

City of Richland Center

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2016-2020



Prepared for Richland Center City Council

Prepared by Richland Center Parks & Grounds Board

JANUARY 2016

RESOLUTION #

RESOLUTION ADOPTING UPDATED OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Richland Center has had a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for many years, but it needs to be updated to maintain Richland Center's eligibility for participation in state and federal recreation aid programs; and

WHEREAS, an update of the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for Richland Center has been prepared by the Richland Center Parks & Grounds Board; and

WHEREAS, this recreation plan is based on sound planning principles and long-range goals and objectives for the community's recreational development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richland Center City Council hereby goes on record to adopt the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as the City's guide for future outdoor recreation improvements;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council requests the Department of Natural Resources to provide continued eligibility to the City of Richland Center for participation in the LAWCON and Stewardship Fund cost-sharing programs for an additional five-year period.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2016.

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER

Mayor

Clerk

Attest:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Richland Center at a regular meeting thereof held on the ____ day of _____, 2016.

Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE OF PLAN	1
GOAL AND OBJECTIVES	2
PLANNING PROCESS	4
Description of Process	4
Amending the Plan.....	5
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION	6
General Characteristics of the City	6
Physical characteristics of the Region	6
STANDARDS FOR PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING	8
Recreation Open Space Standards	8
Recreation Facility Development Standards.....	10
Needs and Priorities Identified in SCORP.....	11
INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	12
City Owned Property	12
County Owned Property	16
School Owned Property	17
Privately Owned Property.....	18
Map of City Facilities	19 & 20
Map of County Owned Facilities	21
THE ACTION PROGRAM	22
Service Area of Neighborhood Park Facilities.....	23
Service Area of Community Park Facilities.....	24
Recommendations for Improving Richland Center’s Park System	25
APPENDICES	
Appendix A – Recreation Facility Development Standards	A-1
Appendix B – SCORP Listing of Needs and Priorities	B-1
Appendix C – Capital Improvements Schedule.....	C-1
Appendix D – Operations and Maintenance Schedule	D-1

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for the City of Richland Center is an expression of the community's recreation goals and objectives, as well as current and future needs and demands for recreational facilities. The intent of this document is to plan for the maintenance and improvement of Richland Center's recreational and open space resources by outlining a strategy to manage existing resources wisely and to develop new resources to meet future needs and demands.

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, a portion of the community, or the entire community or region and provide area and facilities for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. Open space can take the form of parks, greenbelts, wetlands, and floodplain. Open space can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as the following:

- preservation of scenic and natural resources
- flood management
- protecting the area's water resources
- preserving prime agricultural land
- limiting development that may occur
- buffering incompatible land uses
- structuring the community environment

A well-designed parks and facilities plan should incorporate private as well as public open space areas in the community. The development and continual updating of the outdoor recreation plan becomes a valuable asset to a community and contributes to its stability and attractiveness.

PURPOSE OF PLAN

This plan is an update of the Richland Center Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan prepared in 2010. The specific purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the City's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years in order to meet the recreational needs and demands of the local residents.

Policy decisions made by the Richland Center Parks and Grounds Board and the Richland Center City Council for park programs and improvements shall be guided by the goals and objectives, and findings and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions or choices are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities and ideas, changing growth patterns, budget priorities, and changing community needs and desires. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually, and a detailed update such as this should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is also a requirement of the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for a community such as Richland Center to stay eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, the City of Richland Center needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its parks and outdoor recreation system.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section of the plan presents the goals and objectives that are being used to guide the park and recreation program in the City of Richland Center. There are four basic goals that address the community-wide system of parks, encourage coordinated planning in the operation and improvement of the parks, and promote the conservation/enhancement of natural resources for recreational purposes.

The goals are followed by a listing of objectives. While each of the goals point toward a desired final outcome, the objectives are more specific in terms of listing the types of things that need to be worked on to achieve the goal. The goals and objectives serve as a guide for the preparation of plans for specific improvements, policies and programs.

Goal #1: Establish and maintain a community-wide system of parks, open space and alternative transportation routes to meet the needs of community residents.

Objectives:

1. *Provide park and recreation facilities that adequately serves all areas of the community.*
2. *Provide park and recreation facilities that accommodate all user groups, including the special needs of the elderly and disabled.*
3. *Provide safe and adequate accessibility to community park and recreation facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
4. *Provide safe alternative routes to schools & Industrial Parks for all user groups.*
5. *Provide park and recreation facilities that fulfill unmet recreation needs.*
6. *Acquire and develop park sites and facilities based on recommended standards, community needs, and the existing distribution of parks and other recreation facilities.*
7. *Continue to cooperate and work with the school district in providing outdoor recreation and recreation program opportunities.*

Goal #2: Establish a system of community parks that promotes the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources in the community and make them available for recreation use.

Objectives:

1. *Consider environmental impacts in locating and developing all types of recreation facilities.*
2. *Utilize sensitive environmental areas for passive recreation. Provide for buildings, intensive and active recreation in the least environmentally sensitive areas.*

3. *Preserve or acquire, properties that are environmentally unique or sensitive, whenever feasible.*
4. *Preserve properties for wildlife watching.*
5. *Enhance and protect streams for water quality.*

Goal #3: Operate the city park system, and conduct planning, acquisition and development in a way that respects and utilizes participation from the public, the school district, various civic groups, and takes advantage of the resources available at the county, regional and state levels.

Objectives:

1. *Continue to work with recreational users, neighbors, civic groups, and other interested parties in park operation, planning and development.*
2. *Coordinate improvement of the community park system with the school district, and with county, regional, and state agencies concerned about outdoor recreation planning and development.*

Goal #4: Operate and improve the community park system and recreation facilities, in an efficient and organized manner.

Objectives:

1. *Use the community outdoor recreation plan to develop a capital improvements schedule/budget for guiding future park acquisitions and improvement projects.*
2. *Use city, county, state, federal, and private resources to develop and maintain high quality park and recreation facilities.*
3. *Use, where possible, the skills and energy of city, county, and regional staff in facility planning, development and operation.*

Goal #5: Establish a trail system connecting city and county parks.

Objectives:

1. *Collaborate and support projects proposed by Richland County.*
2. *Continue to cooperate with Richland County to connect city & county trails and routes.*

PLANNING PROCESS

This section of the report will give a brief description of the sequence of events that will be taking place during the development of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It will also describe the process that can be used to amend the plan.

Description of Process

The City of Richland Center has had an outdoor recreation plan for many years. Department Heads will have a working session to update the inventory of city park and recreation areas. The need to update the City's goals and objectives to guide the recreation planning process will also be discussed.

Following that work session, an initial meeting will be held with the Richland Center Parks & Grounds Board to go over the state's planning guidelines for the outdoor recreation plan update and to discuss the recreation facility needs at each of the parks in the community. The committee will develop its goals and objectives, with input from the general public. The committee will review the inventory material prepared by the Parks, Recreation and Grounds Director. The committee will also review the listing of needs and priorities from the southern district of the state, identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which will serve as a general guide when developing the local needs assessment. The recreation standards being used in the planning process will also be discussed, which includes both the open space standards and the recreation facility standards supplied by the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

While the committee is going through the steps of assessing the recreation needs in each sector of the community, comments and suggestions from the public should be encouraged. The committee may also explore other opportunities for eliciting public comment, such as appointing a citizen advisory group or conducting a survey of recreation needs. The committee should also refer to the minutes and records of past meetings for information and ideas expressed regarding needed park and recreation facilities.

During this public participation stage, the committee will come up with a comprehensive listing of park and recreation needs for the City and School District. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Grounds Director will work with school officials to identify any additional recreation facility needs the school district has identified in recent years, for inclusion in the plan. The need to acquire additional land and develop completely new facilities in areas of the community not presently served by a park will also be discussed. The various recommendations for upgrading and improving the City's park system will then be prioritized for inclusion in the "Action Program" portion of the report.

The City Parks, Recreation, and Grounds Director will then develop a preliminary draft of the updated comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, based on the recommendations of the Richland Center Parks and Grounds Board and citizens in the community. The Parks Director will also assist with the preparation of materials pertaining to ADA requirements in each park, a capital improvements schedule for the recommended park improvements, and an operations and maintenance schedule to be included in the appendix of this report.

The updated report will then be reproduced in draft form and copies given to the members of the Richland Center Parks and Grounds Board for their review and approval at a follow-up Parks and Grounds Board meeting. After suggesting any minor revisions to the report, the Parks and Grounds board will be asked to endorse the draft comprehensive outdoor recreation plan as their guide for future decisions related to park development in the City of Richland Center. They will also be taking action to recommend the draft plan, as revised, to the Richland Center City Council for adoption.

Following that meeting of the Richland Center Parks and Grounds Board, the final report will be reproduced and copies given to members of the Richland Center City Council for their review. They will also be given a copy of a proposed resolution recommending adoption of the plan as the City's official park and recreation plan for the next five-year period. Following adoption, the plan and resolution will be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources requesting re-certification for participation in the State's park and recreation cost-sharing programs.

Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision-makers. Amendments must follow the same process as when the original plan was prepared. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the original plan.

The process, then, for amending the city's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan would involve several meetings with the Parks Director and the Parks and Grounds Board, depending on the extent of changes that are being proposed in the amendment. At the least, there should be an opportunity for public input in the plan amendment process, a full and open discussion of the need for the amendment by the City Parks and Grounds Board, the development of a draft amendment that is reviewed and acted on by the committee at an official public meeting, the referral of the recommended amendment to the City Council for action, and finally, the adoption of the plan amendment by the Council.

This City Council action on the plan amendment should be by written resolution so that a copy of the resolution can be sent to the Department of Natural Resources for re-certification of the City's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan with the new provisions incorporated therein. The plan amendment will not be effective until a letter is received back from the Department of Natural Resources indicating their receipt and approval of the amendment.

Summary

The last five years have proven to be successful for the City of Richland Center and the Parks, Recreation & Grounds Department. The success of the Pine River Trails Grant allowed us to carry out many of the plans laid out in the 2010-2015 CORP. Strong working partnerships were formed, community- and county-wide, to make these plans a reality. Changing social trends have set high demands on time spent indoors, and in order to adapt we must provide recreational and alternative transportation opportunities that are easily accessible and safe, that entice the user to reconnect with nature, that promote active lifestyles, and are family friendly on a multi-generational level. We are an alternative transportation challenged community and the accomplishments of the last five years are an excellent precursor to the best laid plans for the next five years to have a profound impact on that status.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

This section of the report will give a brief description of some of the social and physical factors affecting future recreational development in the City of Richland Center. These factors are important to understanding the community and its recreation needs and potentials.

General Characteristics of the City

Richland Center is located in approximately the center of Richland County and is serviced by two principal highways – U.S. Highway 14 (east/west traffic) and State Highway 80 (north/south traffic). The population of Richland Center is expected to increase, despite slight population declines elsewhere in Richland County.

