recreation Board to talk usage or concerns about parks is more than welcome. Changes and recommendations to parks need to come through the Parks & Recreation Board.

Weberpal: It’s good to have a variety of types of parks. An open space event park is what Cravath Lakefront Park was set to be.

Coburn: Not to say we can’t change or adapt as time goes by.

Saalsaa: It was smart planning of Cravath Lakefront Park as an open park. We need to have events to bring in as much tourism as possible to stimulate economy and promote economic development.

Parker: When the designated ash trees are taken out, hold off on replacing them until all the stake holders can get together and talk about options.

Amundson: The current GIS map will be asked to get updated and can be used for the stakeholders meeting.

Scharine: We don’t want a grass parking lot but we like trees. We need to let time pass and see what the trees make the park look like for the future.

The Board directed Parks & Recreation Director to find a neutral location and individual to facilitate the stakeholders meeting.

### **Review and direction related to results of the “Recreation Clothing” quotations**

Amundson referred to chart of three clothing bids received by Sassy Shirts, Aropa Designs, and Will Enterprise.

Kidd moved to split the order between Sassy Shirt and Aropa for selected items and have Matt negotiate prices, Seconded by Smith. Ayes: Kaina, Smith, Parker, Knedler, DePorter, Kidd, and Gosh Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jaeger . Motion passed.

**Discussion and direction related to planning efforts of the Parks & Recreation Department**

Amundson referred to packet and draft timeline for planning efforts in 2013.

Kidd suggested asking consultant to review draft plan and creation of separate line for Cravath Lakefront Park meeting.

Smith motioned to approve chart with the addition of adding Cravath Lakefront Park meeting. Seconded by Kidd. Ayes: Kaina, Smith, Parker, Knedler, DePorter, Kidd, and Gosh Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jaeger . Motion passed.

**Request for future agenda items**

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:09pm by Kidd, seconded by Smith. Group voice confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Michelle Dujardin*

Michelle Dujardin

**City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

**Call to order** by Chairperson, Tiiu Gray-Fow.

**Roll call:**

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Jay Craggs, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone

City staff present: Chuck Nass, Matt Amundson

Citizens present: Richard Helmick, Teri Smith, Dean Scharine, Bruce Parker, Richard Ehrenberg, Roy Nosek

**Approval of Agenda:**

Gray-Fow suggested the agenda be flexible to allow the Downtown Whitewater Committee agenda item to be considered as soon as their chair Dave Saalsaa arrives thereby moving it from the end of the meeting.

Motion by Bev Stone to approve the Agenda with Gray-Fow's suggested conditional modification. Second Karen McCulloch.

Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2012 meeting:**

Motion by Brandon Knedler. Second by Karen Coburn.

Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2012 meeting:**

Motion by Brandon Knedler. Second by Andrew Crone

Unanimous approval

**Emerald Ash Bore:**

Karen McCulloch had compiled exhaustive information from many sources on the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, methods of determining infestation, implications for the city's urban forest, and treatment options for private homeowners. She presented that information as a basis for educational programming to create awareness of the matter among Whitewater's citizens.

The UFC members discussed the information and possible steps to disseminate it.

Among the items discussed, Crone suggested the information should include a clause that states that the city does not endorse soil applied products because of potential toxicity concerns. Included in the content was reference to a manufacturer's application directions that recommended avoiding the use of the product within 25 feet of a body of water. The UFC members did not want citizens

to assume the UFC unequivocally accepted the views of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that manufacturer's application recommendations will meet the desired standards of the city.

Gray-Fow suggested the city obtain the costs for various EAB treatment applications from Winchester Hardware and list those as well.

Gray-Fow also suggested we include information about the March event at Cravath Lake which will include representatives from various application vendors.

The UFC discussed the ability to link to this information directly from the city's home page website rather than needing to follow several links to get to the information.

Citizen Roy Nosek stated that he thought the city's use of orange button tags are not adequate to inform the public about the number and location of Ash trees in the city.

