

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

6:30 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/89869807654>

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

Webinar ID: 898 6980 7654

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 Parks and Recreation 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 public.works@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 March 4, 2025, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. Discussion and action regarding placement of an educational bird sign
- b. Discussion regarding the updated Village Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreational Plan.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a. Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

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.

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Fessler called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:30 PM in the community room of the Municipal Center. This meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Luke Fessler, Alisa Leamy, Anita Iwanski, Sarah Kuba, Tanya Lancaster, Jessica Tokar, Lori Wisnicky

Members not present: n/a

Staff Present: Public Works Director Lee Igl, Parks Superintendent Sayer Larson, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategist Krystal Johnson, Village Administrator Matt Schuenke, Parkitecture staff Blake Thiesen, and Iconica staff Abby Linley.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

a. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Parks and Recreation 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 public.works@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.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting with recommended edits provided by committee member, Iwanski. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding a proposal from Parkitecture for design services for Prairie Place playground.

Igl provided an introduction to a proposal for design services for the Prairie Place

playground.

- Iwanski asked if there was a standing contract with Parkitecture. Igl responded that there is not a contract but Parkitecture is who we have worked with historically.
- Iwanski asked if multiple bids would be requested for the equipment at the park. Igl responded that bids would be requested for the equipment.
- Committee members discussed possible site locations for the park. Thiesen with Parkitecture provided a history of a park within the subdivision and the proposed site location along Holscher Road.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Kuba, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding a proposal from Parkitecture for design, bid, and consulting services for the Prairie Place playground in the amount of \$13,580. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board to make an application for a grant to support improvements at Prairie Place Park.

Schuenke provided an introduction to a grant for additional funds to support the Prairie Place park. Johnson provided an explanation regarding the T-Mobile Hometown grant and grant requirements.

- Committee members discussed the proposed ideas for the park to aid Johnson in the completion of the grant application.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to recommend approval to the Village Board to make an application for a grant to support improvements at Prairie Place Park. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0.

c. Discussion regarding Community Park Phase 2 design

This item was discussed out of order. Thiesen provided an update regarding the site plan for Community Park Phase 2, which includes the paved parking lot, shelter, and playground. Thiesen explained that a cross country course has also been mapped out for the park for a school district home course site.

- Trustee Leamy asked how many parking stalls are available with the gravel lot space. Thiesen stated the main lot holds about 200 and the gravel lot would host another 100.
- Fessler asked if the cross country course would be on a natural surface. Thiesen responded that the course would mostly be on a natural surface with only a bit being on the crushed limestone.
- Kuba asked for clarification regarding the proposed pump track and sledding hill. Thiesen reviewed the proposed pump track and sledding location on the site plan.
- Lancaster asked if the entry to the parking lot was going to be studied as part of the county's traffic study. Thiesen stated that the county is leading the effort on the traffic study. Igl added that the study was moved from 2025 to 2026.
- Trustee Leamy inquired when soccer would move to Community Park. Thiesen

stated the plan is for the fall of 2026.

- Trustee Fessler asked if the paving of the parking lot would include the full paving. Igl stated that it would be fully paved.
- Lancaster asked about the status of the bike pathway that would connect to the park. Igl responded that the 30% plans are underway but not ready for review. Schuenke added that the county has been asked to take the bike path, pedestrian accommodations, and turning lanes into their consideration when they study the area.

Linley with Iconica reviewed the two proposed options for the building.

- Iwanski asked if the covered area is the same between the two concept options. Linley explained that option b offers a little less outdoor covered area.
- Trustee Fessler asked if the cost estimates had been developed for the two concepts. Thiesen explained that cost estimates have not been generated. Thiesen added that the cost estimates could be built for the next committee meeting.
- Trustee Fessler asked if the boardroom was a soccer request or a carryover from the last design. Igl explained that the boardroom is a carryover. Larson stated that the room is utilized during tournaments and soccer needs a secure space.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Trustee Leamy, seconded by Kuba, to adjourn at 8:10 pm

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin
Assistant to the Public Works Director


McFarland
SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

SECTION: Business

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

CONTACT: Sayer Larson, Parks Superintendent

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion and action regarding placement of an educational bird sign

PREVIOUS ACTION:

None

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The Bird Festival Committee looks to complete a community project annually. This year they would like to donate an educational sign about Purple Martins. An initial design is included in the packet. Some feedback was recently received on suggested additions. To add "Placing, monitoring, and maintaining structures such as these are essential to martin survival", this is due to their dependence on humans. It was also suggested to add "Each pair typically raises 4-6 young per year". There has also been a suggestion to acknowledge the volunteer that maintains and monitors the houses annually within the McFarland park system. An edited version may be available for the committee meeting.

Funding for the sign was obtained through fundraising and a McFarland Community Grant. The sign will be located at Lewis Park as the purple martin houses near the shelter are the most active. An image of a possible location of the sign is included in the packet.

Projects the Bird Festival Committee completed in past years include: permanently mounted viewer scopes, educational birding sign, and birding back packs. Projects such as these are very beneficial for the community as well as when submitting the annual application for Bird City USA. They also host the annual McFarland Bird Festival as well.

Staff are seeking the committee's approval for the installation of an educational sign at Lewis Park regarding Purple Martins as request by the Bird Festival Committee.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None

VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:

None.

ORDINANCE REFERENCE:

None.

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:



Recommended motion:

Motion, second to approve the placement of an educational sign at Lewis Park from the Bird Festival Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interpretive Signage
2. purple martin sign placement
3. existing educational bird sign



Male

PURPLE MARTINS of McFarland



Female

The bond between purple martins and people runs deep.

Historically, there is a long and close association between humans and the Purple Martin, a relationship that distinguishes this species from nearly all others in North America. Popular and well known to much of the public, this species in eastern North America now breeds almost exclusively in birdhouses. Its conversion to human-made martin houses from ancestral nest sites — abandoned woodpecker holes in dead snags — was nearly complete by 1900, as natural nestings were rarely recorded east of the Rocky Mountains during the 1900s.

Source: birdsoftheworld.org

Purple Martin Fun Facts

- Largest swallow in North America
- Males are glossy black-blue color
- Arrive in McFarland in early April
- Depart McFarland by early September
- Recorded as far north as Alaska
- Migrate to Amazon basin in winter
- Southernmost nest in Florida City, Florida
- Exclusive diet of flying insects
- Gets water by skimming lakes
- Feeds at altitudes up to 150ft high
- Will search for food up to 2 miles from nest



Look for Purple Martin houses at Lewis Park and Marsh Woods Park.

Scan here to learn more about Purple Martins



SCAN ME

Track your Purple Martin sightings with the free eBird mobile app.



McFarland VILLAGE OF
Naturalis Connected






VILLAGE OF
McFarland
SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

SECTION: Business

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

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

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion regarding the updated Village 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 draft plan review

December 9, 2024 - Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee draft plan review

February 4, 2025 - Parks & Recreation Committee discussion

March 18, 2025 - Plan Commission discussion on Village 18.5 acres per 1,000 objective and impact fees.

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The packet includes the latest draft copy of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029. This is also available with the Appendix at the CORP project website. The Parks and Recreation Committee is leading this plan update that began in early 2024 with sections of the plan reviewed by other committees (e.g. the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee) as needed. Staff's primary desire of the March 18, 2025 Plan Commission's discussion was focused on portions of the draft plan that relate to future parkland dedication requirements.

Noting that if Plan Commission members desire to provide input on other portions of the plan (e.g. proposed improvements to existing parks) as well as an upcoming public information meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 3rd at 6PM that all members of the public are welcome to attend to provide input on all aspects of the plan.

Parkland Dedication



Page 45 of the draft plan includes an objective to *"maintain a minimum of 18.5 acres of Village parkland (excluding natural areas) per 1,000 residents within the Village"*. In 2020, the Village updated the parkland dedication requirement based on a goal of 18.5 acres, excluding natural areas (i.e. wetlands and floodplains), per 1,000 residents, up from a goal of 15.0 in the 2019 CORP ([see Ordinance 2020-08](#)). The prior goal of 15.0 acres/1,000 residents was increased from 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents as part of the 2001 CORP update. The prior goal of 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents has its basis in prior guidance from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), which was further broken down to include 0.5 acres/1,000 for mini-parks, 2.0 acres/1,000 for neighborhood parks, and 8.0 acres/1,000 for community parks, for a total of 10.5 acres/1,000. Noting that the NRPA guidelines did not include other types of parks, like conservancies or special purpose parks. Passively accessible conservation areas and special-purpose parks (e.g. disc golf, dog parks) are also valuable assets to the Village's system of parks and trails. Therefore, the Village has established an objective of providing 18.5 acres/1,000 residents of parkland (excluding natural areas). Natural areas are defined as wetland or 100-year floodplain areas. While these areas may provide some limited passively accessible recreational uses, the dedication of wetlands and floodplain areas typically is not counted as part of a developer's required parkland dedication under the Village's Subdivision Code as these lands are not developable, and typically provide limited active recreational opportunities.

The objective of 18.5 acres/1,000 residents is then utilized to develop the required amount of parkland dedication per dwelling unit under [Section 56-173](#) of the Subdivision Code. As previously mentioned, these values were last updated in 2020 as part of the Village's updated Park Impact Fee Study. The current required dedications are:

- 2,106 square feet per single-family dwelling unit
- 1,463 square feet per duplex or multi-family dwelling unit
- 804 square feet per group quarters dwelling unit

These values are based on the 18.5 acre/1,000 objective and the current average people per household in each type of dwelling unit based on available Census data. As part of the 2025 Budget, the Village is scheduled to update the 2020 Park Impact Fee Study. This follows a similar pattern as in 2019, whereby first the Village updates its CORP to establish its big picture goals, objectives, strategies, and then updates the Impact Fee Study to account for changing demographics and market conditions (e.g. cost of acquiring land or purchasing play equipment), followed by updating Sec. 56-173 and the Village's Appendix A (fees in lieu of parkland dedication and park improvement impact fees). While the Village has been annually adjusting its park impact fees since 2020 to account for inflation, it is also best practice to update the Park Impact Fee study after updating a CORP as annual changes in the Consumer Price Index may not directly match annual changes in land or park equipment acquisition costs.

Current park impact fees and parkland dedication values are provided in the following table. A comparison of the Village's parkland dedication requirements and park impact fees with other pier communities in Dane County can be found on pages 76-77 of the draft CORP for informational purposes.



Per Article 56-VI Park and Public Land Dedications and Appendix A Fees			
	Single-Family	Duplex/Multi-Family	Group Quarters
Parkland Dedication (square feet)	2,106	1,463	804
Fee in lieu of land dedication	\$4,787.52	\$3,321.52	\$1,825.01
Park improvement fee	\$3,141.33	\$2,182.13	\$1,198.98

Summary of March 18, 2025 Plan Commission Meeting

Discussion by the Plan Commission on March 28, 2025 included comparable communities in Dane County and their reported acres per 1,000 goals, parkland dedication requirements and impact fees. Included in the packet is the data compiling each community's respective acres/1,000 standards and fee schedule. Additional comments from the Plan Commissioners include:

- Communities utilized different methods when establishing their standards and fees.
- Village fees appear to be above the average and higher among other communities. However, not all communities may have an update-to-date park impact fee study or make annual inflation adjustments to their fees.
- The land dedication requirements and related impact fees must be rationale and balance the desire for high-quality parks, while also not being a hindrance to new housing development.

Some Plan Commission members raised concerns about the rising impact fees but there was no consensus recommendation to lower the CORP objection of 18.5 acres per 1,000 at this time.

The pending updated park impact fee study provides an opportunity to consider adjustments to those fees; however, if the Parks and Recreation Committee has an concerns regarding the CORP objection of 18.5 acres per 1,000 that should be shared with Staff as we work toward completion of the plan as it will impact future changes to the Village's parkland dedication requirement and fee in lieu of parkland dedication.

Next steps for the CORP

Staff are continuing to work with the Communications and Technology Department on a draft plan to be presented at the Public Information Meeting April 3 at 6:00 PM in the Community Room. Comments received from the meeting will be included and presented at the May 6, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting for potential recommendation to the Village Board and expected to be reviewed for action. The following is a tentative timeline assuming no delays or major changes occur.



- April 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM - Public Information Meeting
- April 14, 2025 - Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee review of draft CORP and recommendation to Village Board
- April 15, 2025 - Plan Commission review of draft CORP and recommendation to the Village Board
- May 6, 2025 - Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting - CORP recommendation to Village Board
- May 27, 2025 - Village Board adopts CORP 2025-2029

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

VILLAGE PLAN REFERENCE:

ORDINANCE REFERENCE:

BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion only.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025-2029 CORP Draft 03.27.25
2. Parks & Recreation Committee - Impact Fee Discussion_03.21.2025

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
Sarah 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
Eleanor Kay, Communications Specialist
Ben Bees, Media Producer

MAPPING ASSISTANCE

MSA Professional Services, Inc.

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

Land Acknowledgement

On May 3, 2023, the Village Board adopted Resolution 2023-07, A Resolution Acknowledging and Celebrating the Inherent Sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation and 11 Additional Indigenous Nations Within What is Now referred to as the State of Wisconsin, as follows:

McFarland occupies ancestral, sacred and continuously inhabited Ho-Chunk land, the four lakes region is known to the Ho-Chunk people as Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory. Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when the federal government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove all Ho-Chunk people from Wisconsin. We acknowledge the role that the United States government and settlers played that led to the forced removal of Ho-Chunk people, and honor their legacy of resistance and resilience. This history of colonization informs our work and vision for a collaborative future. The Ho-Chunk Nation's government is currently headquartered in Black River Falls. It is with great respect that we acknowledge and celebrate the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation and the 11 additional Indigenous Nations within what is now referred to as the State of Wisconsin.

Executive Summary

The Village of McFarland is a community just under a population of 10,000 and located adjacent to the southeast side of the City of Madison south of US Highway 12 & 18 (Beltline). 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 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2025-2029 (CORP) is an update to the previous [2019-2023 Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan](#) continuing the task to provide guidance on outdoor recreational planning and park growth. The plan update process included two public information meetings, a community survey that doubled the previous 2019 CORP survey's responses, and expanded on the interpretation and analysis of open spaces through the analysis in Chapter 4 and the maps provided in Appendix B. Over the course of March 2024 to May 2025, the plan was reviewed and discussed at over a dozen public meetings as led by the Village's Parks & Recreation Committee.

Parks offer an essential service to public health, both to locally residents and visitors. The range of amenities offered varies depending on locational and community needs, from hosting public/private local events to organized sporting events, or conservation of natural areas such as wetlands and floodplains. From scenic hiking trails embedded in conservancies to paved pathways connecting park amenities, McFarland's parks strive to meet a diverse set of community needs. The Village of McFarland includes three mini-parks (totlots), nine neighborhood parks, five community parks, eleven conservancy areas, and three special purpose parks for a total of 31 parks and conservancies and 280 acres of open space, not counting McFarland School District, Dane County, or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources properties located within or adjacent to the Village.

