

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND **Sustainability & Natural Resources** *NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING*  
**Committee**

**Monday, December 9, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**McFarland Municipal Center**  
5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland  
*Community Room*

AGENDA

The public may attend in-person or remotely through the Zoom webinar or telephone options listed below.

*Please Note: Virtual attendance is offered as a convenience, but technical difficulties beyond the Village's control may prevent or limit its availability at any meeting. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting in person to assure full access to the proceedings.*

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN THE ZOOM WEBINAR:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88668533740>

Or by Telephone: +1 (312) 626-6799

Webinar ID: 886 6853 3740

Press \*9 to raise/lower hand. Press \*6 to mute/unmute.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.
2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
  - a. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to [sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:sustainability@mcfarland.wi.us) to be included as part of the meeting.  
  
Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.
4. BUSINESS.
  - a. Discussion regarding 2024 street and park tree planting
  - b. Discussion on OEI EIGP Grant update.
  - c. Discussion regarding the updated Village's Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan
5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.
  - a. Monday, January 13th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT.

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format should contact the McFarland Municipal Center at (608)838-3153, 5915 Milwaukee Street, McFarland, Wisconsin, or [village.clerk@mcfarland.wi.us](mailto:village.clerk@mcfarland.wi.us) by 2:00 p.m. at least 5 business days prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. If the meeting or request is less than 5 business days from the meeting, requests for accommodations may still be made and reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate each request.

**Minutes  
Sustainability & Natural Resources  
Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2024**

**Members Present:** Miguel Pena, Alisa Leamy, Angela Freedman, Nina Schultz, Judy Taber

**Members Absent:** Michael Allen

**Staff Present:** Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent;  
Kong Thao, Associate Planner; Phil McDade, utility clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pena called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. **Motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2024, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting.**

Pena motioned to amend the minutes to reflect Angela Freedman's attendance at the July 8 meeting, although the meeting was held in a room that did not support Zoom technology and thus Freedman could not actively participate remotely in the meeting. Seconded by Leamy. Motion carried 5-0. Pena motioned to approve the amended minutes. Leamy seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

4. BUSINESS.

a. **Discussion and action regarding the 2024 street and park tree planting plan and authorize a request for proposal (RFP).**

Larson discussed the village tree planting program for 2024. Most plantings will focus on Exchange Street. Because the reconstruction of Exchange Street in 2024 involved cutting down several trees, the village plans to restock its trees on the street. The plantings include a diverse mix of mostly native trees, and will include a total of 65 trees along the Exchange Street corridor between Farwell Street and Sleepy Hollow Drive. A total of 15 additional trees will be planted in McDaniel Park, Orchard Hill Disc Golf Course, and various locations throughout the village to replace village-owned trees that have failed in the past year. Funds of up to \$30,000 have been allocated in the village Capital Projects Fund for 2024 tree planting. Motion by Pena, seconded by Leamy, to recommend to the Village Board the 2024 street and park tree planting plan and authorize a request for proposal (RFP).

Motion carried 5-0.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Monday, October 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Leamy motioned to adjourn; Schultz seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
VILLAGE OF  
**McFarland**  
**SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, December 9, 2024

**SECTION:** Business

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**CONTACT:** Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discussion regarding 2024 street and park tree planting

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

September 9, 2024 - Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee authorized the 2024 tree planting plan for bid.

September 24, 2024 - Village Board approved the 2024 tree planting plan request for proposals.

October 8, 2024 - Village Board awarded 2024 tree planting to Srb's Tree's LLC.

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**

Staff will provide an overview of the 2024 street and park tree planting. Following the presentation, staff will look to discuss opportunities on how to overcome obstacles with future street tree planting projects.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**

NA

**VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:**

[Village of McFarland Urban Forestry Management Plan \(2024\)](#)

**ORDINANCE REFERENCE:**

[Chapter 59 Article II - Trees and Shrubs](#)

**BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for discussion only.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

  
VILLAGE OF  
**McFarland**  
**SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, December 9, 2024

**SECTION:** Business

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Development

**CONTACT:** Andrew Bremer, Comm & Eco Dev Director

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discussion on OEI EIGP Grant update.

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**

Early this year, the S&NR Committee recommenced, and the Village Board approved, submitting a grant amendment request to the Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation to amend our current grant agreement for the micro-grid/battery system at the Public Safety Center. Per Committee direction, staff submitted two grant amendment requests (1) for a battery only project at the PSC and (2) to transfer the funding to the planned Community Center for installation of a geothermal energy system, with a designated preference for option 2. Staff from OEI have informed the Village that it will be another 1-3 months before the Village receives a response to our grant amendment request. The long review time was expected given that option 2 was going to require a full review by the PSC as the Village is requesting to move the funding to another location/project. The Village's grant agreement expires at the end of the year and staff have submitted a grant amendment extension request for an additional 6-months while we await a determination from OEI. The purpose of this agenda item is to just provide a short project update. No action is needed by the Committee or Village at this time.

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**

**VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:**

**ORDINANCE REFERENCE:**

**BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

This agenda item is presented for discussion only.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

  
**VILLAGE OF**  
**McFarland**  
**SUMMARY SHEET**

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, December 9, 2024

**SECTION:** Business

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**CONTACT:** Andrew Bremer, Comm & Eco Dev Director, Kong Thao, Associate Planner

**AGENDA ITEM:** Discussion regarding the updated Village's Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

April 3, 2024 - Kickoff meeting with Parks & Recreation Committee on draft table of content and project timeline.

April 8, 2024 - Kickoff meeting with Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee

May 3, 2024 - Village Staff meeting with School District Staff.

May 7, 2024 - Discussion regarding CORP Survey and Public Information Meeting

May 9–June 9, 2024 - CORP Public Survey is open for 31 days.

May 15, 2024 - CORP Public Information Meeting

July 2, 2024 - Parks & Recreation Committee discussed survey results

July 8, 2024 - Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee discussed survey results

August 6, 2024 - Parks & Recreation Committee discussed first draft maps.

October 1, 2024 - Parks & Recreation Committee discussed revised maps and possible future parkland areas.

December 3, 2024 - Parks & Recreation Committee discussed first draft of CORP.

**ISSUE SUMMARY:**

The packet includes the first draft of the cover-to-cover Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029. Staff are continuing to complete the following items and will be included in future drafts:

- Table values. Staff will review and finalize data tables listed to ensure accuracy and legibility. These values will impact discussion and minimum values.
- Layout and formatting. Staff are working with the Communications and Technology Department to develop a finished design plan. This includes formatting, text arrangements, page layouts, color, and photos.
- Highlighted texts. Staff will work to complete the notes added throughout the document, which includes placeholders for maps, tables, and photos; additional clarification, and references to the corresponding tables and figures.
- Other editing needs. Staff will continue to refine sections of the plan to ensure quality transition between chapters, clarity of ideas provided, information discussed, and subsections within each chapter.



Next steps

- Public information meeting date for January 15, 2025
- Parks & Recreation Meeting February 4, 2025 for possible plan approval
- Late February or early March 2025 - Village Board plan adoption

**FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:**

**VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:**

**ORDINANCE REFERENCE:**

**BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for discussion only.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. CORP First Draft\_11.27.2024

[VOM PARKS OR OUTDOOR PHOTO IN MCFARLAND]

# VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

## COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2025-2029



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **2024 VILLAGE BOARD**

Carolyn Clow, Village President

Hilary Brandt, Village Trustee

Stephanie Brassington, Village Trustee

Luke Fessler, Village Trustee

Alisa Leamy, Village Trustee

Miguel Peña, Village Trustee

Lowell Prill, Village Trustee

### **2024 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Luke Fessler, Chairperson and Village Trustee

Alisa Leamy, Village Trustee

Sara Kuba, Citizen Member

Tanya Lancaster, Citizen Member

Anita Iwanski, Citizen Member

Jessica Tokar, Citizen Member

Lori Wisnicky, Citizen Member

### **2024 SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Miguel Peña, Chairperson and Village Trustee

Alisa Leamy, Village Trustee

Michael Allen, Citizen Member

Angela Freedman, Citizen Member

Nina Schultz, Citizen Member

Judy Taber, Citizen Member

### **VILLAGE STAFF**

Kong Thao, Associate Planner

Andrew Bremer, AICP, Community & Economic Development Director

Lee Igl, Public Works Director

Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent and Village Forester

Melanie Camellia, Communications Manager

### **MAPPING ASSISTANCE**

MSA Professional Services, Inc.

Intentionally left blank for  
Adoption Resolution  
To be inserted upon plan adoption

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CHAPTER 6: Recommendations

CHAPTER 7: Implementation

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- Appendix D: File name 4
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## CHAPTER 1: Introduction & Plan Background

### PLAN PURPOSE

Park and recreation planning has become an essential element of long-range community planning. Increased leisure time, renewed emphasis on physical and mental fitness, and the need to find relief from the pace of life in urbanizing communities has underlined the need for expanded recreational facilities. Parks also serve a valuable function of providing open space in an increasingly urbanizing environment creating important habitats for urban wildlife and laboratories for environmental/conservation education. As a community grows and densities increase, parks also function as a focal point for community aesthetics. Park and recreational amenities also play an increasingly important role in supporting economic development. Community events and festivals often take place in parks adding direct financial benefits to the Village and event organizers. In addition, having a unique or high-quality recreational facility can attract users from outside of the Village that may then make secondary trips to local businesses. Finally, having high-quality park and recreational amenities helps to maintain and attract new residents to the Village. Increasingly people are choosing locations to live in based on quality-of-life factors such as parks and recreational amenities. The ability to retain or attract new residents has direct economic benefits to the Village. The Village's [2023 Economic Strategic Plan](#) includes six core strategies including *focusing on improving quality of life*.

As McFarland continues to grow, additional parks should be dedicated with private land development and/or acquired by the Village. The purpose of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is to guide short and long-term investments in the Village's parks, conservancy areas, and recreational trails. The Village's first CORP was adopted in 1995, and amended in 2001, 2007, 2013, and 2019. The CORP is typically updated every five years so the plan remains relevant and the Village remains eligible for state and federal recreational grant opportunities. The Village of McFarland is dedicated to maintaining current park locations, protecting open space and natural resources, and improving the park and trail system for future growth.

The CORP is also intended to be a support document and component of the Village of McFarland's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan along with the Village's other long-range plans and development-related ordinances, will be used to guide the implementation of improvements to the Village's parks, conservancies and recreational trails.

Specifically, the plan provides:

- Information regarding demographic trends
- An inventory of existing park and recreational facilities,

- An analysis of parkland and recreational needs and demands,
- General policy direction regarding park and open space planning and maintenance,
- Recommendations for improving existing park facilities,
- Recommendations for park and open space acquisition and (re)development projects, and
- Implementation strategies.

This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, trails, conservancy areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, budgeting, and discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The recommendations and implementation strategies within this plan will be utilized to aid annual updates to the Village's Capital Improvement Plan, Village Board Strategic Plan, and Municipal Budget. The goals, objectives, and policies within this plan will also be utilized to inform the Village's parkland dedication requirements and park impacts fees.

An attempt has been made to view outdoor recreation facilities as part of a system serving diverse needs for all members of the community. Parks are no longer viewed as single-use facilities serving only limited groups in a community; rather, there is now an emphasis on providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities for all ages, social groups, and physical abilities. In viewing parks as part of a system, such issues as access, safety, neighborhood aesthetics and multiple uses of environmental resources become elements of park and recreation planning.

## **PLANNING METHODOLOGY**

The Planning Team consisted of two Staff from the Village's Community & Economic Development Department (Andrew Bremer, AICP, Community & Economic Development Director; Kong Thao, Associate Planner) and Public Works Department (Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent/Village Forester; and Lee Igl, Public Works Director), with Kong Thao as the project lead. Mapping assistance was provided by MSA Professional Services. The Village's Parks & Recreation Committee (P&R) provided project oversight with input from the Village's Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee (S&NR). The following is a summary of project meetings and activities occurred throughout the 2024 year:

- March 25, 2024 – Kick off meeting with Planning Team
- April 3 – Parks and Rec Committee (P&R) Meeting #1 discussion of project scope and schedule
- April 8 – Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee (S&NR) Meeting #1 discussion of project scope and schedule

- April 23 – Stakeholder meeting with Dane County Park Staff
- May 3 – Stakeholder meeting with McFarland School District Staff
- May 7 – P&R Meeting #2, discussion of goals, objectives, and policies, finalized survey questions
- May 9 – Public survey goes live and published in Outlook article.
- May 15 – Planning team holds Public Information Meeting #1
- May 23 – First notification for survey sent out.
- June 6 – Final notice on survey closing soon.
- June 9 – Public survey closes
- July 2 – P&R Meeting #3, Discussion and analysis of survey results.
- July 7 – S&NR Meeting #2, Discussion and analysis of survey results.
- July 11 – First draft of park inventory completed.
- August 6 – P&R Meeting #4, Discussion on draft maps, survey responses and upcoming Capital Improvement Projects
- September through December – Draft of CORP
- October 1 – P&R Meeting #5, Discussion on revised CORP maps, including future parks and trails
- December 3 – P&R Meeting #6, Discussion of draft CORP.
- December 9 – S&NR Meeting #3, Discussion of draft CORP
- December 17 – Plan Commission Meeting #1, Discussion of draft CORP
- January 15, 2025 – Public Information Meeting #2 Open house on draft CORP
- February 3 – P&R Meeting #7, Review of final CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- February 10 – S&NR Meeting #4, Review of final CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- February 18 – Plan Commission Meeting #2, Review of final CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- February/March – Village Board adopts CORP 2025-2029

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In addition to the public meetings summarized in the prior section, the public was invited to participate in the creation of this plan via an online survey and two public information meetings. The 2024 public survey was available May 9 through June 9 and collected 523 total responses. Compared to the previous 2018 survey for the outdoor and open space plan, this doubled the 259 total responses received. An initial Public Information Meeting was scheduled on May 15, 2024, engaging attendees in conversations concerning missing amenities and services throughout Village parks. A second public information meeting was held on January 16, 2025 to review and obtain feedback on the draft 2025-

2029 CORP prior to proceeding with plan adoption. Summaries of public input can be reviewed in Chapter 5, Qualitative Analysis and Appendix [\[X\]](#) Survey Results. Regular project updates were provided to the public via the C&ED monthly email newsletter, the Lookout, Outlook, and a dedicated project website was developed tracking available links to packets, presentations and sources.

