

Parks/Recreation Committee

Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda

Village of Cross Plains

Rosemary Garfoot Public Library

2017 Julius Street

Cross Plains, WI 53528

(608) 798-3241

Thursday, July 9, 2015

7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comment – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Committee on any issue NOT on the current agenda. *Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes.* While the Committee encourages input from residents, it may not discuss or act on any issue that is not duly noticed on the agenda.
- III. Reports
 1. Committee Chairperson
 2. Committee Members
 3. Parks and Recreation Director
- IV. Committee Discussion
 1. Discussion and action to approve the minutes from June 8, 2015.
 2. Parks:
 - a. Discussion regarding application to the 2015 PARC & Ride Bike Trail grant program regarding trail improvements to Zander Park.
 - b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board to enroll in the Ice Age Trail Community program.
 - c. Discussion regarding updating 2013 Parks & Open Spaces Plan.
 - d. Discussion on introducing a Dog Park to the Village.

3. Discussion regarding the Conceptual Development Plan for the Buechner Farm east of Baer Park.

4. Discussion regarding parks, conservancy, recreation, and aquatic issues/ideas.

V. Adjournment

This meeting notice constitutes an official meeting of the above referenced group and was posted in accordance with all applicable laws related Open Meetings Law. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Village Hall at (608) 798-3241 or matt@cross-plains.wi.us.

Village of Cross Plains

Park and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2015

I. **Meeting called to order** at 7:05 pm By Committee Chair Brosius

Roll Call – Present: Kevin Thusius, Mike Axon, Dale Buechner, Jim Billmeyer, Bill Brosius;

Absent: Frank Durham

II. **No Public comment**

III. **Reports**

1. Committee Chairperson – No Report

2. Committee Members – No Report

3. Park and Recreation Director –

- Mike Axon showed the team the current form in which he reports to the village and for the benefit of the committee and its members Mike would like to have sub-categories of:
 - Parks
 - Recreation
 - Aquatics
 - Conservancy
- Mike Highlighted:
 - that there are 2 interns this year that are students at Madison College
 - New Scoreboard at Baer Park
 - Community night on June 22nd at Baer Park with the Mallards as a thank you.
 - Ice age trail is putting together an Ice Age Trail Community and Mike believes this would be a good start of us.
- Mike reported that the pool slide is not in safety compliance. It has rusted on the stairs and platform. Mike is looking at alternatives to see the best and most cost effective solution. The slide is closed until it can be resolved.

IV. **Committee Discussion**

1. Committee Discussion – Welcome and introductions to all the committee members and the roles of each.
2. Discussion regarding meeting processes and explained Open Record Laws.
3. Discussion and action on future meetings.
 - a. Most meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month starting at 6:00 pm.
 - b. Exception is the July meeting which will be Thursday July 9th at 6:00 pm.
 - c. All meetings will be held at Rosemary Garfoot Public Library.
4. Discussion regarding Committee Purpose, Identity and Future Agenda items
 - a. Discussed the Purpose aiding Mike and getting ideas
 - b. Want to review the 5 year strategy that Mike Axon already has in place possibly start over looking at each park etc.

- c. Work with the Ice Age trail in conservancy
 - d. Look at having a dog park within the Village
 - e. How are we going to successfully get our arms around Community Outreach
 - f. Look at the Buechner farm for future ideas as an extension of Baer Park
5. Agenda items for the July meeting should include:
- a. Discussion on Community Outreach
 - b. Discussion and action on the Ice Age Trail Community
 - c. Discussion on adding a Dog Park to the Village
 - d. Discussion of the 5 year Park and Recreation strategic plan
 - e. Discussion on the Buechner farm east of Baer Park.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Bill Brosius
Committee Chairman
June 9, 2015



Dane County PARC & Ride Bike Trail Grant Program

The PARC & Ride Bicycle Grant Program is a new grant program—built on the success of the Partners for Conservation and Recreation (PARC) grant program—that provides matching funds for expanding bike trail connectivity throughout Dane County. The 2015 Dane County Budget includes up to \$750,000 for eligible projects.



Who may apply?

The applicant must be a Dane County municipality with the capacity to plan, implement, and maintain the project.

The municipality must be authorized to submit a grant application and approve the project by resolution that allows Dane County to exercise its municipal park powers.

What projects are eligible?

Grants will be awarded for capital projects that expand bike trail interconnectivity, create destination-oriented regional bike trails, and improve bike safety. Proposed bike trail projects must be identified in either of the plans below:

- Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan
https://www.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/planning.aspx#open_space_plans
- Bike Dane Initiative
http://pdf.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/BikeDane_ExecutiveSummary.pdf

Eligible projects include the development of off-road bicycle/pedestrian trails with associated amenities and support facilities, such as trailheads/parking areas, signage, and safety facilities. Bicycle trail amenities or support facilities as stand alone projects without a trail component are not eligible. Trail projects must adhere to the Dane County Parks regional multi-use trail standards for limestone and paved trails. Projects must also incorporate way-finding signage that follows the guidelines in the Dane County Bicycle Way-Finding Plan that is expected to be completed later this year.

Bike trail projects must be on public lands, easements, or leased property that guarantee public access. All land holdings necessary for public trail purposes must be secured prior to applying for grant funding. Trail easements, if necessary, must be a minimum of 20 feet wide to accommodate future trail upgrades or increased recreational use and to minimize conflicts with adjacent non-recreational land uses. A trail corridor width of 50 feet or greater is desirable.

What projects are not eligible?

Grants will not be awarded for the following projects:

- Brochures or printed materials*
- Projects on private lands (unless an easement or lease exists that guarantees public access)
- Purchase of equipment or hand tools*
- Single plans or studies

- Are for private use or benefit
- Acquisition of land or easements**
- Maintain, repair or minimally upgrade an existing bike trail facility*

Please note that other projects may be deemed ineligible.

How much funding is available?

The 2015 Dane County Budget includes up to \$750,000 for eligible projects. The standard grant amount will be up to 50% of the project costs, not to exceed \$250,000. Grants may be awarded for less than the amount requested by the applicant. All grants must be matched with cash contributions.

Eligible Expenses and Match

Eligible expenses for projects include design, engineering, and construction costs. Grants may not be used for project staff salaries and labor.

Acceptable match includes sponsor financial contributions, state or federal grants, private donations, or other cash contributions. In-kind services will not be accepted as match, such as donated labor (i.e. salary and fringe benefits), materials or supplies.

Application Deadline

A brief preliminary grant proposal is due by **Friday, July 31st, 2015**. The proposal should be a maximum of two pages long describing the project scope, location, timeline and estimated budget. A concept site plan for the project should be submitted with the proposal. Applicants with qualifying projects will be invited to submit full grant applications by **September 30th, 2015**. It's anticipated that grant awards will be approved by the end of the year.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated with special consideration given to the factors below:

- Anticipated bicycle use
- Provides a new linkage to a Dane County Parks property, other bikeway routes or paths, or to a neighborhood or community
- Identified in multiple plans—in addition to the Dane County POSP or Bike Dane Initiative—such as a local comprehensive plan and the Madison Metropolitan Area and Dane County Bicycle Transportation Plan
- Located along a river or lakeshore
- Complements area development activities
- Budget and secured financial resources
- Clarity of project
- Completeness of application request

Grant Payments and Requirements

Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Grant payments for design and engineering expenses may be dispersed for up to 80% of the County's share with the remaining 20% dispersed after the project is fully constructed and completed as proposed.

Grants will expire in 4 years and may not be extended or adjusted if the project timeline or budget changes. Grant recipients must submit project plans and specifications to Dane County for review and approval prior to project commencement. Grant recipients must give recognition to Dane County's contribution to the project on any signage, press coverage or by other means as appropriate. At a minimum, a sign must be posted at the project site that includes the Dane County Parks logo and the following text: "Funded in part by the Dane County PARC & Ride Bicycle Grant

Program.” These requirements and others as appropriate will be outlined in a grant contract between the grant recipient and the County.

Project Delivery

Grant applicants must provide a project delivery plan that outlines who will be performing project management activities such as construction management and oversight duties. Grant applicants who do not have a project manager or in-house design/engineering staff must retain a professional consultant with a minimum of 5 years applicable experience to perform project management services. Dane County Parks staff will not provide these services.

Project Maintenance

Projects funded through the program must be open to and maintained for public use. Grant applicants must provide a maintenance plan that outlines how the project will be maintained, who will maintain it, and what financial resources are available for maintaining the project. Grant recipients will be responsible for operating and maintaining the trail, unless a separate agreement such as a Memorandum of Understanding assigns those responsibilities to another party.

Application Instructions

Email a cover letter, preliminary grant proposal and concept site plan to Sara Kwitek at Kwitek@countyofdane.com. Following preliminary submissions, grant applicants will likely be invited to meet with Dane County Parks staff to discuss their projects.

Questions?