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. Chapter 6 of this plan includes recommendations for improvements to existing and future parks, trails, and conservancies within the greater Village-area. It should be noted that not all recommendations in this plan are expected to be implemented during the five-year lifetime of this plan. Some items may require additional collaboration with other entities including the McFarland School District, local recreational associations, adjacent municipalities, Dane County and the State of Wisconsin. Other recommendations may rely on market opportunities (e.g. new land division requests), which may not present itself within the next five years.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Land Acknowledgement

Executive Summary

CHAPTER 1: Introduction & Plan Background

CHAPTER 2: About McFarland

CHAPTER 3: Park, Open Space, Conservancy, and Recreational Inventory

CHAPTER 4: Quantitative, Qualitative, and Geographical Analysis

CHAPTER 5: Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Strategies

CHAPTER 6: Recommendations

CHAPTER 7: Implementation

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Survey results
- Appendix B: Maps 1 - 8
 - Map 1: Existing Parks & Trails
 - Map 2: Existing Parks Classification
 - Map 3: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Park
 - Map 4: Village Park Service Areas
 - Map 5: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Playground
 - Map 6: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Restroom
 - Map 7: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Active Park
 - Map 8: Future Parks & Trails
- Appendix C: Park Master Plans
 - C1: Arnold Larson Park, 2020
 - C2: Brandt Park, 2006
 - C3: Inclusive Park Playground Master Plan, 2020
 - C4: Lewis Park, 2015 as amended 2024
 - C5: McDaniel Park Master Plan, 2017
 - C6: McFarland & Community Park Master Plan, 2023
 - C7: Urso Schuetz Park, 2017

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. More 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, managing 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 (e.g. 2023 East Side Plan) 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 new parks and trails
- 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 acquire land, accept parkland dedications, 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.

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; and 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:

- 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 newsletter
- May 15 – Planning team holds Public Information Meeting #1
- 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
- August 6 – P&R Meeting #4: Discussion on draft maps, survey responses, and upcoming Capital Improvement Projects
- 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
- February 4 – P&R Meeting #7: Review of draft CORP and Public Information Meeting #2 preparations
- March 18 – Plan Commission Meeting #1: Review of draft CORP
- April 2 – P&R Meeting #8: Review of draft CORP
- April 3 – Public Information Meeting #2: Open house on draft CORP
- TBD – P&R Meeting #9: Review of draft CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- TBD – S&NR Meeting #4: Review of draft CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- TBD – Plan Commission Meeting #2: Review of draft CORP and recommendation to Village Board for adoption
- TBD – 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. Response rates from the 2024 survey were doubled in comparison to the 2018 survey for the outdoor and open space plan, which received 259 total responses. An initial Public Information Meeting was scheduled May 15, 2024, engaging attendees in conversations concerning missing amenities and services throughout Village parks. A second public information meeting was held on April 3, 2025, to review the final 2025-2029 CORP draft prior to proceeding with plan adoption. Summaries of public input can be reviewed in Chapter 4, Qualitative Analysis, and Appendix A Survey Results. Regular project updates were provided

to the public via the Community and Economic Development's monthly email newsletter, the Lookout, Outlook, Village social media accounts, and a dedicated project website was developed tracking available links to packets, presentations, and sources. In addition, a postcard regarding the second Public Information Meeting was mailed to all properties within the McFarland zip code.

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 [2017 Comprehensive Plan](#) 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 [2019-2024 Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan](#) 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 [2021 Sustainability Plan](#) 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).

Other Village plans referenced throughout this CORP include:

- Park Master Plans, Various¹
 - Brandt Park, 2006
 - McDaniel Park, 2017
 - Urso Schuetz Park, 2017
 - Inclusive Park Playground, 2020
 - Arnold Larson Park, 2020
 - 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)²

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. While 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

¹ Accepted park master plans are included in Appendix C and are incorporated by reference in this 2025-2029 CORP. Appendix C only includes the site plan drawing from each plan and readers are encouraged to consult the separate park master plan for additional details. 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 C.

² The Village maintains a rolling Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to guide current and projected capital borrowing related to various Village projects. The 2025-2029 CORP includes those projects identified in the 2025-2029 CIP 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.

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 (VOM) has steadily experienced growth in recent decades. Table 1 shows Census data between the Village and Dane County from 1970 to 2020. The percent 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	0
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 and Department of Administration

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 compares 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 2020 US Census, 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.

Table 3 uses the medium-growth projection from the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment, estimating households in McFarland to reach 4,455 by 2030, or an average growth rate of 2.4% per year since 2020. Additional estimates on the number of households in the Village and the projected households are provided in Table 3. Table 3 estimates there will be 857 new households by 2030, an increase of 86 households per year.

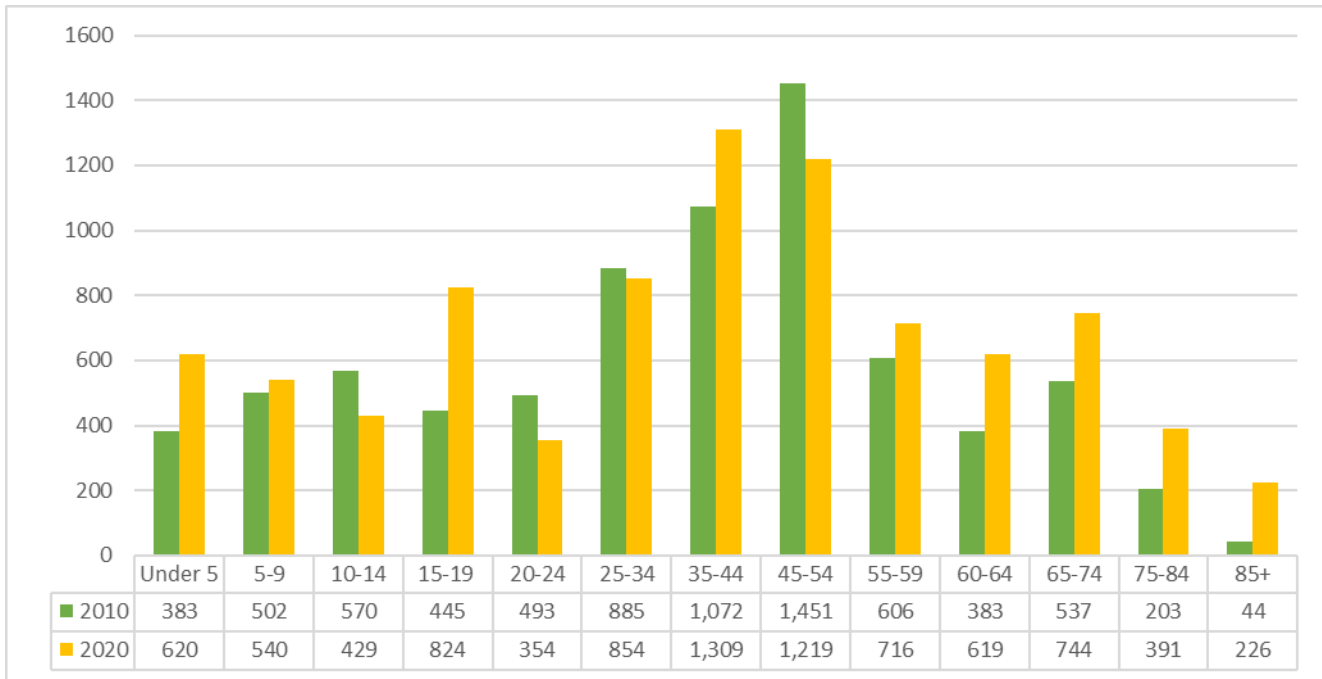
Table 3: Household Projections 2020-2040

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 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate data are comparatively shown in Figure 1. The highest age group in 2010 for the Village was 45-54 years at 1,451 people, or 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 outward 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 people, or 14.8%. In 2010, individuals 19 or younger comprised 25.1% of the Village population, while those ages 60 and over comprised 15.5% of the population. In 2020, individuals 19 or younger comprised 27.3% of the population, while those ages 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

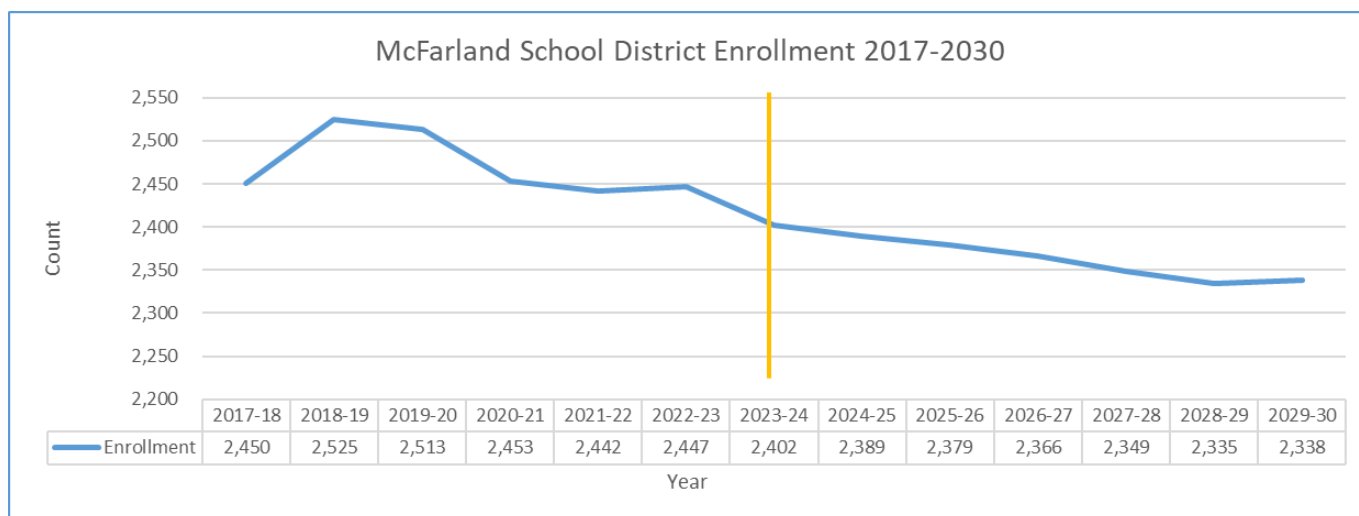


*Source: ACS Census Data

MCFARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Village and some of the surrounding communities are served by the [McFarland School District](#). 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 2023-24 school year, the school district reported an enrollment of 2,402 students. This is slightly down from the previous 2022-23 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 into 2030. The vertical line indicates the year the data was drawn and projected enrollment values. The District projects enrollment numbers will continue to decline over the next few years 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 Report³. 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 2022-23 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.

MCFARLAND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND PLAY, MRAP

MRAP is a coalition of 501c(3) community recreation partners offering organized recreational activities for youths in McFarland. Club and recreational sports offerings include basketball, football, softball, soccer, among others. 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. Other recreational organizations around McFarland exist, but MRAP stands as one of the more recognizable organizations.

³ <https://dpi.wi.gov/spr/about>

PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Water Resources

Two bodies of water provide natural borders for McFarland. To the west is Lake Waubesa and Upper Mud Lake and to the south is the Yahara River and Lower Mud Lake. Upper Mud Lake includes approximately 264.6 acres and has a maximum depth of 8 feet. Lake Waubesa, the larger body of water, has a maximum depth of 38 feet, and is over 2000 acres in size⁴. With approximately 9.4 miles of shoreline, there are four municipalities that borders its waters. These municipalities include the Village of McFarland, Town of Dunn, Town of Blooming Grove, and City of Madison. The Yahara River connects the region's lakes and provides a physical separation with the Town of Dunn to the southwest. Lower Mud Lake includes marshlands and a mostly shallow body of water with a maximum depth of 7.5 feet at approximately 33 acres in size. The formation of this lake extends the Yahara River south into Lake Kegonsa.

McFarland has eight lake access points along its eastern border with Lake Waubesa. Including McDaniel Park, these provide residents with viewing opportunities of the lake. The lake access points provide limited to no amenities excluding McDaniel Park as it is an actual park.

Wetlands and Floodplains

McFarland includes conservancy areas dedicated to the protection and conservation of wetland areas and floodplains adjacent to the bodies of water mentioned. These are located to the northwest near McDaniel Park and along McFarland's southern border, naturally making up the wetland areas. These natural resources are essential in maintaining wildlife habitats and mitigating damage to properties.

Topography

The land elevation ranges from around 845 feet above sea level along Lake Waubesa and the Yahara River, to around 960 feet above sea level. One of the highest points in McFarland is also the location of one of the two water towers. This is most notable for its hiking trails and location within Indian Mound Conservancy, located west of McFarland's Middle and High Schools.

Environmental Corridors

Environmental Corridors are continuous systems of open space in urban and urbanizing areas. These corridors include environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use⁵. McFarland is a

⁴ More information on Wisconsin lakes can be found through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/lakes_maps/0803700a.pdf

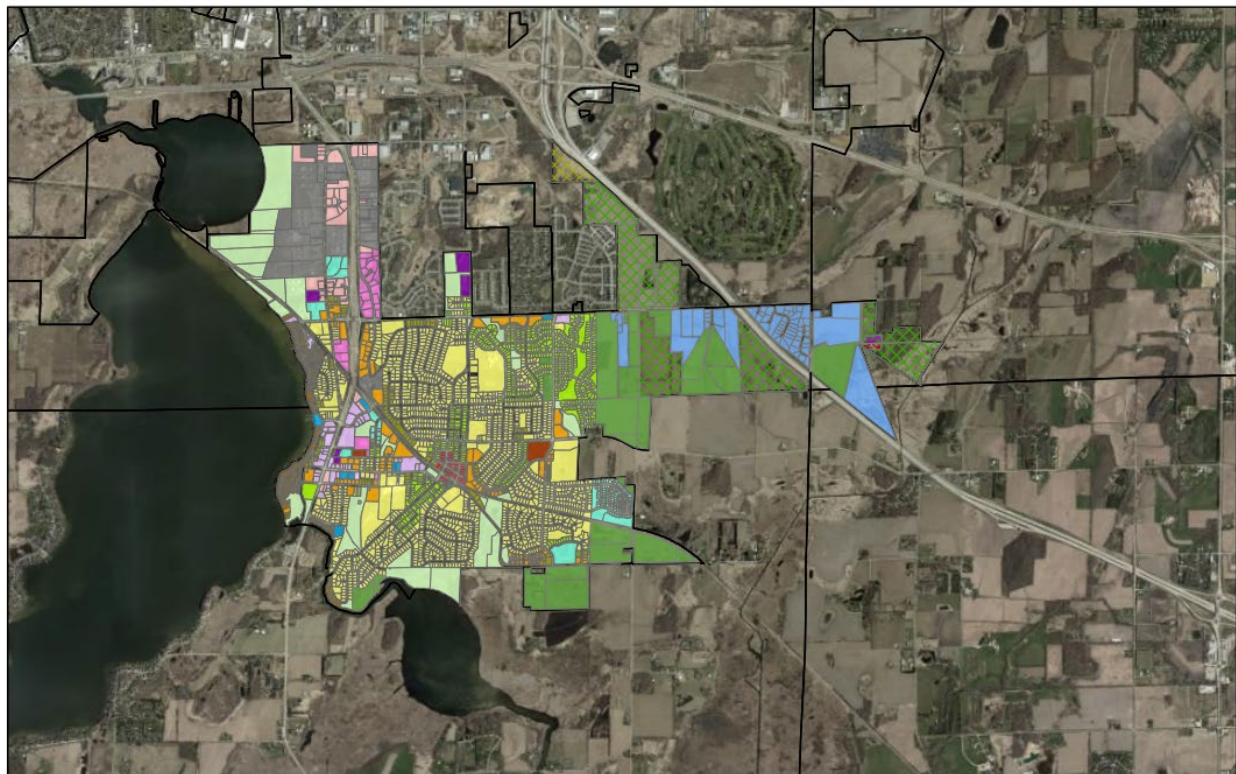
⁵ Definition provided by Capital Areal Regional Plan Commission, <https://www.capitalarearpc.org/environmental-resources/environmental-corridors/>

community that holds its commitment to the conservation of natural habitats and supporting ecological health. Parks are often associated with balancing recreational space with wetlands and woodland areas. In order to maintain conservation areas, McFarland frequently does maintenance in these areas as part of ecological restoration projects.. The designation of environmental corridors is administered by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission.

EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING

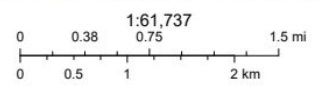
The zoning map identifies the current classification for land uses throughout the Village. The Village's standards on permitted and conditional uses can be found in Division 62-II-2 Zoning Districts and District Regulations of the Zoning Code. Established provisions provide details on each district's uses, including boundaries and standards. Under Public uses of Sec. 62-69 Permitted Uses of the zoning code, "greenways, open space, parks and pools" are identified as permitted uses under all residential districts. This includes A-1 Agricultural Transition and CO Conservancy.

Village of McFarland 2024 Zoning Map



12/17/2024, 11:34:00 AM

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Zoning 2024 | R-1B Single Family Residence | C-L Limited Commercial | A-1 Exclusive Agriculture (Dane County) |
| CO Conservancy | R-2 Single & Two Family Residence | C-C Central Commercial | RH-4 Rural Homes (Dane County) |
| A1 Agricultural Transition | R-3 General Residence | C-G General Commercial | FP-B Farm Preservation Business (Dane County) |
| RH-1 Rural Homes | R-E Elderly Residence | C-H Highway Commercial | GC General Commercial (Dane County) |
| R-1 Single Family Residence | PD Planned Development | C-P Commercial Park | Municipalities (County GIS Link) |
| R-1A Single Family Residence | PD-1 Planned Development Infill | M-IC Manufactured Intensive Commercial | |



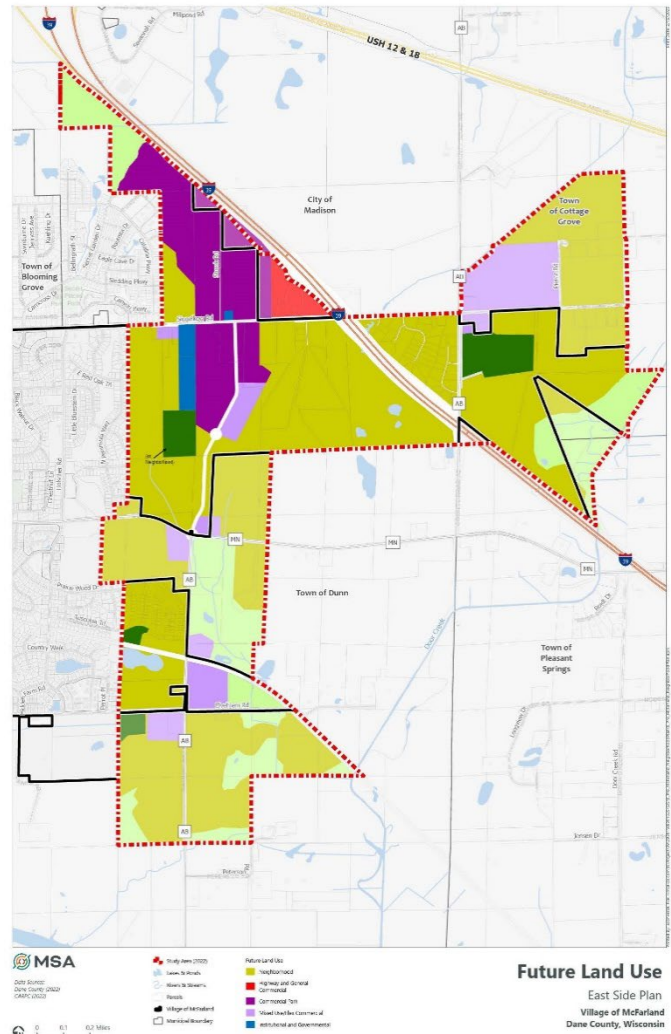
MMSD | Dane County Land Information Office maintains this dataset with assistance from the Dane County Surveyor, Dane County Planning & Development - Land Records Division, Dane County 911 Communication and local municipalities. | Dane County Planning & Development

Village Staff

EAST SIDE PLAN, 2023

The East Side Plan provides guidance for McFarland's future growth eastward since the Village is landlocked by bodies of water and the City of Madison. Figure 4 shows the future land use map for the parcels identified in its boundaries. The future land use map uses similar land use classification as Figure 3 for consistency. This would mean that future locations identified for neighborhood and residential developments have the potential to be developed, or partially developed, as parks and open spaces as new parks are dedicated within new residential subdivisions. Chapter 4 of the East Side Plan includes a more detailed Master Plan Concept that further breaks down the Neighborhood future land use category into areas appropriate for low and medium density residential development. The Master Plan Concept also includes conceptual locations for future streets, stormwater basins, parks and trails. Some of the more prominent or strategic future parks and trails from the Master Plan are incorporated into Map 8 of this CORP. The East Side Plan states that *"this chapter (4) contains a Master Plan concept that is meant to provide a vision for how the East Side planning area may develop. While the general pattern of land uses and major streets shown in this concept should be reflected in actual development, it is recognized that more detailed elements within the concept, such as the locations of minor streets, location/ sizing of stormwater management areas, precise boundaries of land uses, or the specific dimensions of blocks, are only concepts.* Therefore, as more detailed land use proposals are developed additional locations for future public parks, trails and conservancies may emerge that are not shown on Map 8 of this CORP. More details on policies of park development can be found in Chapter 2 of the 2023 East Side Plan including Policy 4.2 – *"A variety of park types and sizes, ranging from small pocket parks to a community park, should be planned to meet the needs of East Side residents."*

Figure 4: East Side Plan, 2023 Future Land Use Map



Source: Village of McFarland East Side Plan, 2023

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 (NRPA) Agency Performance Review gathers data annually from park and recreation agencies nationwide⁶. The NRPA identifies three park types: Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks. The discussion of the park inventory in this chapter also includes additional recreational spaces within dedicated conservancy areas and special use parks. The NRPA does not include standards for conservancies and special use parks as there are other existing standards for conservancies and community definitions for special use parks can vary significantly.

Table 4 includes the park inventory of Village parks and amenities. Maps in Chapter 4 provide several locational analyses on park locations, amenities offered, and accessibility based on certain features.

[Insert Park Inventory on full page spread, landscaping orientation; to be labeled Table 4, Title: Park Inventory]

⁶ [NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2024](#)

VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES

Mini/Tot Lot 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 areas within a quarter-mile radius. In some cases, a mini park may be developed from repurposed Village property (e.g. a former well site) or added to an existing public property that serves a different primary purpose (e.g. Discovery Garden Park adjacent to the E.D. Locke Library).

Discovery Garden, 5920 Milwaukee Street

This park is 0.3 acres and is located adjacent to the Village’s E.D. Locke Public Library, across from the Municipal Center. The park was redeveloped in 2018, offering new playground equipment and outdoor programming opportunities for the Public Library with available seating and benches. Well House #1 is located on the same parcel with plans to be retired in the future with the development of the Village’s new Well #5. The site is included in the plans to redevelop McFarland’s Municipal Center into a Community Center.

Ridgeview Tot Lot, 5323 Black Walnut Dr

This 0.4-acre mini park is located at the corner of Black Walnut Drive and Chestnut Lane. Amenities include playground equipment and an open play area. An existing underground easement runs from the park’s northwest corner to its southeast.

Valley Tot Lot, 5100 Broadhead Street

This mini park is approximately 0.5 acres and located near the intersection of Valley Drive and Church Street. The mini park is part of a 1.3-acre parcel, partially dedicated as a stormwater retention basin. The park includes playground equipment, picnic table, and an open area for play. The stormwater retention basin is fully fenced.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are larger, open-space areas compared to mini parks and are capable of multiple, and sometimes more intensive, recreational activities. Facilities may include athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, skate parks, trails, picnic areas, and places of gathering including shelters and restrooms. Their typical size is between 3 to 10 acres, serving areas up to a half-mile radius.

Arnold Larson Park, 6002 Exchange Street

This 1.5-acre park is a reclaimed brownfield site located within the Village's downtown, formally home to the Badger Petroleum Company. The brownfield site was remediated in 2007⁷. There is an existing clay cover barrier surface over the eastern 2/3rds of the property to prevent human contact with residual soil contaminants that might otherwise pose a threat to human health. The park includes a gazebo, benches, picnic tables, connection to the Lower Yahara River Trail, and sidewalks. Arnold 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. Some limitations on the property include the railroad to the north, no permanent restroom and off-street specific parking.

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 an open play area. A pathway connects pedestrians from Valley Drive to the west of 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 added in 1999, a gazebo, an open field with soccer goal posts, paved walking paths, and sidewalks. The park includes a connector path at the southeast corner to Black Walnut Drive. This park is located just 200 feet east of McFarland School District's Waubesa Intermediate School.

Egner Park, 5703 Bird Song Court

This 2.2-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 open-air park shelter. The park includes a basketball court, benches, two separate playground structures for varying ages, free library box, a porta-potty, and an open space area. The playground was partially replaced in 2018.

Highland Oaks Park, 5945 Osborn Drive

This neighborhood park received updates in 2024 which included a new, permanent seasonal all-gender restroom, drinking fountain, and playground equipment. The 2.2-acre park includes an open-air shelter, basketball court, seating, paved walking paths, and picnic tables. At the southeast corner of the park, there is a paved connector path to Holscher with a park sign

⁷ WDNR Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRT No. #03-13-000811)

Juniper Ridge Park

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

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 area, paved walking pathways, playground equipment, and seating.

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 slopes. This mound group, referred to as the Siggelkow Mounds, is on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The remaining east side of the park is approximately 1.9-acres of open space with the potential for the development of recreational facilities to serve the neighborhood. The site is limited to on-street parking only and high-volume traffic on Siggelkow Road.

Woodland Estates Park, 5601 Glenway St

This neighborhood park serves an east-central neighborhood of McFarland. The 2.3-acre park includes an open-air shelter, an outside grill, a half-court basketball hoop, playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, benches, and an open playfield with backstop and soccer goals posts. There is a 16-foot-wide grass public right-of-way on the east side of the park connecting to Cardinal Drive.

Community Parks

Community parks are the largest of the three park classifications, capable of providing a wider range of recreational activities that may include all the amenities of the previous parks mentioned. These amenities include athletic complexes (indoor and outdoor), 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. With more acreage, they usually include park shelters capable of supporting larger public and private events.

Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road

This popular 5.0-acre park is located just off US HWY 51. Users of the Lower Yahara River Trail coming from McDaniel Park will see Brandt Park as the trail guides them east along Siggelkow and south onto Terminal Drive. Brandt Park 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 full basketball court. In 2024-25, the shelter restrooms and concessions area will be updated to include a new all-gender restroom.

Community Park, 3234 County HWY AB

This 26-acre park was acquired by the Village in 2019. A park master plan⁸ was accepted by the Village Board in November 2021, which also includes updates to William McFarland Park. At the time of this plan being drafted, no official name has been assigned to this park other than “Community Park.” In 2023, the park completed installation of turf fields and irrigation systems for the anticipation of the McFarland Soccer Club. The site is still being prepped for future amenities to include off-street parking lot, a shelters with restrooms, playgrounds, an internal trail/path network, sledding hill, and a BMX course. The park may still have opportunities for other recreational amenities, including a potential public or private indoor athletic facility.

Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive

This 10.4-acre community park is located along the northern edge of Lower Mud Lake. This is 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, a batting cage, playground equipment added in 2007, off-street parking and picnic tables. An enclosed heated shelter was completed in 2016, including restrooms, concession, and glass overhead doors 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 William G. Lunney Farm County Park via a boardwalk and bridge over the Yahara River. This project was completed in 2017 serving as a trail head of the Lower Yahara River Trail. The northern half of the park is approximately 3.8 acres of mostly undeveloped conservancy, while the southern half and park amenities are approximately 4.1 acres. The park includes off-street parking, three different shelters (one shelter with concession and restrooms, and two open-air shelters), a sand volleyball court, playground equipment added in 2008, bike share (BCycle) station, two beaches, boat/canoe storage, a pier, and a trail marker and description board.

William McFarland Park, 4802/4820 Marsh Road

⁸ [William McFarland Park & New Community Park Master Plan, 2021](#)

This park was named after the Village’s founder, William H. McFarland. McFarland Park makes up 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 2022). The park includes a baseball diamond, over 100 off-street parking stalls, a park shelter with overhead doors, playground equipment added 1998, 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 the 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 the 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.

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 at the start of the 2024-25 school year. The Inclusive Park was built to meet the diverse access needs of community members and their families across many abilities.

Legion Memorial, 5301 Marsh Woods Drive

The Edwards-Foye American Legion Post 534 Memorial Monument and flagpole, (~2,500 square feet) is located in front of the Lewis Park shelter. A dedicated memorial plaque gives recognition to the memory of servicemen and past veterans who sacrificed their lives in service of the United States military.

Orchard Hill Park, 2860 Hidden Farms Road

This 16.9-acre special purpose park is immediately adjacent to John Urso Park (Urso Park). Previously considered part of Urso Park, this park was formally the “Schuetz Property.” The park includes a disc golf course, 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 the construction of a new park shelter with restrooms and off-street parking.

John Urso Park (Urso Park), 6201 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 to the west portion in 2011. Dane County's Lower Yahara River Trail currently ends at this park on the north side of Elvehjem Road picking up at Fish Camp.

Conservancies

Conservancies are dedicated lands, such as forests and marshlands, that are ecologically restricted for the purpose of passive recreation and land conservation due to their unique contribution. This may include the protection of natural resources that contribute to wildlife habitats. Additionally, conservancies are regulated under different standards compared to parks and may require alternative methods of management, for example Native American Mounds. Although the NRPA does not identify minimum standards for conservancies, the community of McFarland strongly supports the protection of its natural resources that contribute to McFarland's tagline, "Naturally Connected". The following conservancy areas make up approximately 127.6 acres of protected lands, marshlands, floodplains and other natural spaces.

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 marshland and floodplain. A public right-of-way called South Court includes a cul-du-sac adjacent to this location. This conservancy provides excellent views of Lake Waubesa and is a popular fishing spot.

Grand View Conservancy, 5602 Creamery Road

This conservancy area was acquired in 1984. The total 32.8 acres is made up of a southern 26.3 acres received by dedication and the northern 6.5 acres received 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 15.8-acres of forested hills includes a Village water tower and passive recreational trails that take users through nine documented Native American mounds (Indian effigy mound cultural tradition). The mounds are designated on the State and National Registers 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, Conrad Jaeger Park, Yahara Drive, and Burma Road.