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
5086	4997	5018	5114	5184	5186	5546

Source: U.S. Census of Population; Wisconsin Department of Administration; Projections by S.W. Regional Planning Commission.

Richland Center is expected to continue to grow due to several factors, none of which would have a marked impact if considered alone. These factors include a healthy industrial community, the ability to provide centralized service and distribution of goods, the influx of rural residents for retirement and economic reasons, the University of Wisconsin – Richland Campus, and new growth and development to both east and west. It is also evident that Richland Center’s reputation is as a good place in which to live is a feature that has attracted people from outside the City and the County. Good schools, bountiful indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, and a stable local government provide strong evidence that Richland Center does offer the “good life.”

Physical Characteristics of the Region

In order to better understand the recreational needs and potentials of the community, it is helpful to have an analysis of the physical environment of the region in which the community is situated. This section summarizes the natural resource base information for southwestern Wisconsin as compiled by the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Regional Settings: Richland Center is located in the five-county area of southwestern Wisconsin. The southwestern Wisconsin region occupies an area of nearly two and one-half million acres in the extreme southwestern corner of Wisconsin. It includes the five counties of Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland. With the exception of the southeastern two-thirds of Green County, the region falls entirely within the so-called “Driftless Area” of Wisconsin. Because of the lack of glaciation, streams have continued their weathering process, uninterrupted, for many thousands of years, resulting in a complete absence of any natural lakes within the region.

Climate: The climate of Richland Center and the surrounding Richland County is continental and typical of the central areas of a continent in the middle latitudes; winters are relatively cold and snowy with extended periods of rain during the spring and autumn and intermittent periods of hot, humid summer weather. Air temperatures within the County are subject to large seasonal change and yearly variations. Precipitation in Richland Center and Richland County for the six-month period from April through September falls largely as rainfall and may range in intensity and duration from showers to destructive thunderstorms. The snowfall average for Richland County is about 40 inches annually. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer.

Topography: Richland Center and the surrounding Richland County are located entirely within the Western Upland, a thorough dissected highland. The average elevation in Richland County is between 900 to 1200 feet above sea level, where the area immediately adjacent to the highland averages 600 to 900 feet in elevation. Aside from the Upland itself, the strongest topographic features of the region are the trenches of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their numerous branches. One of the most dominant topographic features of the region is Military Ridge. The Ridge is the divide between the north flowing tributaries of the Wisconsin River and the south flowing streams tributary to the Rock and Mississippi Rivers. The entire region, with the exception of the eastern half of Green County and a small portion of southeast Lafayette County, is characterized by rugged, steep-walled valleys and high relief. As mentioned earlier, the region is generally referred to as the Driftless Area which preserves a large sample of what the rest of Wisconsin, as well as the northern and eastern United States were like before the Glacial Period.

Soils: Throughout the Driftless Area the work of weathering has continued since long before the Glacial Period and has produced a deep mantle of residual soil. This forms a notable contrast with the remainder of the State, where the continental glacier scraped away nearly all the residual soil and left a sheet of transported soil. Generally, the soil of the region have been classified as the Grayish-Brown Unglaciated Silt Loam, hilly or steep. These soils were formed from parent materials reflecting native vegetation such as prairie, oak-hickory, forestry and oak savannas. Their basic materials include clay residue from weathered limestone, weathered sandstone, loess and stream-laid sand and gravel. The latter occurs in valleys of large streams, while the first three are wide spread. The entire southwest Wisconsin region is covered with a thick blanket of loess (windblown silt and sand). Over most of the region the loess is largely silt and is two to three feet thick. In addition, some sandy areas along the Wisconsin River have active dunes.

Forests: The southwestern Wisconsin region comprising Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland Counties has an area of 2,380,900 acres of which 445,300 acres are classified as forestlands. A breakdown by percentage shows 18.71 percent of the region is classed as forestland and 81.29 percent is classed as non-forest land. In addition, there are 149,700 acres of land classed as wooded pasture in the non-forest category.

Water Resources: Two major rivers form boundaries of counties within the region. The Wisconsin River forms the northern boundary of Iowa and Grant Counties, and the southern boundary of Richland County; and the Mississippi River forms the western boundary of Grant and Crawford Counties. In addition, the area is transverse by a number of smaller rivers and streams that flow to either the Wisconsin or Mississippi Rivers. As mentioned above, there are no natural lakes in the region due to the fact that the area was never covered by glaciers. However, there are a few man-made lakes in the region, most of which are located in the state parks or other public recreation areas.

STANDARDS FOR PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING

Recreation Open Space Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has endorsed a park and open space classification system which will serve as a guide throughout much of this plan. These standards pertain only to parks, recreation lands, and other open spaces discussed in this plan. Standards can be a good starting point or reference when determining a community's outdoor recreation land and facility needs, however each community's needs are different based on such factors as a community's demographic profile and what types of facilities and outdoor recreation priorities the citizenry deem important.

Resident input in the form of surveys and/or public hearings are also important when recreation and park planners look at future development and/or preservation of public lands. Based on recommendations from the DNR and Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the standard of 12 acres of developed park lands/open space per 1,000 population is used throughout this plan. This figure is viewed as a target number when recreation and park planners analyze a community's park, recreation land, and open space composition.

NRPA's standards have been modified to more accurately define park, recreation land, and open spaces within the City of Richland Center. For example, NRPA recommends that a Neighborhood Park/Playground have a desirable size of 15+ acres. In Richland Center, most parks of this nature are in the 1 to 10 acre range. This has been noted in the definition section below. All parks, recreation lands, and open space under the jurisdiction of either the City of Richland Center and the Richland Center School District have been assigned one primary classification or code using the following titles and abbreviations: **(M-P) Mini-Park (a.k.a. Tot Lot); (NP/P) Neighborhood Park/Playground; (C/CP) City/County Park; (LP) Linear Park; (SU) Special Use Area.**

It should be noted that a particular site may contain one or more characteristics or components of another site. A definition of each type of park, recreation land and open space used in this plan is listed below:

Mini-Park (a.k.a. Tot Lot) (M-P)

Desirable/Typical Size: 1 acre or less

Service Area: One-eighth to one-fourth mile

Acres/1,000 Population: 0.5 to 1.0 acre

Use: Specialize facilities that serve a concentration of limited population or groups such as senior citizens or tots.

Site Characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to concentrations of family housing or housing for the elderly.

Neighborhood Park/Playground (NP/P)

Desirable/Typical Size: 1 to 10 acres

Service Area: One-fourth to one-half mile radius

Acres/1,000 Population: 2 to 3 acres

Use: Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, ice skating, picnicking, volleyball, etc.

Site Characteristics: Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. may be developed as a joint school/park facility.

City/Community Park (C/CP)

Desirable/Typical Size: 10 to 25+ acres

Service Area: One to two miles

Acres/1,000 Population: 6 to 8 acres

Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include acres suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending upon site suitability and community need.

Site Characteristics: May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easy access by all modes of transportation.

Linear Park (LP)

Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resource and provide maximum use

Service Area: No applicable standard

Acres/1,000 Population: Variable

Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/cross-country skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.

Site Characteristics: Built or natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas and other park areas.

Special Use Area (SU)

Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility

Service Area: Entire community

Acres/1,000 Population: Variable

Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theatres, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.

Site Characteristics: Located within the community.

In summary, NRPA standards recommend the following acreages be used as guidelines when a community is trying to determine how much land should be allocated for the various types of parks:

Mini-Park (a.k.a. Tot Lot) (M-P)	0.5 – 1.0 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood Park/Playground (NP/P)	2.0 – 3.0 acres per 1,000 population
City/Community Park (C/CP)	6.0 – 8.0 acres per 1,000 population

Recreation Facility Development Standards

Facility standards for the development of recreation facilities are similar to open space standards because they are expressed in facility units per population ratio. The purpose of evaluating a recreation system from a facility viewpoint, in addition to an open space viewpoint is to determine the amount of needed facility development in each recreation area.

Problems related to using facility development standards can be seen in the assumption of desired opportunities by the resident population. For example, an examination of the facilities standards may show that a horseshoe area is needed based on the municipality’s population. In reality, it is possible that very few people in the community enjoy playing horseshoes, which may eliminate the need for this type of facility.

Age, income, and education all contribute to people’s recreational preferences, yet facility standards sometimes ignore these variables. Another problem with using standards is that they have been developed primarily for urban communities and have limited application to rural areas.

Despite these problems, facility development standards have a place in recreation planning. Community leaders can use them to approximate the adequacy of their park systems. A listing of recreation facility development standards, prepared by the National Recreation and Park Association, can be found in the appendix to this report (Appendix A).

Needs and Priorities Identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has prepared a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which evaluates the recreation needs of the entire state as well as the six multi-county DNR districts. The five counties in the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission are all included in DNR's Southern District (a fourteen-county district). A statewide assessment of outdoor recreation needs was conducted as part of the planning process in preparing this report. Each type of outdoor recreation activity was given a priority ranking—either “high” priority, “medium” priority, or “low” priority for the state as a whole as well as for each DNR district.

The procedure used by DNR to assess the need for various types of recreational activities involved various steps, including: 1) a county by county supply analysis, 2) statewide citizen surveys, and 3) the factoring of regional trends based on District meetings. ~~in the Spring of 1990.~~ The objectives of the recreation needs assessment were: 1) to assist sub-state jurisdictions in planning for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition, 2) to act as one of many decision-making tools in the Open Space Selection Process, which determines where funds from outdoor recreation aid programs will be directed, and 3) to combine the views and expert opinions of outdoor recreation enthusiasts with the actual supply of recreation facilities in order to synthesize perceived and actual need.

Through the needs assessment process, priorities were established for the Southern District, which includes Richland County and the City of Richland Center. The recreation activities and their priority status as outlined in the SCORP report are as follows:

High Priority: Hiking, walking, and running; Fishing; Boating and canoeing; Play equipment; Historic sites; Fairs, festivals, and amusement parks; Non-specific outdoor enjoyment.

Medium Priority: Picnicking; Golf, Hunting; Baseball and softball; Swimming pools and beaches; Camping; Tennis; Bicycling; Horseback riding; Ice skating; Downhill skiing; Pleasure driving and boat and bus tours; Spectator sports; Zoos; Outdoor concerts/theaters.

Low Priority: Nature activities; Other trail activities; Other water activities.

Local officials in Richland Center referred to the SCORP report as a general guide when conducting the assessment of local needs. In particular, the priority ranking of recreation needs for DNR's Southern District was most useful. A summary of DNR's listing of priority needs for the Southern District is included in the appendices to this report, for reference purposes (refer to Appendix B). The summary provides a brief discussion of each activity as prioritized in the above listing.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

To determine what courses of action City Officials must take to provide a comprehensive recreation program, it is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of existing areas and facilities in meeting demands for recreation. This section of the report provides an inventory of Richland Center's recreational facilities. The location of all park and recreation areas is recorded on the map following this section.