Contact Sara Kwitek, Acquisition and Planning Specialist, at 224-3611 or Kwitek@countyofdane.com.
Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm. 208
Madison, WI 53718
Fax: 608-224-3774

Preliminary Grant Proposal - Zander Park Trail Expansion Project– Dane County PARC & Ride Program

Purpose

The Village of Cross Plains is submitting a preliminary proposal for the Zander Park Trail Expansion Project. The project will construct additional ADA paved bike trails and boardwalk surfaces at Zander Park. The project will also include placing 3 bridges across the Black Earth Creek, which runs parallel to the proposed path. Additionally the project will include placing a rail road crossing to the south to allow for pedestrians to safely excess the park and trail. The paths and bridges would connect east to west to recently constructed trails at Highway P to Zander Park, and County Highway KP. Bridges would connect the trails at Zander Park to the main downtown business area on the other side of the BEC as well. Parts of the trail that are located in the floodway will have a boardwalk style path constructed, which includes around 1050 linear feet. Once the Zander Park trail system is expanded it would serve as a vital segment to connect with a regional trail system stretching from Mazomanie to Madison. The trail would also intersect with the Ice Age Trail system.

The Village is applying for funds for the construction of the Zander Park Trail Expansion Project. The Village has already been awarded funds through the 2014 Stewardship Grant Application, and has submitted an application for additional funding in 2015. The remaining matching funds of the Village will be included as part of the 2016 Capital Projects Budget.

Goals

The Village is proposing to construct the Zander Park Trail Expansion Project. The paths would incorporate a number of different uses including biking, jogging and snowshoeing. Snowmobiling would be accommodated as well. A bridge would be built in the middle of Zander Park and would connect the downtown business area that is north of the park. The second bridge to the west would connect a new forty-three unit apartment complex to Zander Park. The third bridge would create a safe pedestrian crossing along Highway KP to the west. The railroad crossing would be located through an easement along the Fire District station property, and allow trail users to safely access Bourbon Road to the south.

Existing Conditions and Improvements

Extensive resources have been invested in the area in recent years at Zander Park and specifically in the Black Earth Creek. The Village provided a pedestrian connection from the east at Highway P to the park as part of the 2014 project to reconstruct the Highway P bridge. The downtown business area directly to the South was also improved with the reconstruction of Mill Creek Park Way (formerly Lagoon Street), and was completed this spring as additional restoration and amenities are added.

In 2013 the Village completed the Black Earth Creek Improvement Project by partnering with the DNR and Dane County through the Dane County PARC Grant. The DNR performed all of the digging and habitat construction of the BEC remeander portion of the project. The project improved the ecosystem and returned the creek to a more natural state. As part of the project the Village also constructed new

10 feet wide paths in the park that connect to Bourbon Road at the southeast part of the project map. Two ADA compliant bridges were replaced that as well. Dane County was instrumental in allowing the Village to complete the project by providing funding through the Partners in Recreational and Conversation (PARC) grant. The Village would work with DNR Fisheries and permitting personnel to continue to highlight the BEC ecosystem as part of the project.

Site Challenges

One of the main challenges of the Zander Park Trail Expansion Project include working with the railroad to create a pedestrian crossing through an easement at the Fire District station to the south of the project site. The Village has a positive history of working with different partners to successfully complete projects, specifically at Zander Park. Village representatives have had preliminary conversations with railroad personnel, and will provide a detailed plan to overcome this challenge in the final grant application.

A second challenge of the project will be working along the Black Earth Creek, and ensuring that the ecosystem along the banks is not disturbed. The Village will work with the DNR to obtain necessary easements and permits for the project. The DNR will be involved to provide guidance for improving the habitat of the Black Earth Creek, which is ranked a Class I cold-water trout stream. Staff has had preliminary conversations DNR personnel, and feel that a plan could be developed that satisfies DNR requirements for placing the paths along the BEC.

Project Timeline & Budget

The Village proposes to carry out the planning and permitting, in addition to the construction of Phase I. This would involve engineering work, going through required permitting processes involved with working in the floodway of the Black Earth Creek, working with the railroad to obtain a right of way pedestrian crossing and identifying additional partners to work with to complete the project. The expenses would be covered by the previous Rec Trails Grant received, as well as Village capital funding.

2015 – Planning, Design, Permitting & Acquisition as applicable

2016 – Construction– May – October

2017 – Additional Construction (if required)– May – October

The total budget for the project is \$1,247,000. The project costs are broken down in the attached schedule included with the preliminary proposal.

Public Access and Use

Zander Park has historically provided multiple public uses including; walking, biking, as well as snow shoeing and snowmobiling in the winter. The Black Earth Creek also goes through Zander Park and is rated as a Class I cold-water trout stream. As part of the Black Earth Improvement Project the Village constructed 2 new public access, ADA compliant fishing piers along the creek. The Parks and Recreation Department also uses the park to host summer programs and community events throughout the year.

The Mill Creek Parkway Reconstruction Project completed in 2014 set up expanded public access to Zander Park by constructing public paths along Mill Creek Parkway (formerly Lagoon Street) and County Highway P. The project helped connect Zander Park to the Cross Plains downtown business area to help promote commerce and increase the overall experience visitors to the area have.

The Village also worked with a developer to construct a new forty-three unit apartment complex on Main Street in 2014, which will be finished by the fall of 2015. The project remediated multiple environmental issues that were present at the old Zander Creamery site. The project will help ensure the ecosystem and the Black Earth Creek are left undisturbed by contaminants that were in the ground.. The Village provided TID funding for the project, and is invested in seeing the area around and at Zander Park improved to make it a community and regional destination.

Partnerships

The project would help to connect other trail systems in the area including the Ice Age Trail, as well as a regional trail system which has been discussed in the past as part of the Good Neighbor Trail and Wolf Run. The Ice Age Trail Alliance headquarters is located on Mill Creek Parkway to the north of Zander Park as well. The Village has worked with Ice Age Trail to have the park meet their needs as a connector between their trails. Zander Park is located at a trail loop of the Ice Age Trail, and the project would help to connect the two systems

The DNR, DOT and Dane County have been active partners towards the continued development of Zander Park, the Black Earth Creek and the downtown area as well. The Village worked with the DNR to complete the Black Earth Creek Improvement Project. The assistance of Scot Stewart and the DNR was invaluable to help in the planning and to remainder of the Black Earth Creek. Dane County was also a key partner in ensuring the Village as able to complete the project, by providing funding assistance through the PARC grant. The Village has also been able to successfully partner with community members and groups. The Village formed the Streetscape Workgroup made up of interested community members to look at the pedestrian enhancements and amenities along the new Highway 14 and Mill Creek Parkway. Community input will continue to be promoted as a part of the Zander Park Trail Project.

Operation and Maintenance

After the project, the site would be maintained on a regular basis by Village staff.

Background Summary

The Village of Cross Plains is a moderately growing community in Dane County. Cross Plains growth has resulted in the creation of new parks to keep pace with demand for new and varied types of recreation. As Cross Plains continues to expand, additional park areas must be acquired and developed. The Cross Plains Parks and Recreation Plan is recommended for adoption with the goal of expanding the Cross Plains' parks and recreation facilities in a fiscally responsible manner.

H.M. Zander Community Nature Park (Zander Park), the site of the proposed project, is approximately 9.5 acres and is located in the center of the Village of Cross Plains in Dane County, Wisconsin. A railroad track, having light use, borders the southern length of the park. The area directly north of the railroad tracks is a drainage ditch with several springs that feed Black Earth Creek. Residential and commercial properties adjoin the park on the north and also abut Main Street (US-14).

Over the years Zander Park has been the focus of multiple Village planning and construction efforts. The park is a central attraction in the Village, especially since the Black Earth Creek travels through the park. In 2009 the Parks and Recreation Department led a planning effort specifically aimed at determining how to further enhance the area. The plan states that "The Village of Cross Plains envisions H.M. Zander Community Nature Park as the core public space in the heart of the community, a balance between the natural vegetative landscape and a functional multi-use family park." To that end, the Village has worked to improve the area including the Black Earth Creek, by returning it to a more natural state, as well as upgrading the bridges and trails in the heart of the park. Plans for the Ice Age Trail show Zander Park as the site of a trail loop that would connect to the proposed Ice Age Trail System as it passes through Dane County.

1. The Village of Cross Plains Park Plan lists a number of broad goals which the proposed project would meet. Goals in the plan include:
2. More emphasis should be placed on the aesthetic function of parks calls for a number of improvements to the area as well.
3. The Village should concentrate on the development of existing recreation facilities
4. The Village should place more emphasis on the development of winter recreation programs and facilities Improvements to existing parks or development of new parks should include features to help the disabled

Specifically, the plan calls for the following improvements for the park. Additionally the park is a potential future site for a Farmer's Market that the Village hopes to start in the near future. The park offers an ideal location close to businesses and residents for easy access.

1. H.M. Zander Park

- a. Extend the walking trail to Center Street.
- b. Develop a picnic area.
- c. Add bike racks to the parking area.
- d. Replace material on walking trail.

- e. Expand the West footbridge behind the old fire station.
- f. Work with invasive plants.
- g. Cut back weeds and trees to showcase Black Earth Creek.
- h. Look for extended stormwater management practices along the creek.