## REFERENCED VILLAGE PLANS

The CORP 2025-2029 refers to several Village plans to help identify aspects of the community. These plans provided useful background analysis while working to maintain consistency among goals, policies, and standards described in their respective work. The following Village Plans referenced are as follows:

### *Comprehensive Plan, 2017*

The Village of McFarland's [Comprehensive Plan, 2017](#) identifies action on maintaining and improving natural resources, securing recreational opportunities throughout the community. Volume 2, Chapter 7, Initiative 4 includes Updating the Village's Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, identifying actionable projects to be pursued, moving community health forward, incorporating accessibility throughout the Village park system, and improving multimodal opportunities of transportation.

### *Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2019-2024*

The [Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, 2019-2024](#) established goals, objectives, and policies on recreational activities for the Village. Many sections of the previous plan were reviewed then reconsidered in this CORP update if the underlying themes were still identified as a priority.

### *Sustainability Plan, 2021*

The [Sustainability Plan, 2021](#) was the first of its kind in the Village, establishing a baseline for climate action planning. The plan identifies actionable recommendations among six factors: Transportation, Land Use, Energy, Water, Solid Waste, and Community Health. Several near-, mid-, and long-term actions in Transportation, Land Use & Development, and Community Health identify ways the Village can enhance recreational spaces, encourage safety, and achieve sustainable action.

### *East Side Plan, 2023*

The [East Side Plan](#) is a document which guides future development east as the Village continues to grow. The plan recommendations include a variety of residential housing types combined with recreational and commercial opportunities. The plan encourages safe multimodal transportation along roads and arterial corridors and encourages a variety of park types and sizes (mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks).

### *Redevelopment District Plans 1 & 2, 2025*

At the time this plan was drafted, the Village was working on updates to the 2010 Redevelopment District Plans No. 1 and No. 2. District No. 1 includes McDaniel Park and Brandt Park. The draft plan includes updates to the previous park master plans. District No. 2 includes Arnold Larson Park and the draft plan includes updates to the previous park master plan for this park as well.

Other Village plans referenced throughout this CORP include:

- Park Master Plans, Various\*
  - Brandt Park, 2006 as amended 2025 (Redevelopment District No. 1)
  - McDaniel Park, 2017 as amended 2025 (Redevelopment District No. 1)
  - Urso Schuetz Park, 2017
  - Inclusive Park Playground, 2020
  - Arnold Larson Park, 2020 as amended 2025 (Redevelopment District No. 2)
  - McFarland Park and Community Park, 2021
  - Lewis Park, 2015, as amended 2024
- Economic Strategic Plan, 2023
- Housing Needs Assessment, 2023
- Conservation Management Plan, 2023
- Preservation and Maintenance of Native American Mounds Plan, 2023
- Urban Forestry Management Plan, 2024
- Capital Improvement Plan, 2025-2029 (as annually amended)\*\*
- ADA Park Assessments by Parkitecture, 202X

\*Accepted park master plans are included in Appendix X and are incorporated by reference in this 2025-2029 CORP. As new park master plans are completed, they may be accepted as an amendment to this CORP with the applicable site plan added to Appendix X.

\*\*The Village maintains a rolling Capital Improvement Plan to guide current and projected capital borrowing related to various Village projects. The 2025-2029 CORP includes those projects identified in the 2025-2029 related to park improvements but may also include additional projects not in the latest CIP. Not all projects within the 2025-2029 CORP are anticipated to be completed by 2029, particularly those that may be related to future park dedication or acquisition.

### **DANE COUNTY AND WISCONSIN RESOURCES**

County and regional recreational amenities can often overlap with local municipalities. One example is Babcock County Park located off Highway 51, which offers recreational camping and lake access to park-goers, or the County's Lower Yahara River Trail (LYRT) which connects McFarland to Madison.

During the same time the Village was developing this plan, Dane County Parks was updating their Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan. This plan may not contain all the recommendations or updates of the County's most recent plan. County and State plans reviewed as part of this planning project included:

- Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, 2018-2023
- Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area Project Plan
- Lower Yahara River Trail
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2019-2023

## CHAPTER 2: About McFarland

The Village of McFarland (2024 pop. 9,676) is located in Dane County, in south-central Wisconsin. The Village is 4.85 square miles in area and has a population density of 1,995 inhabitants per square mile. The Village is directly southeast of Madison, Wisconsin's capital, and shares borders with the City of Madison and Town of Blooming Grove to the north, the Town of Dunn to the south and east, Town of Cottage Grove to the northeast, and Town of Pleasant Springs to the southeast. The Village is 80 miles west of Milwaukee, 150 miles northwest of Chicago, and 250 miles southeast of Minneapolis. Spurred by a strong regional economy and educational opportunities, housing demand is strong across the entire region. The Village is notably located along U.S. Highway 51 and I-90/39, providing convenient access to Madison, Janesville, and Chicago. Its location along Lake Waubesa, Upper and Lower Mud Lakes, and the Yahara River provides recreational and wildlife amenities contributing to McFarland's tagline *Naturally Connected*.

### POPULATION TRENDS & PROJECTIONS

The Village of McFarland has steadily experienced growth in recent decades. Table 1 shows Census data between the Village (VOM) and Dane County from 1970 to 2020. The percentage increase is calculated using the growth change from the previous year. The table shows the Village is growing at a faster rate compared to the County with both showing their lowest change in 2020. From 2000 to 2020 the Village averaged an annual population growth rate of 2.0%, compared to the County average of 1.4%. According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the 2024 population estimate for the Village is 9,676, or an annual increase of 1.9% since 2020 as compared to the County average increase of 1.7% over the same period.

*Table 1 Population Trends 1970s - 2020s*

Year	VOM	Increase from Prev. Census	% increase	Dane County	% increase
1970	2,386	-	0	290,272	
1980	3,783	1,397	58.5%	323,545	11.5%
1990	5,232	1,449	38.3%	367,085	13.5%
2000	6,416	1,184	22.6%	426,526	16.2%
2010	7,808	1,392	21.7%	488,073	14.4%
2020	8,991	1,183	15.2%	542,459	11.1%
2024	9,676	685	7.6%	599,930	10.6%

*Source: ACS Census Data*

The Village’s 2023 [Housing Needs Assessment](#) provides population projection estimates on growth trends and housing gaps. The population estimate included three (high, medium, low) projections forecasting out to 2040. The CORP utilizes the medium population projections provided in the report for future park demand discussed in Chapter 4. Table 2 shows the medium population projection of the Village and Dane County. By 2030, the next scheduled CORP update, the Village is projected to have a population of 10,967, an increase of 1,976, or an average growth rate of 2.2% per year since 2020.

Table 2 Population Projections 2020-2040

Year	McFarland		Dane County	
	Population	Increase since 2020	Population	Increase since 2020
2020	8,991		542,459	
2025	9,930	939	555,100	12,641
2030	10,967	1,976	577,300	34,841
2035	12,113	3,122	593,440	50,981
2040	13,378	4,387	606,620	64,161

**HOUSING TRENDS & PROJECTIONS**

According to the US Census, in 2020 McFarland had 3,598 households. From 2000 to 2020 the Village averaged an annual household growth rate of 2.4%, slightly higher than the population growth rate of 2.0% per year. The average household size in McFarland in 2020 was 2.47, down from 2.54 in 2000. Average household size has steadily declined over the last 50 years following national trends attributed to smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy, and increases in single person and single parent households.

Using the medium-growth projection from the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment, households in McFarland are estimated to reach 4,455 by 2030, or an average growth rate of 2.4% per year since 2020. Table 3. Household Projections 2020-2040 includes estimated number of households in the Village and the projected households. Table 3 predicts there will be 857 new households by 2030 and an increase of 86 households per year.

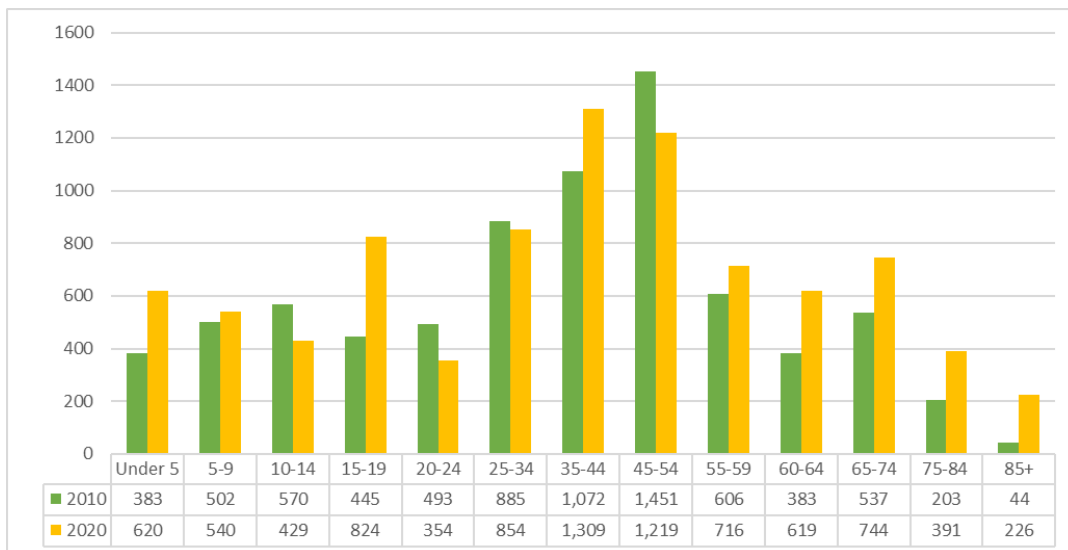
Table 3 Household Projection 2020-2040

Year	Medium Growth	Increase since 2020
1990	1,846	-
2000	2,434	-
2010	3,079	-
2020	3,598	-
2025	4,004	406
2030	4,455	857
2035	4,958	1,360
2040	5,517	1,919

### AGE DISTRIBUTION

The 2010 & 2020 ACS 5-year estimates data are shown in Figure 1. The highest age group in 2010 for the Village was 45-54 years at 1,451, 19.2%. This age cohort saw the largest decline from 2010 to 2020, without a corresponding increase in the 55-59 age cohort in 2020, suggesting an out migration of individuals in this age range. It should be noted that the ACS data reports some age groups with a 5 year-range, and some include a 10-year range which can distort comparisons from one age cohort to the next. In 2020, the age group with the highest population was 35-44 at 1,309, 14.8%. In 2010, those individuals 19 or younger comprised 25.1% of the Village population, while those age 60 and over comprised 15.5% of the population. In 2020, those individuals 19 or younger comprised 27.3% of the population, while those age 60 and over comprised 22.4%. The percentage of the population age 60 and over is likely to continue to increase following state and national trends.

Figure 1 Age Distribution

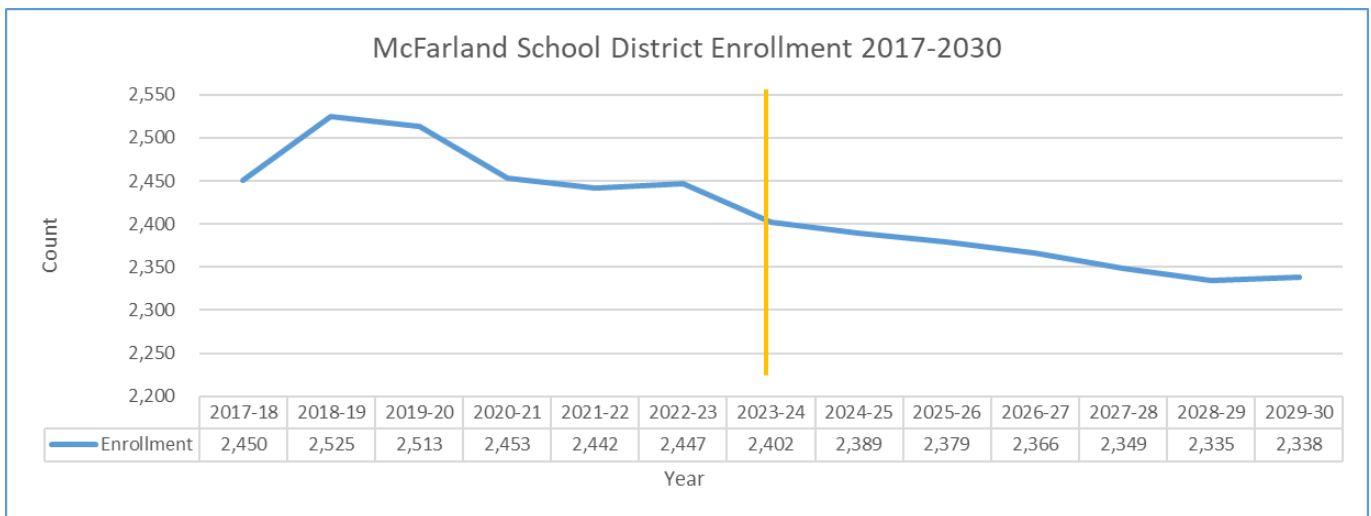


\*Source: ACS Census Data

**MCFARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Village and some of the surrounding communities are served by the [McFarland School District \(District\)](#). The District maintains four facilities in the Village: Conrad Elvehjem Primary School (grades 4k-2), Waubesa Intermediate School (grades 3-5), Indian Mound Middle School (grades 6-8) and McFarland High School (grades 9-12). In the 2023-2024 school year, the school district reported an enrollment of 2,402 students. This is slightly down from the previous 2022-2023 school year at 2,447 enrolled students. Figure 2. McFarland School District Enrollment 2017-2030, includes enrollment numbers from previous academic school years and predicted enrollment to 2024. The vertical line indicates when the enrollment values become a projected value onward until 2030. The District projects enrollment numbers will continue to decrease until 2028-29.