Amundson pointed out that the UW extension has an online list of all the EAB treatment options and a description of the different treatment applications. Gray-Fow remarked that McCulloch had checked that site, but found other resources better.

Gray-Fow stated that the next step is for the City Forester, Chuck Nass, to ask Alan Lockett to put the above discussed material into a web page format. The group suggested the planned EAB web page should have links to suggested online videos, including the video from the October, 2012 EAB Educational Forum at UW-W that he taped. In addition, it was hoped, that the proposed March EAB Treatment Options public forum at the Cravath Lake building can be televised on the local cable station.

Gray-Fow made a motion to recommend the report be approved by the UFC along with the inclusion of the following: the non-endorsement of ground application statement, information about pricing from Winchester hardware, request to link the information directly from the city's web site, and the advertising and publication of the upcoming vendor forum at the Cravath Lakefront building. Crone seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval.

### **Downtown Whitewater:**

Members of Downtown Whitewater were present to discuss landscaping concerns with the UFC. The first concern presented was that two trees recently planted in Cravath Lake Park present potential restrictions to the park's use as a "large events" grounds: especially to Pork in the Park. Gray-Fow brought up that the UFC discussed the placement of the trees with the owner of last year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Carnival. The carnival owner specified where trees could be planted without restricting the setting up and use of the carnival rides. McCulloch explained how the

lack of shade in the open spaces in the park deters citizens from spending more time at summer festivals in that location. The UFC and the members of Downtown Whitewater who were present agreed that local business owners, and other stakeholders, should be included in future landscaping plans for that space. Crone agreed to help Saalsaa design a site plan for Pigs in the Park that includes placement for trees in a way where those trees do not restrict the use of the space for the Pigs in the Park and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Carnival.

Another topic presented was that Downtown Whitewater is in the process of creating a long-term plan for improvements to the downtown area that includes replacing trees. Issues of concern were tree types and locations. Saalsaa pointed out that Downtown Whitewater is focusing its efforts on improvements that are not too expensive and can be implemented within five years. The UFC and Downtown Whitewater agreed to work together going forward on these plans and they will schedule another meeting at a future date.

### **Treyton Field of Dreams**

Amundson asked the committee to make comments on landscaping for Treyton Field of Dreams. Suggestions given were to plant deep rooted native plants in the retention ponds, consider the use of tree wells in paved areas, look into the costs of using pervious pavement in the parking lot.

Motion by Stone to approve the layout design for the field and parking lot conditioned on the verbal assurance from Amundson that the city will consult the UFC at a later date about specific landscaping details. Second by Gray-Fow. Unanimous approval.

Secretary Andrew Crone had to leave.

Minutes continued by Karen McCulloch as Secretary pro-tem.

Item 6.

According to the City Forester, nothing is really happening with regard to landscape plan feedback issue.

Item 7.

Changing meeting time. McCulloch moved to change meeting time to 4:30. Stone seconded. Short discussion followed. Passed unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Forester Nass is looking to starting the removal of ash under 4". These ash will all be replaced in the spring. Trimming has begun.

Citizen Comments:

Richard Ehrenberg spoke about certain trees (Ivory Silk Lilac and the Cleveland Pear, among several more) that should be removed from the tree order list since they do not thrive very well.

Gray-Fow responded to Ehrenberg by stating that all of the trees on order were taken from the list of recommended trees for planting, provided by Ehrenberg and Nosek. In addition, some of the trees that were added during the December, 2012 meeting at Ehrenberg's and Nosek's suggestion were included as well in the final order.

According to the City Forester, the tree order list has already been submitted, and therefore cannot be amended. Nass also agreed that the tree order was placed with the recommendations that came directly from the list provided by Ehrenberg and Nosek.