Eco Park, located within the Juniper Ridge Subdivision

The 15.2-acre conservancy includes a series of stormwater detention basins and prairie areas. A linear paved walking pathway follows the outline of the detention basins while including various fitness stations along the path. Eco Park dual functions as both a stormwater detention for the subdivision and a respite on urban sprawl. The path continues south to the adjacent Prairie Place Conservancy.⁹

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 area is stretched across two parcels for a total of 28.6-acre. Predominantly wetland area with a quarter of the parcel (~7.6 acres) included with Lewis Park, the conservancy includes an existing observation deck extending south overlooking Lower Mud Lake. In 2025 a new boardwalk, ADA-compliant kayak launch, and kayak storage rack will be added to the conservancy. 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 9.9 acres. Most of the conservancy consists of wetland and prairie areas with a shared pedestrian and bike trail on the west side connects riders north 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 mini-park to serve the neighborhood.

Taylor Road Conservancy

⁹ Eco Park primarily serves as stormwater basins and is not included in the Conservancy Management Plan. Funds for improvements of maintenance will come from the storm management fund.

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. (on the west side of the development). The park includes limited hiking trails, a sledding hill, and a paved pathway.

Thrun Marsh Conservancy

Accessible from Jaeger Road, this conservancy is a combination of mostly wetlands and dedicated forested trails. The 5.8-acre conservancy is located between Jaeger Park and Indian Mound Conservancy. Hiking trails start at Jaeger, then connects to Thrun Marsh Conservancy and onto 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 the 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, 6623 Meredith Way

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

OTHER VILLAGE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES/ASSETS

Lake Access Points

There are seven lake access points in McFarland that overlook Lake Waubesa. These are dead-end streets of several neighborhood roads and include "Pedestrian access only" signs listed at the access points. This list excludes McDaniel Park and Lewis Park as the access points provide limited park improvements and amenities to be designated as mini-parks.

- 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 the Inclusive Park at Waubesa Intermediate School. Nonetheless, 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 acres 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 an off-street parking lot, bleachers, dugouts, a 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 in grades 4K-2. 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 softball fields, an 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 land 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-time member of the McFarland community and hosts many opportunities of all skill levels. The indoor facility includes six curling sheets.

MaHunt Dunn #1

This privately owned 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 Lower 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 is 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, playground equipment, camping, boat trailer parking, and limited hunting across its 37-acres of land¹⁰. The property also includes wetlands.

Jaeger Park, 6402 Jaeger Road

Located along the Yahara River adjacent to the trail head of Thrun Marsh Conservancy, this park offers a boat launch location, limited boat storage, and a small fishing platform. The park includes off-street parking, benches, and hiking access to Thrun Marsh Conservancy. The property is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and is 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 to McFarland. The trailhead in McDaniel Park runs along Taylor Road, then switches onto Creamery Road, and finishes east along Elvehjem Road to Urso Park. The trail includes accessible facilities, fishing opportunities, shared bike/pedestrian uses, and 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.

¹⁰ <https://parks-lwr.danecounty.gov/park/Babcock>

CHAPTER 4: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Geographical Analysis

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

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Summary of Village Parks

Table 5: Park Acreage Inventory summarizes the parks identified in McFarland and their acreages. The table organizes the existing parks by park classification, ownership, and function. The total acreage of dedicated parkland and conservancy space including McFarland School District and Dane County parklands is about 482 acres. The total acreage of Village-owned parks is 279.7 acres, including conservancies and special purpose parks. Excluding areas designated as “Wetlands and Floodplains” (previously “Natural Areas”), the total acreage of active and passive recreation areas for Village-owned parks is 154.9 acres.

Residents per Park

The 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review report¹¹ was used as a reference within this chapter’s analysis. The report

Table 5: Park Acreages Inventory

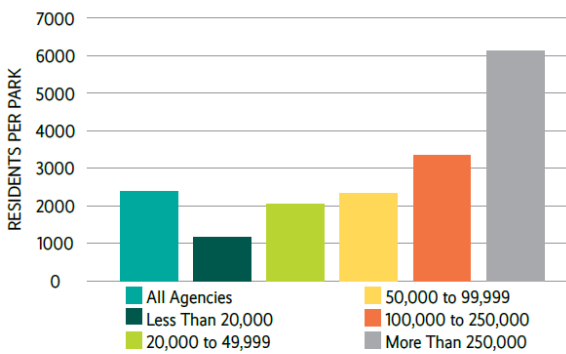
Recreation Areas by Ownership, Park Type, and Function					
Type of Park & Ownership	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Wetland or Floodplain	Special Facilities Area	Total Park Acreage
Totlot/Mini - Village					
Discovery Garden	0.3				0.3
Ridgeview	0.4				0.4
Valley Greenway	0.4				0.4
Total - Totlots	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Neighborhood Parks - Village					
Arnold Larson	1.5				1.5
Autumn Grove	1.5				1.5
Cedar Ridge	3.9				3.9
Egner	2.2				2.2
Highland Oaks	2.2				2.2
Juniper Ridge	1.5				1.5
Rosewood Fields	3.2				3.2
Siggelkow Road	1.9	3.7			5.6
Woodland Estates	2.3				2.3
Total - Neighborhood Parks	20.3	3.7	0.0	0.0	24.0
Community Parks - Village					
Brandt	5.0				5.0
Community	26.0				26.0
Lewis	10.4				10.4
McDaniel	3.8		4.1		7.9
William McFarland	19.8				19.8
Total - Community Parks	65.1	0.0	4.1	0.0	69.2
Conservancy Areas - Village					
Babcock		1.5	6.3		7.8
Grandview		6.5	26.2		32.8
Indian Mound		13.0	2.8		15.8
Eco Park		15.2			15.2
Marsh Woods		7.6	21.0		28.6
Prairie Place		3.2	6.7		9.9
Taylor Road		4.7			4.7
Thrun Marsh		2.1	3.7		5.8
Woodland Commons		5.2			5.2
Yahara River		0.4	1.2		1.7
Total - Conservancy Areas	0.0	59.5	68.0	0.0	127.5
Special Purpose Parks					
Waubesa Intermediate - Inclusive				0.9	0.9
Legion Memorial				0.06	0.1
Orchard Hill			2.2	14.7	16.9
Urso			25.7	14.4	40.1
Total - Special Purpose Parks	0.0	0.0	27.9	30.1	58.0
Other Public Parks and Recreation					
Primary and Elementary				12.9	12.9
Waubesa Intermediate				23.3	23.3
CTH. MN Ballfield				17.7	17.7
McFarland Highschool				22.3	22.3
Indian Mound Middle School				14.3	14.3
Babcock County Park			0.7	5.9	6.6
Jaeger Park		1.1	0.1		1.2
Upper Mud Lake - Capital Springs		3.5	100.6		104.1
Total School Dist. And Dane Co.	0.0	4.6	101.4	96.4	202.4
Total VOM Only	86.5	63.2	100.0	30.1	279.7
Grand Total	86.5	67.8	201.3	126.5	482.1

¹¹ <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/research/2024-agency-performance-review.pdf>

creates categories for three various park types and organizes the data by population size, with the Village falling within the “Less Than 20,000” classification as shown in Figure 1 of the NRPA report. A lower reported number would indicate more parks space present in a community.

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, excluding lake access points and conservancies, giving the Village a ratio of 483.8 residents per park, based on the 2024 DOA population estimate of 9,676. If the calculations include all Village-owned facilities (adding 11 conservancies, excluding lake access points) this ratio decreases to 302.4 residents per park, which is still better than the reported 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

Source: 2024 National Agency Performance Review

Acres per 1,000 Residents

The 2001 CORP recommended a rate of 15 acres of parkland and open space per 1,000 residents, up from the previous goal of 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents from the 1995 CORP. The change from 10 to 15 acres per 1,000 residents was increased by the Village in 2001 to align with the recommendations used by Dane County at that time. In 2020, the Village updated the parkland dedication requirement based on a goal of 18.5 acres, excluding natural areas (i.e. wetlands and floodplains), per 1,000 residents, up from 15.0 in the 2019 CORP ([see Ordinance 2020-08](#)). This change was based on the existing level of service as of 2020.

When determining this ratio for the current active parklands in the Village only (86.5 acres), the Village currently has 8.94 acres per 1,000 residents. For all Village parklands excluding wetland and floodplain areas (179.8 acres), the Village has 18.55 acres per 1,000 residents.

Figure 5 compares McFarland’s total acreage for active parkland and total acreage, excluding wetland and floodplain areas, among other jurisdictional agencies with populations less than 20,000. For active parks only, McFarland is between the lower quartile and median. For total acreage including wetland and floodplain areas (shown as “Active, Passive, Special”), McFarland is between the median and upper quartile. This comparison helps determine the progress on meeting the demand for park space within McFarland and whether McFarland is undersupplying dedicated parkland space. Meeting the standard or exceeding this does not mean the work is complete. Table 6 identifies deficiencies and growth opportunities still possible.

Figure 5: Acres parkland per 1000 Residents (by jurisdiction population)

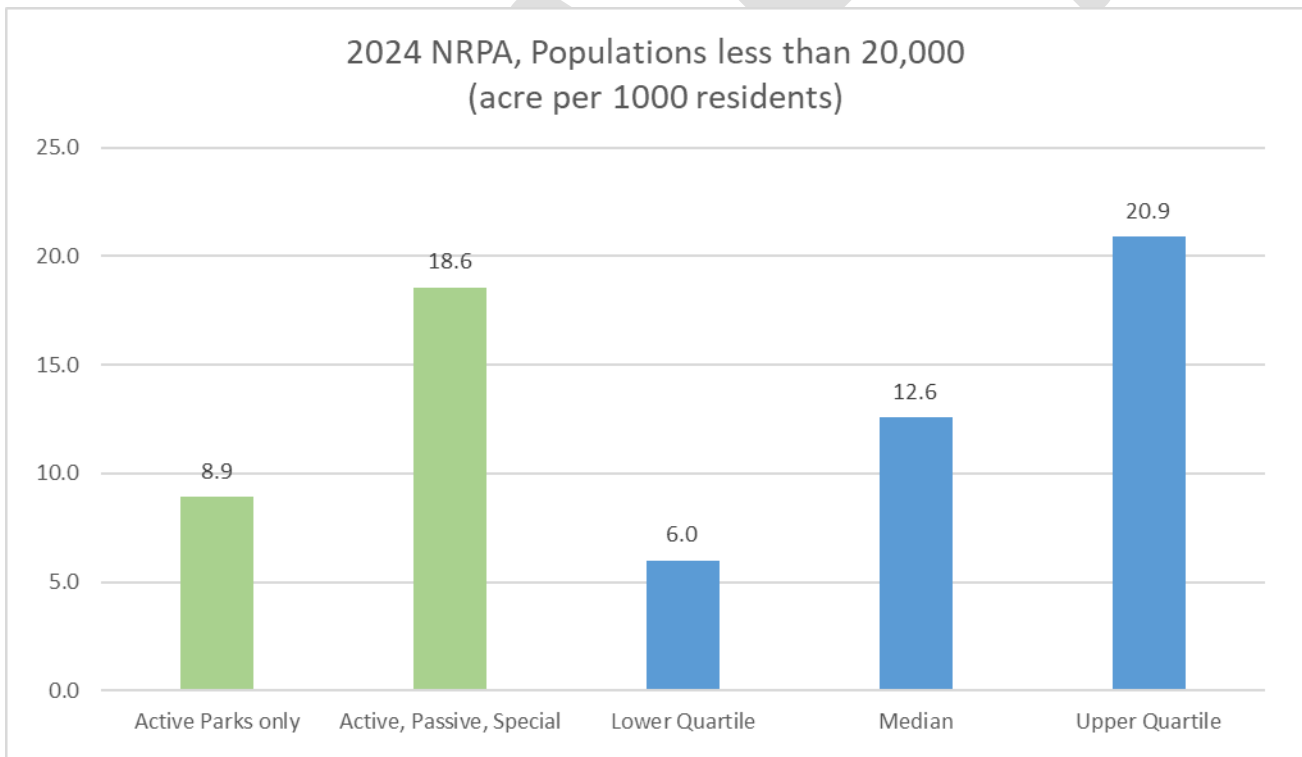


Table 6 compares the NRPA’s 2024 guidelines for communities with populations of 20,000 or less with McFarland. As stated previously, the NRPA does not establish standards for school districts, conservancy areas, privately-owned properties, and special purpose parks, therefore the values are only for the primary three park types (miniparks, neighborhood parks, and community parks). Based on

McFarland’s current acreage in park facilities, McFarland is below the NRPA’s guideline of 10.5 acres per 1,000 by 15.09 acres using the estimated population of 9,676 as of January 1, 2024. This excludes Passive/Conservancies and Special Purpose parks.

Table 6: Recreation acres per 1,000 persons

Type of Park	NRPA Guidelines	Current Village Park Facilities			School and Dane Co. Active and Passive Facilities		Total
	Acres/1000 persons	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 person	DEMAND	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons	Acres per 1,000 persons
Mini-park	0.50	1.14	0.12	4.84	0	0	0.12
Neighborhood Park	2.00	20.28	2.10	19.35	0	0	2.10
Community Park	8.00	65.09	6.73	77.41	0	0	6.73
Village Active Parks	10.50	86.51	8.94	101.60	0.00	0.00	8.94
Passive	NA	63.18	6.53	NA	0	0	6.53
Special Purpose	NA	30.07	3.11	NA	0	0	3.11
Village Total	10.5	179.77	18.58	NA	0	0	18.58
Wetland or Floodplain Areas	NA	99.97	10.33	NA	0.00	0	10.33
School and Dane Co.	None	0	0	0	202.38	20.9	20.92
Total	None	279.73	18.58	NA	202.38	20.92	49.83

Table 6 also calculates the total acreage demand needed to meet the NRPA’s guidelines among each park type. The demand column in Table 6 shows McFarland has a small surplus in acreage for Neighborhood parks and deficits in Mini Parks and Community Parks. The NRPA guideline of 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents suggests 3.7 additional acres for mini parks and 12.32 additional acres for community parks. The deficits do not compel McFarland to add the missing amount in only the two park types. Instead, the goal should be to consider strategic locations where these park types are most beneficial, adding to gaps in services and areas of most impact. Generally speaking, it is more advantageous to focus on having a sufficient supply of neighborhood and community parks as these parks can serve larger areas while accommodating a broader range of recreational facilities.

Table 7: Park Supply compares the NRPA’s guidelines of 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents and Village’s current standard of 18.5 acres per 1,000 residents to total acreages. The difference of 8 acres was incorporated as the Passive/Conservancy and Special Purpose areas. To achieve comparable standards, the three categories of parks maintained the same distribution with the NRPA’s guidelines. For each guideline and standard, a demand column provides the minimum acreages required for the type of park. Based on McFarland’s standard, current facilities show that the Village is deficient among Mini and Community park types. There is a slight surplus for Neighborhood Parks.