Figure 2 McFarland School District Enrollment 2017-2030



\*Source: McFarland School District

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instructions issues a District Report Card through the Wisconsin School Performance Report<sup>1</sup>. This is intended to evaluate and measure each public school and district on overall accountability giving a score from 0 to 100 based on four priority areas: Student Achievement, Student Growth, Target Group Outcomes and On-Track to Graduation. In the 2022-2023 school year, the McFarland School District received a score of 78.6 with *On-Track to Graduation* as its highest priority area at 89.3. Although the School District’s enrollment is steadily decreasing, the School District continues to perform well.

<sup>1</sup> <https://dpi.wi.gov/spr/about>

## **MCFARLAND RECREATION ACTIVITIES and PLAY, MRAP**

MRAP is the coalition of 501c(3) community recreation partners offering organized recreational activities for youths in McFarland. Sports offerings include basketball, football, softball, soccer, and more. MRAP partners are frequent users of Village and School District recreational facilities. Participation is open to all that apply, and all MRAP partners are approved by the McFarland School Board. There exist other recreational organizations around McFarland but MRAP is one of the more recognizable organizations.

## **PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

### **Water Resources**

Adjacent to the west of McFarland is Lake Waubesa and Upper Mud Lake. The Village includes seven lake access points and McDaniel Park, providing gathering space and recreational water opportunities. The Yahara River, which connects the region's lakes, provides a physical separation with the Town of Dunn to the southwest. To the south of McFarland is Lower Mud Lake, a marshland and body of water that extends the Yahara River south into Lake Kegonsa.

### **Wetlands and Floodplains**

[additional text needed]

### **Topography**

The land elevation varies from its lowest at around 845 feet above sea level along Lake Waubesa and the Yahara River to 955 feet above sea level. McFarland was established on lands previously occupied by the Ho-Chunk Nation<sup>2</sup>. Native American mounds continue to exist within Village conservancies and are protected landmarks under State Statutes. The most notable mound is Indian Mound Conservancy Park, located west of McFarland Middle and High Schools. This location also so happens to be the highest point in the Village and includes a water tower.

[PLACEHOLDER: Insert regional topographical map]

### **Environmental Corridors**

## **EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING**

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<sup>2</sup> The Village and School District memorialized the importance of the Ho-Chunk Nation through a Land Acknowledgement Plaque located within our respective public buildings. The full text can be reviewed in Appendix X

The zoning map identifies the current classification for land uses in the Village. The Village' standards on permitted and identified uses can be found in Division 62-II-2 Zoning Districts and District Regulations of the Zoning Code. Established provisions provide details on each district's uses. Parks and open space are...

[PLACEHOLDER: Insert zoning map snippet]

## **BOUNDARY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

The Village of McFarland maintains a boundary agreement with the Town of Dunn that prevents annexation of town lands south of the Yahara River while providing restrictions on the Town of Dunn's purchase of conservation easements on the Village's east side. The existing boundary agreement will expire at the end of 2025.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2017**

The Village's [Comprehensive Plan](#) was adopted in 2017 and is updated every 10 years as required by Wisconsin State Statutes. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map identifies properties planned for *Public Lands, Recreation, and Environmental Corridors*. This does not include additional parks that would be expected to be dedicated as part of future residential growth of the Village, particularly on the Village's east side under the *Neighborhood* future land use category. Refer to the Village's [2023 East Side Plan](#) for additional information on potential future parks and trails within this planned neighborhood.

[PLACEHOLDER for Comprehensive Plan Map 6 Future Land Use Map snippet]

[PLACEHOLDER for 2023 East Side Future Land Use Map snippet]

## CHAPTER 3: Park, Open Space, Conservancy, and Recreation Inventory

The following chapter contains an inventory on recreational facilities and trails within the Village. The list does not include a complete inventory of amenities located within McFarland School District, Dane County, or privately-owned properties as the CORP is focused on jurisdictional oversight of Village-owned properties and facilities.

The *National Recreational and Park Association Agency Performance Review* (NRPA) gathers data annually from park and recreation agencies nationwide<sup>3</sup>. The NRPA identifies three park type, Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks. Vital to the discussion of the park inventory is this chapter's inclusion of dedicated conservancy areas and special use parks. The NRPA does not include standards for conservancies and special use parks as each community's definition for special use parks varies significantly.

**Table X** includes the inventory of Village parks and amenities. Maps in Chapter 5 provide several locational analyses on park locations, amenities offered, and accessibility based on certain features.

### VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES

#### *Mini/Totlot Parks*

Mini parks include specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as young children ("tots") or senior citizens. Desirable size is 1 acre or less. Mini Parks are expected to serve an area up to a quarter mile. In some cases, a mini park may be developed from repurposed Village property (e.g. a former well site) or added within an existing public property that serves a different primary purpose.

#### Discovery Garden, 5920 Milwaukee Street

This park is 0.2 acres and is located adjacent to the Village's E.D. Locke Public Library and across from the Municipal Building. The park was redeveloped in 2018 offering new playground equipment and outdoor programming opportunities for the Library with available seating and benches. Well House #1 is located on the same parcel with plans to be retired at some point in the future with the development of the Village's new Well #5. Once Well #1 is abandoned the site could be repurposed for park uses.

#### Ridgeview Tot lot, 5323 Black Walnut Dr

This 0.4 acre park is located at the corner of Black Walnut Drive and Chestnut Lane. Amenities include a playground structure, spring animal, and open play area.

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<sup>3</sup> [NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2024](#)

#### Valley Tot lot, 5100 Broadhead Street

This 0.5 acre park is located near the intersection of Valley Drive and Church Street. This unique lot is partially dedicated as a stormwater retention and a local park. The park includes a playground structure, picnic seating, and an open area for play.

#### *Neighborhood Parks*

Neighborhood parks are areas for multiple and sometimes intensive recreational activities. Facilities may include athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, skate parks, trails, picnic areas and places of gathering. Typical size is between 3 to 10 acres, serving areas up to a half-mile radius.

#### Arnold Larson Park, 6002 Exchange Street

This 1.4 acre park is a former brownfield site located within the Village's downtown. The park includes a gazebo, available seating, tables, connection to the Lower Yahara River Trail, and sidewalks. Larson Park is a hotspot for community gatherings (e.g. Lion's Club Food Truck Frenzy and Chamber Winter Wonderland in the Village) due to its high visibility and central location within the community.

#### Autumn Grove Park, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane

This 1.5 acre park is located in the Autumn Grove neighborhood near the intersection of Falling Leaves Lane and Summer Trail Road. This park includes two half-court basketball hoops, playground equipment, and open play area. A connecting sidewalk connects pedestrians from Valley Drive to the west to this park as well.

#### Cedar Ridge Park, 5303 Wild Cherry Lane

This 3.9-acre park provides a mix of uses to the surrounding neighborhood. The park includes playground equipment, a gazebo, a soccer field with goal posts, and trails and sidewalk. This park is located just 200 feet east from McFarland School District's Waubesa Intermediate School.

#### Egner Park, 5703 Bird Song Court

This 2.3-acre neighborhood park lies along Creamery Road and the Lower Yahara River Trail. The existing building is dual functioning as a Well House (Well #4) and park shelter. The park includes a full basketball court, benches, two separate playground structures for varying ages, and open space area. The playground was replaced in 2018.

#### Highland Oaks Park, 5945 Osborn Drive

This neighborhood park received updates in 2024 for an addition of a permanent all-gender restroom, drinking fountain, and playground equipment. The 2.2-acre park includes an open-air park shelter, basketball court, available seating, walking paths and picnic tables.

#### Juniper Ridge Park

This 1.5-acre park is located on the north side of Juniper Ridge neighborhood adjacent to the water tower. A pathway cutting west-east through the properties connect pedestrian pathways from Holscher Road to Lodgecliffe Lane. The neighborhood park includes an open-air shelter, benches, bike rack, and playground equipment.

#### Siggelkow Road Park, 5002 Valley Drive

This 5.6-acre undeveloped neighborhood park is half open space and half conservancy. The conservancy area on the park's west side includes documented Native American mounds along its steep slopes. This mound group is referred to as the Siggelkow Mounds and is on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The remaining east side of the park is open space with the potential for the development of recreational facilities to serve the neighborhood.

#### Woodland Estates Park, 5601 Glenway St

This neighborhood park serves the east-central section of McFarland. The 2.4 acres park includes an open-air shelter, an outside grill, a half-court basketball hoop, a playground equipment with slides and climbing wall, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, benches, and an open playfield with backstop and soccer goal posts. There is a 16-foot wide grass public right-of-way on the east side of the park connecting to Cardinal Drive.

#### Rosewood Fields Park

This 3.2-acre neighborhood park is one of the latest additions to the Village's park system. The park includes an open playfield, walking pathways, playground equipment and seating.

#### *Community Parks*

Community parks are areas of diverse recreational activity and may include amenities such as athletic complexes, trails, and large swimming pools. Community parks are typically 10 acres or larger and serve populations up to a 2-mile radius but may vary depending on the amenities offered.

#### Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road

This popular park is 4.9 acres and includes two lit and fenced softball diamonds, bleachers and park benches. A park shelter is equipped with restrooms, a concessions counter, and plenty of picnic tables. The park also includes a playground added in 2010, fencing along Siggelkow Road, and a basketball

court. This park shelter is used by Village Parks staff as storage for the picnic tables during the winter months. In 2024/25 the shelter restrooms and concession area will be updated, including a new gender-neutral restroom.

#### Community Park, 3234 County HWY AB

This 26-acre community park was acquired by the Village in 2019. A park master plan<sup>4</sup> was accepted by the Village Board in November 2021 which also include updates to William McFarland Park. The park is currently being prepped for the upcoming planned construction on the site. The Community Park is expected to be the new location for McFarland Soccer Club. Park Amenities are expected to include parking lot, restrooms/shelters, playgrounds, ball diamonds, basketball courts, an internal trail/path network, sledding hill, and a BMX course. The park may still have potential for other recreational opportunities as time progresses, including a potential public or private indoor athletic facility.

#### Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive

This 6.4-acre community park is located adjacent to Legion Memorial park along the northern edge of Lower Mud Lake. The park serves the southern half of the Village as a central gathering place for ice skating in the winter and wildlife viewing along its observation deck. Recreational amenities found in Lewis Park include a sand volleyball court, baseball field, playground equipment, off-street parking and picnic tables. An enclosed heated shelter was completed in 2016, including restrooms, a kitchen, picnic tables, and a glass overhead door which can be left open during warm days.

#### McDaniel Park, 4806 McDaniel Lane

Acquired in 1976, this community park is a popular destination for many travelers and locals. This 7.9-acre park includes the Lower Yahara River Trail which connects McFarland to Madison's trail network and Dane County's Lussier Farm Park via a boardwalk and bridge over the Yahara River. This project was completed in 2017 and the park services as a trail head of the Lower Yahara River Trail. The park includes off-street parking, three different shelters (one shelter with concession window and restrooms, two open-air shelters), sand volleyball courts, playground equipment, bike share (BCycle) station, two beaches, boat/canoe storage, and trail marker and description board.

#### William McFarland Park, 4802/4820 Marsh Road

This park was named after the Village's founder, William H. McFarland. McFarland park is 19.8 acres of recreational space and is the Village's most northern park. The park includes 4 bocce ball lanes (run by the Four Lakes Bocce Association), a skate park (updated in 2023), drinking fountains, shade structures, benches, and eight pickleball courts (added in 2023). The park includes a baseball diamond,

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<sup>4</sup> [William McFarland Park & New Community Park Master Plan, 2021](#)

over 100 off-street parking stalls, a park shelter with overhead doors, and multiple soccer fields of various sizes. The Madison Curling Club leases a portion of the property. . Adjacent to the park is the McFarland Community Ice Arena, which is used by the McFarland Hockey Club and School District. McFarland Park is the location for the McFarland Soccer Club with open fields painted for various ages of soccer players. The establishment of Community Park will relocate the McFarland Soccer Club to the new park, whilst providing an opportunity to update McFarland Park. The park master plan is included with the Community Park Master Plan.

### *Conservancy*

Conservancies are dedicated lands, such as forests and marshlands, that are kept undisturbed for the purpose of preservation. This often includes preservation of natural resource that contribute to wildlife habitats or Native American Mounds. Additionally, conservancies are under a different set of regulations compared to parks. Although the NRPA does not identify standards for conservancies, the community of McFarland are strong supporters of protecting and preserving its natural resources. The following conservancy parks make up approximately 370 acres of protected lands.

#### Babcock Conservancy, South Court

This 7.8-acre conservancy, located on Lake Waubesa, was deeded to the Village in 1986. It is relatively unimproved and consists of natural areas and a public right-of-way called South Court. It provides excellent views of Lake Waubesa and is a popular fishing spot.

#### Grandview Conservancy, 5602 Creamery Road

This conservancy area was acquired in 1984. The southern 23.2 acres were received by dedication and the northern 9.6 acres by purchase. A small part of the conservancy area west of Creamery Road includes an Alliant natural gas substation. A path and new boardwalk were installed in 2017 providing a connection to Marsh Woods Conservancy, near the Village's sanitary sewer Lift Station #2.

#### Indian Mound Conservancy, 4901 Burma Road

This conservancy area with 15.7-acres of forested hills includes passive recreational trails that take users through seven recorded Native American mounds (Indian effigy mound cultural tradition) and a Village water tower. The mounds are designated on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The conservancy includes limited passive recreational trails with some made of asphalt and some gravel. In 2023, this park was expanded to its current size through a dedication by the McFarland School District of the McFarland School Forest. This dedication extended the boundaries of the conservancy to Exchange Street. The trail system connects Exchange Street to Thrun Marsh Park and Conrad Jaeger Park, Yahara Drive, and Burma Road.

### Juniper Ridge Conservancy/Eco Park

The 9.1-acre conservancy includes a series of detention basins and prairie areas. A linear paved walking pathway follows the detention basins and includes various fitness stations along the path. The path continues south to the adjacent Prairie Place Conservancy.