The proposed project would accomplish multiple items on the list and enhance the area for the community and visitors to the park.

INTRODUCTION

The Village of Cross Plains is a moderately growing community in Dane County. Cross Plains growth has resulted in the creation of new parks to keep pace with demand for new and varied types of recreation. As Cross Plains continues to expand, additional park areas must be acquired and developed. The Cross Plains Parks and Recreation Plan is recommended for adoption with the goal of expanding Cross Plains parks and recreation facilities in a fiscally responsible manner.

Recreation planning has become an essential element of long-range community planning. Increased leisure time, renewed emphasis on physical fitness, and the need to find relief from the pace of life in urbanizing communities has underlined the need for expanded recreational facilities. In addition, parks serve the valuable function of providing green open space in an increasingly urbanizing environment. As a community grows and densities increase, parks function as the focal point for community aesthetics. They also serve as important habitats for urban wildlife and as laboratories for environmental and conservation education.

An attempt has been made in planning Cross Plains parks to view parks and recreation facilities as part of a system serving diverse functions for all members of the community. A park is not a single-use facility serving only limited groups in the community. Rather, there needs to be an emphasis on providing diverse parks and recreational opportunities for all ages and all social groups. In viewing the parks as part of a system, such issues as access, neighborhood aesthetics and multiple use of environmental resources are elements of park planning.

The Plan begins with a listing of objectives and policies. This is followed by a set of definitions and a discussion of the criteria used to evaluate the adequacy of the park system. The section entitled "Population and Land Use" places park planning within the context of community development trends and projections. The next section inventories existing park facilities and school recreation areas, followed by an analysis of outdoor recreation needs. The last section proposes acquisitions and sets forth recommendations and a capital improvement schedule.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In September and October 2004 the Survey Research Center at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls completed a survey for the Village of Cross Plains to gather input from the citizens regarding land use planning. A total of 800 households were randomly selected to receive the survey and 542 surveys were returned, giving us a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent. That was a return rate of 68 percent, which is an astonishingly high figure for this type of survey. The survey showed that 91 percent of the respondents felt the quality of the Park/Recreational facilities were "good" or "very good".

PARK, RECREATION AND CONSERVANCY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

The first step in the recreation and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The terms goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. It is, therefore, appropriate to define each of these terms to eliminate confusion about their meaning. *Goals are general in nature and represent conditions which are striven for but which may not be fully attainable.* An example of a goal is "clean air and water." *Objectives are more specific and are usually attainable.* For example, an objective might be "construction of three new parks in the community during the next year." *Policies are rules or courses of action used to ensure plan implementation.* An example of a policy would be "all public recreation facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped."

The development of goals, objectives, and policies form the basis for subsequent development of recreation and open space standards since they represent the basic values and needs of the community. With the above mentioned factors in mind, the following set of goals, objectives, and policies has been developed:

Wisconsin State Goals*

- Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.
- Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.
- Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.

Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan Goals*

- Promote planning and design that preserves environmental functions and protects important environmental, cultural and historic resources.
- Develop and promote a county-wide system of open space corridors as a framework to protect the natural environment and scenic values, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

*The Cross Plains Village Parks and Recreation Plan is prepared under the goals of the *Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources* element of the State's "Smart Growth" Comprehensive Planning Law and the environmental and open space goals of the *Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan*.

Park, Recreation and Conservancy Goals and Objectives

- **I.** Provide adequate recreation and open space lands and facilities to all residents of the Village of Cross Plains.

- **A.** Provide safe and reliable facilities in the Village parks as dictated by park use and type.
- **B.** Ensure that new Village parklands (Neighborhood, Community, and Conservancy Areas) have adequate accessibility for Village residents.
- **C.** Ensure that new subdivisions and development projects provide adequate land dedications to accommodate needs for parks, open space, and recreation created by the development.

- **II.** Provide for acquisition and development of lands to meet the present and future Park and Recreation needs.
 - A.** Acquisition of adequate land to accommodate facilities for outdoor recreation.
 - B.** Acquire an adequate amount of land to meet the recreational needs of the Village.
 - **C.** Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village's park system by working with local residents and organizations and also with township, county, state and federal agencies.
 - **D.** Review the goals, objectives and recommendations of Dane County Park and Open Space Plan and incorporate appropriate ones into the Village's Parks and Open Space Plan.

- **III.** Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.
 - **A.** Encourage and support the preservation of environmentally sensitive and culturally or historically significant areas in and around the Village.
 - **B.** Identify open space lands that are important to the overall quality of life in the community and take measures to assure their conservation.
 - **C.** Protect shoreland, flood plain, and wetland areas associated with Black Earth Creek, Brewery Creek, and important drainage ways as indicated on the **Water Quality** Corridors Map.
 - **D.** Incorporate environmental corridors in the design and location of development, so as not to deteriorate the remaining natural resources of the Village.
 - **E.** Protect the natural balance of the Black Earth Creek water system in a manner that enhances its educational and recreational value as one of the most naturally productive trout streams in Wisconsin.

- **F.** Encourage preservation of the woodlands and natural vegetation on hillsides and hilltops
- **G.** Avoid storm water management problems associated with increasing urbanization by permanently protecting natural drainage ways and floodplains.
-
- ✓ **IV.** Protection of existing and needed open space for appreciation, use, and enjoyment of Cross Plains scenic and natural resources.
- ✓
- ✓ **A.** Protect and enhance the Village's woodlands, wetlands, prairie and other natural areas.
- **B.** Permanently protect environmental corridors and isolated natural areas from development through the use of the Village's Zoning Ordinance, Official Map and Land Subdivision Ordinance.
- **C.** Maintain and restore the natural vegetation along undeveloped stream banks and floodplain areas.
- **D.** Encourage public acquisition or easements of critical natural resources identified in and surrounding the community.
- **V.** Recognize the human values of the many activities which comprise the field of recreation in its broadest sense. In meeting total public recreation requirements, there shall be provided a wide variety of activities; mental and physical, directed and voluntary, in group or solitary situations, in developed as well as natural areas.
 - **A.** Promote awareness of the impact of Village's Park, Open Space, and Recreation System on the quality of life in the Village.
 -
- VI.** Development of more land facilities for recreational, sports, and play areas.
 - A.** Upgrading of existing park and recreation facilities as a continuing maintenance procedure.
 - ✓ **B.** Development, to the fullest degree possible, of all the recreational opportunities available under State and Federal Programs.
 - **C.** Coordinate park development, use of recreational facilities, and recreational program efforts among the Village, local schools, and churches.

- **D.** Promote and assist in the development of the Ice Age Trail through the Village.

VII. Promote the linking of Village lands to each other, neighborhoods and other public lands out side the Village.

- **A.** Ensure that all neighborhoods in the Village have easy pedestrian access to a neighborhood park facility.
B. Develop a system of pedestrian and bicycle routes that link Village recreation areas.

Park Policies

1. Indicate, on Village's 1-1/2 mile extraterritorial map, where new neighborhoods and community park locations will be required.
2. Require sidewalks to all new Village parks and conservancy area entry points, if possible.
3. When planning park facilities, require that they be handicapped accessible.
4. Determine which existing parks need sidewalks or trail access. Recommend to Public Facilities Committee that when street upgrades are done, sidewalks be added in park area locations so that all parks have safe pedestrian access.
5. Publicize Adopt-A-Park system: provide yearly awards to organizations that consistently provide this and other services to Village parks.
6. Apply for grants to upgrade parks and cost share for additional parkland acquisition.
7. Do thorough review of all development proposals so that parkland needs are met for new subdivisions.
8. Make sure developer provides enough money to equip and landscape parks created to serve new subdivisions.
9. Designate intended use(s) for funds in "Parkland Dedication Funds." Note lands needed for larger community parks and take steps to acquire them.

10. For new land division proposals, identify areas on the site that are environmentally sensitive and historically significant. Plan park development to include these areas.
11. Regularly submit articles with pictures to the local newspaper, highlighting park development and activities.
12. Support and encourage activities by local organizations to provide park and recreational facility improvements.
13. Initiate a tree and shrub-planting program using hardy native and minimum maintenance plantings.
14. Utilize PRC Committee and Developer Checklists when reviewing new subdivision Concept Plan and/or Preliminary Plats.
15. Publish “Village of Cross Plains Parks and Conservancy Areas” brochure.

Recreation Policies

1. Determine and indicate, on extraterritorial map, locations of needed pedestrian trails and bikeways.
2. Work with Ice Age Trail Foundation and DNR to acquire lands and easements for Ice Age Trail corridor in and around Village.
3. Work with Plan Commission and Public Facilities Committee to develop safe bicycle routes and pedestrian ways that link recreation areas throughout the Village. Include pedestrian crossing signs and placement of directional signs identifying routes. Acquire and develop public easements and encourage street improvement programs that include sidewalks and designated bikeways. Explore cost sharing and other funding available through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
4. Update Village Trails Map (Master Plan) and include in Comprehensive Parks Plan. Map future trails in extraterritorial area (so that they connect existing and projective developed parks and conservancy park areas).
5. In new subdivisions, provide for pedestrian facilities linking recreation areas.
6. When new development proposals are submitted, work with Dane County Parks staff to ensure adequate bike and pedestrian trail linkages to nearby county parks and conservation areas
7. Utilize PRC Committee and Developer Checklists when reviewing new subdivision Concept Plan and/or Preliminary Plats.