Table 7 gradually incorporates additional park types (Passive, Conservancy and Special Purpose Parks) to accommodate all dedicated parkland and natural areas. Based on the core demand and existing active total acreage, the Village appears to be at a deficit of 15.09-acres among all core park types. The addition of Passive/Conservancy and Special Purpose Parks includes an additional 93.26-acres, showing a surplus of 15.85-acres in this Village Standard for the 8.0-acres. When Table 7 includes park types identified (Active + Passive + Special Purpose), the Village is at a surplus of 0.76 acres, based on the Village's standard 18.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This value combines the deficit from the active total acreage demand and surplus of Passive and Special purpose. However, it is important to not dismiss the deficiencies shown for active parks, emphasizing what park types to pursue.

Table 7: Park Supply

Type of Park	NRPA Guidelines		Village Standards		Current Village Park Facilities		Surplus/Deficit	
	Acres/1,000 persons	DEMAND	Acres/1,000 persons	DEMAND	Total Acres	Acres/ 1,000 persons	NRPA Guideline	VOM Standard
Mini-park	0.50	4.84	0.50	4.84	1.14	0.12	-3.69	-3.69
Neighborhood Park	2.00	19.35	2.00	19.35	20.28	2.10	0.92	0.92
Community Park	8.00	77.41	8.00	77.41	65.09	6.73	-12.32	-12.32
Active Parks Only	10.50	101.60	10.50	101.60	86.51	8.94	-15.09	-15.09
Passive + Special Purpose	0.00	0.00	8.0	77.41	93.26	9.64	0.00	15.85
Active + Passive + Special Purpose	10.50	101.60	18.50	179.01	179.77	18.58	-15.09	0.76
Wetland & Floodplain Areas	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	99.97	10.33	0.00	0.00

Source: Used Wisconsin DOA population estimate: 9,676 to calculate acres per 1,000 persons

Comparison of Dane County Communities

Table 8 compiles and compares the park indicator (acres per 1,000 residents), among adopted CORPs for other peer communities in the Madison area. The table calculates active parks only and total acreages with each community's reported population.

Table 8: Comparing Acres per 1,000 Residents

Municipality	Yr of CORP	Standard	Active Only Acreages		Total Parkland Acreages	
		(Acres/1,000)	(Acres/1,000)	Active Parks	Acres/1,000	Total Acreage
McFarland	2025	18.5	9.74	94.3	28.91	279.7
Cottage Grove	2023		9.53	84.4	14.84	131.4
Deforest	2024	11.0	9.85	115.0	33.41	390.0
Fitchburg*	2024	12.0	10.99	386.0	23.20	815.0
Middleton*	2020	15.0	14.77	309.0	14.77	309.0
Monona	2021		10.92	89.30	54.14	442.6
Oregon	2023	30.0	22.18	262.0	29.37	347.0
Stoughton	2023		9.93	130.8	21.77	286.7
Sun Prairie*	2024	9.37	9.38	355.2	18.97	718.7
Verona	2022	17.0	8.91	125.0	13.90	195
Waunakee	2023	15.0	16.41	244.2	33.67	424.7
AVERAGE	2.09	15.98	12.06	199.56	26.09	394.53
AVERAGE for 20k or less		18.30	12.18	143.12	28.75	312.14

It should be noted that communities with an asterisk (*) in the table indicate a population of over 20,000, putting their community in a different category according to NRPA guidelines. Cottage Grove, Monona, and Stoughton did not indicate in their CORPS a standard goal for the number of acres per 1,000. Waunakee’s CORP was completed with Westport, however the data has been separated to include only Waunakee. Middleton’s CORP did not separate “active + passive” from total acreages. McFarland’s goal of 18.5 acres per 1,000 residents is similar to the average for communities with less than 20,000 residents. On average, McFarland has less active parkland per 1,000 residents than the peer communities but has a similar total parkland per 1,000 residents. This is consistent with the data reported in Table 7 which shows a deficit in active parkland acreage for mini and community parks. However, McFarland has a greater share of passive and special purpose parkland.

Park Demand Projection by 2040

Table 9 utilizes the population projections cited in Chapter 2, Table 2, to project park demand until 2040. McFarland is projected to have a population of 13,378 by 2040, a growth of 3,702 since 2024. Assuming the 18.5 acres per 1,000 standard remains unchanged during this period, the following park type distribution should be as shown in Table 8. By 2040, the Village will need to add approximately 68.49 acres of active and passive parkland to meet the population growth demand. With the 17-year window, that is on average 4.03 acres per year. Included with that acreage growth should be staffing that must also increase to maintain the parks as needed.

Table 9: Park Demand Projection 2040 (18.5 ac./1000 residents)

	Village Standards	Current (WDOA Est.)	Housing Needs Assessment Medium Growth Projection				Difference 2024-2040
	Acres/1000 persons	2024	2025	2030	2035	2040	
Population		9,676	9,930	10,967	12,113	13,378	3,702
Mini Park	0.50	4.84	4.97	5.48	6.06	6.69	1.85
Neighborhood Park	2.00	19.35	19.86	21.93	24.23	26.76	7.40
Community Park	8.00	77.41	79.44	87.74	96.90	107.02	29.62
Passive + Special Purpose	8.00	77.41	79.44	87.74	96.90	107.02	29.62
Totals	18.50	179.01	183.71	202.89	224.09	247.49	68.49

Outdoor Park Facility

Table 10 reviews existing activity-related facilities among the Village of McFarland (VOM), School District, and Dane County based on the 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review. The NRPA includes a more comprehensive list of reported recreational facilities not used in the analysis of the CORP. Table 9 includes future needs for the identified facilities for McFarland by 2040. The future needs of the Village’s facilities were determined using the 2040 projected population of 13,378 residents as shown in Table 8. A value near or below the current count for facilities would indicate a future need for the facility type. A value slightly above 0 would indicate potential need for this facility type.

Table 10: Outdoor Park Facilities

Facility Type	NRPA Guideline Median Number of Residents per facility (<20,000 pop.)*	NRPA number of suggested facility (Pop. of 9,676)	VOM Current Facilities	School District & Dane County	VOM Future Needs (2040)	VOM Surplus/Deficit
Basketball Court	4,366	2.2	6	6	3.1	2.9
Community Garden	8,800	1.1	1	1	1.5	-0.5
Diamond (baseball/softball)	1,833	5.3	2	4	7.3	-5.3
Ice Rink	8,015	1.2	1	0	1.7	-0.7
Pickleball	3,390	2.9	8	8	3.9	4.1
Playground/play structure	1,990	4.9	14	2	6.7	7.3
Rectangular Fields	2,493	3.9	10	3	5.4	4.6
Splash pads, spray grounds or spray showers	12,756	0.8	0	0	1.0	-1.0
Synthetic rectangular fields	11,284	0.9	0	1	1.2	-1.2
Tennis Courts	3,074	3.1	8	8	4.4	3.6
Totlots	5,323	1.8	3	0	2.5	0.5

*Source: NRPA 2024 Agency Performance Review

Based on NRPA guidelines for each facility type in communities with a population of 20,000 or less, the table suggests that by 2040, McFarland’s park system should add the following:

- 1 community garden
- 6 baseball/softball diamonds (analysis does not include school facilities as those are not owned by the Village)

- 1 ice rink (analysis does not include the McFarland Ice Hockey Arena as that is not a Village owned amenity)
- 1 splash pad
- 2 synthetic rectangular fields¹² (analysis does not include school facilities as those are not owned by the Village)

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¹² Rectangular fields are sports fields flexible of hosting soccer, football, la crosse, and rugby, etc., the synthetic commonly refers to the material of field, typically not grass or soil; i.e. artificial turf.

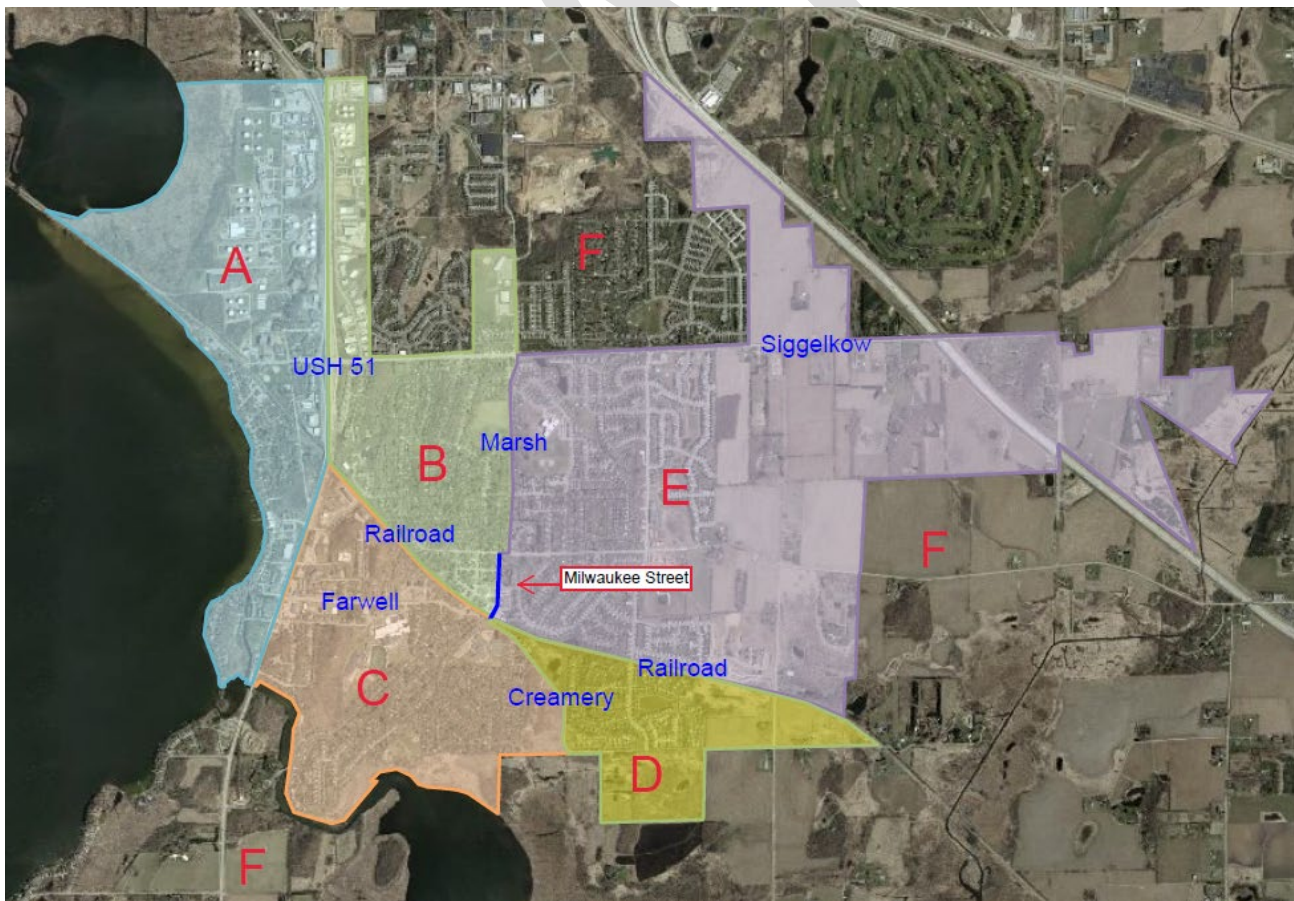
QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Public Survey

An online public survey was available from May 9, 2024 to June 9, 2024, receiving 523 total responses. Response rates from the 2024 survey were doubled in comparison to the 2018 survey for the outdoor and open space plan, which received 259 total responses. To achieve this, the planning team utilized multiple methods of distribution to capture a wide range of responders which included emails, posts on Village social media platforms, and park fliers with QR codes. The following takeaways are highlights from the survey.

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

Figure 6. The following map was included in Question 5 of the online survey. Area E includes areas north of the railroad tracks and east of Marsh Road and Milwaukee Street.



Survey responses showed that 82% of respondents regularly go to McFarland parks. Of the parks, trails and conservancy areas in McFarland’s park system, the most popular parks destination were McDaniel Park (48.59%), Lewis Park (37.96%), Yahara River Conservancy (17.14%) and William McFarland Park (16.7%). When traveling to parks outside of McFarland, reasonings for leaving were mostly associated with amenities not available in McFarland, such as water amenities (i.e. splash pads and swimming pools), and camping.

Fitchburg Devil s Lake pads outdoor pools springs dog park Community Pool Winnequah Park
 swimming pool Madison Fitchburg Middleton pools summer Verona tennis
 Stoughton splash pad Elver area water County Park summer go Dog
 State Park kids Sun Prairie travel grove splash pad
 Mountain Bike Trail dog park Lake Kegonsa State dream park
 Dane county dog Stoughton Dane county Cottage Grove
 access Madison Kayak splash pad around Park
 various Monona Lake Farm trails Secret Places pools
 County dog parks Monona pool Kegonsa State Park
 Monona Dream Park Splash Cottage grove splash
 lake Beach city hiking one playgrounds Vilas bike trails walking Swimming
 Viking Public pool UW Arboretum biking Capital Springs CamRock April Hills Olbrich
 Lake Farm Park Goodman pool McKee Farms Park Splash pads outdoor facilities

Overall, respondents indicated park cleanliness as the most positive park amenity (72.81% combined). Drinking fountains and park grills were two amenities that received mixed or low satisfaction due to their lack of availability in the parks. The survey asked respondents to identify what recreational activity they or members of their household participate in. The list of active and passive activities was separated into two questions with respondents able to choose from multiple activities. Active recreational activities were defined as “high intensity exercise or sports that included periods of elevated heart rate (i.e. soccer, football and basketball).” Passive recreational activities include light intensity physical activities that were more relaxing and less physically strenuous (i.e. walking/hiking, yoga, wildlife watching). The top responses among active and passive recreational activities residents reported engaged in include:

Active Recreational Activities

1. Bicycling – Road, (60.51%)
2. Swimming, (57.24%)
3. Using Playground Equipment, (46.03%)
4. Splashpad, (36.45%)
5. Pickleball, (30.37%)

Passive Recreational Activities

1. Hiking/Walking, (78.3%)
2. Canoeing/kayaking, (46.5%)
3. Bird/Wildlife viewing, (41.6%)
4. Fishing, (40.19%)
5. Camping, (36.45%)

	VERY UNSATISFIED	UNSATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED/UNSATISFIED	SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Benches/picnic tables	3.69% 16	11.52% 50	34.56% 150	41.47% 180	8.76% 38	434
Bicycle racks	2.76% 12	10.37% 45	57.60% 250	24.05% 107	4.61% 20	434
Drinking fountains	4.84% 21	30.41% 132	41.71% 181	19.35% 84	3.69% 16	434
Grills	2.30% 10	9.68% 42	77.19% 335	8.29% 36	2.53% 11	434
Landscaping	3.23% 14	9.68% 42	36.87% 160	42.40% 184	7.83% 34	434
Lighting	2.53% 11	10.37% 45	43.55% 189	37.56% 163	5.99% 26	434
Park cleanliness	1.15% 5	4.84% 21	21.20% 92	59.68% 259	13.13% 57	434
Parking	2.53% 11	8.99% 39	27.42% 119	52.53% 228	8.53% 37	434
Playground equipment	3.00% 13	9.91% 43	33.87% 147	43.55% 189	9.68% 42	434
Recreational fields	2.53% 11	8.76% 38	39.63% 172	42.86% 186	6.22% 27	434
Restrooms	4.61% 20	19.82% 86	27.88% 121	40.09% 174	7.60% 33	434
Shelter/Shading structures	3.92% 17	12.67% 55	25.58% 111	52.07% 226	5.76% 25	434
Sidewalks & pathways	2.76% 12	16.36% 71	25.12% 109	48.39% 210	7.37% 32	434
#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)					DATE

The top responses for desired active and passive recreational facilities and amenities include:

Active Amenities (excluding “None of the above” at 12.62%).