City of Richland Center Owned and Maintained

Strickland Park (0.30 acre)

This is a small neighborhood park and playground which is surrounded by residential property. It also provides access to a hiking trail, which connects with the trail located on Minor Hill. This park is in need of some additional playground equipment along with a smaller shelter with picnic tables. **CODE: NP/P**

Minor Hill Trails Park (50 acres)

Minor Hill Bluff overlooks the city from its east side. The bluff features several trails that take hikers to five scenic overlooks, wooded areas, open meadows, and an old quarry site. The trailhead is on Court Street, where a parking area is provided. All trail overlooks are railed, and the trail itself is complete with signs. Several improvements were made to this park in recent years, including the addition of picnicking facilities, improved fencing, and the opening up of new areas for scenic overlooks. Plans continue to be made to improve the picnic area and to promote this area for hiking and picnicking. A special point of interest is a dynamite shack, built and used in the 50's and 60's. **CODE: LP**

Krouskop Park (37.5 acres)

Krouskop Park is a park of citywide importance which also plays a major role in satisfying recreational demands of people residing elsewhere in Richland County. The park with the Pine River running through its center (12 1/2 acres on the north side and 25 acres on the south) provides many excellent recreation facilities to area residents.

The park contains a swimming facility that has separate pools for swimming, diving, and wading; a lighted athletic field complex that has fields for football, baseball, softball, three tennis courts, and one basketball full court (all lighted), a Frisbee golf course, two soccer fields for youth and scholastic competition; two sand volleyball courts; four horseshoe courts, a picnic area with six shelters, and over 100 picnic tables of which several are designed for use by disabled persons, two gazebos; a variety of playground apparatus; and an outdoor ice skating and hockey rink with warming house. The park is accessible to the disabled. The park has several access points to the Pine River Trail as well as the Prairie Trails. Camping facilities are being developed, as well as an ADA canoe/kayak ramp.

A newly built Community/Senior Center is located in the heart of Krouskop Park. It provides a multi-use facility with a well equipped kitchen, a multi-purpose room for various events, a meeting room along with a Senior Center. The Parks and Recreation office is also located in the building. A considerable reach of the Pine River within the park boundaries allows easy water access for canoeing, fishing, and nature observation.

The Pine River dike provides Krouskop Park and the entire community with certain outdoor recreation opportunities not realized before. The top of the dike has been surfaced and signed for use as a multi-use recreational trail extending more than two miles through the entire length of the community (north/south direction). Ramps have been constructed to make the trail accessible for handicapped persons. Krouskop Park is divided into four different areas-Krouskop Park, Krouskop Park East, Krouskop Park North, & Krouskop Park West.

This park hosts several special events including the annual Independence Day celebration. This celebration includes music, go cart races, food and a traditional fireworks show. Krouskop Park is also host to the Rotary Lights during the Christmas season. **CODE: C/CP**

North Park (12.5 acres)

North Park is located on the north side of the Pine River which is also divided by State Highway 80. This area was used previously as the city's solid waste disposal site. This park has one large shelter building and one double shelter with concession stand in the middle, playground equipment, and a parking lot. Development of this park has alleviated some of the congestion being experienced in Krouskop Park. Soccer fields and two new ball fields have been recently updated. Part of North Park (on the north side) is undeveloped and will be reserved as a conservancy area for nature study, etc. **CODE: C\CP**

Northlake Park (3.5 acres)

One important result of the Pine River dike project has been the development of a large drainage pond just north of the river to the west of State Highway 80. A picnic shelter with parking lot and ample picnic tables are available to rent for gatherings. The park area around the pond is graded and landscaped, and the pond has aerators and fountains. A handicap accessible walkway leading to a fishing pier allows everyone the opportunity to fish the stocked pond. A free youth fishing tournament is held annually at this facility. **CODE: NP/P**

Wedgewood Park (30 acres)

This park was developed in the summer of 2004. It is divided into two parks, Wedgewood North and Wedgewood South. This land is adjacent to the Pine River, and has about 2 miles of hiking trails, fishing areas, picnic tables, benches, a picnic shelter, and a parking lot with a port-a-potty. A large sitting area with a perennial bed, adjacent to an apartment complex for the elderly has recently been completed. **CODE: SU**

Westside Community Park (3 acres)

Westside Park is a linear neighborhood park located on the west bank of the Mill Pond. It offers brand new playground equipment for recreational use. It also contains one end of the Maple side Walking Bridge that provides west side residents access to the schools and business enterprises located in eastern Richland Center.

This park is also home to Rotary Gardens-a large perennial flower garden with benches, trails, and trellis. The park also links to the Pine River trails, that runs over 2 miles along the river.

CODE: NP/P

Richland Center Community Center and Park Area (3.5 acres)

This is was the former site of the Community Center. The building has been removed but the site still remains an area for activities, due to the central location. Currently the site is located adjacent to the Pine River so the land next to the river is utilized as a canoe launching facility as well as fishing facilities. The banks of the Pine River have been rip rapped to prevent erosion. This area also overlooks planted prairie in the millpond area. Recently a community garden has been established. For the future, an updated ADA accessible canoe / kayak landing, along with a large shelter is being developed. Camping is also scheduled to be developed in the area. The park links to the Pine River Trails as well as the Prairie Trails. **CODE: SU**

Dike Project (approximately 65 acres)

In the early 1990's, the City of Richland Center and the State of Wisconsin constructed a dike system from the very North side of the town to the South side. This dike was built to alleviate the flooding that happened almost yearly. The maintenance of this dike was handed over to the newly formed Parks and Grounds Department in the fall of 2003. Maintenance involves mowing, care of over 1000 bushes and 300 trees, over 4 miles of fence, lighting, as well as the walking/biking trail that is on top of the dike. **CODE: SU**

Richland Center Cemetery (34 acres)

Maintenance includes over 350 trees and shrubs, mowing, and approximately 75 burials a year. The cemetery contains over 12,000 stones and monuments. The department works closely with the area monument companies so that stones are erected within our guidelines. Plans are underway to begin a monument repair program, as many stones and foundations (most very old ones) are in dire need of repair. Approximately 100 American Arborvitae were planted in 2005 along the North boundary line of the new Memorial section of the cemetery. Recently a cremation memorial garden was developed and future plans are to build a columbarium.

City of Richland Center Prairie (37 acres)

A prairie restoration project was started in 2003 in the drained lakebed next to the Pine River. Half of the 37 acres on the south side was randomly planted with a variety of native prairie flowers. A wildlife scrape has been added to the north part of the lakebed. A semi-prairie and wildlife watching area, with some walking trails throughout the prairie have been established that connect to the Pine River Trail. **CODE: SU**

City of Richland Center Arboretum (6 acres)

The City Arboretum was established in 2003 with matching funds from an Urban Forest DNR Grant. At that time, 134 trees of 71 different species were planted. Since then, the arboretum has been expanded to 200 trees and over 100 shrubs. The arboretum is designed for self-guided tours 7 days per week. Each tree is labeled with a brief explanation. **CODE: SU**

City of Richland Center Urban Forestry Department

The City of Richland Center has adopted a very aggressive and proactive Urban Forestry Department. A tree board to oversee the activities of the forestry department was established in 1998. Their mission statement is to: coordinate community forestry issues in Richland Center, develop comprehensive forestry policy recommendations for Richland Center, develop educational efforts on proper tree management, seek public and private funding for community forestry management, coordinate demonstration projects, and integrate natural resource issues into local and regional planning efforts. Richland Center Tree Board activities are funded through the city budget. The board has also received generous grants from the Department of Natural Resources. Tree Board activities have been educational and of direct benefit to the community. The tree board is made up of three city council members, two citizens at-large, and two employees of the city. The tree board and the park and grounds department is governed under city ordinance 301. A copy of this ordinance is available upon request at the city clerk's office.

Ocooch Living History Center & Gardens

The gardens are composed of low maintenance plants including hostas, iris, tree peonies, poppies tulips, daffodils, and daylilies, creating a long blooming season. This was created to be a botany garden of the highest aesthetic value, including two water features. Included in the center are 23 signs to interpret the natural and Native American culture of the area. **CODE: SU**

City of Richland Center Community Forest (450 acres)

The City of Richland Center owns and manages 450 acres of forest surrounding the city. In 2008, this forest was enrolled in the State Community Forest program. This program gives the city services from the state to aid in management, technical assistance, and planting and harvesting services.

Pine River Walking Trail

A 6 mile walking trail along the Pine River beginning at County AA and ending at Bohmann Drive, features 5 canoe ports and 5 fishing platforms. Plans are to enhance the Pine River by adding riprap to increase trout habitat. Groomed cross-country ski trails are incorporated into these trails for winter use. **CODE: SU**

Hwy 80 North Park

This is a recently developed park. Plans are underway to name the park. Currently the park is located near Pine River and has an easy access point with a canoe/ kayak landing. Also developed in the area is a small shelter, a sand volleyball court, and horseshoe pits. Plans are to update the canoe / kayak landings, add additional playground equipment and develop campsites.

Richland County Owned and Maintained

Ash Creek Community Forest

The 360.5 acres known as Ash Creek Community Forest includes two parking lots, three miles of horse riding trails, four miles of hiking and biking trails, and three miles of class one trout stream. It is open to hunting and fishing in season. Future developments include new signs for all trails, ADA approved pit toilets, upgraded road access, and upgraded fencing around parking areas. **CODE: SU**

Pier Natural Bridge County Park

The park is located 10 miles north of Richland center on Highway 80 in the town of Rockbridge. It is presently ten acres in size with future plans of adding additional land by long-term lease. It has been developed for both recreational usage, and to preserve its natural beauty. The unusual geological feature of the park consists of a half-mile long “finger” of blocked and layered sandstone rising about 60 feet above the flood plain of two merging valleys. The narrow finger is topped by tall pines and covered with green shrubs. It has an opening through which the West Branch of the Pine River flows, making a natural land bridge. Future developments include 10 heavy duty recycled picnic tables, flood proof the foundation for both shelters, expansion of the walking trail, updating the playground equipment, providing an ADA accessible toilet and shower facility, provide campfire pits to each designated campsite in the park and find a space to house artifacts found at the site. **CODE: CP**

Pine River Recreational Trail

The Pine River Recreational Trail starts in Lone Rock, and follows the old railroad corridor to the intersection of County Hwy OO. The multi-purpose trail is used by bikers, hikers, and snowmobilers. It is 14.8 miles long and includes 15 bridges. The trail passes through lowland and hardwood forests, cattail marshes, a tamarack bog, dry land prairies, and jack pine barrens. The trail has one rest area with one portable toilet at Twin Bluffs. Future Developments include new signage, repair bridges, developing another rest area in Gotham, adding crushed limestone to the trail, paving from Cty Hwy OO to Bohmann Dr. and add LED lighting to enhance safety and energy savings. **CODE: LP**

Richland County Fair Grounds

The Richland County Fairground is located approximately one mile north of Richland Center on County Highway AA. It is 39 acres in size, with about half of it in the flood plain or flood fringe. The site has seen many improvements in the last ten years. Additions include ADA accessible bathrooms with shower facilities, over 70 acres of campsites with electrical hookups, new signage, and an upgraded parking area.