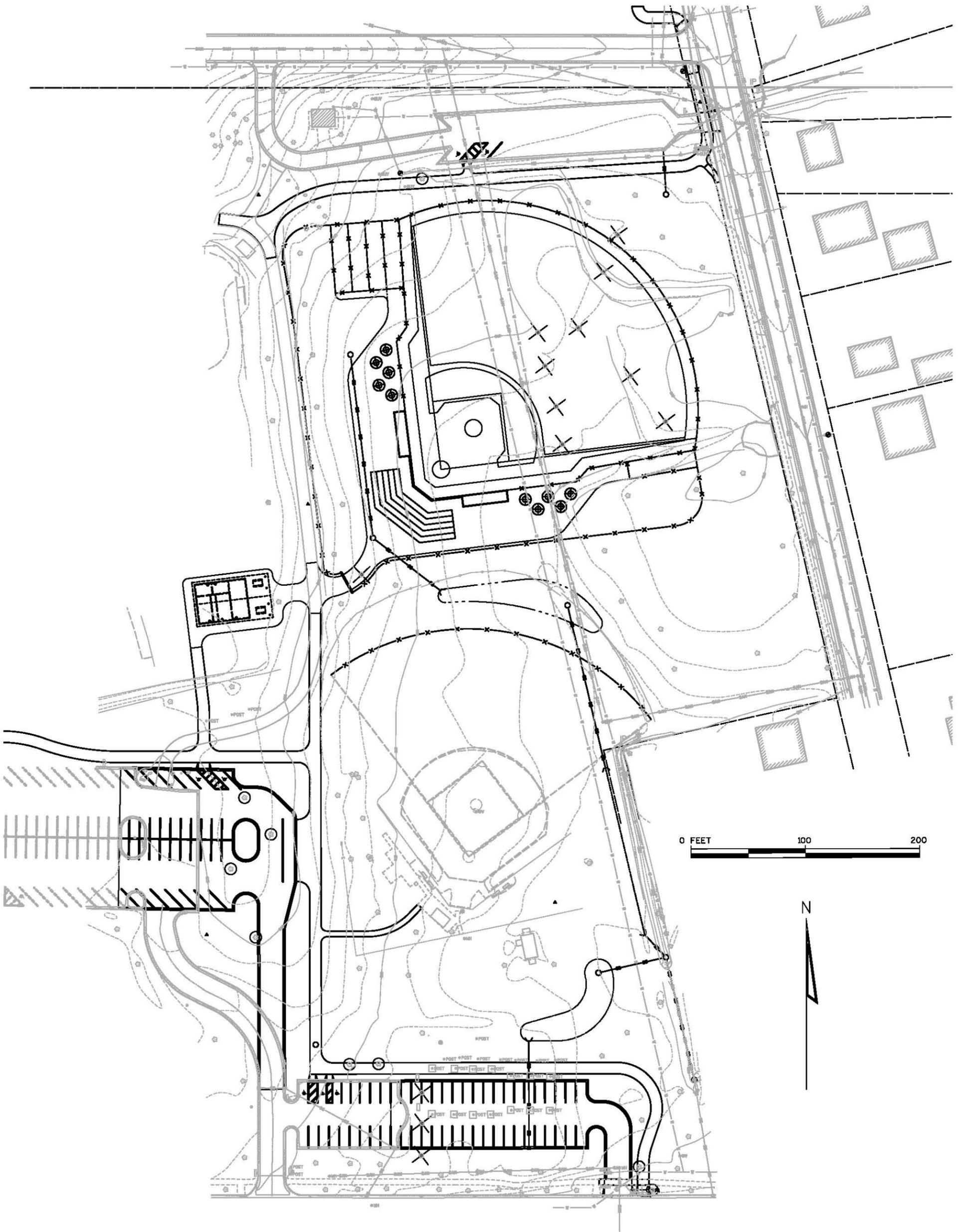
Gray-Fow suggested that the tree species that concern Mr. Ehrenberg should be monitored carefully this summer for problems. If there are any issues they won't be ordered for the Spring 2014 planting. Either way, Ehrenberg's list should be looked at again prior to finalizing any future order.