1. Swimming, (41.3%)
2. Splashpad, (40.8%)
3. Bicycling – Road, (17.5%)
4. Using playground equipment, (14.08%)
5. Bicycling – Mountain, (10.68%)

Passive Amenities

1. Hiking/Walking, (24.03%)
2. Canoeing/Kayaking, (21.84%)
3. None of the above, (17.23%)
4. Aerobics/Fitness course, (13.83%)
5. Fishing, (11.89%)

The survey received responses on concerns associated with accessibility and safety among McFarland’s parks. The average response of 88.37% indicated no concerns with the current parks on accessibility and safety. Of the responses the survey did receive, the comments included amenities to support wheelchair accessibility, additional lighting fixtures, regulation of high speeds along pedestrian shared paths (i.e. Lower Yahara River Trail boardwalk in McDaniel Park), and unleashed dogs.

Public Information Meeting on May 15, 2024

A Public Information Meeting was hosted by the Planning team to engage the public in discussion regarding desired amenities and identifying 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 to gather their input. 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, April 3, 2025

A second Public Information Meeting was hosted by the Planning team to present the final draft of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2029. The meeting discussed the plan’s content, future park and trail locations, plan recommendations, and provided the public with the opportunity to review various maps and concepts in the plan. Comment forms were available for attendees to fill out and submit. **Comments received at the meeting included:**

MCFARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Village Planning team met with McFarland School District staff in May 2024 to discuss their plans on recreational facility needs, maintenance schedules, and desired improvements to sports facilities. District facilities often include amenities that support physical education such as gymnasiums, playgrounds, and sports fields. As a user of public parks when their facilities are at capacity, the District's recommendations included park amenities that would support extracurricular activities such as football and cross country and improvements for equitable use of parks.

Although the District's facilities are outside the jurisdiction of the Village, collaboration projects have proven to be successful, such as the development of Inclusive Park at Waubesa Intermediate School. The primary focus of this plan is on Village-owned parks and conservancy areas. District facilities are also excluded from the 10-minute maps analysis in the following section for these reasons. The District is not obligated to abide by the recommendations and implementation included in this CORP.

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Appendix B includes eight maps providing a visual representation of the current parks and open spaces within McFarland. This section describes each map and its features, analysis of the intended data they display, and how this information can be used to improve McFarland'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 in relationship to its surroundings.

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.

Map 2: Existing Parks by Type

This map identifies parks by NRPA classification categories for mini parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks. Map 2 uses various colors to visually showcase the different types of parks in McFarland. The same colors are also used in the table which includes details for more categories that include Special Purpose Parks, Conservancies, Non-profit/School District Parks, Dane County & DNR Parks, and Privately owned parks. The table in this map is numerically and categorically organized to highlight the variety of parks. The map highlights parks owned by the Village and parks not owned by the Village.

Map 3: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Park

This map includes an analysis based on The Trust for Public Land¹³, 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 able-bodied 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.

Within Map 3, each park's location serves as the center points for where the yellow areas originate from. The areas not covered in yellow are areas outside the 10-minute walk analysis. This information can be helpful when looking at future park and trail locations to provide better access, while reducing barriers to recreational spaces. It should be noted that the analysis does not include pedestrian lake access points as these locations include minimal to no park amenities.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR 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 include more acreage, more amenities, and service more of the surrounding area, and thus are expected to have a larger service area compared to categorically smaller parks. The points of buffer do not include pedestrian lake access points as these locations are not parks and offer little to no amenities. The buffer areas are 0.25 miles for mini parks and neighborhood parks, and 0.5 miles for community parks. An additional 2-mile buffer was added to community parks. This buffer serves to include survey responses that residents may sometimes travel further distances for a specific park amenity.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 4]

Map 5: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Parks with a Playground

This map uses the 10-minute walk analysis to review parks with playground structures. The analysis excludes existing structures that are not Village-owned parks, such as School District parks. A playground structure or equipment would include, but are not limited to, a swing set, slide, monkey bars, etc. The yellow areas within Map 5 have decreased compared to Map 3's service area since not all parks include a playground. Gaps found in Map 5 identify areas in the community where families and children of a certain age may have to travel further to enjoy playgrounds. One gap is present southeast of Siggelkow Park (see label 18) from this analysis, highlighting a deficiency in services of playgrounds for the area. Another gap includes residential properties near USH 51; however, there is a playground located within the Babcock County Park that helps to fill this service gap.

¹³ Trust for Public Land website: <https://10minutewalk.org/>

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 5]

Map 6: 10-Minute Walk Time to 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 temporary and permanent restrooms. The analysis does not consider shelters and facilities that are winterized, becoming temporarily unavailable for public use.

Analysis of the map shows that current services are predominantly located in the northwest and southeast corners of McFarland. One possible explanation for this could be that smaller parks and conservancies are more prominent in the center and do not typically include restroom amenities. Another observation is that school facilities are also centrally located. A likely opportunity would be a permanent restroom at Autumn Grove Park (see label #12), Juniper Ridge Park (see label #16) or Siggelkow Road (see label #18), and a temporary restroom at Taylor Road Conservancy (see label #35). The map does not consider District facilities, Dane County & DNR parks, or other private entities. The Community Park is not included in this analysis since at the time of this plan's development, the park is currently being developed.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 6]

Map 7: 10-Minute Walk Time to Village Parks with Sports Amenities

This map uses the 10-minute analysis to look at parks with sports amenities. In the same approach as Map 5 and 6, Map 7's analysis focuses on sports amenities offered for the walk-time analysis. The planning team wanted to highlight parks that were capable of hosting sporting events and catered to multiple uses. The identification of such parks had to include sports fields such as soccer and football fields, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, baseball diamonds, etc. In general, these parks offer larger green space areas that can support formal and informal active recreational uses.

Analysis of this map shows a gap near the southwest corner extending to the center of McFarland. The surrounding corridor includes Farwell Street and Main Street, which is where the majority of McFarland commercial establishments are located. The McFarland High School and Indian Mound Middle School help to fill this service gap.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 7]

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. One of these gap is consistently shown within the southwest quadrant of McFarland along South Court

(west of HWY 51) and Yahara Drive (east of HWY51). This is likely due to the lack of Village parks in the area and the barrier of Highway 51, creating limitations along the entire corridor. Although it is possible to assume that Babcock County Park can provide recreational opportunities, these are not Village owned properties and therefore improvements to the site may alter the park use. Additionally, HWY 51 and Farwell Street serve as commercial corridors in McFarland, further limiting recreational opportunities. Gaps shown in the maps are a priority because of their vacancies among identified amenities. Throughout all of the maps, the Community Park is rarely included due to the facility being constructed during the time of this plan.

Map 8: Future Parks and Open Space

This map identifies possible future parks and trails throughout the Village. Further discussion on the details of the parcels identified are included in Chapter 6: Recommendations. Acquisition of these parcels may be through a combination of developer land dedication, donation, or sale of property. 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 parcels on Map 8 with a capital letter are the identified parcels for potential future parks or trails.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR MAP 8]

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Chapter 5: 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 underlying 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 all-gender restrooms.
- c. Provide a variety of recreational amenities to meet the needs of varying park users.

Policies & Strategies:

1. All new facilities should be 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 all-gender restrooms. Consider the use of temporary/seasonal restrooms in parks that don't warrant permanent facilities until 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 or have limited availability within the immediate neighborhood or Village-wide, 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 18.5 acres of Village parkland (excluding wetland and floodplain areas) per 1,000 residents within the Village.
- b. Ensure that residents of McFarland are within 0.5 miles, or a 10-minute walk, of a Village park.
- c. Maintain adequate Village Staffing to meet the maintenance required from park demand.

Policies & Strategies:

1. Developers shall dedicate usable land to provide parks, playgrounds, and recreational and open spaces to meet the needs of 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 6 Map 8 for potential parcels for future parkland and trails. The Village may consider other parcels not listed within Chapter 6 and Map 8.
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, plans should 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, planning, and engineering design.
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 6, and Map 8 for potential parcels identified. The Village may consider other parcels not listed within Chapter 6 and Map 8.
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" bicycle route).

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. Conserve 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 through adequate staffing.
- 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, and water and energy efficient fixtures and 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 Plan¹⁴. Update the plan as needed to reflect best practices and new conservancy additions.
6. Implement recommendations within the Village's Urban Forestry Management Plan¹⁵, 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 Mounds¹⁶. 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.

¹⁴ See the Conservancy Management Plan 2023,

<https://www.mcfarland.wi.us/DocumentCenter/View/2969/Conservancy-Management-Plan-2023-PDF>

¹⁵ See the Urban Forestry Management Plan 2024, <https://www.mcfarland.wi.us/DocumentCenter/View/2968/Urban-Forestry-Management-Plan-2024-PDF>

¹⁶ See the Policy for Preservation Maintenance of Native American Mounds 2023,

<https://www.mcfarland.wi.us/DocumentCenter/View/2841/Policy-for-Preservation--Maintenance-of-Native-American-Mounds-2023-PDF>

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 Capital Improvement Plan 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.
- 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 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 reinforce 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, friends group, 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. Participate in regional planning of parks and outdoor recreational facilities that impact the Village, including neighboring municipalities, the Dane County, 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 to ensure adequate schedule of use and maintenance.
3. Coordinate with the McFarland School District to provide mutually beneficial park facilities and recreational programming to meet the needs of neighborhoods and the Village.
4. Support and foster volunteer 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 parks 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 park, trail, and recreational improvements. This includes collaborative applications with public and private entities.

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 five-year lifetime of this plan. Some items may require additional collaboration with entities including the McFarland School District, MRAP or other recreational associations, adjacent municipalities, Dane County and the State of Wisconsin. Other recommendations rely on market opportunities, which may not present itself within the next five years. The purpose of this chapter is to guide the Village on the administration of improvements to be incorporated through annual Capital Improvement Plans and municipal budgets. The Village may consider carrying over any unfinished recommendations 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 or added to the five-year Capital Improvement Plan and annual municipal budget.

While it is essential to consider improvements that enhance the enjoyment and use of existing parks, this plan does not abandon ongoing tasks the Village Parks crew routinely completes 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
- maintenance of public trees among active use parks
- performing ecological restorative activities on conservation lands

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 following recommendations. A summary table listing all the recommendations for each existing park is included at the end of this section.

Pedestrian Lake Access

There are currently seven lake access points located along Lake Waubesa. Each location provides the 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:

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

Mini Parks

Discovery Garden, 5920 Milwaukee Street

Existing Facilities: This 0.2-acre mini park includes a new playground installed in 2018, available outdoor seating, and benches. A seasonal lion head drinking fountain is installed from spring through fall. Consideration for the following items may be included in the Community Center improvements. Such amenities as permanent restrooms may be accessed through public buildings.

Recommendations:

- Following the future decommissioning of Well House #1, add an open-air shelter or alternative use of the building's structure.
- 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 crosswalk 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

Existing Facilities: The mini park is 0.4-acres and includes a playground structure installed in 2021, and an open play area. A large portion of this park sits over an underground easement, limiting opportunities for improvements. Additional coordination with easement holders would be required. Some of the following recommendations might be achieved with the expansion of the park east.

Recommendations:

- 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

Existing Facilities: This mini park is located on a 1.35-acre parcel with approximately 0.5-acres comprised of the park itself, and the remaining parts as dedicated stormwater retention. The park includes a playground structure installed in 2007, picnic tables, and an open play area.

Recommendations:

- 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

Existing Facilities: This 1.5-acre park is a reclaimed brownfield, formally home to the Badger Petroleum Company. The brownfield site was remediated in 2007. There is an existing clay cover barrier surface over the eastern 2/3rds of the property to prevent human contact with residual soil contaminants that

might otherwise pose a threat to human health. The park includes a gazebo, benches, picnic tables, connection to the Lower Yahara River Trail, and sidewalks.

Recommendations:

- Installation of band shell/shelter with permanent restrooms and event storage room
- Create dedicated space/plaza suitable for electrical connections: for food trucks and other gathering attachments
- 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 additional Village-branded bike racks.
- Install outdoor community history signs
- Install electronic community 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]



Example of McFarland Bike Rack with symbol

Autumn Grove Park, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane

Existing Facilities: This 1.5-acre park includes two half-court basketball hoops, playground equipment installed in 2007, an open play area, and an existing pathway from Valley Drive between two single family residential homes to the park.

Recommendations:

- Add an accessible path from the Falling Leaves Lane to the playground equipment.
- Determine use of the property for a supporting playground structures such as benches, shade structures, and drinking fountains or a small, open-air shelter.
- Add a permanent seasonal 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

Existing Facilities: This 3.9-acre park includes playground equipment added in 1999, a gazebo, open space with soccer with goal posts, and trails and sidewalks. This park is located just 200 feet east of McFarland School District's Waubesa Intermediate School.

Recommendations:

- A new 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

Existing Facilities: This 2.3-acre park includes an existing building, dual-functioning as a Well House (Well #4) and an open park shelter, basketball court, benches, two separate playground structures for varying ages, free library box, a porta potty, and an open space area. The playground was partially replaced in 2018.

Recommendations:

- Add accessible paths to the basketball court and playground.
- Replace/rehabilitate the existing shelter/Well House #4 including permanent, all-gender restrooms, 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 and consider installation of an accessible ramp.
- Replace small playground structure.

[Placeholder for image of Egner park]

Highland Oaks, 5945 Osborn Drive

Existing Facilities: This park received updates in 2024 which included a new permanent seasonal all-gender restroom, drinking fountain, and updated playground equipment replacing the 2004 equipment. The 2.2-acre park includes an open-air park shelter, basketball court, available seating, walking paths, and picnic tables.

Recommendations:

- 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

Existing Facilities: This 1.5-acre park is located on the north side of Juniper Ridge neighborhood, adjacent to the water tower. A paved pathway cutting west to east through the properties connects pedestrians from Holscher Road and around the water tower to Lodgecliffe Lane. The park includes an open-air shelter, benches, a bike rack, an open play area, and playground equipment installed in 2016.

Recommendations:

- Add an accessible path to the existing shelter and playground from the existing path.
- Plant trees as consistent with the tree planting schedule or tree management plan.
- Install a drinking fountain.
- Add a temporary restroom.

[Placeholder for image of Juniper Ridge park]

Rosewood Fields

Existing Facilities: Prior to the 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. The park includes an open playfield, walking pathways, playground equipment installed in 2022, and available seating.

Recommendations:

- Consider the addition of shading structures and a water drinking fountain.
- Include pet waste bag and disposal.
- Include Village-branded bike rack.
- Install park signage.