Richland County Rifle Range

This facility includes a couple of picnic tables, six shooting benches, and a primitive pit toilet which is not ADA accessible. The parking lot at the site has a capacity for 30 vehicles. The range is set up for shooting distances of 50 yards to 200 yards. Specialized shoots are managed by the Richland County Sheriff’s Department. **CODE: SU**

School Facilities Owned and Maintained

Lincoln elementary School (0.80 acre)

Standard playground apparatus, a basketball court, and a backstop for field games, like softball, are provided by this neighborhood playground. In recent years, the size of the playground was enlarged and all new playground equipment was installed. The equipment is designed for use by handicapped persons. **CODE: NP/P**

Jefferson Elementary School (0.80 acre)

This neighborhood playground provides a selection of standard playground apparatus and an outdoor basketball court. All of the improvements are in good condition. A temporary building presently occupies a part of the area that could be used for recreation. **CODE: NP/P**

St. Mary's Catholic School (0.75 acre)

Two basketball goals and a selection of standard playground apparatus make up this neighborhood playground's developed recreation facilities. The play area is enclosed by cyclone fencing to prevent children from getting involved with traffic on U.S. Highway 80. **CODE: NP/P**

Father Mitchell Park (0.75 acre)

This small park located on the school ground of St. Mary's Catholic School features an assortment of playground equipment. **CODE: M-P**

Stori Memorial Field (8.60 acres)

This area features a good practice football and/or soccer field and track constructed, in part, in a natural bowl or amphitheater. Allows for sledding opportunities in the winter months. **CODE C/CP**

Richland Center High School Athletic Fields (15 acres)

Adjacent to the University of Wisconsin Richland campus, there are athletic facilities including a practice football field, two soccer fields, two baseball fields, and two softball fields. Also, there is a football/soccer field with lighting, fencing, bleachers, a concession stand, and restroom facilities. **CODE C/CP**

Middle School (10 acres)

The acreage assigned to this school site for recreation purposes is considerable. It is mostly open space but also has basketball standards, youth soccer fields, and two youth softball diamonds. **CODE: NP/P**

Doudna Elementary K6 (5 acres)

Doudna Elementary School located on the south side of Richland Center offers approximately five acres of open space for potential recreational development. The site offers two basketball standards, a softball diamond, a soccer field, and playground apparatus. The Richland School District will be adding other recreation facilities in the future. The site could be expanded somewhat to accommodate these plans. **CODE: NP/P**

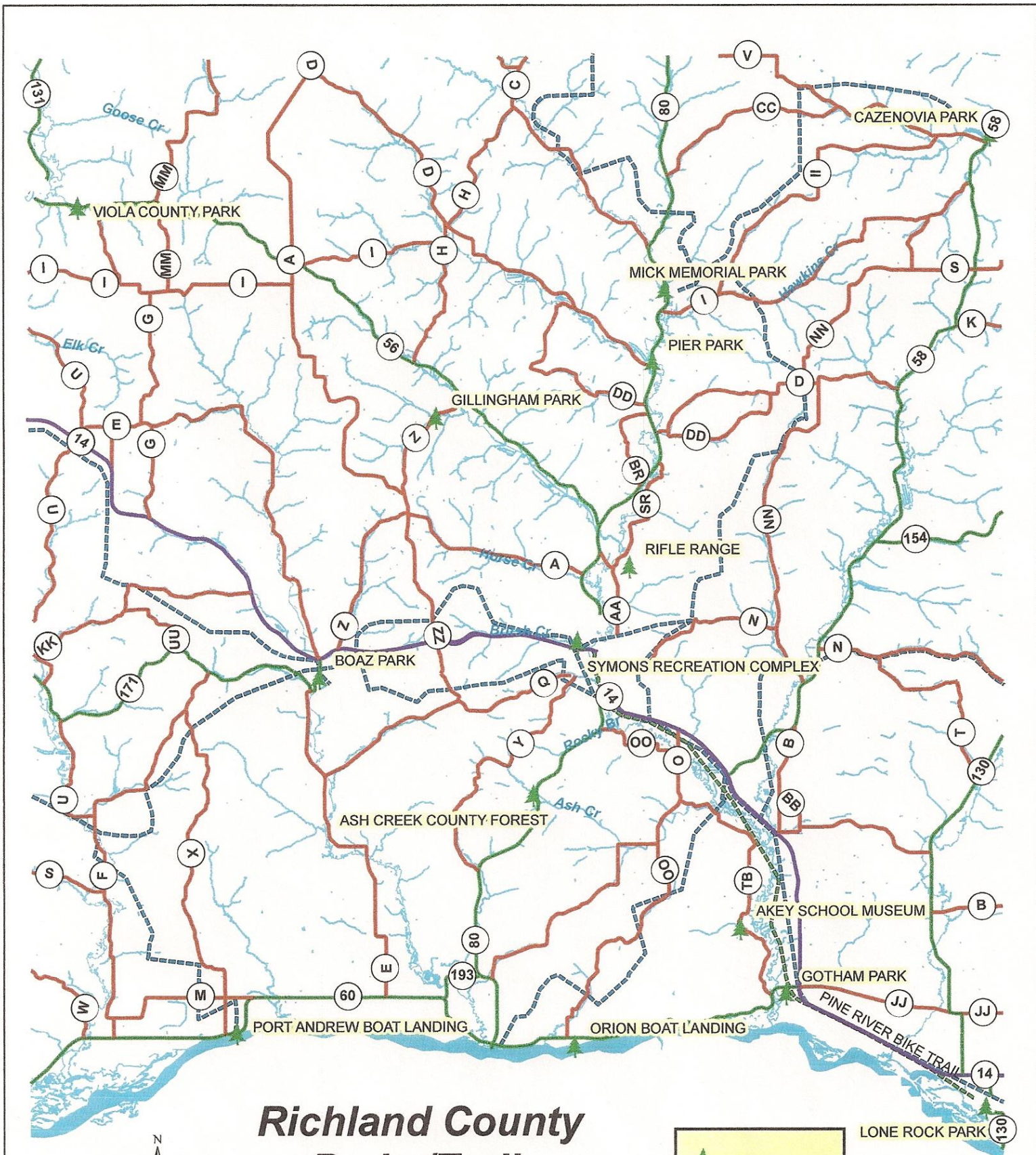
U.W. - Richland Campus (135 acres)

Three tennis courts, a basketball court, two soccer fields and two practice fields for soccer, a backstop for field games (softball), and an area for winter sliding sports occupy this very spacious (estimated at nearly 20 acres) recreation-oriented open area. Other outdoor features include nearly two miles of hiking trails and a mile-long aerobic exercise trail. The natatorium, an indoor facility, is an excellent community facility featuring an Olympic-Sized swimming pool, racquetball courts, and an exercise/weight room. There is also an indoor basketball floor and public use of volleyball courts. **CODE: SU**

Privately Owned and Maintained

Quail Run Club Golf Links (N/A)

This regulation 9/18-hole, privately owned golf course is also open to the general public. The course and its attendant improvements are well maintained and in good condition. A golf course is defined as a specialized recreation area. **CODE: SU**



Richland County Parks/Trails



	Landmarks
	Richland County Trails
	BIKE
	CREWMOBILE
	Major Roads
	Federal Highway
	State Highway
	County Highway

The Action Program

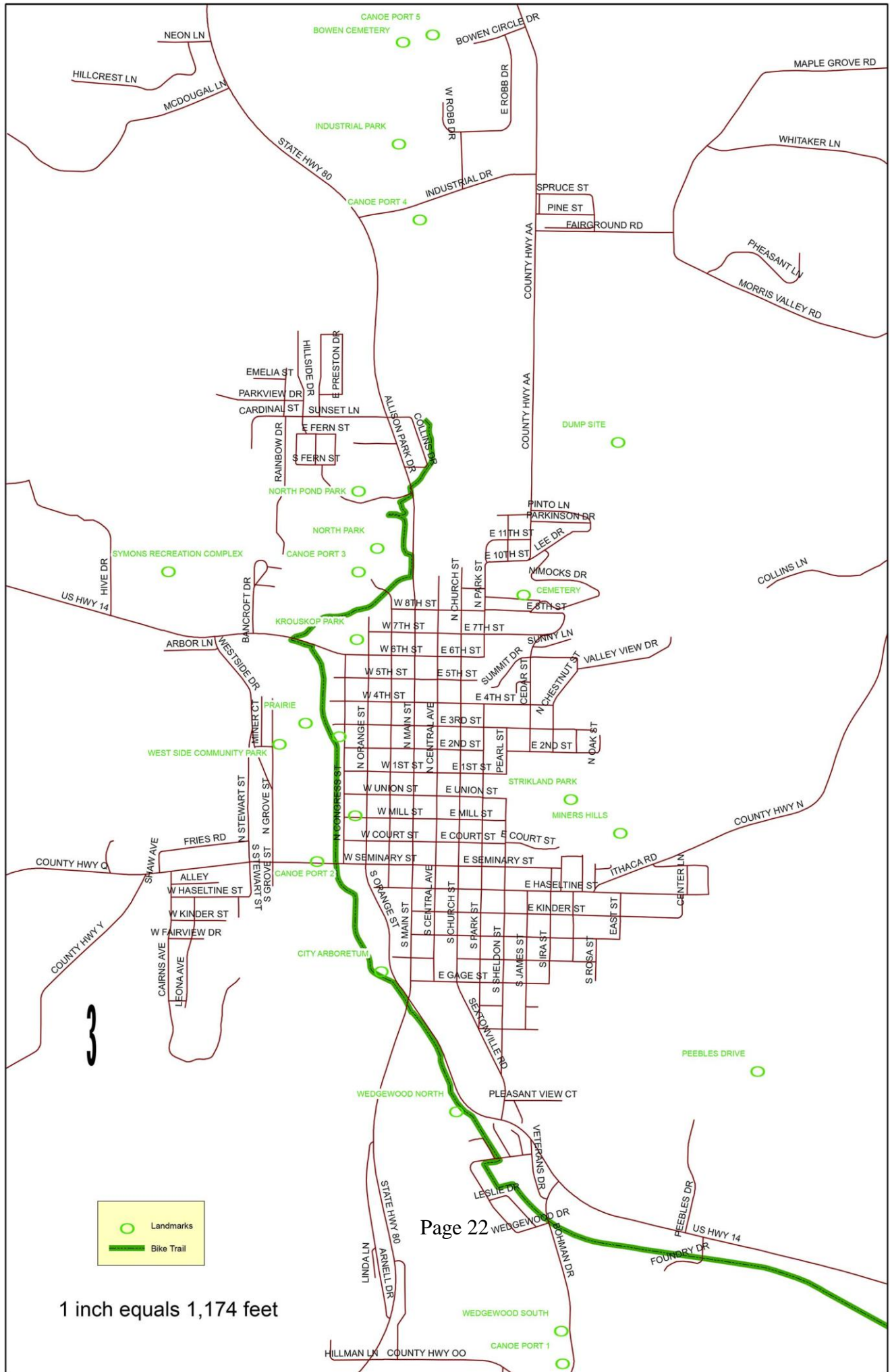
Richland Center has over 200 acres of land (school grounds included) set aside for recreational purposes. According to a strict quantitative analysis, this is about two and one-half times the amount needed to meet the demands of its projected population. Of greater importance, however, is an analysis of these 200 acres that evaluates the quality and quantity of facilities and their accessibility to the various age groups of potential users. The effectiveness of neighborhood and Community Park facilities need to be evaluated as to their ability to meet the demands of Richland Center residents when facility service areas and obstacles to access are taken into account.