8. Publish “Village of Cross Plains Parks and Conservancy Areas” brochure.
9. Develop and implement a standard trail sign for all park land.

Conservancy Policies

1. Work with Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society to identify historically significant areas (for preservation) in and around the community.
2. When reviewing new development proposals, consult **Water Quality Corridor** Map and Village Land Use Map to determine areas designated for environmental protection.
3. Develop Conservancy Areas Management Plans for Village Conservancy Areas. Solicit local groups and county and state agencies to assist.
4. Work with Dane County Parks staff to assist in acquiring land and/or easements for the Ice Age Trail corridor linkages from Cross Plains Ice Age Reserve to Festge and Indian Lakes County Parks.
5. Utilize PRC Committee and Developer Checklists when reviewing new subdivision Concept Plan and/or Preliminary Plats.
6. Publish “Village of Cross Plains Parks and Conservancy Areas” brochure.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define a set of minimum standards for park and open space facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time, as well as to project the future need for such facilities. There are typically three types of standards. The first is the gross acreage standard, expressed as a population ratio, that is, the minimum number of acres recommended per 1,000 persons. The second is the service area standard, expressed as a park service radius which differs by park type. The third type of standard is the activity-related standard, expressed as the population limit per specific activity. For example, one baseball diamond per 3,500 persons. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and open space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide in their park and open space planning efforts. A supplementary table of these

standards has been included as Appendix A. It should be pointed out that these standards should be used as a flexible guideline and adapted to the particular needs of the community and situation (see Appendices B and F).

The following is a list of various types of park and open space facilities and their recommended standards. The standards for desirable park size have been customized for the Village of Cross Plains based on the **NRPA standards**. This list includes a hierarchy of parks and open space facilities based on an area to population ratio and a recommended minimum service area for each type of facility. Generally, NRPA recommends a gross acreage standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population.

Mini-Parks: These parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

Desirable site characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.

Desirable size: 1 acre or less.

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

Service area: Less than 1/4 mile radius.

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

Desirable site characteristics: Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to the neighborhood population. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school-park facility.

Desirable size: 1 - 5 acres.

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

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

Community Park: An area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for Parks and recreation, such as walking, viewing,

sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities in community parks include those listed above in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares and also be easily accessible by foot. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park.

Desirable site characteristics: May include natural areas such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Desirable size: 5 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common.

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

Service area: Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.

Special Use Area: Areas for single-purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancy areas with trails, arboreta, display gardens, dog run, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, sites and objects of archeological significance. Also, plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.

Desirable site characteristics: Within communities.

Trails and Paths: Roadways serve as the backbone for the bikeway system. Most local streets are suitable for bicycling without any special accommodations for bicyclists. However, a four-foot bicycle lane is needed to safely accommodate bicyclists on collector and arterial roadways (e.g., Main St. and Church St.) with higher traffic volumes (e.g., more than 3,000 vehicles/day).

Multi-use trails or ten-foot paved paths for bicyclists and pedestrians can supplement the roadway system to improve connections within and between neighborhoods (e.g., connecting streets with cul-de-sacs). They can provide short cuts (e.g., through parks) or overcome barriers such as busy roads or a river. Trails or paths along linear corridors, such as environmental corridors and railways, also provide excellent recreational opportunities.

Sidewalks along streets must provide the backbone for the pedestrian system for the same reason that roadways serve as the backbone for the bikeway system. The roadway system already exists, and the destinations that pedestrians want to reach are located along the roadway system.

Pedestrian paths can supplement the sidewalk system to improve connections within and between neighborhoods, such as in cases where streets do not connect. Pedestrian paths through parks or other natural areas also allow residents to interact with and enjoy the open space system, while exercising or simply walking to and from neighborhood destinations. Pedestrian paths through environmental corridors may be constructed as six-foot gravel paths.

Environmental Corridors: Environmental Corridors are continuous systems of open space that include environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use. The following guidelines issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”), Dane County Regional Plan Commission (“RPC”) identified various significant resource features, using them as background information for assisting communities in developing environmental corridors. Protection and preservation of environmental corridors contribute to environmental protection in general and specifically to water quality through preservation of natural drainage systems. These corridors are used to determine whether or not proposed public sanitary sewer extensions are consistent with the adopted sewer service areas.

In Dane County, the following resource features are mapped as environmental corridors:

- all waterways and waterbodies – woodland – floodplains
- drainageways, stream channels, wetlands, and buffer strips along these resources
- steep slopes (12% or greater)
- existing and proposed parks, greenways, and conservancy areas
- existing and proposed stormwater detention areas

The Village of Cross Plains Environmental Corridors Map (adopted and approved by RPC and DNR) has been included in the last two Village Land Use Master Plans. The immediate impact of environmental corridor mapping is that the mapping is used by RPC and DNR, along with urban service area boundaries, for review and approval of public sanitary sewer extensions. If a new development in the Village entails changes to the mapped corridors, the Village must initiate and sponsor a proposal for change to the RPC. There are two types of changes: 1) minor changes or refinements to the corridors that would not seriously affect surface or groundwater quality; and 2) major changes that have the potential for significant impacts on water quality.

Activity-Related Standards (See activity-related standards in Table 7)

Park Accessibility: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that “reasonable accommodation” be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or that they provide alternative access where feasible.

Currently, there are no official guidelines on making playgrounds and other outdoor recreation activities accessible to physically disadvantaged persons. However, precise guidelines have been developed for all public structures such as restrooms, information centers, and other public and private buildings.

Appendix D provides definitions and general guidelines to follow when making a facility accessible, such as required door opening widths; height of switches, doorknobs, counters, lavatories, handrails, and other objects; and parking requirements. At a minimum, each park structure or building should be accessible according to these guidelines.

POPULATION AND LAND USE

Cross Plains was a rapidly growing community in the 1990s with a 2000 population of 3,084. There are 722 more residents than the 1990 population of 2,362. Growth in the community of Cross Plains is expected to be moderate. Based on population forecasting with linear regression analysis, Cross Plains expects to have a population of 3,282 by the year 2005 and 4,084 by the year 2020 (See Table 1).

Although this is a relatively moderate population forecast, and birth rates have declined slightly regionally in the past several years, there is considerable evidence that this projection for Cross Plains may be realistic. Cross Plains has grown at a rate of 31 percent since 1990, compared to a growth rate of 16 percent for Dane County. Cross Plains is not unique among Dane County communities in that the public utilities for growth are partially in place. Recent rates of construction for Cross Plains have greatly surpassed the average for Dane County as a whole (See Table 2).

According to the 1990 Census, approximately 132 or 5.6 percent, of the noninstitutionalized persons of Cross Plains over the age of 15 have a mobility or self-care limitation. Persons in this category were identified as having a mobility limitation if they had a health condition that lasted six or more months and which made it difficult to go outside the home alone (i.e., shopping, medical appointments) or to take care of their own personal needs such as dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home. In comparison, 4 percent of Dane County residents and 5.3 percent of state residents fall into this same category. These statistics must be considered when developing and improving the Village recreation facilities. As a part of this plan, each facility will be reviewed for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Cross Plains is an exurban community with 42 percent of the work force employed in the City of Madison and 28 percent working in Cross Plains. Cross Plains is like other areas which are considered “bedroom communities,” it tends to attract families with children. In 2000, there was an average of 2.6 persons per household in Cross Plains, compared to a countywide average of 2.4. In 2000, 29 percent of Cross Plains population was estimated to be under age 18, compared to 23 percent for the county. The fact that Cross Plains attracts younger and larger families places additional demands on the Village's Parks and recreation facilities (See Table 3).

The rural areas immediately surrounding Cross Plains have been experiencing slow growth rates; however, with Cross Plains population, they have a combined population of nearly 4,600. This means Cross Plains parks and open space system may face increasing pressure from surrounding areas. This will be especially true of Baer and Municipal Parks.

Cross Plains is predominantly a community of single-family dwelling units (65%); since 1970 the proportion of multifamily units (including duplexes) has increased from 25 to 35 percent of total housing. The residential neighborhoods are primarily growing in two directions: to the northeast and the southwest. Growth to the eastside has been for commercial development. The Village's industrial growth has been to the west.