### Legion Memorial Conservancy, 5301 Marsh Woods Drive

This 15.1-acre conservancy is located along the Yahara River and Upper Mud Lake and is adjacent to Lewis Park to the north and the Marsh Woods Conservancy to the east. The park includes the Edwards-Foye American Legion Post 534 memorial monument and flagpole in front of the Lewis Park shelter. A dedication plaque recognizes the memory of servicemen and past veterans who sacrificed their lives in service of the United States military. The conservancy includes an existing observation deck overlooking Lower Mud Lake. In 2024/25 a new boardwalk, ADA kayak launch, and kayak storage rack will be added to the conservancy.

### Marsh Woods Conservancy, 5399 Marsh Woods Dr

This conservancy area is located just north of Lower Mud Lake between Legion Memorial Park and MaHunt Dunn #1 (a privately held conservancy). The 17.7-acre conservancy is predominantly wetlands area. The conservancy offers park goers opportunities for trail hiking and educational uses. A nature trail constructed of wood chips with benches and informational signage has been completed by volunteer youth groups.

### Prairie Place Conservancy

This conservancy is located behind the Prairie Place Condominiums off Holscher Road and consists of three parcels totaling 9.8 acres. The majority of the conservancy consists of wetland and prairie areas with a shared pedestrian and bike trail on the west side connecting all the way to Siggelkow Road. An additional undeveloped outlot (Prairie Place Outlot 5) lies along Holscher Road and connects the trail system to the trails within the Juniper Ridge Conservancy. This 1.0 acre parcel has the potential to be developed as a totlot to serve the neighborhood.

### Taylor Road Conservancy

Three parcels make up this 4.7-acre hillside conservancy preserving the northeastern slope of the drumlin adjacent to Taylor Road. A Native American mound is located in the area. The park includes limited hiking trails and a sledding hill.

### Thrun Marsh Conservancy

Accessible from Jaeger Road, this conservancy park is a combination of marsh wetlands and dedicated forested trails. The 5.8-acre conservancy is located between Jaeger Park and the Village's Indian Mound Conservancy. Hiking trails connect to Indian Mound Conservancy.

Woodland Commons Conservancy, 5604 Lexington Street

Woodland Commons includes visible signs on the west along Larson Beach Road and east along Lexington Street. This 5.2-acre conservancy was acquired as a result of parkland dedication requirements for Woodland Commons Subdivision. The park includes two documented Native American mounds (Woodland Commons Outlot 3). The park is used for passive recreation.

Yahara River Conservancy

This conservancy park is located along the Yahara River where Meredith Way changes into Sleepy Hollow Road. The 1.7-acre park includes a detention pond, wetlands and access to the river and canoe launch. The conservancy includes the Village's sanitary sewer Lift Station #3.

*Special Use Parks*

Special use parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as frisbee golf, dog parks, nature centers, etc. In some cases, through continued facility improvements (e.g. playground installation), a specialized park may transition into a neighborhood or community park.

Inclusive Park, 5318 Leanne Lane (Waubesa Intermediate School)

Completed in 2024, this 1-acre special purpose park was achieved through the collaborative effort between the School District and Village. Through the implementation of the [Inclusive Playground Master Plan](#), a portion of the Waubesa Intermediate School green space area was dedicated as the land for the Inclusive Park. The park completed its construction by the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The Inclusive Park includes amenities fit to accommodate all types of park goers, regardless of age, race, and mobility conditions. The land remains under the ownership of the McFarland School District, while the Village paid for the installation of the playground equipment and supportive parking lot via the use of COVID-era ARPA funds.

Orchard Hill Park, 2860 Hidden Farms Road

This 16.9-acre special purpose park is immediately adjacent to the west John Urso Park (Urso Park). Previously considered part of Urso Park, this park was formally the "Schuetz Property". The park includes disc golf, green space and recreational walking pathways that connect east to Urso Park. Orchard Hill Disc Golf Course is a nine-hole course designed to meet Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) standards. Each hole has two tee pads and two fixed DGA Mach 7 baskets

allowing for varied play and skill types. Additional plans include construction of a new park shelter with restrooms and off-street parking.

#### John Urso Park (Urso Park), 3565 Elvehjem Road

This 40.1-acre special purpose park was acquired as part of the parkland dedication requirements for Park View Estates. The park includes 8-acres of off-leash dog exercise area at the northeastern portion of the parcel along Elvehjem Road. In 2020, several amenities were added to the park which include a dog wash station, drinking fountains, restroom and seating area. Trails were added on the west portion in 2011. Dane County's Lower Yahara River Trail currently ends at this park on the north side of Elvehjem Road.

### **OTHER VILLAGE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES/ASSETS**

#### Lake Access Points

There are seven lake access points in the Village located alongside Lake Waubesa. These are at the dead-end street of several neighborhood roads and include "Pedestrian access only" signs listed below. The access points provide limited parking and improvements.

- Beckler Street
- Bellevue Court
- Field Avenue
- Lake View Avenue
- Larson Street
- South Court
- Wisconsin Avenue

### **MCFARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES**

The McFarland School District is a separate public entity within the Village with their own recreational facilities located onsite at their schools. As these are not Village-owned properties, maintenance and changes to the facilities are not within the jurisdiction of the Village, with the exception of Inclusive Park. None the less, these school properties do provide recreational amenities for the greater community. The following is not a comprehensive overview of the School District's facilities.

#### McFarland Baseball Field, 6008 Osborn Drive

This School District property is 17.7-acre and includes two baseball diamonds (one with artificial turf and one with natural grass). This park is currently the only park not located next to a school. Additional amenities include off-street parking lot, bleachers, dugouts, batting cage, concessions stand, and passive recreational green area.

McFarland Primary School and Conrad Elvehjem Early Learning Center, 6009/6013 Johnson Street.

The school includes students grades 4K-2nd. The recreational activities are situated away from street view and located in the rear yard of the property. The outdoor recreational amenities include playground equipment, basketball courts, green space areas, sledding hills, a backstop, seating, bleachers, and eight tennis courts.

McFarland Waubesa Intermediate School, 5605 Red Oak Trail

This school includes students in grades 3-5. The outdoor recreational amenities include two baseball fields, educational prairie grass area, a council ring, playground equipment, sports fields, and the Inclusive Park. A park shelter with restrooms, concessions, seating, off-street parking and drinking fountains was approved for the site with driveway access from Leanne Lane.

McFarland Indian Mound Middle School/McFarland High School, 6330 Exchange Street/5103 Farwell Street

The high school and School District Offices are in the same building. The Middle School building is located adjacent to Indian Mound Conservancy. The recreational amenities are located between both buildings and are generally shared between the two schools. Outdoor recreational amenities include a football stadium, bleachers, two basketball courts, and green space area. The high school also includes an indoor swimming pool, available to the public at designated hours.

**PRIVATELY-OWNED FACILITIES**

The following privately-owned facilities are identified as recreational uses but are not owned by the Village. These share similar jurisdictional challenges with the School District recreational facilities. The following do not include a comprehensive assessment of the amenities offered.

McFarland Community Garden, 5710 Anthony Street

This community garden is located on lands owned by the McFarland United Church of Christ. The community garden is operated by the Friends of McFarland Parks, under a three-party lease agreement with the Village. This location is the only community garden in the Village. The garden includes 62 plots, with a 4-H youth playground. The garden is mostly maintained and operated by volunteer efforts of participants. The Village provides water and refuse collection services.

McFarland Community Ice Arena, 4812 Marsh Road

This 4.5-acre property is located adjacent to William McFarland Community Park. Operated by the McFarland Hockey, Inc., an addition of approximately 14,000 square feet was approved in August 2024 for additional space for locker rooms, a smaller practice hockey rink, storage, office space, and restrooms.

Madison Curling Club, 4802 Marsh Road

The Madison Curling Club occupies a recreational facility located on Village property. The building is owned by the Village and leased to the club. The curling club has been a long member of the McFarland community and hosts many opportunities of all skill levels. The indoor facility includes five curling lanes.

MaHunt Dunn #1

This 39.3-acre land is located in the Town of Dunn directly south of Grandview Conservancy in the Village. This land includes recreational hiking trails, limited access to Mudd Lake and hunting opportunities. No hunting is permitted in the northern 400 feet of the property. The land includes eight recorded Native American Mounds.

Hope Rod & Gun Club, 3435 Siggelkow Road

This privately-owned property includes the Hope Rod & Gun Club. The property is 14 acres and for private members use only. The location includes a large berm along the south lot line, offering its members various firearm shooting options down the range, from trap and skeet to archery. In the event the gun club decides to relocate, the property is identified in the Village's 2023 East Side Plan as a potential park. Possible recreational uses for this park could include a sledding hill and neighborhood park with passive recreational uses.

**DANE COUNTY & WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS & TRAILS**

Babcock County Park, 6214 US Highway 51

This Dane County Park includes sections along US Highway 51 in McFarland and across the river into the Town of Dunn (2909/2971 US Highway 51). The county park offers opportunities for water access, boat launching, camping, and limited hunting across its 139.9-acres of land. The property also includes wetlands.

Jaeger Park, 6402 Jaeger Road

Located along the Yahara River adjacent to trail head of Thrun Marsh Conservancy, this park offers a boat launch, limited boat storage and a small fishing platform. The park includes off-street parking benches and hiking access to Thrun Marsh Park. The property is owned by the WDNR and leased to the Village for use and maintenance responsibilities.

Lower Yahara River Trail (LYRT)

This Dane County multimodal trail connects Lake Farm County Park from the City of Madison along the northern marshlands of Lake Waubesa into McFarland. The trail-head in McDaniel Park, takes its user

on a tour through the McFarland community and out the southeast to Urso Park. The trail rides alongside Taylor Road, then switches onto Creamery Road and finishes east on Elvehjem Road. The trail includes accessible facilities, fishing opportunities, shared bike/pedestrian uses, and various opportunities for wildlife viewing. The County is planning additional extensions of the trail to Fish Camp County Park along Lake Kegonsa. In 2024, the County completed a portion of the LYRT from Fish Camp to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Ultimately the County intends to connect the LYRT to the City of Stoughton.

## Chapter 4: Goals, Objectives, Policies & Strategies

The following section describes the goals, objectives, policies and strategies to guide the maintenance, improvement and expansion of the Village's parks, trails, and conservancies. These goals are intended to capture underlining themes present in accepted plans (e.g. Village's Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Plan, etc.), while focusing on areas most relevant to the Village's park system.

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Goal #1: To ensure parks and recreational amenities continue to serve all the residents of McFarland regardless of age, gender, ethnic and racial background, ability and socioeconomic status.

#### Objectives:

- a. Implement ADA accessible improvements and amenities within existing and future parks.
- b. Increase the number of parks that have permanent restroom facilities, including gender neutral restrooms.
- c. Provide a variety of recreational amenities to meet the needs of varying park users.

#### Policies & Strategies:

1. Village park's should be made accessible to individuals with disabilities. All new facilities should be created accessible, and improvements should be made to existing facilities to make them as accessible as possible, including accessible routes from the public street to park facilities and amenities.
2. During the design of modifications to existing park shelters, and new park shelters, consideration should be given to including gender neutral restrooms. Consider the use of temporary/seasonal restrooms in parks that don't warrant permanent facilities or until such time as permanent facilities are constructed.
3. During the development of park master plans, consideration should be given to adding new types of recreational facilities that are not currently available within the immediate neighborhood as well as Village-wide, or are available in short supply, in order to diversify the types of recreational amenities available to Village residents, including year-round recreational amenities.
4. New playground equipment should include amenities that are designed for children of various age cohorts (e.g. 6-23 months, 2-5 years and 5-12 years) and abilities.

Goal #2: To provide an adequate supply of dedicated parkland and conservancies to continue to meet McFarland's existing and future needs.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain a minimum of 18 acres of Village parkland (excluding natural areas) per 1,000 residents within the Village.
- b. Residents of McFarland are within 0.50 miles, or 10-minute walk, of a Village park.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Developers shall dedicate usable land to provide park, playground, recreational and open space to meet the needs to be created by their subdivision, land division, or development project in accordance with the requirements of the Village's Park and Public Land Dedications requirements of the Village Municipal Code of Ordinance (Chapter 56).
2. Where a proposed development property is not identified for future park and open space uses within this plan, the Village's Comprehensive Plan, or any approved subarea plans, the Village may consider fees in lieu of parkland dedication, or a combination of land dedication and fees in lieu, per the requirements of the Village's Park and Public Land Dedications requirements of the Village Municipal Code of Ordinance (Chapter 56).
3. Developers shall provide the Village with a park improvement impact fee for each new dwelling unit constructed on a lot per the requirements of the Village Municipal Code of Ordinances (Chapter 8).
4. The Village may consider waiver or partial waiver of park impact fees for the purpose of developing affordable housing, or for infill development projects, particularly those outside of a Tax Incremental Finance District.
5. Consider strategic purchases of property to add to the Village's system of parks and conservancies to address existing deficiencies and projected growth. Refer to Chapter 5 for potential parcels for either land dedication or acquisition.
6. Update this plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.
7. Update the Village's Park Impact Fee, Fee in Lieu of Land Dedication, and Public Facility Needs Assessment every five years following completion of updates to the CORP. Annually adjust park impact fees based on the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers-Midwest Region prepared by the United States Department of Labor.

Goal #3: To provide a safe and interconnected system of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Objectives:

- a. Expand the Villages network of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle lanes, sidewalks, paths and trails.
- b. Connect existing and future trails to trails within neighboring communities.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Developers shall dedicate usable land to provide recreational trails to connect to existing and planned Village recreational trails.
2. In review of new subdivisions and other developments, require new sidewalks, paths and trails generally advised within Map 8 of this Plan, within the Village's Comprehensive Plan, or other approved subarea plans of the Village. Final locations of trails may deviate slightly from the conceptual routes shown in adopted plans based on more in-depth site analysis and planning.
3. Design new and reconstructed roads as Complete Streets to serve their multiple intended functions. Consider the installation of sidewalks, trails, bicycle lanes, narrowed streets, and traffic calming devices (e.g. RRFB, intersection bulb outs, speed tables, signage, etc.) to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, particularly near public parks and schools.
4. Add bicycle racks to Village parks to support the use of non-motorized transportation.
5. Consider strategic purchases of property to add to the Village's system of trails to address existing deficiencies and projected growth. Refer to Chapter 5 for potential parcels for either land dedication or acquisition.
6. Work with neighboring townships, municipalities, Dane County, and the WisDOT to promote and develop the connection of on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities adjacent to the Village.
7. Add wayfinding signage where appropriate to increase awareness of public trails (e.g. Lower Yahara River Trail) including potentially branding existing and new bicycle routes within the Village (e.g. creating a "park loop").