The plate on the following page shows how the present supply of neighborhood park and playground facilities meet the demands of children--the primary users of these facilities. The only major deficiencies noted in neighborhood playground facilities are in the southern and southwestern areas of the city. It is interesting to note that neighborhood playground facilities at Krouskop Park actually service an area less than one-fourth mile in radius because of the influence of three major obstacles to easy and safe access for the primary users of neighborhood facilities, young children.

Other deficiencies noted within the neighborhood park and playground categories are associated with supply and quality of facilities and inadequate space. The best example of the latter deficiency is found at three of the six school playgrounds (Lincoln, Jefferson, and St. Mary's) where spatial limitations prohibit the playing of softball and baseball by all but very small children. Later recommendations will be addressed, in part, to neighborhood facility deficiencies.

Another plate (following) indicates that the southeastern and southwestern quarters of Richland Center are short of community park facilities. Other deficiencies, those associated with recreational and recreational support facilities, are found throughout the city despite the very excellent community park facilities provided by Krouskop Park. Because the primary users of community parks are generally youth between the ages of 12 and 18, only the most restrictive obstacles to access need be considered relevant to the analysis. Richland Center has no obstacles considered restrictive enough to affect this age group.

Richland Center has Krouskop Park, North Park, and Northlake Park to satisfy its total city-wide park requirements. Continued development of park property north of the Pine River, improvements to other existing facilities, and continued good maintenance will provide assurance that these parks will be able to meet the demands of recreationists for city-wide park facilities throughout and beyond the planning period.



Recommendations for Improving Richland Center's Park System

The recommendations that follow are based on recreation area deficiencies noted in the preceding discussion of neighborhood and community parks and on an evaluation of the quantity and quality of facilities within the park system. All future park improvements listed below are based upon the city's policy to meet and/or exceed requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by removing or modifying all physical barriers that hinder accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities and equipment.

1. Proposed Improvements at Krouskop Park

Several Improvements are needed at Krouskop Park. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

- a. Update new playground equipment.
- b. New camping areas along the Pine River are to be developed in 2016.
- c. The updated kayak/canoe ports along river are planned for 2016
- d. Plans for new fencing around Krouskop Park.
- e. Construction of new family aquatic facility.
- f. Seal coat and/or chip seal the Pine River Trail from Highway 80 North to the Waste Water Treatment Facility parking lot south of Seminary Street.

2. Proposed Improvements at North Park

Several improvements are needed at North Park. Recommendations for individual projects or activities are listed below:

- a. Expand parking area.
- b. Upgrade the baseball/softball fields.
- c. Possibly construct restroom facilities.
- d. Create additional camping.
- e. New Outfield fence.

3. Proposed Improvements at Northlake Park

Northlake Park could use a few improvements. It is recommended that parking be improved on the premises, that more picnic tables and grills should be installed; and that consideration be given to planting additional trees. An ADA approved fishing pier has been added, with cement sidewalk from parking lot. In addition, aerators were installed in the pond in 2009 for better water quality for the fish. Re-evaluate and revitalize the pond. Since the dam was removed several years ago the water table in the pond has gone down significantly. Adding a larger well may help the situation along with more aerators. Also, the possibility to drain the pond and re-line it with a liner may help.

4. Proposed Improvements at Strickland Park

Strickland Park could use a few improvements. Adding some additional playground equipment and developing a better access for parking and making the access to the park more handicap accessible would help upgrade the area. Also building a smaller shelter in the park with additional picnic tables would help increase the use of the area.

5. Proposed Improvements at Westside Community Park

West Side Community Park saw great improvements over the last few years. Adding a smaller shelter in the park area along with restrooms would help improve the area. Also, adding another canoe/kayak landing point to access the river.

6. Proposed Neighborhood Park on West Side of City

The west side of Richland Center near Seminary Street and Cairns Avenue contains several newer homes and will probably need a neighborhood park or playground in the next five to ten years. Presently the Town and Country Presbyterian Church parking lot is the only play area available to neighborhood children. It contains a basketball court. An appropriate playground site should be selected and acquired in the near future even though development may be delayed until after the year 2000.

7. Proposed Neighborhood Park in Southeastern Section of City

A neighborhood park, two to five acres in size, should be acquired and developed in the southeastern portion of the city. The park should contain playground facilities for small children, basketball standards, picnic facilities, restrooms, drinking water, etc. One possibility for this facility might be some vacant property left over when Highway 14 was reconstructed. The city should explore the possibility of acquiring this land from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

8. Other Recommendations

a. The city may want to investigate the possibility of establishing a mini-park on the south side of the community in the vicinity of the Highway 14 intersection with Highway 80. This property is presently owned by the city and maybe could be developed as a small wayside park (about one acre) having picnic tables, playground apparatus, sanitary facilities and drinking water. Planning for such a facility would have to be closely coordinated with DOT as they implement their plans for reconstructing the Highway 14 improvement through Richland Center.

b. The public access points shown on the map of existing park locations are presently undeveloped and should remain so for the duration of the planning period.

In the interim, however, the city should make certain that their identity is not lost to encroachment by neighboring properties and that they are properly cared for so as not to become a nuisance or eyesore.

c. Among the city's most outstanding natural and recreational resources are the wooded and semi-wooded bluffs and hillsides that confine the city. The bluffs provide not only an attractive scenic backdrop to the city but also a sanctuary for a wide range of flora and fauna. The bluffs and hillsides should be protected against any encroachment that would detract from, or jeopardize, their natural condition. Zoning and land control by acquisition or easement are currently the best tools available to achieve this objective.

d. Some streets in the city should be designated as bike routes. The route should be accessible to as large a segment of the population as possible. It should also carry a minimum of motorized traffic, and connect with key points in the city, like recreation areas, school, and the central business district. Each route should be appropriately marked to guide the bicyclists and to alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists. Heavily used routes may even contain a lane for the sole use of bicyclists. The city bike trail should hook up with the county bike trail discussed below.

e. The city should consider expansion of camping. Sites would target overnight visitors to the area, and include electrical hookups, water and bathhouse/toilet facilities.

f. The city should consider developing more ski / hiking / biking trails on undeveloped city properties. Much of the city land is underutilized and these trails would enhance the properties' usefulness.

g. Areas, events, and items of historic interest, are important components of a community's recreation plan. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed warehouse in Richland Center is of unusual construction and design, and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The downtown commercial district has also been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Emphasis should be made on identifying and preserving other significant historical items and places as well.

h. Community appearance is also an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, flower plantings, well-cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors of community beautification. A program for community beautification is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation and should be encouraged.

i. As discussed in previous sections of this report, consideration should be given to a better and more equitable distribution of park lands and recreational facilities throughout the city. Consideration should be given to acquiring small parcels of land as they become available in certain locations to provide additional open space for adults as well as play areas for children.

j. A Columbarium and upgrade of water lines in Cemetery have been discussed and are in the 5-year capital plan. A Columbarium would generate revenue for the city and address space issues that the cemetery will have to consider in years to come. The water line updates will be to eliminate rusted lines with plastic.

k. A prairie has been planted and a wildlife scrape was constructed. Plans for additional plantings and wildlife habitat should be made.

l. Future plans should be looked at to build an Indoor/Outdoor archery range on the north end of the city where land is currently available.

m. The city should consider potential sites for a skate board park. One of the possible areas is on school property, called Stori Field.

n. Rip Rap should be considered along the Pine River on any areas necessary. This would help erosion and many of the hiking/biking/snowmobile trails that could be affected.

o. Most of the Pine River Recreation Trail should be resurfaced and updated with new or additional lighting.

p. The city should finalize a location, and build a dog park. Land that may be available is north of the city near Industrial Park Rd.

Park and Recreation Capital Improvements Schedule

It is important to realize that the CIS is only a summary of estimated costs based on recent year figures. Project costs will be examined more closely when a particular improvement plan is being developed. It is recommended that this portion of the plan be updated on an annual basis by parks and recreation personnel with input from the Parks & Grounds Board. Changes will be made that reflect changing user trends, citizen interest, and city budget considerations. Before capital improvement projects are undertaken, park board members, recreation and park staff, with citizen input, should:

- 1) Analyze all proposed projects and determine priorities each year;
- 2) Determine cost estimates for each development project;
- 3) Determine project budgetary limitations and potential funding sources.

The City Parks and Grounds Board is hopeful that a number of the recommended improvements to the city parks can be carried out with financial assistance from the Department of Natural Resources under the IAWCON and Stewardship Fund cost-sharing programs. At the same time, however, the city recognizes that a considerable investment will also be required at the community level if the recommendations discussed in this plan are ever going to be carried out. The CIS provides a good indication of what level of assistance is going to be required during any particular year in the planning period.

Operations and Maintenance Schedule

The City recognizes the value of having an operations and maintenance schedule for the City park system. Such a schedule not only evaluates the on-going maintenance responsibilities in each of the parks, it also considers the implications of the capital improvement schedule (CIS) on the community's future operation and maintenance capabilities. All work required in a particular park is listed for each year, by season. An attempt is also made to break the list down to individual work items and, below each work item, list the tasks required to complete the work item. The Richland Center operations and Maintenance Schedule is included in Appendix D at the back of this report.