TABLE 1: Population Trends

Year	Jurisdiction		
	Village of Cross Plains	Dane County	State of Wisconsin
2020	4,084	510,155	
2005	3,282	445,728	
2001	3,107	431,815	5,400,449
2000	3,084	426,526	5,309,996
1990	2,372	367,085	4,891,769
1980	2,156	323,545	4,705,642
1970	1,478	290,272	4,417,731
2000 Population Density (per sq. mi.)	2,498	351	98

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin DOA and Dane County RPC

TABLE 2: Village Of Cross Plains Demographics

Category	Census 1990	Percent of Total	Census 2000	Percent of Total
Population	2,362		3,084	
Household	761		1,199	
Avg. Household Size	2.76		2.56	
AGE				
0-4	225	9.5%	217	7.0%
5-19	530	22.5%	738	23.9%
20-24	158	6.7%	147	4.8%
25-44	882	37.3%	1,085	35.2%
45-64	364	15.4%	637	20.7%
65+	203	8.6%	260	8.4%
Median Age	30.8		34.3	
Per Capita Income	\$14,378		\$31,344	
Median Hsld Income	\$39,273		\$64,841	

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census

TABLE 3: Middleton-Cross Plains School District Partial Enrollment: 2000-2001

Fall 2000 Grade	St. Francis Xavier	By Public School	Total
Early Learning & KG	11	Park EI	55
1	23	Park EI	51
2	20	Park EI	43
3	22	Park EI	40
4	16	Park EI	65
5	26	Park EI	34
6	24	Glacier Creek Mid.	206
7	24	Glacier Creek Mid.	214
8	25	Glacier Creek Mid.	198
9		Middleton High	432
10		Middleton High	406
11		Middleton High	391
12		Middleton High	298
Total	191		2,433

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A comprehensive land use survey was conducted in 1990 and updated in 2001 to inventory existing park areas and recreation facilities and their relationship to residential and planned residential developments. Included in the inventory were municipal and educational recreational areas which contribute to the recreational opportunities (or supply) in the Village.

The following is a description of each open space area or park and a summary of the facilities in it. A summary of the existing areas is presented in Table 4. Existing areas are located on the Existing Park and Open Space Map. (The numbers refer to the location of the area on the map.)

1. **Baer Park** 14.92 acres **2820 Military Road or 2620 Church St.**

Baer Park functions as a neighborhood playground and a community park. It is the largest park in the Village. Features include two (2) lighted ball fields with bleachers, a batting cage, volleyball court, youth play equipment, 2 tennis courts, basketball court and a shelter/concession with kitchenette and a picnic area that is handicapped accessible.

The site is well landscaped with many young shade trees and bushes. There are four (4) parking areas totaling 155 on-site spaces. The park has water and restrooms. The lighted fields provide recreational activities for athletic and community activities. Glacier Creek Middle School uses the park for physical education course. This park use is for both residents and nonresidents.

2. **Municipal Park** 1.7 acres **2107 Julius St.**

Municipal Park is centrally located in the Village. It functions as a neighborhood playground and community park. It includes a lighted swimming pool, picnic tables, a roofed outdoor shelter and children's play equipment. The Rosemary Garfoot Public Library is located adjacent to this park, with rooms and a kitchen for community programs and events.

3. **Brewery Creekside Park** 5.2 acres **2715 Woodside Dr.**

This park combines two previously existing parklands of Hillside Trail and Woodside Hills Conservancy. It is primarily a steeply sloping open space area with a small neighborhood playground situated at the northern end of the park that includes tables and minimal playground equipment. There is a pedestrian trail that connects Elmwood Circle with Hillside Trail. The two (2) access points to this park provide the only access to the adjacent hilltop Dorothy Statz Conservancy Area.

4. **Melody Acres Park** 0.8 acres **3022 Melody Parkway**

This is a neighborhood park that has playground equipment, swings, a play structure, and benches. It is handicapped accessible. This park has a significant slope limiting its uses. Young trees and shrubs provide some shade and noise buffers.

5. **Raspberry Park** 9.7 acres **4011 St. Francis St.**

This park serves the St. Francis neighborhood. This park contains playground equipment, basketball court, soccer field, and baseball field.

6. **Westview Park** 1.31 acres **2717 Westview Ct.**

This is a neighborhood park that serves a multi-family residential development and condominiums. There are picnic tables and playground equipment. It is handicapped accessible. Park has access to the Westview Scenic Overlook at the park's north end.

7. **Cedar Glen Park** .57 acres **1808 Ludden Dr.**

This is a well-landscaped neighborhood park with a tot lot, sheltered picnic tables, and a water fountain. It extends, in part, from the west bluff to Ludden Drive, buffering the developing residential area from the industrial area. The rear portion is an open play area. The eastern border of the park is adjacent to the Cedar Glen Conservancy Area.

8. **Glacier's Edge Park** .39 acres **Outlot 2 Village Square**

This is a community business park centrally located in Glacier's Edge Commercial Area. This area is intended to serve as a site for seasonal art and craft fairs and a Village Farmers' Market. Because this site serves as an infiltration area, park use must not interfere with this function. Above ground maintenance is handled by the Village Parks Department.

9. **Glacial Valley Park** 2.0 acres **2119 Hillebrand Dr.**

This is a well-landscaped neighborhood park with a climbing unit, seesaw, slide, benches, picnic table, swings, and a volleyball court. It is handicapped accessible. The park includes an open space drainage way.

10. **Cedar Glen Conservancy** 22.62 acres **Between 1701 & 1702 Ludden Dr.**

This community conservancy area joins the Glacial Valley Conservancy Area and represents many features unique to the Driftless Area of the last North America Glacial Period and serves as an additional conservancy/open space area for the Village. Pedestrian hiking trails through the conservancy area have many scenic overlooks and are accessible from Village streets at several locations. There are marked signs to indicate trail locations, with four (4) public access ways from Village streets.

11. **Glacial Valley Conservancy** 36.53 acres **Between 2164 & 2165 Hillebrand Dr.**

This area extends up and across the tops of steep slopes that overlook the Village. Pedestrian hiking trails through the conservancy area have many scenic overlooks, and are accessible from Village streets at several locations.

12. **Community Nature Park** 9.5 acres **1847 Bourbon Rd.**

This is a Linear Parkway and a Conservancy Area that stretches along Black Earth Creek. A pedestrian trail with benches winds through the park, with signs highlighting the unique historical and natural assets of the Village. The parkway stretches along both sides of Black Earth Creek in varying widths between County P on the east, extending ten (10) blocks west to East Street. A railroad track, having light use, borders the southern length of the park. Several residential and commercial properties adjoin on the north. The park contains a small parking area located behind the (add address to old fire station) Fire Station and one near the Mill Street Bridge access. All of the parkland is in the flood plain and subject to regular intermittent flooding.

In the park, there are three evenly spaced foot bridges that cross the creek. The park also includes a large, grassed area directly behind and extending east of the Fire Station.

Black Earth Creek has historically been noted as one of the most productive trout streams in the State of Wisconsin. Trout spawning areas run through the Community Park. The stream bank on the south side of the Black Earth Creek has been left natural, although the central section of the park is mowed regularly. This area is rich in wildflowers and attracts a variety of migrating birds in the spring and early summer. Plans for the Ice Age Trail show Community Park as the site of a trail loop that would connect to the proposed Ice Age Trail System as it passes through Dane County.

13. Dorothy Statz Park 2.7 acres **3008 Hillside Tr.**

This is primarily a passive recreational area of mature deciduous trees. Its location and elevation provide an excellent overlook point to the Village to the south and east. One bench is provided. The park has two (2) public access ways (pedestrian only); through Brewery Creekside Park and off Elmwood Circle.

14. Swanson Conservancy 3.3 acres **2325 East St.**

This is steeply wooded hillside lying east and north of the residential property on Center Street and East Street (Village water pumping station) that serves a public open space/conservancy area for the Village. The only access is across a steep slope off East Street.

15. Westview Scenic Overview 4.5 acres **2807 Birchwood Pass**

This Conservancy area consists of a natural prairie hillside and hilltop overlooking the Village. A gently sloping pedestrian trail leads to the scenic overlook point with two (2) benches.

16. Glacier Creek Middle School 14.4 acres **2800 Military Rd.**

This site contains Glacier Creek Middle School, operated by the Middleton-Cross Plains School District. There are two soccer fields, basketball courts, and an open ball field. There are also an indoor gymnasium and meeting rooms for community activities.

17. Park School 13.6 acres **1209 Park St.**

This site contains the Park Elementary School, operated by the Middleton-Cross Plains School District. The playground area includes playground equipment, two (2) ball fields, basketball courts, an indoor gymnasium, and meeting rooms. The “Outdoor Education Center” site includes a restored prairie and trail to the hilltop. There is off-street parking.

18. St. Francis Church/School Playground 4.5 acres **2939 Thinnes St.**

This private park is owned by the Diocese of Madison/St. Francis Catholic Church and serves as a neighborhood park with playground equipment, a ball field, basketball courts, and open play area, which doubles as a football field.

19. American Legion Park 2.1 acres **2217 American Legion Dr.**

This well landscaped private park is owned by the American Legion and serves as a neighborhood playground. It has a ball field, playground equipment, a large roofed picnic shelter with tables, and a building for meetings with onsite parking. There is a water fountain at this site.

20. DNR Conservation Area 20 acres Behind 1107 Bourbon Rd.

This area is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and is primarily an open space area along the Black Earth Creek which includes several springs, one of which is a main source of fresh water to Black Earth Creek.