Goal #4: Serve as a steward to and increase public enjoyment and awareness of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and other natural, cultural, and historic areas.

Objectives:

- a. Increase public access to local lakes and rivers.
- b. Preserve and enhance other natural areas, like wetlands, floodplains, and environmental corridors.
- c. Support environmental sustainability in the design, use and maintenance of Village parks.

- d. Improve and increase the Village's tree canopy<sup>5</sup>.
- e. Protect and maintain Native American mounds located within the Village.
- f. Increase awareness and celebrate the history of McFarland and its natural resources.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Maintain and improve access to local waterways within existing waterfront public lands. Consider strategic purchases of property that increase public access to local lakes and rivers.
2. Enforce the Village's erosion control and stormwater management ordinances, ground water protection ordinance, shoreland-wetland ordinance, floodplain and other zoning ordinances to protect environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Use environmental best management practices in the management of Village-owned properties and roads, including but not limited to reductions in winter salt use, use of native landscaping, full cut-off lighting fixtures, water and energy efficient facilities.
4. Consider the addition of renewable energy systems (e.g. solar PV, EV charging stations, etc.) to existing and future parks.
5. Implement recommendations within the Village's Conservancy Management Plan. Update the plan as needed to reflect best practices and new conservancy additions.
6. Implement recommendations within the Village's Urban Forestry Management Plan, including annual funding for tree trimming, removal, and planting within Village parks and right-of-way. Update the plan as needed to reflect best practices and changes in the urban canopy.
7. Implement recommendations within the Village's Policy for Preservation & Maintenance of Native American Mounds. Update the plan as needed to reflect best practices in collaboration with representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
8. Add outdoor educational signage to Village parks and trails to raise awareness of the history, culture and environmental ecosystems.

Goal #5: To provide safe, reliable, and high-quality parks, trails and recreational equipment.

Objectives:

- a. Equipment, facilities, and play surfaces should be maintained to meet or exceed safety standards prescribed by applicable regulatory agencies.
- b. Maintain a schedule for park improvements consistent with adopted park master plans.
- c. Develop or update park master plans to guide long term improvements and assure the highest and best use of properties.

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<sup>5</sup> See the Urban Forestry Management Plan 2024, <https://www.mcfarland.wi.us/DocumentCenter/View/2968/Urban-Forestry-Management-Plan-2024-PDF>

- d. Reinforce the Village's brand through the development of park facilities.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Provide annual funding for the replacement of old and deteriorating equipment and safety surfacing.
2. Provide funding for the creation of park master plans for new parks, or those existing parks that do not have an existing park master plan. Update existing park master plans as needed. Park master plans should be adopted as an appendix to the CORP so future improvements are eligible for recreational grants.
3. As new parks are developed, and existing parks improved, utilize consistent park signage and facilities that reinforces the Village's brand.
4. Explore ways to better market our parks, conservancies and trails to the public.
5. Utilize the recommendations within this plan when updating the Village's Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Village Board Budget.

Goal #6: To use partnerships and all available resources to further enhance the use and development of parks, conservancies, trails, and recreational programming.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain mutual beneficial relationships with the local sports organizations, friend's groups, conservation organizations, other units of government, and the McFarland School District to advance community park and recreation goals, objectives and strategies.
- b. Maintain and increase public awareness of third-party certifications that align with promoting McFarland's recreational and environmental resources.
- c. Seek alternative funding sources to implement park, conservancy, and trail improvements.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Participant in regional planning of parks and outdoor recreational facilities that impact the Village, including neighboring municipalities, the Dane County Parks Department, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
2. Coordinate use and planning of public park and open space lands with local organizations such as local sports groups, MRAP, and friends groups.
3. Coordinate with the McFarland School District to provide mutually beneficial park facility and recreational programming to meet the needs of neighborhoods and the Village.
4. Support and foster volunteerism programs in the maintenance of Village parks.

5. Maintain or improve existing third-party certifications (e.g. Bird City, Tree City, etc.) and seek new designations from value-aligned organizations that would elevate the status of McFarland's park and recreation system.
6. Develop a non-lapsing endowment fund for parks donations to be used for park facility enhancements or land acquisition.
7. Consider alternative forms of financing including park permit fees, event fees, corporate sponsorships, fundraising, etc. to pay for the development and maintenance of park and recreational amenities.
8. Continue to research and apply for grant funding opportunities to support outdoor park project improvements to recreation facilities. This includes collaborative applications with public and private entities.

## CHAPTER 5: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Geographical Analysis

This chapter provides an analysis on existing park and recreational facilities using standards recommended by the National Recreational and Park Association (NRPA). The analysis discusses the results obtained from the public engagement (qualitative), data (quantitative) analysis of recreational activities in the Village, and a review of park locations (geographical).

### QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

#### Summary of Village Parks

Table 6 provides an overview of parks in McFarland. The table organizes the parks by park classification, ownership, and function. Total acreage of dedicated park and conservancy space is 575.9 acres, including McFarland School District and Dane County parklands. The total acreage of Village-owned parks is XXX acres, including conservancies and special purpose parks. Excluding areas designated as “natural area” (e.g. wetlands and floodplains) the total acreage of Village-owned parks is XXX acres.

#### Residents per Park

The NRPA report (what report?) categorizes various park data by population size, with the Village falling within the “Less Than 20,000” classification as shown in Figure 1 of the NRPA report.

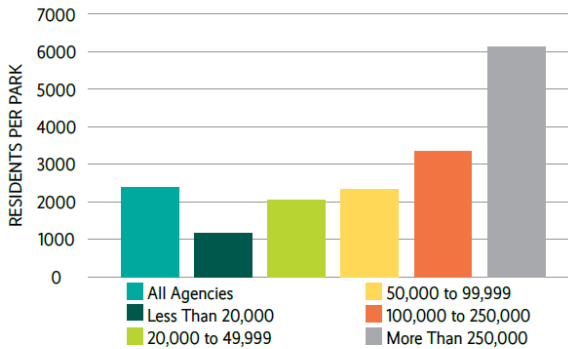
For jurisdictions with populations less than 20,000 people, the median number of residents per park is 1,172. Currently, there are 20 Village parks, excludes lake access points and conservancies, giving the Village a ratio of 484 residents per park, based on the 2024 DOA population estimate of 9,676.

**Table 6: Recreation Areas by Ownership, Park Type, and Function**

Type of Park & Ownership	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Natural Area	Special Facilities Area	Total Park Acreage
<b>Totlot/Mini - Village</b>					
Discovery Garden	0.2				
Ridgeview	0.4				
Valley Greenway	1.0				
<b>Total - Totlots</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Neighborhood Parks - Village</b>					
Arnold Larson Park	1.4				
Autumn Grove	1.5				
Cedar Ridge	3.9				
Egner	2.3				
Highland Oaks Park	2.2				
Juniper Ridge Park			1.5		
Siggelkow Road	5.5				
Woodland Estates	2.4				
Rosewood Fields	3.2				
<b>Total - Neighborhood Parks</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>24.8</b>
<b>Community Parks - Village</b>					
Brandt Park	4.9				
Community Park	26.0				
Lewis Park	6.4				
McDaniel Park	8.7				
William McFarland	20.3				
<b>Total - Community Parks</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>123.2</b>
<b>Conservancy Areas - Village</b>					
Woodland Commons		5.0			
Babcock Conservancy			139.9		
Grandview Conservancy			25.6		
Indian Mound			8.9		
Juniper Ridge Conservancy			8.9		
Legion Memorial (E)		3.6	11.4		
Marsh Woods			19.2		
McDaniel Park (N)			7.0		
Prairie Place Park (Eco Park)		1.2	8.6		
Taylor Road			5.9		
Thrun Marsh			8.2		
Upper Mud Lake			116.48		
Yahara River			1.8		
<b>Total - Conservancy Areas</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>361.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>371.7</b>
<b>Special Purpose Parks</b>					
Inclusive Park				0.9	
Urso Park			38.35	1.65	
Orchard Hill Park		16.9			
<b>Total - Special Purpose Parks</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>57.8</b>
<b>School District and Dane Co.</b>					
Primary and Elementary	6.0				
Waubesa Intermediate	17.6				
CTH. MN Ballfield	17.8				
McFarland Highschool				15.0	
Indian Mound Middle School	15.0				
Babcock County Park				36.4	
Upper Mud Lake Access Area		4.6			
<b>Total School Dist. And Dane Co.</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>112.4</b>
<b>Grand Total (All Recreation Areas)</b>	<b>146.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>363.4</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>575.9</b>

Including the Village’s 11 conservancies this ratio decreases to 312 residents per park, still well above the nation-wide average for communities under 20,000 residents.

**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER PARK (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	More Than 250,000
Median	2,386	1,172	2,062	2,346	3,344	6,120
Lower Quartile	1,333	659	1,233	1,489	2,173	3,274
Upper Quartile	5,000	1,944	3,000	4,048	7,039	18,586

### Acres per 1,000 Residents

In 2020, the Village updated the parkland dedication requirement based on a goal of 18 acres (excluding natural areas) per 1,000 residents, up from 16.3 in the 2019 CORP ([see Ordinance 2020-08](#)). Considering only Village active parklands, the Village currently has XXX acres per 1,000 residents. Considering all Village parklands, excluding natural areas, the Village has XXX acres per 1,000 residents. Table 7 includes the NRPA’s 2024 Standards for communities with populations of 20,000 or less. As stated previously, the NRPA does not establish standards for schools districts, conservancy areas, privately-owned properties, and special purpose parks. The population projection in Chapter 2 estimated the population at 9,676 as of January 1, 2024. Table 7 also calculates the demand needed to meet the NRPA’s guidelines by type of park.

[PLACEHOLDER – TABLE 7. Recreation acres per 1,000 persons]

	NRPA Guidelines	Village Park Facilities			School and Dane Co. Active and Passive Facilities		Total Acres per 1,000 persons
		Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 person	DEMAND	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons	
<b>Type of Park</b>	Acres/1000 persons						
<b>Mini-park</b>	0.50	1.6	0.17	4.81	0	0	0.17
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	2.00	24.8	2.58	19.25	0	0	2.58
<b>Community Park</b>	8.00	123.2	12.80	77.00	0	0	12.80
<b>Conservancy Areas</b>	None	371.68	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
<b>Special purpose</b>	None	57.8	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
<b>Village properties total</b>	10.5	579.08	15.54	101.06	0	0	15.54
<b>School and Dane Co.</b>	None	0	0	0	71.4	7.9	7.94
<b>Total</b>	None	579.08	15.54	101.06	71.40	7.94	23.48

Used 2023 WDOA population estimate 9,625 to calculate acres per 1,000 persons

Among Neighborhood and Community Parks, the Village provides a surplus in acreage for these park types. However, in the mini-parks, the NRPA guideline recommends 4.81 acres. However, this does not mean that the Village should focus on adding only mini-parks to meet this standard. Instead, the Village should focus on adding mini-parks only in strategic locations where the addition meets a locational need. Generally speaking, it is more important to focus on having sufficient supply of neighborhood and community parks as these parks provide larger areas to accommodate a broader range of recreational facilities.

Table 8 compares the NRPA Guidelines of 10.5 and Village Standard of 18.0. To achieve comparable standards, the Village’s three categories of parks were proportionally calculated to maintain consistent distribution with the NRPA’s guidelines. For each guideline and standard, the demand column provides the minimum acreage required for the park type. Based on the Village’s standard, current facilities show that the Village is deficient among all park types.

However, as Table 8 gradually incorporates more park types (Special parks and Conservancy areas), the deficiencies shift to surplus. The addition of Special Parks alone, 57.8 acres, provides a surplus in park supply. By the time the table accounts for all park types identified, the Village is at a significant surplus. It is important to not dismiss the deficiencies shown, as the main three park types still contribute to the Village’s Standard of 18.0, therefore additional opportunities for acquisition or parkland dedication should still be pursued.

[PLACEHOLDER – TABLE 8. Supply and Deficit.]

Table 8. Supply and Deficit									
Type of Park	NRPA Guidelines		Village Standards		Current Village Park Facilities		Surplus/Deficit		
	Acres/1000 persons	DEMAND	Acres/1000 persons	DEMAND	Total Acres	Acres/ 1,000 persons	NRPA Guideline	VOM Standard	
Mini-park	0.50	4.81	0.86	8.25	1.6	0.17	-3.21	-6.65	
Neighborhood Park	2.00	19.25	3.43	33.00	24.8	2.58	5.55	-8.20	
Community Park	8.00	77.00	13.71	132.00	123.2	12.80	46.20	-8.80	
<b>Active Parks Only</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>101.06</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>173.25</b>	<b>149.60</b>	<b>15.54</b>	<b>48.54</b>	<b>-23.65</b>	
Special Purpose	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	57.8	6.01	0.00	0.00	
<b>Active + Special Parks</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>101.06</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>173.25</b>	<b>207.40</b>	<b>21.55</b>	<b>48.54</b>	<b>34.15</b>	
Conservancy Areas	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	371.68	38.62	0.00	0.00	
<b>Active + Special + Conservancy (total)</b>	<b>10.50</b>	<b>101.06</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>173.25</b>	<b>579.08</b>	<b>60.16</b>	<b>48.54</b>	<b>405.83</b>	

Used 2023 WDOA population estimate 9,625 to calculate acres per 1,000 persons

### Park Demand Projection by 2040

Table 9 utilizes the population projections cited in Table 2 - Chapter 2, to predict park demand in later years up until 2040. The Village is projected to have a population of 13,378 by 2040, a growth of 3,702 since 2024. Assuming the 18 acres per 1,000 standard remains unchanged during this time period, the following park distribution should be as included. By 2040, the Village will need to add approximately 67.55 acres of active parkland to accommodate the population growth.