APPENDIX A
Recreation Facility Development Standards

ACTIVITY/FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Badminton	1620 sq ft	Singles 17, x 44' Doubles 20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Usually in school, recreation center, or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Basketball 1. Youth 2 High School 3 Collegiate	2400-3036 sq ft 5040-7280 sq ft 5600-7980 sq ft	46'-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Handball (3-4 wall)	800 sq ft for 4-wall 1000 for 3-wall	20' x 40' Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15 – 30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq ft including support area	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' x 185'). Additional 5000 sq ft support area.	Long axis north-south	Indoor 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate.	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq ft single court (2 acres for complex)	36' x 78' . 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends	Long axis north-south	1 court per 2000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2. Located in neighborhood/ community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq ft	30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 court per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton, basketball, etc)
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	3.0–3.85A minimum 1.2A minimum	1. Baselines – 90' Pitching distance- 60 ½' Foul lines-min 320' Center field 400'+ 2. Baselines 60' Pitching distance- 46' Foul lines 200' Center field 200-250'	Locate home plate so pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000 Lighted – 1 per 3000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides	Fall Season – long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides	Same as field hockey	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	same as field hockey.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOM- MENDED SPACE REQUIRE- MENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1A	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey	1 per 10,000	15 – 30 minutes travel time	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf-Driving Range	13.5A for minimum of 25 tees	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of golf course complex. As a separate unit, may be privately operated.
¼ mile Running Track	4.3A	Overall width – 276' length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest- southeast with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15 – 30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance 46' min 40' women. Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225' between foul lines. Slow pitch 275'(men) 250' (women).	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 18' slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9,840 sq ft	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use is north-south.	1 per 10,000	1 – 2 miles	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails- 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum of 30' clear space behind targets minimum 90' x 45' with bunker.	Archer facing north + or - 45°	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 station)	Minimum 30A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). shortfall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300 yard radii (35 acres)	Center line of length runs northeast – southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional / metro park complex.

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Golf 1.Par 3 (18 Hole) 2. 9 Hole Standard 3. 18 Hole Standard	1. 50 – 60 A 2. Minimum 50A 3. Minimum 110A	1. Average length vary 600-2700 yards 2. Average length 2250 yards 3. Average length 6500 yards	Majority of holes on north – south axis	--- 2. 1 per 25,000 3. 1 per 50,000	15 to 30 minutes travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2A site	Teaching – minimum of 75' x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive – minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 sq ft of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs water.	None – although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at time)	15 to 30 minute travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach areas should have 50 sq ft of land and 50 sq ft of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3- 4A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated form swimming area.

Appendix B

Background and Priorities of Wisconsin's 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed to provide planning groups with comprehensive, up-to-date information on the status of statewide and regional recreation, as well as information about recreation supply and demand, participation rates and trends, and a discussion of outdoor recreation goals and their implementation. This statewide effort could be used as a model for future recreational development.

- Wisconsin is a state characterized by a wide variety of different landscapes. From the coastal shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, to the southern lowland prairies and marshes, to the northern forests of pine and hardwoods, the Wisconsin landscape offers something for nearly every recreational interest and activity.
- As populations continue to grow and age, the recreational profile of a given region would also be expected to change.
- Educational level influences the type of recreation in which people participate.
- Income also affects recreation demand, particularly with regard to more expensive activities.
- Wisconsin's population is predominately white/non-Hispanic. However, minority populations are steadily increasing.
- Certain activities – hunting, paintball, and ice fishing, among others – are far more popular among men than among women.
- Wisconsin is becoming increasingly urbanized – 68% of the state population now lives in urban areas, a 10% increase over the last 50 years.
- Non-metro recreation counties are generally considered to be vacation destinations and are therefore important to the overall state economy. Yet these counties have value beyond what they provide in tourist dollars. As natural amenity-rich areas, they provide large areas of land for outdoor recreating, land that is important in an ever-developing statewide landscape. The following counties are considered non-metro recreation counties: Adams, Bayfield, Burnett, Door, Florence, Forest, Green Lake, Juneau, Iron, Marinette, Menominee, Marquette, Oconto, Oneida, Price, Saul, Sawyer, Vilas, Walworth, Washburn and Waushara.
- Population growth and housing development have occurred relatively quickly in several areas of the state, particularly suburban counties and non-metro recreation counties. This growth is expected to continue as population growth and housing development continue to occur rapidly.
- Recreation participation rates within Wisconsin are higher than most other regions of the country. This may be attributed to the combination of Wisconsin's abundant recreation resources and the state's four-season climate.

Segmentation of Outdoor Recreation Uses by outdoor resource type/setting

1. Developed land
2. Limited development
3. Water
4. Winter
5. Viewing and interpretive

See the 2005–2010 Wisconsin SCORP for additional detail on residents’ participation in outdoor recreation.

Table 2-2: Percent Wisconsin Residents Participating in Developed Land Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	% Participating	No. of Participants (1000’s)
Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Family gathering	63.5	2,858
Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377
Bicycling	48.7	2,192
Picnicking	47.0	2,115
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	44.7	2,012
Golf	41.8	1,881
Soccer outdoors	32.3	1,460
Running or jogging	32.1	1,445
Developed camping	25.4	1,143
Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	1,058
Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	392
Tennis outdoors	8.5	383
Horseback riding on trails	6.6	297
Inline skating	2.5	113

Table 2-3: Percent Wisconsin Residents Participating in Limited Development Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	% Participating	No. of Participants (1000's)
Day hiking	36.7	1,652
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	1,517
Mountain biking	30.7	1,382
Hunting (any type)	22.2	999
Big game hunting	18.0	810
Small game hunting	11.3	509
Primitive camping	11.4	513
Migratory bird hunting	4.1	185
Backpacking	7.4	333
Rock climbing	3.8	171
Mountain climbing	2.7	122
Caving	2.6	117
Orienteering	1.6	72

Table 2-4: Percent Wisconsin Residents Participating in Water Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	% Participating	No. of Participants (1000's)
Boating (any type)	47.3	2,129
Visit a beach	42.3	1,904
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	1,877
Freshwater fishing	37.4	1,683
Motorboating	36.0	1,620
Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	1,553
Warm water fishing	33.2	1,494
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	22.6	1,017
Canoeing	17.9	806
Waterskiing	13.0	585
Coldwater fishing	12.8	576
Rafting	9.2	414
Kayaking	7.3	329
Rowing	7.2	324
Use personal watercraft	6.5	293
Snorkeling	6.2	279
Sailing	3.9	176
Scuba diving	1.1	50
Windsurfing	1.1	50
Surfing	1.0	45

Table 2-5: Percent Wisconsin Residents Participating in Snow and Ice-Based Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	% Participating	No. of Participants (1000's)
Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	2,066
Sledding	28.2	1,269
Snowmobiling	18.3	824
Ice skating outdoors	13.5	608
Ice fishing	13.1	590
Cross-country skiing	8.8	396
Downhill skiing	7.0	315
Snowshoeing	6.1	275
Snowboarding	3.7	167

Winter activities are very popular among Wisconsinites. Around 30% of state residents participate in snow sledding.

Table 2-6: Percent Wisconsin Residents Participating in Viewing and Interpretive Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	% Participating	No. of Participants (1000's)
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4	2,359
Sightseeing	50.6	2,278
Visit historic sites	46.7	2,102
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	42.8	1,926
View/photograph birds	41.7	1,877
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	1,589
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	1,476
View/photograph fish	26.7	1,202
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	15.5	698
Boat tours or excursions	13.9	626

Table 2-7: Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities 1994–2009 (Age 16+)

Recreation Use	Survey of 1994* (1000's)	Survey of 2009* (1000's)	Difference (1000's)
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+1,280.9
View/photograph other wildlife	1,582.9	2,605.8	+1,022.9
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 993.5
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 961.5
Walk for pleasure	2,988.0	3,946.9	+ 950.9
Attend outdoor sports events	1,995.2	2,923.5	+ 928.3
Bicycling	1,486.8	2,190.8	+ 704.0
Day hiking	949.0	1,652.8	+ 703.8
Running or jogging	803.8	1,446.8	+ 643.0
View/photograph birds	1,261.4	1,877.5	+ 616.1

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years

Table 2-8: Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities by Percent 1994–2009 (Age 16+)

Recreation Use	Survey of 1994* (1000's)	Survey of 2009* (1000's)	Percent Difference (1000's)
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 993.3%
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 715.2%
Kayaking	46.6	328.4	+ 604.7%
Surfing	10.3	44.5	+ 332%
Football	282.5	852.4	+ 201.7%
Horseback riding	139.3	389.9	+ 179.9%
Mountain/rock climbing	53.3	122.9	+ 130.6%
Use personal watercraft	131.9	293.7	+ 122.7%
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 111.8%
Snowboarding	77.7	164.4	+ 111.6%

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years.

- Outdoor recreation settings play a large role in understanding recreational activity preferences.
 - Natural settings are preferred by 30% of Wisconsin residents and 37% of non-residents
 - Natural Park life is preferred by 38% of Wisconsin residents and 30% of non-residents.
 - Historic areas are preferred by 15% of Wisconsin residents and 19% of non-residents.
 - Highly developed areas are preferred by 9% of Wisconsin residents and 14% of non-residents.
- The diversity of American society carried through to a diversity of recreational preferences. While some people enjoy high risk, adventure activities, others prefer more leisurely, safe activities.
- About 17% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older are characterized as “inactives”. Primary activities for “inactives” are walking for pleasure or attending family gatherings.
- About 14% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older are characterized as “passive”. Primary activities for “passives” are attending family gatherings; visiting a nature center; picnicking; visiting a historic center; or visiting a beach.
- About 14% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older are characterized as “non competitive moderates”. Primary activities for “non competitive moderates” are visiting a beach;
- swimming; downhill skiing; visiting a nature center; mountain biking; picnicking; day hiking; or camping.
- About 16% of Wisconsin residents 16 years and older are considered “Nature Lovers”. Primary activities for “Nature Lovers” are viewing/photographing nature; drive for pleasure; learning/visiting nature centers; walk for pleasure; sightseeing; or attending a family gathering.
- About 16% of Wisconsin residents 16 years and older are considered “active nature watchers”. Primary activities for “active nature watchers” are viewing/photographing nature; learning/visiting a nature center; walking; day hiking; cross country skiing; swimming; kayaking; or visiting a historical site.
- About 8% of Wisconsin residents 16 years and older are characterized as “water bugs”. Primary activities of “water bugs” are visiting a beach; visiting a water park; swimming; boating (all types); drive for pleasure; picnicking; learning/visiting a nature center; or downhill skiing.
- About 7% of Wisconsin residents 16 years and older are “motorized consumptive (hunting and fishing)”. Primary activities for this group are hunting; motor boating; snowmobiling; fishing; driving off road; horseback riding; camping; or gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.
- About 8% of Wisconsin residents 16 years of age and older are “enthusiasts”. “Enthusiasts” like to: cross country ski; kayak; snowboard; mountain bike; camp; canoe; sail; or row.
- It is no surprise that travel patterns show many out-of-state visitors travel to the northern or eastern portions of the state – those areas that are rich in recreation resources and are geographically close to the Twin Cities or Chicago metropolitan areas.