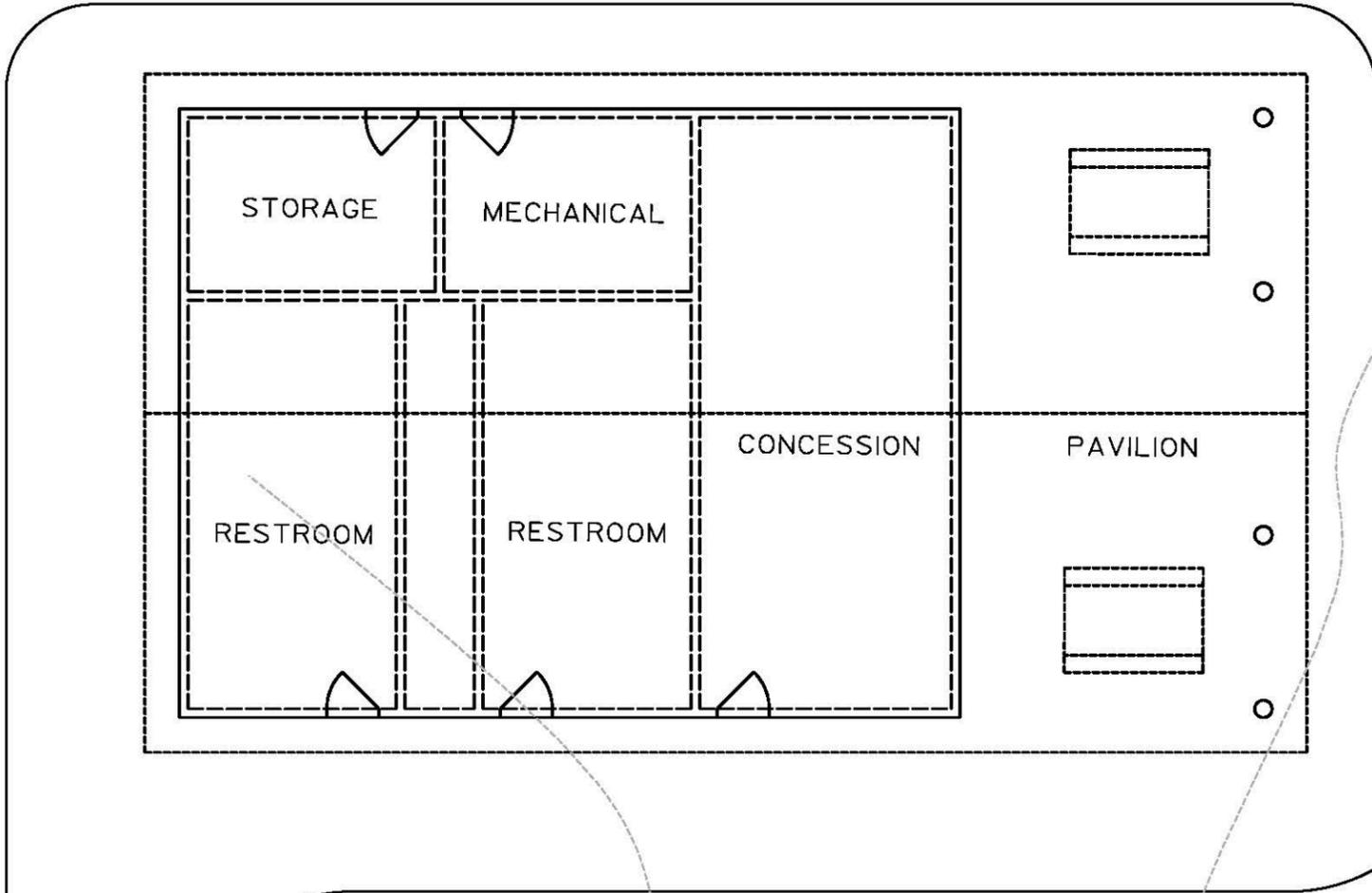
Gray-Fow moved to adjourn. Craggs seconded. Passes unanimously.