Table 9: Park Demand Projection by 2040 (18.0 ac./1,000 residents)							
	Village Standards	Current (WDOA Est.)	Housing Needs Assessment Medium Growth Projection				Difference 2023-2040
			2023	2025	2030	2035	
	Acres/1000 persons						
<b>Population</b>		9,625	9,930	10,967	12,113	13,378	3,753
<b>Mini Park</b>	0.86	8.25	8.51	9.40	10.38	11.47	3.22
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	3.43	33.00	34.05	37.60	41.53	45.87	12.87
<b>Community Park</b>	13.71	132.00	136.18	150.40	166.12	183.47	51.47
<b>Totals</b>	18.00	173.25	178.74	197.41	218.03	240.80	67.55

\*Used 2023 WDOA population estimate 9,625 to calculate acres per 1,000 persons

## QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

### PUBLIC SURVEY

An online public survey was available May 9 through June 9, 2024, receiving 523 total responses. Compared to 259 responses from the 2018 survey, this doubled the responses received. To achieve this, the planning team utilized multiple methods of distribution to capture a wide range of responses

which include emails, posts on various Village social media, and fliers with QR codes. The following results are highlights from the survey.

- Largest age group of respondents – ages 30-39 (29.5%)
- Highest response of households with children (ages 19 or younger) was in the 5-14 year category, 58.7%
- Area E is the area of highest response rate, 37.48%
- 82% of McFarland residents reported going to McFarland Parks regularly

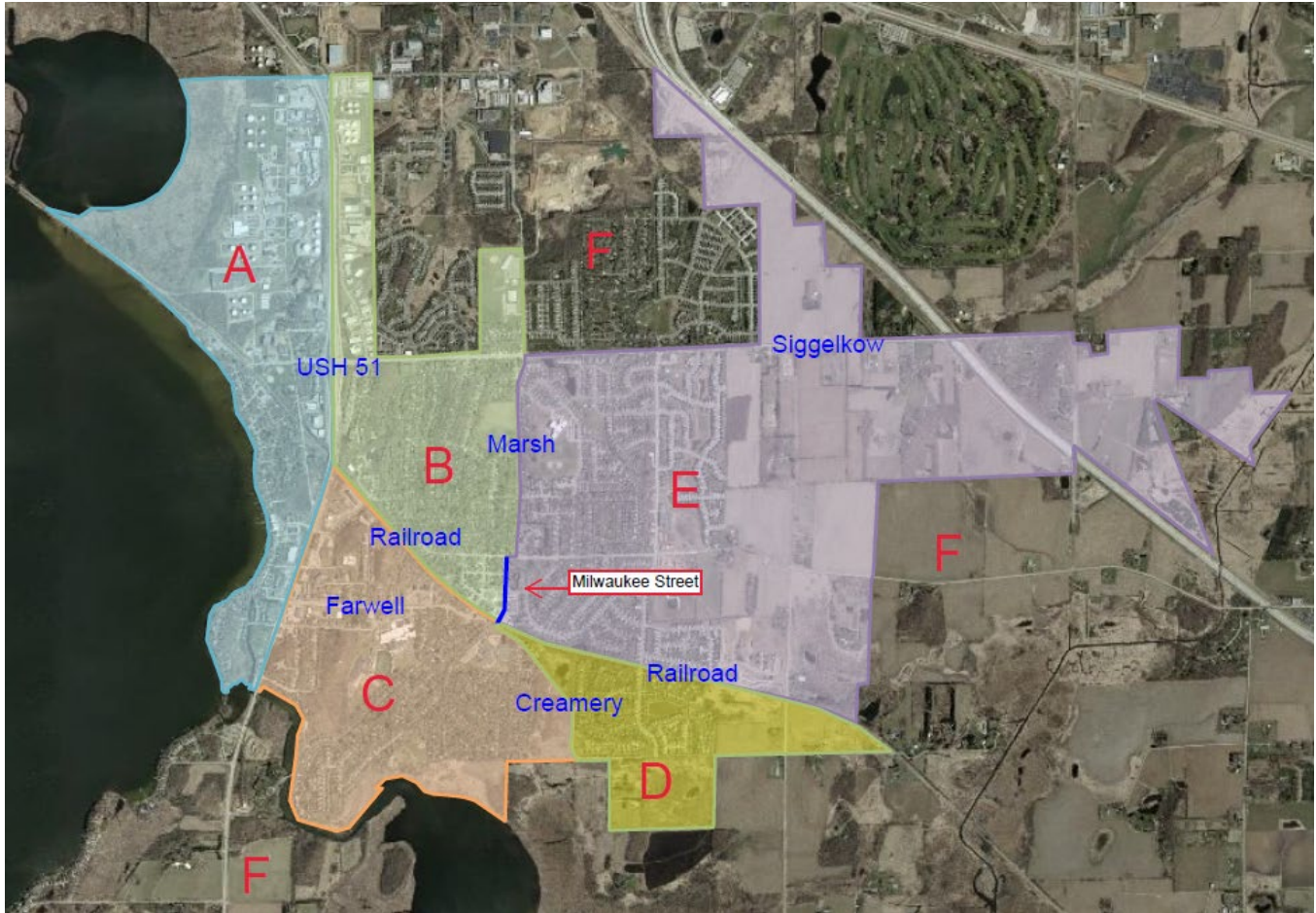


Figure 3. The following map was included in Question 5 of the survey. Area E, area with highest response rate, includes areas north of the railroad and east of Marsh Road and Milwaukee Street.

### Public Information Meeting, May 15, 2024

A Public Information Meeting was hosted by the Planning team to engage the public in discussion about desired amenities and gaps within the current parks. The meeting included large printed maps where attendees could identify locations and discuss concerns or recommended improvements to park facilities and trails. A comment form was completed by attendees including concepts,

recommendations and desired amenities in the community. Some of the responses encouraged the following initiatives:

- *Dedicated space for event space planning (i.e. outdoor concerts or staging.)*
- *Expansion of facilities and programming to support biking for all ages. (assisted senior biking program)*

Public Information Meeting, January 15, 2025

To be completed.

**MCFARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Village Planning team met with McFarland School District Staff in May 2024 to discuss their plans on recreational facility needs and maintenance schedule. Although School District facilities are outside the jurisdiction of the Village, collaboration projects with the School District have been successful, such as the development of Inclusive Park at Waubesa Intermediate School. Discussion included a maintenance plan on school playgrounds, facilities maintenance, desired improvements to sports facilities. As a user of Village public parks when their facilities are at capacity, the School District’s recommendations discussed desired park amenities that would support extracurricular activities such as football and cross country and improvements for equitable use of parks.

**GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS**

Appendix XX provides several maps that provide a visual representation of the current open spaces within McFarland. The following describes the features of each map, the intended data they display and how this information can be used to identify gaps or deficits in the Village’s park system. The analysis focuses on Village owned properties and amenities, recognizing there may be school or county owned facilities that aid in addressing locational deficiencies. However, since these facilities are not owned or managed by the Village, consideration should be given to increasing Village amenities.

Map 1, Existing Parks & Trails

This map shows all existing parks and pathways within the Village as of 2024, including non-Village owned parks and recreational amenities.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 1]

[Analysis of Map 1]

Map 2, Existing Parks by Type

This map identifies parks by NRPA classification categories for mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks. Added to the table are several more categories that include Special Purpose Parks, Conservancies, Non-profit/School District Parks, Dane County & DNR Parks, and Privately owned. The

table in this map is specially modified to highlight the various types of parks described. The map highlights parks owned by the Village and parks not owned by the Village.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 2]

[Analysis of Map 2]

#### Map 3, 10-minute Walk Time to Village Park

This map includes an analysis based on The Trust for Public Land<sup>6</sup> which aims to promote equitable access to high-quality parks within a 10-minute walk. The metric is equivalent to approximately a half mile for an abled-body person. The analysis takes into consideration physical barriers such as traffic and pedestrian pathways that may impact the areas highlighted. The same analysis strategy is used in maps 5, 6, and 7.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 3]

[Analysis of Map 3]

#### Map 4, Park Service Area

This map provides three buffer zones based on park types regardless of barriers and limitations. The buffer zones increase with each type of park. Larger park types are expected to include more acreage, more amenities and service more of the surrounding area, and thus have a larger service area than smaller mini-parks.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 4]

[Analysis of Map 4]

#### Map 5, 10-minute walk time Village Parks with Playground

This map uses the 10-minute walk analysis to look at parks with playground structures. The analysis excludes existing structures that are not Village owned parks, such as School District. A playground structure or equipment would include, but is not limited to, a swing set, slide, monkey bars, etc. The gaps within the community identify areas where families and children of a certain age may be traveling further to

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 5]

[Analysis of Map 5]

#### Map 6, 10-minute walk time Village Parks with Restrooms

This map uses the 10-minute analysis to look at parks with temporary and permanent restrooms. Permanent restrooms include physical buildings with running water and flushing toilets, whereas temporary restrooms are porta potties. A hashed overlap layer shows locations that are served by both

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<sup>6</sup> Trust for Public Land website: <https://10minutewalk.org/>

temporary and permanent restrooms. The analysis does not consider shelters and facilities that are winterized, becoming temporarily unavailable for public use.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 6]

[Analysis of Map 6]

#### Map 7, 10-minute walk time Village Parks with Sport Amenity

This map uses the 10-minute analysis to look at parks with sports amenities. The planning team wanted to highlight parks that were capable of hosting sporting events and catered to multiple uses. The identification of parks should include sports fields such as soccer and football fields, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, baseball diamonds, etc. In general, these parks have larger green space areas that can support formal and informal active recreational uses.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 7]

[Analysis of Map 7]

#### Map 8, Future Parks and Open Space

This map identifies future parks and trails throughout the Village. For the Village to obtain DNR grant funding to support any potential future acquisitions, properties need to be identified within the plan for future park use. Acquisition of these parcels may be through a combination of developer land dedication or Village acquisition. The inclusion of properties for future parkland areas in the CORP does not create an obligation on the Village to acquire any parcels and properties listed, either through land dedication or outright purchase. The following parcels with a capital letter are the identified parcels for potential future acquisition or dedication during subdivision approvals. The following list summarizes the parcels, their address (if available) and the potential use of that parkland dedication. In many cases, additional analysis will be necessary to determine appropriate recreational uses of the property.

- A. Parcel #: 154-0710-343-2288-1; 4519 Siggelkow Road is identified as potential acquisition. The property is adjacent to Brandt Park. Possible uses include expansion of park uses and parking lot.
- B. Parcel #: 154/0710-343-5455-1; Former Well house #2, vacant lot along Bremer Road is already owned by the Village. Possible uses include a mini-park or community garden.
- C. Parcel #: 154/0610-102-8971-1; A vacant lot along Sleepy Hollow and Exchange Street, before the bridge that goes over Yahara River. This lot is currently owned by the Town of Dunn. There may be an opportunity for a jurisdictional transfer.
- D. Parcels #: 154/0610-102-8320-1 & 154/0610-101-8660-1; Potential/future acquisition. The two parcels present opportunities for trails, conservancy space, and to maintain as wetlands.

- E. Parcel #: 154/0610-031-7105-0; Potential acquisition. The parcel is adjacent to a Village owned lot, 6001 Bashford Street, a public parking lot. Potential use of this property would be to convert the existing sidewalk to wider Lower Yahara River Trail and expand existing public parking lot.
- F. Parcel #: 028/0610-112-8500-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. The parcel will maintain continuation of trails, conservancy space, and wetlands.
- G. Parcel # 028/0610-112-8000-6; Potential acquisition. Adjacent to Orchard Hill Park. May be utilized to improve amenities to the park, future trails, and reuse of existing shed for public works/parks staff and equipment.
- H. Parcel #: 154-0710-353-9553-1; Potential acquisition or partial parkland dedication. Currently used as a horse stable farm. The partial parkland dedication can provide an expansion or connection to the adjacent Ridgeview Park from Holscher Road.
- I. Parcel #: 154/0710-354-5225-1; Juniper Ridge Outlot 2 (1.4 acres). Currently owned by the Village. The East Side Plan identifies the potential to expand this outlot for future park development through adjacent parkland dedication. The future use could be combined with #J.
- J. Parcel #: 154/0710-354-8091-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. See #I.
- K. Parcel #: 154-0710-354-9811-1; Currently the Hope Rod & Gun Club. The property is included in the East Side Plan as a future parkland space should the Gun Club were to decide to relocate. The existing berm would support a sledding hill.
- L. Bike and Trail south of Siggelkow Road towards Community Park, east of I-39, then south along County AB per East Side Plan. Extension of this bike and trail will support safety to the park.
- M. Parcel #: 154/0711-313-8045-1; Property is owned by the School District. Potential acquisition or land exchange with School District for compatible uses with Community Park if the School District were to decide they no longer need to hold property for a future school.
- N. Parcels #: 154/0711-313-8004-1 & 154/0711-314-9002-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. This property is adjacent to the Community Park with possible uses to include mountain bike trails, pedestrian trails, and other park uses.
- O. Parcel #: 028-0610-112-8320-9; Potential acquisition. Similar to #G, the parcel may be utilized to improve amenities of the Orchard Hill park or for future trails.
- P. Lower Yahara River Trail; continuing from Urso park along Elvehjem Road, to Fish Camp. This is the County's final connection of the LYRT from McFarland to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Final location, whether on or off road, to be determined by the Dane County Parks. However, the Village is a partner in trying to keep this connection.
- Q. Parcel #: 154/0610-021-2775-1; Village Owned property. This 1-acre Outlot was acquired through land dedication during the development of Prairie Place subdivision. The parcel may be utilized as a recreational sledding hill or a mini-park. Minimal pathway connections would need to be installed to connect to the surrounding sidewalks and trails.