- Add a permanent seasonal restroom (e.g. similar to the structure added at Highland Oaks)

[Placeholder for image of Rosewood Fields park]

Siggelkow Road, 5002 Valley Drive

Existing Facilities: This 5.6-acre undeveloped neighborhood park is half open space and half conservancy. The Native American mounds are located on the west side of the property. The remaining east side includes approximately 2-acres of open space, tree lines along Siggelkow Road and Valley Drive, and a park entrance sign at its northeast corner.

Recommendations:

- Develop a park master plan for the eastern undeveloped portion of the property. 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

Existing Facilities: The 2.4-acre park includes an open-air shelter, an outside grill, a half-court basketball hoop, playground equipment installed in 2011 with slides and a climbing wall, a sand volleyball court, picnic tables, benches, and an open playfield with backstop and soccer goal posts.

Recommendations:

- 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 seasonal all-gender restrooms.
- Add an accessible path from Cardinal Drive to the park between 5512 and 5602 Cardinal Drive.

[Placeholder for image of park]

Community Parks

Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road

Existing Facilities: This park is 4.9 acres and includes two lit and fenced softball diamonds, bleachers, and park benches. A seasonal 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 full basketball court. In 2024-25, the shelter restrooms and concession area will be

updated, including a new all-gender restroom. Limitations to this site include the railroad to the west and only designated on-street parking.

Recommendations:

- Update existing main shelter facility to include all-gender restroom.
- Add batting cage(s).
- Consider the following site improvements
 - Identified in the 2006 Park Master Plan, if the adjacent property located at 4519 Siggelkow Road (Future Parks & Trails Recommendation “A”) becomes available for purchase the Village may consider acquisition for a 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 (if the first two options above can’t be advanced)
- Diversify the play equipment including adding sensory and imaginative elements like musical instruments or group spinner with accessible surfacing.

[Placeholder for image of park]

Community Park, 3234 County HWY AB

Existing Facilities: The construction of this 26-acre park is ongoing during the time of this plan. There are no amenities at this time. Playing field and irrigation installed in 2023.

Recommendations:

- Continue implementation of the 2021 park master plan and 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

Existing Facilities: This 6.4-acre park includes seasonal ice skating, an observation deck, a sand volleyball court, a baseball field, a batting cage, playground equipment added in 2007, off-street parking, picnic tables, and a heated shelter completed in 2016 with overhead doors. The shelter includes restrooms, a concessions, and picnic tables.

Recommendations:

- 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 digging 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

Existing Facilities: The park includes two parcels totaling 7.9 acres. The northern parcel is approximately 3.6 acres and is mostly undeveloped natural areas. The southern parcel of 4.3 acres includes the bulk of park facilities improvements. These include off-street parking, three different seasonal shelters (one shelter with a food service area and restrooms and two open-air shelters), a sand volleyball court, playground equipment added in 2008, a bike share (BCycle) station, two beaches, boat/canoe storage, a pier, and trail marker and description board.

Recommendations:

- Complete implementation of [McDaniel Park Master Plan, 2017](#). If the existing parking lot is proposed for expansion, consider an expansion parallel to the existing parking lot in lieu of perpendicular to the Lake Waubesa as shown in the 2017 plan in order to maintain green space closer to the lakefront.
- Maintain current pier and consider second public pier along the north beach based on availability and demand.
- Should the adjacent residential properties to the south become available for acquisition, consider opportunities to expand park amenities
- Provide accessible play surfacing to transfer station and nearest slide.
- Replace one of the swing 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, 4802/4820 Marsh Road

Existing Facilities: This park includes two parcels totaling 19.8 acres. The park includes four bocce ball lanes (run by the Four Lakes Bocce Association), a skate park (updated in 2022), drinking fountains, shade structures, benches, eight pickleball courts (added in 2023), a baseball diamond, over 100 off-street parking stalls, a year-round park facility with overhead doors and concessions, playground equipment added in 1998, and multiple soccer fields of various sizes.

Other organizations near or on the property include:

- Madison Curling Club (leases a portion of the property)
- McFarland Community Ice Arena (owns adjacent 5-acre property. Building used by McFarland Hockey Club and School District.)
- McFarland Soccer Club. Regularly uses the soccer fields mentioned. The establishment of the Community Park will relocate the McFarland Soccer Club to the new park, providing opportunities for improvements.

Recommendations:

- Continue implementation of the 2021 park master plan including:
 - Installation of additional bocce ball lanes
 - Installation of new playground equipment
 - Installation of new youth baseball and softball diamonds. Consider inclusion of moveable pitching mounds and outfield fencing in order to utilize diamonds for multiple age groups and uses.
 - Installation of basketball courts
 - 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, 5318 Leanne Lane (Waubesa Intermediate School)

Existing Facility: This new, 1-acre park was completed in 2024. The park is only preceded by the 2023 Inclusive Park Master Plan used to guide the desired amenities on the property. The park includes picnic tables accessible for wheelchairs, playgrounds, restrooms (accessible at park shelter to south), a soccer field, off-street parking, soft rubber surfacing around playground equipment, shade structures, a drinking fountain, and sensory and imaginative elements.

Recommendation:

- Continue collaborative implementation of the 2023 Inclusive Park Master Plan with the McFarland School District.
- 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

Existing Facilities: This 16.9-acre park includes nine holes of disc golf, recreational walking pathways, benches, an existing building, and off-street parking.

Recommendations:

- Continue implementation of the 2017 Urso Schuetz Park Master Plan. Amenities should include:
 - Explore options for permanent restrooms (similar to the Highland Oaks Park)
 - Drinking fountain
 - Additional park benches and bike racks
 - Assess the condition of existing buildings and structures on the property for updates, replacement, or additions
 - Assess future bike and pedestrian trail connections at this park location
- Update the existing park master plan as needed, including conceptual uses expanding park use, such as the 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 including potential connections to the Lower Yahara River Trail.

[Placeholder for image of Orchard Hill park]

[Placeholder for map of disc golf course]

John Urso Park, 6201 Elvehjem Road

Existing Facilities: This 40.1-acre park includes mostly conservation and wetlands. The park includes 8 acres of off-leash dog exercise area, off-street parking, a dog wash station (indoor and outdoor), drinking fountains, restrooms, seating areas, and walking trails added in 2011 with crushed gravel add in 2023. This park marks the end of Dane County's Lower Yahara River Trail along Elvehjem Road. The facility is a year-round building.

Recommendations:

- Continue implementation of the 2017 Urso Schuetz Park Master Plan. Update the plan as needed.
- 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.
- Consider expansion of the park to the east with development of adjacent properties per the 2023 East Side Plan.

[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 Chapter 4, Table 8, the Village projects a population growth of 3,702 residents and the resulting need for approximately **66.6 acres** of additional parkland by 2040. Potential parks and trails identified in Map 8 provide a starting point for potential acquisition and parkland dedication. This plan does not require the acquisition or dedication of all the identified properties, especially within the next five years. Some parcels and properties may rely on market availability and the pace of new subdivision developments (land dedication), leaving some parcels unattainable 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, staffing and discussion will be necessary before decisions are made to acquire land, accept land dedications, 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 acquisition, 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 as properties become available for purchase. 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, donation, 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 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. The two parcels present opportunities for trails, conservancy space, and to maintain as wetlands.
- E. Parcel #: 154/0610-031-7105-0, 5410-12 Bashford Street. The parcel is adjacent to a Village owned lot, 6001 Bashford Street, a public parking lot. Potential use of this property would be to widen the existing sidewalk to meet Lower Yahara River Trail design requirements and expand the existing public parking lot.
- F. Parcel #: 028/0610-112-8500-1, MaHunt Dunn #1. The parcel will maintain continuation of trails, conservancy space, and wetlands from Legion Memorial to Urso Park.
- G. Parcel # 028/0610-112-8000-6, 3625 Elvehjem Road. 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, 3179 Holscher Road. Currently used as a horse stable farm. If redevelopment of this property is proposed a 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 future neighborhood park with development of the property. Note this does not include the entire property but somewhere located within the property, per the 2023 East Side Plan. The ideal location may be adjacent to site #I to develop a larger park to serve the existing and future neighborhoods.

- K. Parcel #: 154-0710-354-9811-1, 3435 Siggelkow Road; Currently the Hope Rod & Gun Club. The property is included in the East Side Plan as a future parkland space, should the Gun Club decide to relocate. The existing berm could support a sledding hill.
- L. Bike and Trail south side 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 the 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, 3055 Siggelkow Road. 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, 2840 Hidden Farm Road. 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. The parcel includes a through road connecting to Jaeger Park and the Thrun Marsh Conservancy entrance but is otherwise undeveloped and could provide an opportunity to expand Jaeger Park.
- S. Parcel #: 028/0610-111-8020-0; Property in the Town of Dunn. A northwest portion of this private property is identified within the 2023 East Side Plan for future park. The potential use of this space could be possible expansion of Urso Park.

The above list is not intended to serve as an exhaustive list of potential areas for new parks, trails, or conservancies. Other locations not on this list, or on Map 8, may emerge in the future. Readers should consult both this CORP, accepted Park Master Plans, the Village's Comprehensive Plan, and approved subarea plans (e.g. 2023 East Side Plan) when considering policies and locations for potential parks, trails, and conservancies. To the extent precise locations of future parks, trails, conservancies, or amenities may differ between this CORP, Park Master Plans, the Comprehensive Plan or an approved subarea (e.g. 2023 East Side Plan), the applicable Village committee, commission, or

board will determine the final location during the time of review of applicable land division applications or during the design phase of acquisition or improvement projects.

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. Similar to the future park locations, development of these futures amenities is likely to occur either with development of properties or when roads are reconstructed. Locations shown on Map 8 are conceptual, but often reflect improvements planned within the Village’s existing Capital Improvement Plan or conceptual locations shown in the Village’s Comprehensive Plan or 2023 East Side Plan. Locations shown in new development areas are conceptual and final locations would be considered during future land development proposals or public road reconstruction projects.

Walking pathways and sidewalks share similarities when discussing their purpose. The key differences include location and materials 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 brick¹⁷. 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. CONSERVACIES, WETLAND OR FLOODPLAIN

The adoption of the 2023 Conservancy Management Plan provides the related initiatives and recommendations on management practices for the conservancy areas in McFarland. Similarly, the 2023 Policy for Preservation & Maintenance of Native American Mounds plan was updated and adopted as a separate planning document, guiding the maintenance of Native American mounds. The full list of recommendations can be found within their respective plans. The mentioned plans should be updated as needed, as a matter of best practice or as future conservancy are added to the Village within the next 5-years.

Footnote below table additional recommendation Village conservancy

5. 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.

¹⁷ <https://constructowiki.com/pathways-vs-walkways-whats-the-real-difference/>

- A. Consider the installation of “little libraries” within Village parks.
- B. The Village to complete annual years review of park impact fees and park assessment fees related to zoning and park land dedication, fees in lieu of based on the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers-Midwest Region prepared by the United States Department of Labor.
- 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.
- D. Ensure the safeguard of natural resources throughout the Village continues to contribute to the hydrologic systems and wildlife habitat. This includes but is not limited to: 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 parks system, where appropriate.
- G. Cooperate in coordinated regional planning with other governmental bodies, the School District, and organizations in recreational projects. For example, provide shared recreation programs and services or work with School District for Safe Routes to School¹⁸ 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. Continue expand and apply for additional third-party park and natural resource designations. Current recognitions to maintain include Bird City USA and Tree City USA. Example designations to pursue:
 1. [Wisconsin Bike Federation](#)¹⁹
 2. [Playful City USA](#)²⁰
 3. [Bee City USA](#)²¹
- J. Development of park master plans should continue to include elements for green infrastructure²², features which help to reduce the impacts of stormwater and weather-related events leading to flooding and contamination of natural wetland systems.

¹⁸ <https://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

¹⁹ <https://wisconsinbikefed.org/>

²⁰ <https://www.pgpedia.com/p/playful-city-usa>

²¹ <https://beecityusa.org/>

²² [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,

- 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 rentals, 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.
- N. Review of annual staffing plan to meet the needs of maintenance schedules and upkeep of Village parks.



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or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspiration stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters.”

Summary of Recommendations for Existing Parks

Totlot/Mini

Discovery Garden, 5920 Milwaukee Street

- Following decommissioning of Well House #1, add open air shelter and all-gender restroom
- Expand park to include outdoor plaza space per recommendations in 2023 Municipal Center Campus Plan
- Add musical instruments for sensory play
- Provide at least one ADA picnic table with paved access

Ridgeview Tot lot, 5323 Black Walnut Drive

- Add a temporary restroom
- Add accessible path from sidewalk/street to playground
- Add street signs approaching park on east side of Chestnut Lane
- Add diverse play equipment
- Consider expansion of park per Future Parks & Trails Recommendation "H". Develop park master plan for expanded park

Valley Tot Lot, 5100, Broadhead Street

- Add accessible path from sidewalk/street to playground
- Add diverse play equipment

Neighborhood Parks

Arnold Larson, 6002 Exchange Street

- Installation of band shell/shelter with permanent restrooms and event storage room
- create dedicated space/plaza suitable for electrical connections
- New turf, lawn bermed seating and landscaping
- Improvements to existing Lower Yahara River Trail and new sidewalk alongside railroad
- Add additional Village-branded bike racks
- Install outdoor community history signs
- Install electronic community information sign
- Consider the location for a second bike share station (or at Bashford Street parking lot)

Autumn Grove, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane

- Add accessible path from Falling Leaves Lane sidewalk/street to playground
- Installation of supporting playground structures (i.e. benches, shade structures, and drinking fountains)
- Add a permanent restroom (e.g. similar to the structure added at Highland Oaks)

Cedar Ridge, 5303 Wild Cherry Lane

- Update the concept plan from the 2020 Inclusive Park Playground Master Plan given the 2024 construction of Inclusive Park

Egner, 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 and drinking fountain
- Add diverse play equipment
- Add a pour in place rubber path to the ground level components.
- Replace the stairs on the smaller structure with an accessible ramp.
- Replace small playground structure.

Highland Oaks, 5945 Osborn Drive

- Add street signs approach the park on the east side of Osborn Drive

Juniper Ridge

- Add an accessible path to the existing shelter and playground from existing path
- Plant trees as needed, consistent with tree management plan
- Install drinking fountain
- Add temporary restroom

Rosewood Fields

- Consider addition of sharing 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 Highland Oaks)

Siggelkow Road, 5002 Valley Drive

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

Woodland Estates, 5601 Glenway Street

- Develop a park master plan. Include replacement of structures and additional permanent amenities
- Add an accessible pathway from Cardinal Drive to park between 5512 and 5602 Cardinal Drive

Community Parks**Brandt, 4601 Siggelkow Road**

- Update existing main shelter facility to include all-gender restroom
- Add batting cages
- Consider other site improvements for Future Park & Trails Recommendation A, expansion of parking lot
- Earling Avenue on-street parking and path improvements
- Terminal Drive off-street parking lot and path improvements
- Diversify the play equipment

Community Park, 3234 County HWY AB

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

Lewis, 5012 Highland Drive

- Continue implementation of the 2024 water access plan, including ADA accessible boardwalk, kayak rack and 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 digging 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 west side of Lewis Lane
- 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.