Karen McCulloch  
Secretary Pro-tem

Fall 2011  
Recreation Program Financial Report

Fall 2012	Participants	Revenue	Expenses	Percent of Recovery	Average Cost of Program
<b>Contractual Programs</b>					
Gymnastics (10)	131	\$4,899.25	\$4,224.97	116%	\$37.40
<b>Special Events</b>					
Youth Halloween Party	265	\$147.50	\$79.82	185%	\$0.56
<b>Recreation Programs</b>					
Dance Classes (9)	46	\$2,303.88	\$2,097.29	110%	\$50.08
Youth Football	228	\$26,133.00	\$26,009.36	100%	\$114.62
Fall Adult Softball League (6 teams)	72	\$900.00	\$503.55	179%	\$12.50
Indoor Cycling	12	\$336.00	\$300.00	112%	\$28.00
Tae Kwon Do (2)	32	\$1,120.00	\$417.50	268%	\$35.00
Start Smart Soccer	8	\$296.25	\$332.51	89%	\$37.03
Piano Lessons	4	\$572.00	\$624.00	92%	\$143.00
Pedal for a Cause	6	\$150.00	\$150.00	100%	\$25.00
Weekend Art	4	\$80.00	\$152.63	52%	\$20.00
<b>Senior Programs</b>					
Exercise Class (Stretch/Flex)	752	\$735.00	\$443.00	166%	\$0.98
Core and More	105	\$246.00	\$0.00	-	\$2.34
Zumba	99	\$280.00	\$234.30	120%	\$2.83
Tai Chi	54	\$141.00	\$0.00	-	\$2.61
Van Trips (15)	144	\$2,164.00	\$1,934.00	112%	\$15.03
Bus Trip - Racine	38	\$1,672.00	\$1,480.00	113%	\$44.00
Holiday Dinner	68	\$850.00	\$1,046.00	81%	\$12.50
Global Gala	60	\$96.00	\$90.45	106%	\$1.60
<b>Totals Fall 2012</b>	<b>2128</b>	<b>\$43,121.88</b>	<b>\$40,119.38</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>\$20.26</b>





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The City is bordered by the Town of Cold Spring in Jefferson County to the north and by the Town of Whitewater in Walworth County to the south, east, and west. The Whitewater Unified School District (WWUSD) encompasses the entire City of Whitewater and surrounding lands in Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties.

Whitewater has experienced growth since 1980. Over that period City population has grown by about 0.8% per year (while the state averaged around 1% per year, Jefferson County averaged 1% per year, and Walworth County averaged 1.5% per year). See Table 1 on the previous page for population data for the City of Whitewater. The presence of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a diverse student population contributes significantly to the community's character. Although the recreational needs of students are addressed by the University's recreational facilities (especially for those students living in on-campus housing), it is important that the City accommodate and work cooperatively with the University to serve these residents as well as more "permanent" City residents.

Sound park and open space planning requires a reasonable estimation of future population levels so that recreational facilities needed to meet future needs can be planned accordingly. Developing reasonable population projections for communities such as Whitewater is difficult due to a number of uncertainties. Based on projected state, county, and local growth rates, the City of Whitewater is expected to have a population of 14,668 in the year 2025. These projections do not necessarily account for broader demographic factors, particularly the expansion of urbanized greater Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago, which could produce more development and population growth in the City. With this in mind, the City should use this plan to focus on the "high" end of standards for park and open space planning.

### **Goals, Objectives, and Policies**

An early step in the park and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The terms goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. For the City of Whitewater Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013, considerable attention was given to identifying the community's priorities with respect to planning for future Park and Open Space needs. These priorities point out the critical themes that the goals, objectives, policies, programs, and recommendations of this plan should be based upon. The "highest" priorities identified in the public participation process are summarized in the following section.