- R. Parcel #: 154/0610-033-6502-9; 6402 Jaeger Road. This potential acquisition is a privately owned minimally developed property. The parcel includes a through road connecting to Jaeger County Park and the Marsh Woods Conservancy entrance.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 8]

Discussion of 10-minute walk time Maps 3, 5, 6, and 7.

The 10-minute walk time analysis maps (Maps 3, 5, 6, and 7), show visual gaps in the community. The gap is consistently shown within the southwest quadrant of McFarland along South Court (west of HWY 51) and Yahara Drive (east of HWY51). Through a combination of no Village parks located in the area and HWY 51 as a barrier, the gap becomes a significant limitation to both sides. Although it is possible to assume that the nearby Babcock County Park can provide the location with recreational opportunities, these are not Village owned properties and therefore improvements to the site may alter the park use.

## CHAPTER 6: Recommendations

This chapter provides recommendations for Village-owned parks and trails. This chapter is divided into four subsections *Existing Parks*, *New Parks & Trails*, *Other Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements*, and *General Recommendations*. It should be noted that not all recommendations in this section will be completed during the 5-year lifetime of this plan. Some items may require additional collaboration with entities including McFarland School District, MRAP or other recreational association, adjacent municipalities, Dane County and the State. Some recommendations rely on opportunity, which may not present itself within the next five years. The purpose of this chapter is to guide Village Staff on the administration of improvements or be incorporated through annual Capital Improvement Plans. Village Staff may consider any unfinished recommendations to be carried over into the next CORP update as needed.

The recommendations for each park include a list of improvements to be implemented. The Village Parks Superintendent, or designee, will identify priority projects with the Parks & Recreation Committee, and other related Village committees as needed, to determine which recommendations are to be initiated.

While it is essential to consider improvements that further enhance the enjoyment and use of existing parks, this plan does not abandon ongoing tasks the Village Parks crew routinely complete throughout the year. These tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- mowing, landscaping, and weeding
- replacing/repairing existing facilities and equipment
- replenishing playground surface materials
- snow removal and winterization of park shelters
- maintaining a safe and accessible environment across all Village-owned facilities and trails
- maintenance of walkable and usable recreational trails.

### 1. EXISTING PARKS

This section of the chapter includes a list of recommendations for existing Village Parks. The park inventory from Chapter 3, analysis from Chapter 4, existing park master plans, the Village's 2020 Inclusive Park Playground Master Plan, and 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan were used to develop the recommendations. A summary table listing all the recommendations for each existing park is included in Appendix X.

Pedestrian Lake Access – There are currently seven lake access points located along Lake Waubesa. Each location provides public passive lake viewing and non-motorized lake water access. These seven locations include: Beckler Street, Bellevue Court, Field Avenue, Lake View Avenue, Larson Street, South Court, and Wisconsin Avenue. Recommendations for all locations are:

- Maintain visibility of public access signage at each location
- Assess feasibility of pathway installation leading to the water and benches at lake access points.

### Mini Parks

Discovery Garden, 5920 Milwaukee Street

- Following the future decommissioning of Well House #1, add an open air shelter with possible permanent all-gender restroom.
- Expand the park to include an outdoor plaza space per the recommendations in the 2023 Municipal Center Campus Plan as part of the renovation of the Municipal Center into a Community Center. If Milwaukee Street is not closed to vehicular traffic from Long Street to Anthony Street, improve the existing mid-block cross walk pavement marking that connects the Library to the Municipal Center similar to the crosswalk painting at Long and Main Street.
- Add musical instruments for sensory play.
- Provide at least one ADA picnic table with paved access.





[Placeholder for image of Discovery Garden park]

#### Ridgeview Tot Lot, 5323 Black Walnut Drive

- Add a temporary restroom.
- Add an accessible path from the sidewalk/street to the playground equipment.
- Add street signs approaching the park on the east side of Chestnut Lane to alert drivers to the presence of children.
- Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments, low steppers, and balance bar.
- Consider expansion of the park as part of future development of land to the east (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation “H”). Develop a park master plan for the expanded park.



[Image of teeter-totter is example of a park sign, eliminating language as a barrier]

[Placeholder for image of Ridgeview park]

Valley Tot lot, 5100 Broadhead Street

- Add an accessible path from the sidewalk/street to the playground equipment.

Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments, low steppers, and balance bar.

[Placeholder for image of Valley park]

### Neighborhood Parks

Arnold Larson, 6002 Exchange Street

- Implement site improvements included in the 2025 Redevelopment District 2 concepts [Plan link to be included], including:
  - Band shell/shelter with permanent restrooms and event storage room
  - Food truck plaza
  - New turf, lawn, bermed seating, and landscaping
  - Improvements to existing Lower Yahara River Trail (west side) and new sidewalk (east side) parallel with the railroad along the north lot line to the existing Exchange Street sidewalk
  - Add Village branded bike racks and bike repair station.
  - Install outdoor community history signs
  - Install electronic information sign at the corner of Farwell, Exchange, and Bashford Streets.
- Consider the location for a second bike share station (alternative location if the public parking lot on Bashford Street is not viable).

[Placeholder for image of Arnold Larson park]

[Placeholder for image of Larson Park Enhancement Plan from Redevelopment District Plan #2]

Autumn Grove Park, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane

- Add an accessible path from the Falling Leaves Lane to the playground equipment.
- Add an accessible sand digger and accessible swing along the accessible path.
- Installation of supporting playground structures, such as benches, shade structures and drinking fountains.
- Add a small open-air shelter.
- Add a permanent restroom (e.g. similar to the structure added at Highland Oaks)

[Placeholder for image of Autumn Grove park]

Cedar Ridge Park, 5303 Wild Cherry Lane

- Update the concept plan from the 2020 Inclusive Park Playground Master Plan given the 2024 construction of Inclusive Park at Waubesa Intermediate School.

[Placeholder for image of Cedar Ridge park]

[Placeholder for image of Cedar Ridge 2020 Concept Plan]

Egner Park, 5703 Bird Song Court

- Add accessible paths to the basketball court and playground.
- Replace/rehabilitate the existing shelter/Well House #4 including permanent all-gender restroom, drinking fountains, and accessible picnic tables and benches.
- Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments, low steppers, and balance bar.
- Add a pour in place rubber path to the ground level components.
- Replace the stairs on the smaller structure with an accessible ramp.

[Placeholder for image of Egner park]

Highland Oaks, 5945 Osborn Drive

- Recent improvements completed in 2024 include a new all-gender permanent restroom, park playground equipment, drinking fountain, benches, and ADA ramp.
- Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments, accessible swing or group spinner with accessible surfacing.
- Replace mulch with sand in digging area.
- Add street signs approaching the park on the east side of Osborn Drive to alert drivers to the presence of children.
- .

[Placeholder for image of Highland Oaks park with new restroom structure]

Juniper Ridge

- Add an accessible path to the existing shelter and playground from the existing path.
- Install shading structures near playground equipment.
- Install drinking fountain.
- Add temporary restroom.

[Placeholder for image of Juniper Ridge park]

## Rosewood Fields

Prior to approval of this plan, the Village had not officially accepted the parkland from the developer. The developer installed the initial park improvements, following the transfer of ownership to the Village, the following are additional recommendations.

- Consider the addition of shading structures and water drinking fountain.
- Include pet waste bag and disposal.
- Include Village branded bike rack.
- Install park signage.
- Add a permanent restroom (e.g. similar to the structure added at Highland Oaks)

[Placeholder for image of Rosewood Fields park]

## Siggelkow Road, 5002 Valley Drive

- Develop a park master plan. Public input for master park planning should consider comments from the neighborhood north across Siggelkow Road in the City of Madison.
- Maintain preservation of adjacent Native American mounds.

## Woodland Estates Park, 5601 Glenway Street

- Develop a park master plan. Plan to include replacement of play structures and playground surface material, additional pathway surfaces with ADA accessibility, drinking fountain, and permanent all-gender restrooms.
- Add an accessible path from Cardinal Drive to the park between 5512 and 5602 Cardinal Drive. Additional park signage on Cardinal Drive entrance to promote park location.

[Placeholder for image of park]

## Community Parks

### Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road

- Update to existing main shelter facility to include all-gender restroom.
- Add batting cages.
- Implement site improvements included in the 2025 Redevelopment District 1 concepts [Plan link to be included], including:
  - Acquisition of adjacent 4519 Siggelkow Road (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation "A") for parking lot addition, includes reposition of playground area as needed.
  - Erling Avenue on-street parking and path improvements
  - Terminal Drive off-street parking lot and path improvements

- Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments or group spinner with accessible surfacing.

[Placeholder for image of park]

[Placeholder for image of Brandt Park concepts from Redevelopment District Plan #1]

#### Community Park, 3234 County Highway AB

- Continue implementation of the 2021 park master plan, maintain ongoing conversations with stakeholders and park users on future facility amenities.
- Develop an off-road path along Siggelkow Road and CTH AB to the park entrance (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation “L”).
- Consider future expansion for the park (Future Parks & Trails Recommendations “M” and “N”).

[Placeholder for image of 2021 park master plan concept]

#### Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive

- Continue implementation of the 2024 water access plan, including ADA accessible boardwalk, kayak rack, and kayak launch.
- Update the 2015 park master plan as needed.
- Add an accessible path to the playground. Provide accessible play surfacing to transfer station and nearest slide.
- Move sand diffing area close to the path and provide an accessible route and differ.
- Replace one of the swing sets with a group swing with accessible surfacing.
- Add street signs approaching the park on the west side of Lewis Lane to alert drivers to the presence of children.
- Provide amenities to support opportunities for passive recreational activities and connections to adjacent trails.
- Install additional shared bike and pedestrian pathways that connect to adjacent hiking trails

[Placeholder for image of park]

#### McDaniel Park, 4806 McDaniel Lane

- Complete implementation of [McDaniel Park Master Plan, 2017](#).
- Implement site improvements included in the 2025 Redevelopment District 1 concepts [\[Plan link to be included\]](#), including expanded parking lot.
- Maintain pier and construct second public pier along the north beach.

- Should the adjacent residential properties become available for acquisition, exercise opportunities to expand park amenities or mixed-use development per the 2025 Redevelopment District 1 plan.
- Provide accessible play surfacing to transfer station and nearest slide.
- Replace one of the seeing sets with a group swing with accessible surfacing.
- Continue to collaborate with the WDNR on a public beach and water filtration system.
- Continue to collaborate with Dane County on lake water access projects and Lower Yahara River Trail

[Placeholder for image of park]

#### William McFarland Park, 4820 Marsh Road

- Continue implementation of the 2021 park master plan including:
  - Installation of additional bocce ball lanes.
  - Installation of new playground
  - Installation of new youth baseball and softball diamonds. Consider inclusion of moveable pitching mounds in order to utilize diamonds for multiple age groups and uses.
  - Installation of basketball courts
  - Installation of outdoor ice rink
  - Installation of outdoor fitness area/equipment
  - New recreational paths along Marsh Road and connecting to existing paths in the City of Madison
  - New community swimming pool and/or splash pad
- Maintain dialogue with the McFarland Hockey Club and McFarland Curling Club for future improvements, including expansion projects.

[Placeholder for image of park]

[Placeholder for image of 2021 park master plan concept]

#### Special Purpose Parks

##### Inclusive Park, 5605 Red Oak Trail

- Continue collaborative implementation of the 2023 Inclusive Park master plan with the McFarland School District. Including construction of new park shelter with restrooms and concessions.
- Continue cooperative responsibilities associated with the maintenance and upkeep of Inclusive Park installation.

[Placeholder for image of 2023 park master plan concept]

Orchard Hill Park, 2860 Hidden Farm Road

- Develop park master plan. Amenities should include:
  - Permanent restrooms.
  - Drinking fountain
  - Additional park benches and bike racks
  - Assess the condition of existing buildings and structures on the property whether to update, replace, or make additions.
  - Assess future bike and pedestrian trails connections at this park location
- Master park planning should include conceptual uses of potential acquisition of adjacent properties 3625 Elvehjem Road (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation “G”) and 2840 Hidden Farm Road (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation “O”).
- Coordinate with the Dane County Parks Department on connections to trails on adjacent County owned properties.

[Placeholder for image of Orchard Hill park]

[Placeholder for map of disc golf course]

Urso Park, 6300 Elvehjem Road

- Collaborate with Dane County Parks to assess the park for future connections to the Lower Yahara River Trail.
- Coordinate with the Dane County Parks Department on connections to trails on adjacent County owned properties

[Placeholder for image of park]

[Placeholder for image of 2017 park master plan concept]

## 2. NEW PARKS & TRAILS

The addition of new parks ensures that the Village continues to meet the recreational demand of a growing community. Discussed in **Table 9, Chapter 4 [number may change once updated]**, the Village projects a population growth of 3,753 and the resulting need for approximately **68 acres** of additional parkland by 2040. Potential parks and recreational uses identified in Map 8 of Chapter 6 provide a starting point for potential acquisition and parkland dedication. This plan does not require the acquisition or ownership of all the identified properties, especially within the next 5-years. Some parcels and properties may rely on availability, leaving some parcels not possible within the next five

years. This plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different types of parks, trails, conservancy areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, budgeting, and discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

Map 8 identifies future parks and trails throughout the Village. For the Village to obtain DNR grant funding to support any potential future acquisitions, properties need to be identified within the plan for future park use. Acquisition of these parcels may be through a combination of developer land dedication or Village acquisition. The inclusion of properties for future parkland areas in the CORP does not create an obligation on the Village to acquire any parcels and properties listed, either through land dedication or outright purchase. The following parcels with a capital letter are the identified parcels for potential future acquisition or dedication during subdivision approvals. The following list summarizes the parcels, their address (if available) and the potential use of that parkland dedication. In many cases, additional analysis will be necessary to determine appropriate recreational uses of the property.