Estimated Yearly Number of Chicago and Twin City DMA Users Participating in Selected Wisconsin Activities (Age 16+)

Activity	<u>No.</u>	<u>of</u>	<u>Participants</u>
	Chicago	Twin Cities	Total
Sightseeing	832	283	1,115
Picnicking	651	233	884
View/photograph wildlife	494	214	708
Swimming in the lakes and streams	470	195	665
View/photograph birds	386	164	550
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	370	153	523
Day hiking	374	149	523
Developed camping	300	120	420
Mountain biking	301	126	427
Canoeing	229	84	313
Backpacking	205	46	251
Rafting	199	42	241
Warm water fishing	147	77	224
Drive off-road	145	76	221
Downhill skiing	133	57	190
Primitive camping	120	69	189
Horseback riding on trails	84	34	118
Cross-country skiing	48	61	109
Cold water fishing	19	13	32
Big game hunting	14	18	32
Small game hunting	4	3	7

With their miles of easy accessible trails, rivers, and forest, Wisconsin state and local parks and recreation areas play an integral role in promoting activity among state citizens. Recreational activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, and skiing are all fun, easy ways of achieving the regular exercise key to maintaining a healthy body.

- The demand for disabled recreation facilities is expected to increase with Wisconsin's aging population
- Given the barriers already limiting recreation participation, it is important that recreational facilities and services provide users with as high a quality of experience as possible.
- Proactive planning will become increasingly important to ensure that recreation in Wisconsin remains accessible and adapted to the needs of the state's population. The preservation of open space and conservation of natural resources are critical components of the state-owned land management.
- The recent boom in new recreational activities, such as paint ball and using water parks, has been facilitated by specialized private sector resources that often cater to specialized "niche markets".
- Value-based conflict is more likely to be an issue during planning processes and public meetings than in recreation settings themselves.
- Successful recreation management must seek to understand and mitigate conflict.
- An important challenge to recreation planning is the fact that much of the conflict in outdoor recreation may be attributed to the actions of a small number of individuals, not the larger group of responsible participants.
- Both antagonistic and non-antagonistic recreation interactions will best be addressed through proper recreation planning and management.
- The eight SCORP regions represent different demographic trends, tourism influences, and environment types. Together, these influences shape each region's recreational profile, describing which activities are popular, which facilities need further development, and which issues are hindering outdoor recreation.
- As development continues, natural areas are becoming increasingly threatened. Continued monitoring and proactive management techniques will be needed to ensure the continued protection of these important natural and recreational resources.
- Common deficiencies within the nature-based category include a shortage of parks, camping, carry-in boat launches, and certain trail types.
- As funding for recreational land acquisition and facility development dwindles, regional profiling will aid in the wise allocation of limited financial resources.
- The biggest change in recreation participation has been in snow and ice-based activities.
- Kayaking experienced the highest percentage change in participation from 1994 to 2004, growing 413.7%.
- ATVing, RV camping, and geocaching are expected to grow in popularity.

Wisconsin's 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Goals and Actions:

Goal #1: Assess, Understand, and Adapt to Growing Recreation Tourism Demands and Preferences.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.
2. Identify existing and emerging strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.
3. Hold an annual forum on outdoor recreation as part of the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism.
4. Continue collaborations between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism as well as other partners to promote outdoor recreation.
5. Continue to promote and expand the Travel Green Wisconsin program for business connections to the outdoors.
6. Maintain funding for tourism marketing to promote high quality outdoor recreation experiences.
7. Acknowledge the potential issues surrounding climate change adaptation with outdoor recreation and tourism.

Goal #2: Improve Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests and Needs in Land Use and Other Relevant Planning Efforts.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Support outdoor recreation access and opportunities on public lands by establishing a State Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.
2. Support and align state agency programs and initiatives to promote the creation, expansion, and enhancement of urban parks and community green spaces.
3. Manage state lands and waters within a larger landscape context to conserve and restore ecosystems and watershed health.
4. Encourage regional planning efforts for integrated, cost-effective use of recreation lands and facilities.
5. Provide education and awareness of how recreation uses can impact the natural resources along with actions to reduce those impacts.
6. Promote the collaboration of public and private recreation opportunities through integrated management planning.

Goal #3: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Waters.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Continue to develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points within the state.
2. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
3. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
4. Continue to meet Americans with the Disabilities Act standards for accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities.
5. Support community based efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation.
6. Promote sustainable recreation facility design, construction, and maintenance practices.

Goal #4: Conserve Rural Landscapes and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives.**Actions and Recommendations:**

1. Support financial and other incentives that increase access to outdoor recreation activities on or across private lands.
2. Encourage large-scale land conservation partnership projects through economic incentives and technical assistance.
3. Support collaborative landscape conservation through competitive processes, including increases in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), stewardship funding, and other programs.
4. Continue to support the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative for habitat conservation and protection.

Goal #5: Address Funding Challenges Associated with Managing Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Resources.**Actions and Recommendations:**

1. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
2. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to develop and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
3. Provide adequate funding to the Wisconsin State Park System to meet the needs of its 14 million visitors a year.
4. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
5. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
6. Increase the capacity of public lands friends groups to provide and support recreation facilities.

Goal #6: Promote Outdoor Recreation as a Means of Improving Public Health Among Wisconsinites.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin Campaign” for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of using recreational areas and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
2. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
3. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—give employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, provide exercise equipment, etc.
4. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.
5. Continue the “Walk with Walker Program” by encouraging citizens to use state parks, forests, and trails for health and wellness.
6. Promote the mission of the "Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health" on informing, promoting and encouraging citizens of Wisconsin to incorporate healthy eating and physical behaviors for a lifetime.

Goal #7: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible, and connected great urban parks and community green spaces.
2. Connect people with urban parks, trails, and community green spaces.
3. Target technical assistance support to communities as they create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces.
4. Continue to provide funding to communities through the Stewardship Program to acquire and develop local park and greenway spaces.
5. Leverage private community foundations and public funding to increase park acquisitions.
6. Provide funding to restore, preserve, and protect historic outdoor facilities for future generations.

Possible Recreation Funding Sources

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), section 23.33, WI Stats; Ch NR64, WI Admin. Code

ATV Enforcement Patrol, section 23.33(9), WI Stats; S. NR64.125, WI Admin. Code

County Conservation Aids, section 23.09(12), WI Stats; Ch. NR50, WI Admin. Code

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols; Section 350.12(4)(1)(4) and 20.370(4)(ft), WI Stats; S. NR30.12, WI Admin. Code

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration; 16 U.S.C. 777-777K, 64 Stat, 430 (Known as Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act)

Knowles-Stewardship 2000 Local Assistance Programs; Acquisition and Development of Local Parks; Section 23.09(20), WI Stats; Ch NR51, subchapter XII, WI Admin. Code

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship 2000 Local Assistance Program; Acquisition of Development Rights; Section 23.09(20m), WI Stats; Ch. NR51, Subchapter XV, WI Admin. Code

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship 2000 Local Assistance Program; Urban Greenspace; Section 23.09(19), WI Stats; Ch. NR51, Subchapter XIII, WI Admin. Code

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship 2000 Local Assistance Programs; Section 30.277, WI Stats; Ch. NR51, Subchapter XIV, WI Admin. Code

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat. 897; 365 CFR Ch 1, Part 59.

Municipal Water Safety Patrols State Assistance; Section 30.79, Wis. Stats

Recreational Boating Facilities; Section 30.92, WI Stats.

Recreational trails Programs; The Safe, Account table, flexible, Efficient transportation Equity Act – Title 23 United States Code (23 U.S.C.)

Snowmobile Trail Aids; Section 23.09(26) and Ch. 350, WI Stats

SUMMARY

These recreational priority ratings are only general indications of current trends as identified at meetings conducted by the Department of Natural Resources during the course of preparing the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Many factors affect recreation demand. Changes in population, income, leisure time availability, and transportation may alter both total demand and distribution of demand among the various activities. Another factor difficult to assess with accuracy is the impact of technology on recreation demand. Development of new types of recreation equipment and new means of manipulating resources can cause sudden and unexpected changes in demand.

Participation in nearly all activities can be expected to increase over time but not at an alarming rate or in numbers that cannot be accommodated with reasonable effort. Local government's responsibility in satisfying recreational demands is, first, to meet demands of local citizens and, second, to meet demands of nonresidents.

APPENDIX C

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER ESTIMATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2016 AND BEYOND

PARKS AND GROUNDS-2016

NAME, DESCRIPTION, LOCATION OF PROJECT	TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	ONGOING-\$5,000					
2. REPLACE BALL FENCE @ K. PARK	\$15,000					
3. INSTALL SPLIT RAIL FENCE AT BOWEN'S CEMETERY	\$5,000					
4. REPLACE BALL FENCE @ N. PARK	\$30,000					
5. PAVE PARKING LOT AT ARBORETUM	\$40,000					
6. SECURITY CAMERAS	\$10,000					
7. RESTROOMS @ N. PARK	\$125,000					
8. RESURFACE BIKE TRAIL- Walsh's to N. Park	\$7,000					
9 RESURFACE KROUSKOP NORTH PARKING LOT	\$4,000					
10. RESURFACE NORTH PARK PARKING LOT	\$30,000					
11. RESURFACE COMMUNITY / SENIOR CTR PARKING LOT	\$25,000					
12. RESURFACE CEMTERY ROADS	\$32,000					
13. RESURFACE OLD CC PARKING LOT	\$8,000					
14. ENLARGE AND RESURFACE N. PARK POND LOT	\$25,000					
15. PURCHASE LAND AT NORTH POND PARK	\$25,000					
16. COLUMBARIUM AT CEMETERY	\$65,000					
17. BUILD PARKING LOT AT N. PARK WEST	\$30,000					
18. WALL REPLACEMENT @ CEMETERY	\$25,000					
	\$501,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL OF ABOVE						
NON PRIOTIZED ITEMS (ALTHOUGH AS IMPORTANT)						
POOL RENOVATION	\$3,000,000					
DOG PARK	\$75,000					
SKATEBOARD/ICE SKATE PARK	\$75,000					
	\$3,150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL OF ABOVE						
	\$3,651,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL						

APPENDIX D

**RICHLAND CENTER PARKS & GROUNDS DEPARTMENT
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS SCHEDULE**

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The following is the City of Richland Center Parks & Grounds Department annual operation and maintenance schedule. This includes personnel, tasks performed and budget amounts.