21. Cedar Hill Park Conservancy 20 acres 1244 Gils Ways

This area consists of two parts: One is a steeply wooded hillside Conservancy Area (17.5 acres) on the east side of the Cedar Hill subdivision, with a hilltop hiking trail connecting to the Cedar Glen Hiking Trail and accessible from Pat's Place. The Cedar Hills Neighborhood Park (2.5 acres) is located on Gil's Way, and also has an access-way to the Conservancy Hiking Trail.

22. Hickory Hill Conservancy ___ 53 acres 2427 Hickory Hill

This conservancy includes woodlands, at least 2 dry prairie remnants, and a scenic overlook area. The park provides additional conservancy area for people to enjoy through hiking, bird watching, and cross-county skiing; scenic views of the Village and Black Earth Creek valley; and a future corridor for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, linking with existing trails on adjacent lands. There is a conservation easement held by National Heritage Land Trust. Establishment of the park helps the Village complete its plan for Conservancy Areas, as proposed in its 1997 Comprehensive Master Plan Update.

23. Gausewitz Park ___ acres 1814 Cross St.

This is a neighborhood park which includes playground equipment and a gazebo with both a picnic area and bench.

24. Melody Acres 0.8 acres 3022 Melody Parkway

This is a neighborhood park that has playground equipment, swings, a play structure, and benches. It is handicapped accessible. This park has a significant slope limiting its uses. Young trees and shrubs provide some shade and noise buffers.

25. Cedar Hill Conservancy __ 20 acres 1904 Pat's Place

This area extends up and along the top of steep slopes that overlook the Village. Pedestrian hiking trails through the conservancy area have scenic overlooks, rock outcroppings and are accessible from Pat's Place.

ANALYSIS OF EXISTING FACILITIES

The most commonly used method for measuring the adequacy of a community's park and open space system is to determine if the number of people it serves, or has the capacity to serve, meets the Village's desired standard combined with an analysis of geographic distribution and accessibility. This analysis is done by assigning a minimum acreage standard to each type of park and to the system as a whole. Tables 4 and 5 below show the total acreage of land devoted to each type of park in the Village. The table also breaks down the aggregate acreage per park type into five categories of open space. This breakdown more clearly indicates how much parkland in Cross Plains is devoted to both active and accessible passive recreational activity and how much is comprised of open space areas which serve specialized recreation purposes or provide environmental and/or aesthetic benefits. *Of critical interest are the 36.6 acres of active and accessible passive public park facilities which are currently provided by the Village (highlighted in the shaded area).* The 127.1 acre balance of the Village's 163.7 aggregate acres of parkland is comprised of other open space areas which do not relate to open space provision standards.

TABLE 4: Existing Recreation And Open Space By Function And Area

Type	Name	Acreage	Type	Name	acreage	Type	Name	Acreage
Mini-Parks	Cedar Glen	0.6	Natural areas	Com. Nature	9.5	Public Total		163.7
	Glacier's Edge	0.4		Cedar Glen	22.6			
	Total	1.0		Glacial Valley	36.5			
Neighborhood	Westview	1.3		Dorothy Statz	2.7	Non-Local	DNR Conserve	20.0
	Melody Acres	0.8		Swanson	3.3		Total	20.0
	Brewery Creekside	5.2		Westview Scenic	4.5	Private	St. Francis sch	4.5
	Glacial Valley	2.0	Cedar Hill	20.0	Amer. Legion		2.1	
	Total	9.3	Total	99.1	Total		6.6	
Community	Municipal	1.7	Municipal Total		135.7	Other Total (Non-Local+Private)		26.6
	Baer	14.9	School	Park El	13.6			
	St. Francis	9.7		Glacier Cr. Mid	14.4			
	Total	26.3		Total	28.0	Area Total	190.3	

TABLE 5: Total Developed Acreage of Parkland By Type Of Recreational Use Per Type of Park

Type of Park	Active Recreation Area ¹	Passive Recreation Area ²	Natural Area ³	Special Facilities Area ⁴	Water, Wetland, Floodplain	Total Park Acreage
PUBLIC PARK FACILITIES						
Mini-Parks	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Neighborhood parks	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3
Community parks	26.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.3
Special use areas	0.0	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	99.1
Total Public Park Facilities	36.6	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	135.7
SCHOOL PARK FACILITIES						
Mini-Parks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neighborhood parks	13.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6
Community parks	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.4
Special use areas	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Public School Parks	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0
Grand Total	64.6	0.0	99.1	0.0	0.0	163.7

¹Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.

²Passive Accessible Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.

³Natural Area: passive, non-accessible areas for conservation

⁴Special Facilities Area: golf courses, arboretums, scenic over-looks, cemeteries, trails, etc.

Table 6 includes the NRPA recommended acreage standards for each type of park per 1,000 persons and the existing active and accessible passive acres per park category in Cross Plains. The information in this table indicates that the Village of Cross Plains is currently satisfying the recreational needs of its residents in terms of the ratio of *total acreage of active and accessible passive Village recreation parkland to persons*.

Specifically, Table 6 indicates that Cross Plains exceeds the NRPA standard, of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons, with an aggregate 36.6 useable acres for recreational activity which breaks down to 11.9 acres per 1,000 persons. In terms of the provisions of specific park types, the Village also meets the NRPA suggested range for mini-parks, at 1.0 acre, and exceeds the range for neighborhood parks at 3.0 acres per 1,000 respectively. The Village exceeds the NRPA suggested range for community parks at 8.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

When the community's school recreational facilities are included in the calculation, the community has a total of 64.6 acres of park and open space land in active and accessible passive use. This breaks down to 20.9 acres per 1,000 persons, which far exceeds the Dane County gross acreage standard of 15 acres per 1,000 persons. However, these school facilities serve a larger geographic area and population than just the Village-proper and are not under the jurisdiction of the Village.

TABLE 6: Accessible Municipal Park and Open Space and School Recreational Facilities

Type of Park	Standard	Public Park		School Facilities		Total Park and School
	Acres/1,000 persons	Total Acres	Acres/1,000 persons	Total Acres	Acres/1,000 persons	Acres/1,000 persons
Mini-parks	0.25 – 0.5	1.0	0.32	0.5	0.0	0.3
Neighborhood Parks	1 – 2	9.3	2.99	13.6	4.38	7.4
Community Parks	5 – 8	26.3	8.46	14.4	4.63	13.1
Special Use Areas	Local standard	99.1	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	6.25 – 10.5	36.6	11.78	28.0	9.01	20.9

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The future needs assessment is a critical component of the Parks and Recreation Plan. This analysis is included in part to satisfy the requirements of Wisconsin Statutes Section 236.45 regarding the establishment of park land fee-in-lieu-of land dedication and park improvement fees, and also to assist the Village with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks. The future recreation needs of the Village are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the Village of Cross Plains in the year 2020, by examining how well the Village meets the activity-related standards, and also by examining how well the locations of existing facilities serve the Village's population.

Gross Acreage Requirements

As the Village policy, the *current rate* of 11.8 acres per 1,000 persons should be maintained in order for the Village to meet the demand created by population growth. As was indicated in Section II of this Plan, the Village of Cross Plains is expected to grow to a population of nearly 4,100 persons by the year 2020. The Village would therefore require a total of 48 acres of active and accessible passive park and open space land, or an additional 11 to 12 acres by 2020.

Activity-Related Requirements

TABLE 7: Activity-Related Standards

Activity	Standard No./Persons		Current Facilities	Future Needs (2020)
Baseball Diamonds	1/3,500		1	0
Ice Skating Rinks Regulation size (lighted)	1/3,500		0	1
Softball Diamonds* (lighted)	3/1000		1	2
Soccer Fields*	3/1,000		1	2
Tennis Courts (lighted)	2/1,5000		2	0
Basketball Courts*	3/1,000		4	0
Swimming Pools	10,000		1	0
Football field (lighted)	1/3,500		0	1

*This locally adopted standard reflects higher demand for softball and tennis facilities and lower demand for outdoor basketball facilities in suburban Dane County.

Park Distribution

The *location* of the park and open space facilities in relation to the Village's residents is also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. To illustrate how well the Village of Cross Plains parklands serve the various areas of the Village, see the **Parks and Open Space** map. It appears that future parks will be needed on the northeast, east and southwest sides of the Village.

Another more precise indicator of how well parks are meeting the recreational needs of the Village is to look at their distribution in relation to the users. The map on the preceding page illustrates the distribution of parks. Whereas community parks serve the whole Village, the other classes of parks have a restricted service area. The recommended service area for a tot lot is one-quarter mile. The recommended service area for neighborhood parks and playgrounds is one-half mile. These service area recommendations must consider barriers such as USH 14, the railroad tracks, the Black Earth Creek, and Church Street (CTH P). Access barriers must be considered when determining service distances and when planning a walkway or bike route linking parks.

Cross Plains is deficient in a number of specific types of parks and facilities and in their distribution. Among the deficiencies are:

1. There is a need for trails delineation within the conservancy **lands**, which can be used to tie both the community and individual **lands** together. This system could take the form of bike trails, nature trails, and jogging or walking trails in the environmental corridor. Some of the trails could double in winter as cross-country skiing trails.