- Improved interconnectivity and visibility of City parks and open spaces throughout the community
  - o Parks connected by trail system
  - o Multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city
  - o "Safe Routes" to school as a grant program to enhance trail development
  - o Maintain/improve access and use for disabled
  - o Maintain/enhance access and use for Senior population
  - o Improved signage
  - o Improved and/or updated park maintenance
  - o Continue to build on publicity (mapping, brochures, outreach, etc.)

- Focus on new “Comfort Spots” – beautification with natural enhancements as well as limited physical improvements to encourage passive use
  - o Incorporate into new residential and commercial developments
  - o Establish as more well-defined components of larger neighborhood and community parks
- Greater diversity of sports facilities
  - o Youth soccer fields
  - o Adult outdoor sports (e.g., softball)
  - o Winter sports
- Lakes and water-centered activities and uses
  - o Improved water-quality
  - o Potential for outdoor swimming opportunities – address potential health risks

**Park and Open Space Goal:** Ensure provision and stewardship of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors - including special groups such as the elderly, the disabled, and pre-school age children - and to enrich the aesthetic and scenic quality of the City’s neighborhoods, gathering spots, and entry points.

#### **Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:**

- Objective 1.** Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole, realizing that these resources are finite and, for the most part, irreplaceable.
- 1.1 Encourage public awareness of the City’s environmental and cultural resources by promoting appropriate educational programs.
  - 1.2 Work to preserve conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure. Direct public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a priority.
  - 1.3 Pay special attention to preserving pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation, and reservoirs for stormwater.
- Objective 2.** Provide quality recreation and open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood.
- 2.1 Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All residents should be within a 10 minute walk (1/2 mile) of a neighborhood park or community park with active recreational facilities.
  - 2.2 Working with the School District, provide community parks for more intensive and specialized recreational needs. All new residents should be within 1 ½ miles of a community park.

- 2.3 Provide or require smaller parks and recreational facilities within intensive development areas, such as in or near multi-family residential developments.

**Objective 3.** Coordinate public park and open space lands with private developments and other uses of land.

- 3.1 Work with the development community, property owners, and environmental interests to site and design parks and other open spaces to meet multiple objectives.
- 3.2 Site and design parks and associated facilities to avoid nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
- 3.3 Combine parks and recreational facilities with school facilities where appropriate and feasible. Continue to coordinate recreation service provision with the Whitewater Unified School District and the University.
- 3.4 Whenever possible, require that residential developments dedicate parkland, provide recreational facilities, and dedicate or otherwise preserve conservancy areas like wetlands and floodplains. In such special cases that this is not possible, the City will require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development.

**Objective 4.** Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages and abilities have an equitable opportunity to enjoy parks and open spaces.

- 4.1 Provide supervised and coordinated recreational activities for all City residents on a year round basis. This may include offering recreational programming for youth after school and in the hours and days that school is not in session.
- 4.2 Encourage active citizen participation in developing recreational programs and parks. This may include setting up a youth services committee of students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades to explore recreational programming opportunities for that age group, and implementing appropriate recommendations.
- 4.3 Encourage educational opportunities in park and recreation activities and work with county extension, 4-H, and the School District to assist with developing and operating programs such as community gardens, nature center(s), arboreta, botanical gardens, and lake and stream testing.
- 4.4 Maintain all parks to ensure the safety of users and replace worn or damaged equipment.
- 4.5 Provide special use areas and unique recreational facilities where necessary to protect an exceptional resource or supply a community demand.
- 4.6 Maintain all facilities in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Operate all services, programs, and activities so they are accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with ADA guidelines.

**Objective 5.** Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to parks and recreation facilities.

- 5.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
- 5.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
- 5.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.

**Objective 6.** Acquire and develop new recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by City parks.

- 6.1 Direct new park and open space facilities to current and future population needs.
- 6.2 Acquire park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate coordinated neighborhood and park development.
- 6.3 Coordinate land acquisition, planning, and transportation programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
- 6.4 Cooperate with other governmental bodies, including the Whitewater Unified School District and the University to provide joint recreation service wherever possible.
- 6.5 Review and update the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* every five years.