Park Maintenance Areas

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Krouskop Park & Outdoor Pool | 11. Pine River Trails and Canoe Port |
| 2. North Park | 12. Urban Forest |
| 3. West Side Park | 13. Community Forest |
| 4. Strickland Park | 14. Prairie |
| 5. North Lake Park | 15. Cemetery |
| 6. Minor Hill Trails | 16. Community Center |
| 7. Arboretum | 17. Library |
| 8. Tree Nursery | 18. Depot |
| 9. Wedgewood North and South | 19. Dike System |
| 10. Ocooch Living History Center & Gardens | 20. Hwy 80 N.Park(Chellevold Shelter) |

Parks & Grounds Annual Maintenance

All maintenance is performed by the Parks and Grounds Department which includes 6 full-time and 9 part-time personnel.

January, February, March

TASKS PERFORMED

- Snow plowing of Park streets, city sidewalks and skating rinks, as needed
- Maintaining Hockey rink and skating rink on a daily basis
- Repair and paint picnic tables, and park equipment
- Open and close graves as needed.

April

TASKS PERFORMED

- Make ready six diamonds and four soccer fields
- Open all restrooms which includes repair and painting
- Get all playground equipment back in place
- Make ready the outdoor swimming pool
- Put out all picnic tables, benches, and garbage receptacles
- Inspect all equipment
- Clean up all park grounds
- Resilient material to all playgrounds

May, June, July, August, September

TASKS PERFORMED

- Mowing of all Parks, Cemetery, and trimming
- Playgrounds inspected weekly
- Trash pick-up and removal daily
- Add lime to all diamonds and drag daily
- Hockey and skating rinks will be painted and cleaned
- Daily cleaning of restrooms, parks, shelters
- Park repairs – done as needed
- Playground equipment painted as needed
- All trails are opened, repairs are done
- Weed trim around 13,000 stones in cemetery 4 times during the summer

October, November

TASKS PERFORMED

- Swimming pool cleaned and winterized
- All restrooms cleaned, winterized, and closed for the season
- Skating rink install boards
- Picnic tables are put away and tables that need repair are separated to be repaired
- Leaf pick-up is done, also mulching of the leaves
- All Park equipment is inspected and then stored for the winter.
- Tennis and outdoor volleyball are stored
- Playground equipment painted as needed
- Fields are made ready for soccer and football
- Mowers are removed and blowers and plows are installed for the winter

December

TASKS PERFORMED

- Maintenance of equipment is started
- Skating and hockey rinks are flooded and maintained throughout the winter
- Park takes care of sidewalks, roadway, rinks throughout the winter

Park seasonal employees may help the City Street Department on occasional needs.

PROJECTED COST FOR 2016

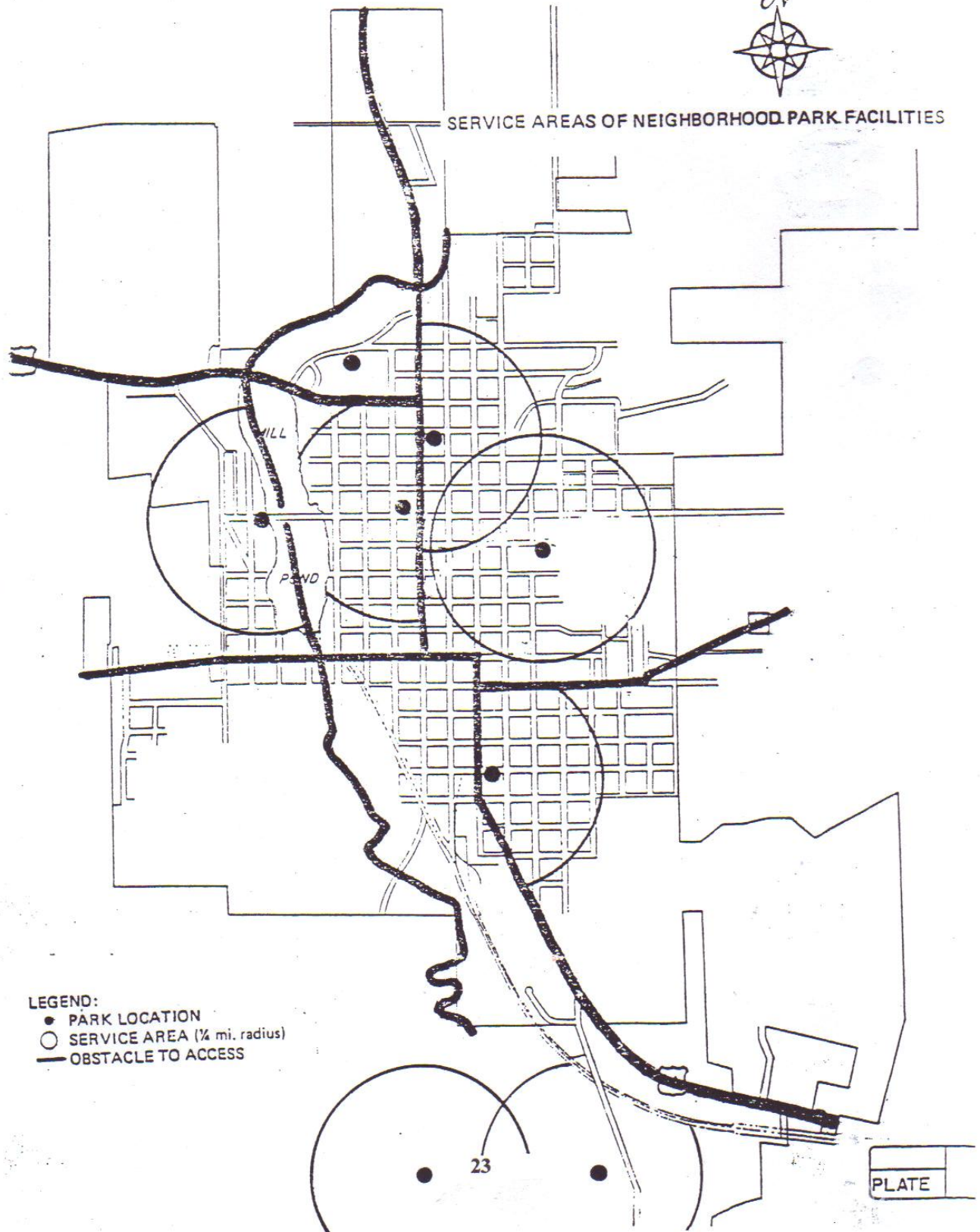
Total Park System Maintenance

\$832,886.00

CITY of RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN



SERVICE AREAS OF NEIGHBORHOOD PARK FACILITIES

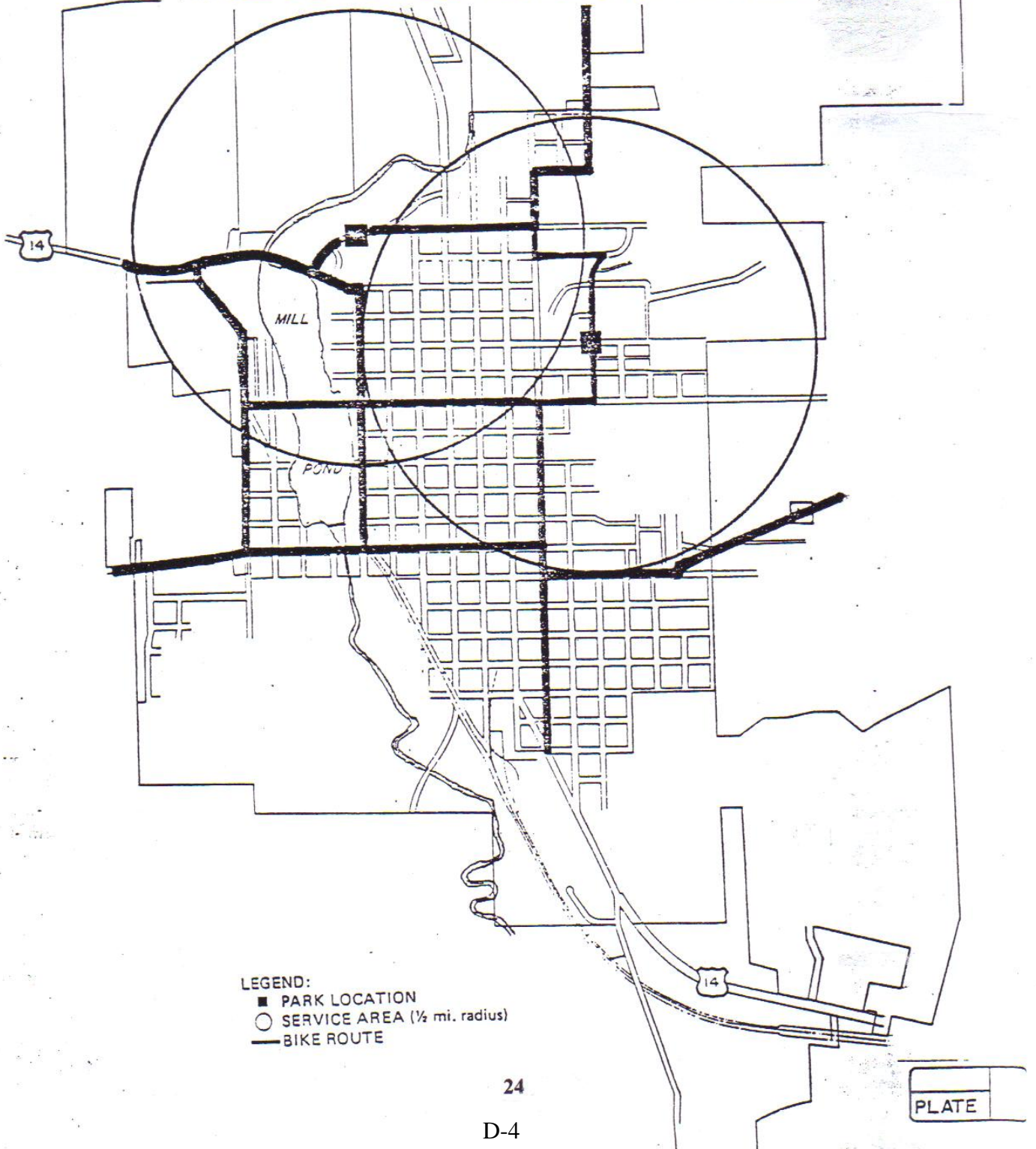


- LEGEND:
● PARK LOCATION
○ SERVICE AREA (1/4 mi. radius)
— OBSTACLE TO ACCESS

CITY of RICHLAND CENTER, WISCONSIN



PROPOSED BIKE ROUTES & SERVICE AREAS OF COMMUNITY PARK FACILITIES



- LEGEND:
■ PARK LOCATION
○ SERVICE AREA (1/2 mi. radius)
— BIKE ROUTE

24

D-4

PLATE