Parks in the Village of Cross Plains are not completely accessible according to the ADA standards. Restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities must be examined closely over the next few years to assure that all people are given the same opportunities within the community.

In general, playground equipment and other outdoor recreation amenities could be enjoyed by everyone if better access to the equipment was provided. Every piece of play apparatus need not be accessible, but at least one of each type is recommended. For example, when several swings are provided, at least one swing should be designed with the young disabled population in mind. New equipment designs today should consider the abilities of all potential users without limiting the equipment use.

All restroom facilities must also be accessible by persons with disabilities. Guidelines for ADA accessibility in restrooms and other facilities are found in Appendix D of this report. In some cases, this would require minimal remodeling, it could require substantial modifications.

At least one picnic table and one grill designed to accommodate persons in wheelchairs should be available at each park (if these types of facilities are currently available). These facilities should be identified with a sign that shows the universal symbol of accessibility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations to improve recreation programs in the Village of Cross Plains are based on projected growth rates and deficiencies identified in the preceding section. Recommendations concern not only park land acquisition, development projects and the provision of diversified recreational opportunities, but also relate to administration, funding, and land use.

Most of the recommendations are based on the assumption that Cross Plains will continue its moderate rate of growth and that park and recreational facilities planning should be geared toward serving a growing population. However, the timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational resources in developed and newly developing areas of the Village. In other words, the highest priority should be placed on expanding and improving parks and recreation areas where there are existing needs and shortages.

General Recommendations

1. **Village and school officials responsible for recreation in Cross Plains should place a continued emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities that can support “lifetime” recreational activities.** Falling into this category are activities like tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross-country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, hiking and swimming. Too often, community and school recreation facilities are oriented to games important only to well-conditioned athletes rather than to recreational opportunities for less athletically inclined men and women. In designing recreation areas, recreational needs of all members of the community should be taken into account.
2. **The Village should place more emphasis on developing safe child pedestrian access to parks and school playground facilities.** Access improvements are especially needed where there are no sidewalks. Street improvement programs in the developed portions of the Village will include the provision of sidewalks and/or bicycle trails especially along collector streets. Developers of new subdivisions will be required to provide sidewalks or pathways. Adequate crossing facilities need to be provided at major road obstacle points at both school and non-school hours.

The Village will be applying for grant monies to establish a comprehensive bicycle plan that includes existing paths and establishing new paths. The emphasis will be on reducing vehicular trips and increasing the use of bicycles within the Village, and on making connections to other communities (Middleton, Black Earth and Mount Horeb).

3. **More emphasis should be placed on the aesthetic function of parks.** Parks provide the largest expanse of green open space in the community, and in some newer sections of the community the land dedicated for parks contains the only mature vegetation. Many types of recreational activities, particularly the “lifetime” activities such as hiking, picnicking, lawn games and target games, are greatly enhanced by the proximity of shade trees and an attractive environment. A buffer of trees or tall shrubbery around the playfields and open areas also enhances these types of areas and reduces the land use conflicts between heavily used parks and neighboring residential areas.

An active and continuous tree and shrub planting program should be initiated. The plantings should contain a mix of fast-growing and slow-growing species. The planting program should also avoid overdependence on one or two species, which may fall victim to blight or other disease. Other considerations in developing a planting program are selecting trees for attractiveness, reducing the time and expense involved with maintenance and clean-up, and reducing the adverse effects of trees and shrubs on surface and underground public utilities.

4. **The Village should look beyond its present corporate boundaries for lands suited to recreational development.** This is of particular importance in those surrounding areas under the influence of extraterritorial plat review and official mapping and where annexation is imminent. Proposed parks are mapped in the Village master plan and should be added to the official map. Advance planning of this nature will give added assurance that lands best suited to satisfying recreational demands or protecting vital recreational resources will be preserved for public use.
5. **The Village should utilize volunteer labor and donated materials to the greatest extent possible.** Community groups such as the American Legion, civic clubs, scouts, and senior citizen clubs often make significant contributions to recreation programs. Utilization of volunteer labor is generally most successful where a single tangible project is involved, such as tree planting, construction of a single facility, or a one-day clean-up and beautification project. Volunteer labor should not be relied on for day-to-day maintenance or routine acquisitions and improvements. Adequate funds for hiring employees should be budgeted so that the community recreation program can succeed regardless of whether or not volunteer labor is available.
6. **The Village should concentrate on the development of existing recreation facilities.** Cross Plains has developed a substantial land pool for its parks and recreation facilities, but many of these areas have not been developed to their full capacity. Before considering expansion of the parks and recreation land base, the Village should assure that all existing facilities fulfill the needs of their designated service areas. Following development of existing facilities, the Village should acquire land in those most developed lands that are deficient in park services.
7. **The Village should place more emphasis on the development of winter recreation programs and facilities.** In the upper Midwest, winter activities should be an essential part of recreation planning. Future trail development will provide many

opportunities for cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing. The trail system could be tied in with nature trails developed for summer and fall use. The Village also has a network of snowmobile trails linking Cross Plains with the surrounding towns. Brochures of other winter recreation facilities located close to the Village, i.e. Indian Lake County Park, are available at the Village Hall.

8. **Improvements to existing parks or development of new parks should include features to help the disabled.** Features could include ramps, grab rails, traction walkways, special seating, accessible drinking fountains and special playground equipment. Currently, many handicapped individuals are restricted in the areas of active and passive recreation.
9. **The Village of Cross Plains should adopt environmental corridors to preserve open space and direct development to lands suitable for construction as shown on the Park and Open Space Plan Map.** Environmental corridors include those lands forming continuous, linear systems of natural resource features and/or public open space and recreation lands. Examples of features within environmental corridors include parks, school playgrounds, drainage ways, wetlands and floodplains. See the section following the Five Year Development Plan for more information on environmental corridors.
10. **During the next five-year period, Cross Plains should improve its present recreation system.** These improvements will take place in the form of development of existing parks and the acquisition of new parklands, especially in the areas east of the present Village boundaries. The Village should look into the acquisition of property east of Baer Park (Buechner Farm) for additional recreational usage or possible facility structures.

Development Recommendation:

1. Baer Park

- a. Expand Baer Park to the east through dedication, donation or purchase.
- b. Add enclosed recreation facility near the softball field that is handicapped accessible.
- c. Upgrade restroom facilities near baseball field.
- d. Bring tennis and basketball courts up to playable standard.

2. Municipal Park

- a. Implement a plan for planting small trees for future shade.
- b. Add handicapped accessible picnic table.
- c. Cement area around pool where the bleachers sit.
- d. Add a drinking fountain by the pavilion.

3. Brewery Creekside Park

4. Melody Acres Park

- a. Add ½-court basketball court
- b. Add a trail system around the perimeter of the park.

5. St. Francis Park (see Master Plan in Appendix)

- a. Develop a softball field, using little league baseball dimensions.
- b. Prepare a soccer field (75 ft. By 175 ft.)
- c. Build a basketball court (42 ft. By 42 ft)
- d. Provide a parking lot with room for 15 cars.

6. Westview Park

- a. Landscape the site with shade trees.
- b. Build a park shelter.

7. Cedar Glen Park

- a. Provide vegetative screening on park boundary near adjacent residences.

8. Glacier's Edge Park

- a. Install curbing around park to protect plantings.
- b. Plant evergreen trees at north end of park.

9. Glacial Valley Park

- a. Add a picnic shelter with restrooms
- b. Add a soccer/football field.

10. Community Nature Park

- a. Extend the walking trail to Center Street.
- b. Develop a picnic area.
- c. Add bike racks to the parking area.
- d. Replace material on walking trail.
- e. Expand the West footbridge behind the old firestation.
- f. Work with invasive plants.
- g. Cut back weeds and trees to showcase Black Earth Creek.
- h. Look for extended stormwater management practices along the creek.

11. Swanson Conservancy

12. New Eastside Neighborhood Park

- a. Acquire through parkland dedication a neighborhood park (3 to 5 acres) to serve the far east side area planned within the urban service area.

13. New Westside Neighborhood Park/Playfield

- a. Acquire a buffer area west of Black Earth Creek which is wide enough and properly configured to accommodate playfields, including adult soccer fields.

14. Ice Age Trail

- a. The proposed Parks and Open Space Map shows a conceptual refinement of the Ice Age Trail through Cross Plains. Actual trail connections are subject to the acquisitions of the Ice Age Park and Trail, Foundation, Inc.

15. Village Trail System

- a. A new trail is proposed for the east side of the Village. The Westview Scenic Overview trail would be extended along trails or sidewalks north on Brewery Road, then easterly along the easement for the Enchanted Valley intermittent stream to Baer Park, then northeasterly to Thinner Road at the east edge of the Village. The location of the trail east of Baer Park will be defined at time of subdivision.