McDaniel, 4806 McDaniel Lane

- Complete implementation of McDaniel Park Maser Plan, 2017
- Implement site improvements included in the 2025 Redevelopment District 1 concept; expanded parking lot
- Maintain pier and construct second public pier along the north beach per demand
- Should the adjacent residential properties become available, consider opportunities to expand park amenities
- Provide accessible play surfacing to transfer station and nearest slide
- Replace one of the swing 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 the Dane County on lake water access projects and Lower Yahara River Trail

William McFarland, 4802/4820 Marsh Road

- Continue implementation of the 2021 park master plan and amenities to be added
- Maintain dialogue with McFarland Hockey Club and McFarland Curling Club for future improvements, including expansion pro

Special Purpose Parks**Inclusive Park, 5318 Leanne Lane (Waubesa Intermediate School)**

- Continue collaborative implementation of the 2023 Inclusive Park master plan with the McFarland School District
- Continue cooperative responsibilities associated with the maintenance and upkeep of Inclusive Park installation

Orchard Hill, 2860 Hidden Farm Road

- Continue implementation of the 2017 Urso Schuetz Park Master Plan
- Update the existing park master plan as needed including potential acquisitions identified in Map 8 (items G and O)
- Coordinate with the Dane County Parks Department on connections to adjacent County owned properties (potential LYRT)

John Urso, 6201 Elvehjem Road

- Continue implementation of the 2017 Urso Schuetz Park Master Plan. Update the plan as needed
- Coordinate with the 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
- Consider expansion of the park to the east with development of adjacent properties per the 2023 East Side Plan

General Recommendations

- A. Consider the installation of "little libraries" within Village Parks
- B. Annual review of park impact fees and park assessment fees
- C. New construction to meet requirements under Article 56-VI of Village Code of Ordinance
- D. Ensure the safeguard and maintenance of natural resources throughout the Village
- E. Evaluate feasibility to include multiple access points throughout Village parks compliant with ADA standards
- F. Installation of interpretive signs along sidewalks, pathways, and trails throughout Village Park system, where appropriate
- G. Cooperate in coordinated regional planning with other governmental bodies and public agencies in recreational projects
- H. Develop parks as multi-use fields when feasible
- I. Consider applying for additional third-party park and natural resource designations
- J. Development of park master plans should continue to include elements for green infrastructure
- K. Include the use of native and pollinator friendly landscaping in existing and new parks
- L. Maintain Village Parks webpage
- M. Review and update this plan every five years as a matter of best practice
- N. Review of annual staffing plan to meet the needs of park maintenance schedules

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 that recreational opportunities and dedicated open space add to the overall health and enjoyment of 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 additions, and accommodates for major community shifts. Minor plan amendments may be required in between the five-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.

WDNR Stewardship Local Assistance²³

The Wisconsin DNR includes several grant opportunities the Village should pursue relating to recreational grant improvements. These competitive grant programs operate on a rolling basis with applications typically due May 1. There are four Stewardship Local Assistance (SLA) and two federal recreation grant programs. The following summarizes each funding program and what they are used for. All grant opportunities require a cost match of 50% or more. Each grant amount varies depending on local, state, or regional distribution.

²³ Wisconsin DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/GrantHome>

Agency	Funding Program Name	Description
WDNR	SLA - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	Planning nature-based projects
WDNR	SLA - Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)	Acquisition of land or land rights for preservation
WDNR	SLA - Urban Green Space (UGS)	Preservation of gardens within or near urban areas.
WDNR	SLA - Urban Rivers (UR)	Related to streams and river restoration.
Federal	Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Acquisition for development of recreational spaces.
Federal	Regional Trails Program (RTP)	Develop and maintain trails and associated facilities.

Dane County

Dane County offers a number of grant funds for parkland acquisition and development including the [Conservation Fund Grant](#) and [PARC and Ride Grant Program](#). Applications are typically accepted on a rolling basis while annual funding is available.

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 groups, 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 four Tax Increment Districts (TIDs). 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 Statute 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, or multimodal shared road improvements. One example completed in the Village is the roadway reconstruction of Terminal Drive in 2024, 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 tax increment financing.

Park Impact Fees

Requirements for parkland dedication, or fees in lieu of parkland dedication, and park improvement impact fees are regulated under [Chapter 56, Article VI Park and Public Land Dedication, Sec. 56-172](#) of the Village Municipal Code of Ordinances. The section describes the Village's standards for minimum requirements of land dedication, park-land impact fee in lieu of parkland dedication, and park

improvement impact fees as of January 1, 2025. [Chapter 8, Article x, Section 8-464](#) of the McFarland Municipal Code, also provides regulations regarding park improvement impact fees, parkland impact fees, and other impact fees. The associated fees can be found in [Appendix A: Fees](#), of the McFarland Municipal Code. 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, which was last updated in 2020 following adoption of the 2019 CORP. The 2020 Public Facility Needs Assessment should be updated following adoption of this plan. Park impact fees are also adjusted annually by the Village based on the Consumer Price Index—All Urban Consumers-Midwest Region prepared by the United States Department of Labor.

Table 11 provides a comparative look at park impact fees from other Dane County communities. The table compares impact fees imposed by dwelling unit types. The values reflected are accurate as of December 2024. Calculations for the average values shown used only communities which includes a known value. Missing or unknown data is represented with the “#” symbol in the table. Since Cottage Grove and Monona’s Park Improvement Impact Fees could not be determined, the total community count is reduced for that calculation. Among the communities compared, Verona is the only community to charge per bedroom and was excluded from this category’s average calculations. The City of Madison was intentionally excluded as they were a community not comparable to the other communities within Dane County, based on population and resources.

Table 11: Comparison of Community Impact Fees (2024)

Municipality	Parkland Dedication Requirement (sq. ft./DU)				Park Land Impact Fee / DU				Park Improvement Impact Fee / DU			
	SF	D	MF	GQ	SF	D	MF	GQ	SF	D	MF	GQ
McFarland	2,106	1,463	1,463	804	\$4,716.75	\$3,276.52	\$3,276.52	\$1,800.29	\$3,059.01	\$2,124.95	\$2,124.95	\$1,167.56
Cottage Grove	2,919 sq. ft. / DU				\$4,600.00	\$3,300.00	\$1,900.00	\$8,100.00	#	#	#	#
Deforest	1,921	1,921	1,440	#	\$3,308.00	\$3,308.00	\$2,486.00	#	\$1,739	\$1,739	\$1,308	#
Fitchburg*	2,900 sq. ft. / DU				\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$670	\$335	\$160	#
Middleton*	1,450 sq. ft. / DU				\$2,901.00	\$2,901.00	\$1,741.00	\$1,741.00	\$2,901	\$2,901	\$1,741	\$1,741
Monona	2,000 sq. ft. / DU				\$714.00	\$714.00	\$714.00	\$714.00	#	#	#	#
Oregon	878 sq. ft. / DU				\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$2,374	\$2,374	\$2,374	\$2,374
Stoughton	1,468	1,019	1,019	#	\$2,647.00	\$1,838.00	\$1,838.00	\$952.00	\$3,741	\$2,597	\$2,597	\$1,346
Sun Prairie*	823 sq. ft. / DU				\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$1,501	\$1,501	\$1,501	#
Verona	1,800	1,800	1,250	#	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$300/bedroom			
Waunakee	10% of total area proposed				\$2,826.54	\$1,922.05	\$1,922.05	\$945.18	\$2,826.54	\$1,922.05	\$1,922.05	\$945.18
AVERAGE	1,827	1,717	1,614	1,682	\$2,958.75	\$2,553.87	\$2,178.23	\$2,433.55	\$2,351.44	\$1,936.75	\$1,716.00	\$1,514.75

NOTE: (SF) = Single Family, (D) = Duplex, (MF) = Multifamily, (GQ) = Group Quarters

As of 2024, McFarland is above the average impact fee imposed by communities. However, it should be noted that while the fees shown in Table 11 are current as of 2024, the Village does not know whether the fees from other communities are being regularly updated like the Village’s.

Table 12: Municipality Park Acreage / 1,000 Residents (sq. ft. per DU)

Parkland Dedication Requirement (sq. ft. per DU)				
	SF	D	MF	GQ
McFarland	2,106	1,463	1,463	804
Cottage Grove	2,919 sq. ft. / DU			
Deforest	1,921	1,921	1,440	#
Fitchburg	2,900 sq. ft. / DU			
Middleton	1,450 sq. ft. / DU			
Monona	2,000 sq. ft. / DU			
Oregon	878 sq. ft. / DU			
Stoughton	1,468	1,019	1,019	#
Sun Prairie	823 sq. ft. / DU			
Verona	1,800	1,800	1,250	#
Waunakee	10% of total area proposed			
AVERAGE (by type)	1,824	1,551	1,293	804
AVERAGE (by DU)	1,828	1,828	1,828	1,828
AVERAGE (ALL)	1,827	1,717	1,614	1,682

NOTE: (SF) = Single Family, (D) = Duplex, (MF) = Multifamily, (GQ) = Group Quarters

Table 12 compiles the parkland dedication requirement of comparable communities in Dane County. The values shown are in square feet (sq. ft.) and are current as of 2024. Similarly, the City of Madison is again excluded for the same reasons stated related to Table 11. The Village of Waunakee has also been excluded from all average calculations due to their standard being vastly different in format from all other communities. From the remaining ten communities, there are four communities that define their requirement with minimum square footage by dwelling type (i.e. single-family residence, duplex, etc.) and six communities by total number of dwelling units proposed.

Three average calculations are identified from Table 12's data. The first average includes communities that define their parkland dedication by types of dwelling units (McFarland, Deforest, Stoughton, and Verona). The second average includes communities that define their parkland dedication by the number of dwelling units proposed (Cottage Grove, Fitchburg, Middleton, Monona, Oregon, and Sun Prairie). The last average includes all communities shown. For communities that included one value based on the number of dwelling units proposed, that one value was used across all dwelling types (i.e. Fitchburg: 2,900 sq. ft. was used for SF, D, MF, GQ). From the averages shown, McFarland appears to be above the average for single-family homes. For all other categories of dwelling unit types, McFarland is below the average. There is an exception with group quarters as there are limited communities that identified this type of dwelling unit.

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 collaborated on many projects together. Both public entities should continue their efforts to communicate and find opportunities to work on cost-sharing 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 spaces 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 wiffleball, kickball, and t-ball. To achieve this, installation of movable pitching mounds and adjustable outfield fencing suitable for various age groups and recreational tournament use can make the fields multi-use.
- At the 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.
- Additional recreational uses include additional electrical outlets at park site locations for sporting equipment as needed.

Village Staffing

As more parkland and amenities are added, the Village should continue to annually review its projected staffing plan to ensure that there is sufficient staffing to maintain the parks, trails, and conservancies within the Village.

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

MRAP is a coalition of recreational organizations that facilitates the participation of youth and adults in 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 contribute to the success of projects throughout the Village. Recruitment of volunteers can be a great source for 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 fundraising, volunteer labor, and donated materials to the greatest extent possible. From community groups to youth organizations, these individuals make significant contributions to our community.

Discussion on Comparable Communities and Village Park Standard

A comparison of Dane County communities, assessing each community’s acres per 1,000 residents standard, Park Dedication Requirement (square feet/dwelling unit), Park Land Impact Fee, Park Improvement Impact Fee.

Table 1: Comparable Communities – Parkland Acreages and Parkland Dedication

Municipality	Yr of CORP	Standard (Acres/1,000)	Active Only Acreages		Total Parkland Acreages		Parkland Dedication Requirement (sq. ft./DU)			
			(Acres/1,000)	Active Parks	Acres/1,000	Total Acreage	SF	D	MF	GQ
McFarland	2025	18.5	9.74	94.3	28.91	279.7	2,106	1,463	1,463	804
Cottage Grove	2023		9.53	84.4	14.84	131.4	2,919 sq. ft. / DU			
Deforest	2024	11.0	9.85	115.0	33.41	390.0	1,921	1,921	1,440	#
Fitchburg*	2024	12.0	10.99	386.0	23.20	815.0	2,900 sq. ft. / DU			
Middleton*	2020	15.0	14.77	309.0	14.77	309.0	1,450 sq. ft. / DU			
Monona	2021		10.92	89.30	54.14	442.6	2,000 sq. ft. / DU			
Oregon	2023	30.0	22.18	262.0	29.37	347.0	878 sq. ft. / DU			
Stoughton	2023		9.93	130.8	21.77	286.7	1,468	1,019	1,019	#
Sun Prairie*	2024	9.37	9.38	355.2	18.97	718.7	823 sq. ft. / DU			
Verona	2022	17.0	8.91	125.0	13.90	195	1,800	1,800	1,250	#
Waunakee	2023	15.0	16.41	244.2	33.67	424.7	10% of total area proposed			
AVERAGE	2.09	15.98	12.06	199.56	26.09	394.53	1,827	1,717	1,614	1,682
AVERAGE for 20k or less		18.30	12.18	143.12	28.75	312.14				

Notes:

1. (*) indicates communities with populations exceeding 20,000, falling into a different category of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines.
2. Not all communities state if their standard for *Acres per 1,000 residents* are “active only” or “active + passive” or “active + passive + special use”
3. The column labeled “Active Parks” only includes Mini/Totlot-, Neighborhood-, and Community Parks, the three parks identified by NRPA’s 10.5 acres. This includes both active and passive recreation amenities.
4. [Middleton’s CORP](#) (Chapter 4, page 30) did not provide a distinction between total acreage and active parks only.
5. Waunakee’s CORP included Town of Westport (population: 4,191 and 216 acres of parkland). The CORP separated Waunakee and Westport parks ([see Chapter 3, page 26](#)).

Presented at the March 18, 2025 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Table 2: Comparable Communities – Parkland Impact Fee and Park Improvement Fee (per dwelling unit)

Municipality	Park Land Impact Fee / DU				Park Improvement Impact Fee / DU			
	SF	D	MF	GQ	SF	D	MF	GQ
McFarland	\$4,716.75	\$3,276.52	\$3,276.52	\$1,800.29	\$3,059.01	\$2,124.95	\$2,124.95	\$1,167.56
Cottage Grove	\$4,600.00	\$3,300.00	\$1,900.00	\$8,100.00	#	#	#	#
Deforest	\$3,308.00	\$3,308.00	\$2,486.00	#	\$1,739	\$1,739	\$1,308	#
Fitchburg*	\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$4,330.00	\$670	\$335	\$160	#
Middleton*	\$2,901.00	\$2,901.00	\$1,741.00	\$1,741.00	\$2,901	\$2,901	\$1,741	\$1,741
Monona	\$714.00	\$714.00	\$714.00	\$714.00	#	#	#	#
Oregon	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,975.00	\$2,374	\$2,374	\$2,374	\$2,374
Stoughton	\$2,647.00	\$1,838.00	\$1,838.00	\$952.00	\$3,741	\$2,597	\$2,597	\$1,346
Sun Prairie*	\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$2,078.00	\$1,501	\$1,501	\$1,501	#
Verona	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$300/bedroom			
Waunakee	\$2,826.54	\$1,922.05	\$1,922.05	\$945.18	\$2,826.54	\$1,922.05	\$1,922.05	\$945.18
AVERAGE	\$2,958.75	\$2,553.87	\$2,178.23	\$2,433.55	\$2,351.44	\$1,936.75	\$1,716.00	\$1,514.75

Within Table 2, (#) notes data missing or not defined by the community.