### **Park and Open Space Standards**

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time and project the future need for such facilities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and recreational space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide to planning for usable park and recreation space. This *Plan* uses two types of standards—both are equally important:

- **Gross Recreational Acreage Standard:** The first standard is expressed as a population ratio; that is, the minimum number of usable park and recreation acres recommended per 1,000 residents of the City. Generally, NRPA recommends a gross acreage standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed outdoor recreational space per 1,000 persons. This standard does not consider environmentally sensitive or significant lands acquired by the public primarily for conservancy purposes, because the type and amount of such conservancy lands varies so significantly in different

communities. Conservancy acquisitions would, therefore, be in addition to the 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 standard.

- **Service Area Standard:** The second standard is expressed as a desired maximum service radius around parks, with the radius length differing by park type. For example, NRPA recommends a service radius of ¼ mile to ½ mile for neighborhood parks. A supplementary table of these standards has been included as Appendix A.

The following is a list of various types of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces applicable to Whitewater. The desired park functions, sizes, and service areas have been customized for the City based on the NRPA standards.

1. **Mini-park:** These active-use parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as pre-school children or senior citizens.

*Desirable site characteristics:* Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing for the elderly, or at the edge of a larger conservancy area.

*Desirable size:* 2 acres or less.

*Acres per 1,000 population:* 0.25 to 0.5 acres.

*Service area:* Less than 1/4 mile radius.

2. **Neighborhood Park:** An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, ball fields, adult areas with benches, shelter and game tables. Trees, open fields and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks, where available.

*Desirable site characteristics:* Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to the neighborhood population. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a combination school-park facility, or at the edge of a larger conservancy area.

*Desirable size:* 3 - 7 acres.

*Acres per 1,000 population:* 1 to 2 acres.

*Service area:* 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons.

3. **Community Park:** An area of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental quality designed to serve several neighborhoods, quadrants of the City, or the community as a whole. Should be located on or near major thoroughfares and also be easily accessible by foot. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large

swimming pools. May be or include an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, and bicycling. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities include those listed above for neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, community center buildings, and adequate off-street parking. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park, if available.

*Desirable site characteristics:* May include or be attached to conservancy areas such as water bodies, but should also include areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

*Desirable size:* 7 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common.

*Acres per 1,000 population:* 5 to 8 acres.

*Service area:* Several neighborhoods. 1½ mile radius.

Currently, Whitewater's parks and recreation system provides 15 parks as classified by the above standards, including one "Archaeological" Park (Indian Mounds Park) not intended for recreational use. Within each of these parks, the intensity of "recreational" use varies substantially. For this Plan, four classifications of recreational use are identified: Active, Passive, Special Use, and Conservancy. As alluded to above, conservancy lands are not included in the calculation of recreational space within the city.

- **Active Recreation Area:** these areas offer a mix of uses that may include, for example: athletic fields, buildings or structures for recreational activities, concessions, community gardens, courses or courts, children's play areas, dog play areas, or a bike path.
- **Passive Recreation Area:** these areas offer a mix of uses, undeveloped land, or minimally improved lands which may include, for example: landscaped areas, natural areas, ornamental gardens, non-landscaped greenspace, stairways, decorative fountains, picnic areas, water bodies, or trails without recreational staffing.
- **Special Use Area:** these are areas of special recreational activities such as marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, historical sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also, special use areas may contain plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, and parkways. Most parts of Special Use Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons.
- **Conservancy Area:** these are permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. Conservancy areas may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways stormwater management basins and conveyance routes, environmental corridors and isolated natural areas as mapped by the Southeastern Wisconsin

Regional Planning Commission, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or 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 City's master plan. May also be appropriate for utilities and secondary recreational uses, such as trails.