16. Gauswitz Park:

- a. Playground Structure
- b. Gazebo

17. Paved CTH Shoulders/Village Bike Route

- a. The Village supports county efforts to pave the shoulders of CTH P. Within the Village, Thinnes Road and Church Street will be signed as a “Bike Route.”
- b. The Village supports the proposal to pave CTH KP from Mazomanie to Cross Plains. The Village will sign Bourbon Road as “Bike Route” from CTH KP to CTH P.

Summary

This plan represents a finding that the Village of Cross Plains has historically provided for active and passive recreational facilities in quantities and locations which fulfill the NRPA recommended standards. However, Cross Plains should acquire a new community park to meet NRPA standards for Community parks. Specifically, the Village has been providing areas at 11 acres per 1,000 persons in locations which meet a 1/2 mile service radius per neighborhood park and a two mile service radius per community park. It is the Village’s official policy to continue service provision at this rate and per these service radii.

It should be noted that the locations of school recreational facilities (playgrounds and athletic fields) were included in the service area radii analyses, but the total acreage of these facilities was not included in the calculation of the Village’s park land demand and associated costs. Three reasons for using school facilities for location analysis and not dedication calculation are as follows:

1. These areas are accessible for recreational use by walking and therefore should be mapped.
2. These facilities serve the entire school district (which is a larger population not covered by this Plan) and therefore do not relate to the per 1,000 calculations based on the 2001 population of the Village.
3. Finally, regardless of whether or not the 20.9 acres per 1,000 (including the school district facilities) or the 11.8 acres per 1,000 measure is used as the standard of facility provision to be reached in the future, the Village’s share of this facility provision is still 11.8 acres. In other words, the Village provided 2001 rate of 11.8 acres per 1,000 persons should be continued, and hopefully will continue to be matched by schools.

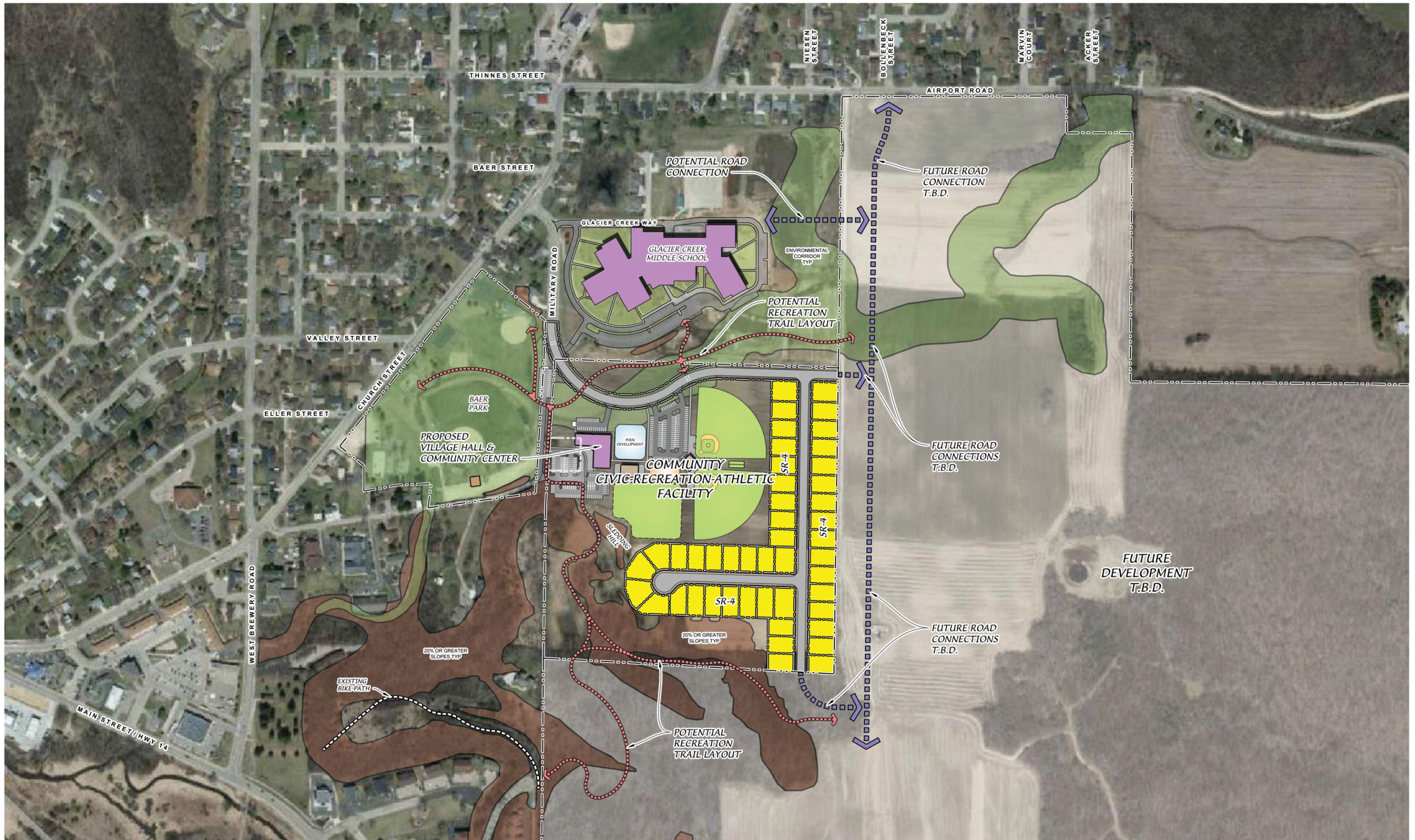
TABLE 8: Park Improvement Costs and FILO Land Dedication (in 2002 Dollars)

Type of Park	Typical Park Size	Typical Park Imprvmt. Cost	Typical Cost per acre	Total Public Park Acres/1,000 persons	Projected Add'l Population per 1,000	Projected Add'l Acres Needed	Land Cost Per Acre
Mini-Parks	0.5	\$26,200	\$52,400	0.32	0.977	0.31	\$20,000
Neighborhood parks	3	\$72,550	\$24,183	2.99	0.977	2.92	\$20,000
Community parks	20	\$489,000	\$24,450	8.46	0.977	8.27	\$20,000
Special use areas	0.5	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.977	0.00	\$20,000
Total				11.78	0.977	11.51	\$20,000

Type of Park	Park Imprvmt. Cost	Projected Cost in Land	Projected Number of Dwelling Units	Park Imprvmt. Cost per D.U.	Calculated FILO Cost per D.U.	Total FILO Dedication & Imprvmt.
Mini-Parks	\$16,477	\$6,289	381	\$43.24	\$16.50	
Neighborhood parks	\$70,722	\$58,488	381	\$185.60	\$153.49	
Community parks	\$202,203	\$165,401	381	\$530.60	\$434.07	
Special use areas	\$0	\$0	381	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total	\$289,402	\$230,178	381	\$759.50	\$604.07	
Total Plus Planning Costs	\$318,342	\$253,196	381	\$835	\$665	\$1,500

Summary of Existing & Proposed Outdoor Recreational Activities by Park and School Facilities, Village of Cross Plains: 2007

	Community Parks			Neighborhood Parks					Tot-lots		Schools		
Map Number	1	2	5	3	4	6	9		7	8	16	17	18
Acreage	14.9	1.7	9.7	5.2	0.8	1.3	2		0.6	0.4	14.4	13.6	4.5
Park Name	Baer	Municipal	Raspberry	Brewery	Melody	Westview	Glacier	Guaswitz	Cedar	Glacier's	Glacier	Park	St. Francis
Activity				Creekside	Acres		Valley		Glen	Edge	Middle	Elementary	Private
Baseball field	1											0	N
Basketball courts	1	0.5	1								2	1	N
T-Ball			1									2	
Picnic Shelters	1/P	1				P	P	1	1				
Playground Areas	1	1	1	1	1	1		1		1		1	N
Skateboard ramps	P												
Skating/hockey rinks	1												
Sledding	1												
Soccer fields			1				1				1		
Softball fields	1												
Swimming pool		1											
Tennis courts	2												
Volleyball courts	2						1			1			
Restrooms	1	1											
Off-street parking	1	1	1									N	
Trail system				1		P						1	
Fishing		1											
Natural Areas													
Map Number	10	11	12	13	14	15	21	20	Total Park & Open Space Areas (in acres)				
Acreage	22.6	36.5	9.5	2.7	3.3	4.5	20	20	Village	Village	Village	Schools	Other
Park Name	Cedar	Glacial	Community	Dorothy		Westview	Cedar	DNR	Active	Natural	Total	Total	Total
Activity	Glen	Valley	Nature	Statz	Swanson	Scenic	Hill	Conservation	36.6	99.1	135.7	32.5	22.1
Off-street parking			1										
Trail system	1	1	1	1		1		O	P = Proposed		N = Non-public		O = Outside Village



VILLAGE HALL & COMMUNITY FACILITY
 DRAFT CONCEPTUAL CONTEXT PLAN
 VILLAGE OF CROSS PLAINS, WISCONSIN
 MAY 7, 2015





VILLAGE HALL & COMMUNITY FACILITY
 DRAFT CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
 VILLAGE OF CROSS PLAINS, WISCONSIN
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