- A. Parcel #: 154-0710-343-2288-1; 4519 Siggelkow Road is identified as potential acquisition. The property is adjacent to Brandt Park. Possible uses include expansion of park uses and parking lot.
- B. Parcel #: 154/0710-343-5455-1; Former Well house #2, vacant lot along Bremer Road is already owned by the Village. Possible uses include a mini-park or community garden.
- C. Parcel #: 154/0610-102-8971-1; A vacant lot along Sleepy Hollow and Exchange Street, before the bridge that goes over Yahara River. This lot is currently owned by the Town of Dunn. There may be an opportunity for a jurisdictional transfer.
- D. Parcels #: 154/0610-102-8320-1 & 154/0610-101-8660-1; Potential/future acquisition. The two parcels present opportunities for trails, conservancy space, and to maintain as wetlands.
- E. Parcel #: 154/0610-031-7105-0; Potential acquisition. The parcel is adjacent to a Village owned lot, 6001 Bashford Street, a public parking lot. Potential use of this property would be to convert the existing sidewalk to wider Lower Yahara River Trail and expand existing public parking lot.
- F. Parcel #: 028/0610-112-8500-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. The parcel will maintain continuation of trails, conservancy space, and wetlands.
- G. Parcel # 028/0610-112-8000-6; Potential acquisition. Adjacent to Orchard Hill Park. May be utilized to improve amenities to the park, future trails, and reuse of existing shed for public works/parks staff and equipment.
- H. Parcel #: 154-0710-353-9553-1; Potential acquisition or partial parkland dedication. Currently used as a horse stable farm. The partial parkland dedication can provide an expansion or connection to the adjacent Ridgeview Park from Holscher Road.

- I. Parcel #: 154/0710-354-5225-1; Juniper Ridge Outlot 2 (1.4 acres). Currently owned by the Village. The East Side Plan identifies the potential to expand this outlot for future park development through adjacent parkland dedication. The future use could be combined with #J.
- J. Parcel #: 154/0710-354-8091-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. See #I.
- K. Parcel #: 154-0710-354-9811-1; Currently the Hope Rod & Gun Club. The property is included in the East Side Plan as a future parkland space should the Gun Club were to decide to relocate. The existing berm would support a sledding hill.
- L. Bike and Trail south of Siggelkow Road towards Community Park, east of I-39, then south along County AB per East Side Plan. Extension of this bike and trail will support safety to the park.
- M. Parcel #: 154/0711-313-8045-1; Property is owned by the School District. Potential acquisition or land exchange with School District for compatible uses with Community Park if the School District were to decide they no longer need to hold property for a future school.
- N. Parcels #: 154/0711-313-8004-1 & 154/0711-314-9002-1; Potential acquisition or parkland dedication. This property is adjacent to the Community Park with possible uses to include mountain bike trails, pedestrian trails, and other park uses.
- O. Parcel #: 028-0610-112-8320-9; Potential acquisition. Similar to #G, the parcel may be utilized to improve amenities of the Orchard Hill park or for future trails.
- P. Lower Yahara River Trail; continuing from Urso park along Elvehjem Road, to Fish Camp. This is the County's final connection of the LYRT from McFarland to Lake Kegonsa State Park. Final location, whether on or off road, to be determined by the Dane County Parks. However, the Village is a partner in trying to keep this connection.
- Q. Parcel #: 154/0610-021-2775-1; Village Owned property. This 1-acre Outlot was acquired through land dedication during the development of Prairie Place subdivision. The parcel may be utilized as a recreational sledding hill or a mini-park. Minimal pathway connections would need to be installed to connect to the surrounding sidewalks and trails.
- R. Parcel #: 154/0610-033-6502-9; 6402 Jaeger Road. This potential acquisition is a privately owned minimally developed property. The parcel includes a through road connecting to Jaeger County Park and the Marsh Woods Conservancy entrance.

### Outdoor Park Facility

Table 10 indicates the number of activity-related facilities in the Village. This table combines School District and Dane County facilities together, separating them from Village owned facilities. The Village's facility future needs were determined using the projected population of 13,378. Based on NRPA standards for the facility type in communities with a population of 20,000 or less, the table suggests that the Village needs 5 more baseball diamonds, 1 additional ice rink and 1 splash pad by 2040. Rectangular fields include field sports such as soccer, football, la crosse, and rugby.

Table 40 Outdoor Park Facilities

Facility Type	NRPA Standard No./Person (>20,000 pop.)*	Number of Suggested based on WDOA Population of 9,625	VOM Current Facilities	School District & Dane County	VOM Future Needs (2040)
Playground/play structure	1,990	4.8	14	2	6.7
Diamond (baseball/softball)	1,833	5.3	2	4	7.3
Basketball Court	4,366	2.2	6	6	3.1
Rectangular Fields	2,493	3.9	10	3	5.4
Tennis Courts	3,074	3.1	8	8	4.4
Totlots	5,323	1.8	3	0	2.5
Ice Rink	8,015	1.2	1	0	1.7
Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	12,756	0.8	0	0	1.0

\*Based on NRPA 2024 Agency Performance Review

### 3. OTHER BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

The previous section includes references to some of the more high-profile future public trails. Map 8 also identifies many other locations for future bicycle lanes, sidewalks, walking paths and multi-use trails. Walking pathways and sidewalks share similarities when discussing their purpose. The key differences include location and material used. Both provide dedicated pedestrian space connecting users to their destination. Sidewalks are typically located along the outside of a parcel, in the right-of-way, adjacent to streets and roadways. Materials typically include concrete, asphalt or brick<sup>7</sup>. Pathways vary a bit more, accommodating various multimodal uses. Pathways also vary in their width compared to sidewalks and can be located along right-of-way and within parcels, often used to connect one use to another. Materials vary depending on their locations from gravel, mulch, asphalt or concrete.

### 4. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This section includes recommendations not associated with any one park but may apply to one or more parks. Some of the following recommendations are ongoing tasks and do not have an associated timeframe with them.

- A. Consider the installation of “little libraries” within Village parks.
- B. The Village of McFarland’s Community & Economic Development Department is to commit biennial years (two years intervals), review of park impact fees and park assessment fees related to zoning and park land dedication, fees in lieu of to maintain consistency with relevant developmental demand.
- C. New construction for proposed development prompting the requirements under Article 56-VI Park and Public Land Dedications of the Village Code of Ordinance, shall meet the standards established in this section related to land dedications, park-land impact, fees in lieu of, and parkland dedication.

<sup>7</sup> <https://constructowiki.com/pathways-vs-walkways-whats-the-real-difference/>

- D. Ensure the preservation of natural resources throughout the Village continues to contribute to the hydrologic systems and wildlife habitat. This includes protection of wetland and floodplain areas, marshes, and rivers, which add to passive recreational opportunities in the Village as potential focal points of natural beauty and exploration.
- E. Evaluate feasibility to include multiple access points throughout Village parks compliant with ADA standards.
- F. Installation of interpretative signs along sidewalks, pathways, trails, and throughout the Village Park system, where appropriate.
- G. Cooperate in coordinated regional planning with other governmental bodies, School District, and organizations in recreational projects. For example, provide shared recreation programs and services or work with School District for Safe Routes to School<sup>8</sup> improvements.
- H. Develop parks as multi-use fields when feasible. For example, a field could be designed so that it is useful for both football and lacrosse. Care should be taken so that overuse of the fields does not limit use and playability. This may include artificial turf material or any alternative permeable non-grass material.
- I. Consider applying for additional third-party park and natural resource designations. Current recognition includes Bird City USA and Tree City USA. Example designations to pursue:
  1. [Wisconsin Bike Federation](#)
  2. [Playful City USA](#)
  3. [Bee City USA](#).
- J. Development of park master plans should continue to include elements for green infrastructure<sup>9</sup>, features which help to reduce the impacts of stormwater and weather-related events leading to flooding and contamination of natural wetland systems.
- K. Include the use of native and pollinator friendly landscaping in existing and new parks.
- L. Maintain Village Parks webpage to include most up to date information concerning park improvements, closures, shelter rental, and other offerings.
- M. Review and update this plan every five years as a matter of best practice and to maintain eligibility for state and federal park and recreational grant programs.

[Placeholder for Bird City USA and Tree City USA logos]

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

<sup>9</sup> [The EPA defines Green Infrastructure in Section 502 of the Clean Water Act](#) as “...the range of measures that use plan to soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspiration stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters.”



## CHAPTER 7 – IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter discusses the process used to adopt and amend this plan and the tools the Village can use to implement the strategies in Chapter 5 and the recommendations from Chapter 6.

### 1. PLAN ADOPTION, AMENDMENTS & UPDATES

This plan shall be adopted by the Village Board via approval of a resolution, following review and recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Committee, Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee, and the Plan Commission. The CORP 2025-2029 is a document used to guide the park system as it grows. Adoption of the CORP 2025-2029 is a commitment from the Village, recognizing recreation opportunities and dedicated open space add to the overall health and enjoyment in our community. The goals, objectives, policies, strategies and recommendations outline the direction of future recreation while creating new opportunities.

A comprehensive update to this plan should be completed every five years. Plan updates should begin within the last year of the five-year window to maintain continuous eligibility for certain grant programs. Plan updates not only maintain eligibility but reassess current demographic trends, open space addition, and or accommodates for major community shifts. Minor plan amendments may be required in between 5-year updates, particularly where the Village may be seeking Wisconsin DNR grant funds for a project not specifically included within the CORP. As new park master plans are adopted they should be approved as an amendment to this CORP with a copy of the park master plan concept included in Appendix C.

### 2. FUNDING

The following section identifies funding opportunities to implement the recommendations within this plan in addition to annual Capital borrowing and General Fund financing.

#### Stewardship Local Assistance

The Wisconsin DNR includes several grant opportunities the Village should pursue relating to recreational grant improvements. These grant programs operate on a rolling basis with applications typically due May 1st. There are four Stewardship Local Assistance (SLA) and two federal recreation grant programs. The following table summarizes some available grant funding and their designated deadlines.

- [PARC and Ride Grant Program](#)

[PLACEHOLDER FOR TABLE OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS]

#### NRPA Grant and Fundraising Resources

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) periodically posts information about grant and fundraising opportunities that are available for park and recreation agencies, affiliated friends group, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits. With several opportunities to choose from, this increases the likelihood of collaborative projects.

- <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/grant-fundraising-resources/>
- Funding Amount: Varies
- Availability: Rolling and Upcoming

### Tax Increment Financing

As of the adoption of this plan, the Village has 4 Tax Increment Districts (TID). TIDs located close to or including Village parks have the potential to receive financing assistance for possible parkland/trail acquisition and development, depending on the type of TID. Per State Statue 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as they are an eligible expense in the TID Project Plan. Some projects may include trails, sidewalks, multimodal shared road improvements. One example completed in the Village is the roadway reconstruction of Terminal Drive, which included sidewalks and a multi-use path. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TID can be used to pay for, generally the costs of constructing public buildings (e.g. park shelters) cannot be funded with TIF.

### Park Impact Fees

Requirements for parkland dedication, or fees in lieu of parkland dedication, are regulated under [Chapter 56, Article VI Park and Public Land Dedication, Sec. 56-172](#) of the Village Municipal Code of Ordinance. The section prescribes the Village's standards for minimum requirements of land dedication, park-land impact feet in lieu of parkland dedication. [Chapter 8, Article x, Section 8-464](#) also provides regulations regarding park improvement impact fees and parkland impact fees, and other impact fees. The associated fees can be found in [Appendix A Fees](#). All fees paid and accepted land dedication are utilized by the Village toward future park and trail improvements and land acquisition. Park impact fees are established based on this CORP and the Village's Public Facility Needs Assessment. The later should be updated following adoption of this plan. Park impact fees are also adjusted annual by the Village based on the Consumer Price Index—All Urban Consumers-Midwest Region prepared by the United States Department of Labor.

### Community Fundraising & Volunteer Groups

Community groups (e.g. friends of parks) and civic organizations (e.g. Lions Club) are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with costs, programming, and upkeep. These groups can support specific parks on an ongoing basis or lead one-time large capital fundraising efforts. They may also be able to organize volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail

creation, maintenance, or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgment on a plaque or sign at the site.

#### Park Endowment Fund

The Village could establish an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund is a self-sustaining account in which assets are invested. The annual disbursement amount of the fund is a set percent of assets, generally smaller than the accrued interest amount, which allows the value of the fund and assets to grow over time. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to provide ongoing donations to the Village's park system with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are tax deductible under federal and state law.

### **3. COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

#### McFarland School District

The Village and School District have long collaborated in projects together. Both public entities should continue their efforts to communicate and find opportunities to work on joint project planning to advance recreational opportunities. The following items are some of the School District's priority recreational needs.

- The school stadium field is constrained with many scheduled users. As an alternative, District Coaching Staff are finding alternative fields for sport practices and are struggling to find space that do not create barriers to student athletes.
- At William McFarland Park, the conceptual baseball/softball diamonds fields shown in the park's master plan should be constructed to accommodate a wide range of age groups, such as variable pitching mounds and outfield adjustments for recreational and tournament use.
- At Community Park, a home field cross-country course is desired to meet the needs for future events.
- General indoor court space. The repurposing of the old fire truck bay at the Municipal Center as part of the planned Community Center would help to provide additional indoor recreational space.

#### McFarland Recreation Activities & Play (MRAP) and all other recreational organizations

MRAP is a coalition of recreational organizations that facilitate the participation of youth and adult recreational sports throughout the Village. There are other recreational organizations in and around the Village, including youth soccer, baseball, and hockey organizations. The Village should maintain

ongoing communication with recreational organizations on facility needs, sporting events, and collaborate to develop improvements to grow programming needs.

### Volunteers

Volunteer help has contributed greatly to project success throughout the Village. Recruitment of volunteers can be a great source of help and labor assistance. Creating volunteer opportunities and stewardship on the growth of recreational facilities, such as trail construction, can provide intrinsic rewards. The Village should utilize community fund raising, volunteer labor and donated materials to the greatest extent possible. From community groups to youth organizations, these individuals often make significant contributions to our community.

## APPENDIX

- Appendix A: File name 1
- Appendix B: File name 2
- Appendix C: File name 3
- Appendix D: File name 4
- Appendix E: File name 5