



# Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

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<b>Chapter 12.1: Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Previous Planning Efforts	
Purpose of the Plan	
Structure of the Plan	
<b>Chapter 12.2: Current Parks &amp; Recreation Service</b>	<b>6</b>
Rock County Park System	
<b>Chapter 3: Community Needs Assessment</b>	<b>51</b>
Community Survey	
SWOT Analysis & Staff Input	
Advisory Committee Visioning Session	
Delphi Committee Findings	
Public Meetings	
<b>Chapter 12.4: Goals, Objectives &amp; Policies</b>	<b>92</b>
Administrative & Recreation Goals	
Programming Goals	
Facility & Land Acquisition Goals	
<b>Chapter 12.5: Plan Implementation</b>	<b>104</b>
Action Plan Recommendations	
Quality of Service Analysis	
Capital Improvement Recommendations	
Park Concepts	
Conclusion	
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>138</b>
Survey	139
Open Ended Survey Responses	144
Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan	154

## **Maps and Figures**

Park Location Map	14
County Community Parks Service Area Map	35
County Regional Open Space- Passive Service Area Map	36
County Regional Recreation Area Service Area Map	37
Bicycle & Pedestrian Trails Map	38
Ice Age Trails & Corridor Plan	39
River Trails Map	40
Snowmobile Trails Map	41
Environmentally Sensitive Areas Map	42
Completed Surveys Map	55
QOS Scorecard	109
Indianford Park Concept Plan	119
Gibbs Lake Park Concept Plan	120
Carver-Roehl Park Master Plan	121
Beckman Mills Park Concept Plan	124
Airport Park Concept Plan	125
Royce Dallman Park Concept Plan	126
Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park Concept Plan	127
Sugar River Park Concept Plan	128
Murwin Park Concept Plan	129
Magnolia Bluff Park Master Plan	130
Sweet-Allyn Park Concept Plan	133
Lee Park Concept Plan	134
Happy Hollow Park Concept Plan	135
Turtle Creek Park Concept Plan	136

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### Chapter 12.1- Introduction

#### Previous Planning Efforts

In 2003, the Rock County Planning Staff developed a five year Park, Open Space and Recreation (POROS) Plan that created a vision for the Parks Division of the Rock County Public Works Department. The POROS Plan provided a vision for the park system with very specific recommendations about how the park system should be developed. Five years after the adoption of the plan, very few of its goals had been implemented and much remained to be accomplished.

In 2009, the second POROS plan was developed that contained many ambitious goals and objectives, including improvements to the existing parks and trails system, and the application for grants from the State of Wisconsin to fund many of these improvements. The local match for these state grants was designed to be derived from ATC funds paid by underground utility companies to Rock County as well as from the Rock County Park System's capital budget provided by the county.

The goals of the 2009 plan were primarily presented as administrative goals derived from specific objectives that, if accomplished, would achieve the goals. For instance, one of three administrative objectives was to present to the Rock County Supervisors written and verbal monthly reports about the contribution the county park system made to the quality of life in Rock County. The Rock County Parks Director did so, accomplishing the goal to educate county supervisors about the mission and importance of the county park system.

Other administrative goals included making better use of the parks division advisory board, improving the public image of the park system, improving relationships with governmental groups and committees, improving friends organizations, and developing a new direction for growth and change by supporting objectives.

The capital and recreational goals in the 2009 POROS focused on implementing capital initiatives that made sense to the parks division, developing outdoor recreation programs surrounding the natural features within the park system, and developing a family special event series based on the agricultural heritage of Rock County.

Specific facility, land acquisition and development goals included investing in park development based on implementing a capital plan, seeking funding for projects on an annual basis and exploring grant opportunities to off-set capital improvement costs as the projects took place, perhaps also funding the acquisition of additional open space.

### **This Planning Effort**

This plan takes a different approach than the 2003 POROS plan, but a similar approach as provided in the 2009 plan. It is relatively easier to develop administrative goals than capital goals, however, implementing them is the opposite. The political environment can make implementing administrative goals more difficult than capital goals. Therefore, this plan focuses on the implementation process of the goals and objectives.

Similar to what was stated in the 2009 POROS Plan, this 2015 plan recognizes that Rock County's needs are a function of the difference between the services that Rock County has and the services that its citizens want and are willing to pay to provide. The desire of citizens to provide park and recreation services are a function of the will of the elected officials.

Assessing what services the community needs is the easy part of the planning process. Data is gathered through community surveys, visioning meetings, staff interviews, public hearings and Delphi Committee work.

As in most master plans for parks and recreation agencies, the most important method is using social science survey research to identify the community needs. This is because everyone in the community, in this case Rock County, has the ability to provide input. A survey of the general community, though, is a more objective tool than community meetings, interest group meetings and public hearings where people "self-select" to participate.

In this plan, three types of community surveys were requested by the Rock County Park System. The first was a telephone survey of a random sample of community residents, a traditional method. The second was a mail survey of community residents asking the same questions, also a traditional method. A less traditional method requested was an email survey, asking the same questions in an electronic format.

In this plan, all three surveys were selected from independent data bases, with the data blended into one database that was more representative of Rock County than any one data gathering method alone, providing all residents of the county the opportunity to participate.

The Rock County Park System chose to contract with Public Research Group (PRG) to gather the data and assist in the creation of the 2015 POROS Plan because PRG has a great deal of national experience collecting data and writing park and recreation master plans in such states as Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, California, and Texas, to name a few. PRG is one of the few consultants that offer blended methodologies where survey data from the most modern and up to date data gathering techniques can be used.

Another technique that enhanced this planning process was the gathering of data from community leaders, called the Delphi method, a service unique to PRG. In Delphi Committee work, community leaders' opinions are gathered because it is understood that community leaders are more aware of how governments function than the average citizen and can help shape public opinion.

A few other traditional methods used in planning efforts is gathering input from interest groups as well as holding visioning sessions. County park systems in Wisconsin tend to serve as hosts for recreational programs operated by community-based nonprofit organizations such as friends of the park groups and other community recreation special interests. Visioning sessions allows for an open and honest discussion about the future of the park system.

Public meetings are also a traditional data gathering process that park and recreation planning efforts employ. Sometimes these meetings are well attended and other times not so much. Nevertheless, it would be difficult to imagine a planning process that did not offer public an opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss the plan.

From all of this input, this plan uses all of its data to recommend meaningful goals and objectives that take into consideration Rock County's unique needs and its ability to pay to meet those needs. The implementation process is also a function of the needs assessment process, not just the imagination of the consultants.

### **Purpose of the Plan**

This POROS Plan is for the period of 2015-2020. Five years is generally considered a reasonable horizon in master planning because social, cultural and political conditions tend to change enough over five years for the goals and objectives that derived from the plan to change.

This plan begins with a review of the previous goals and objectives that were not implemented to determine if any are still relevant or priorities. The method of doing so was to ask the community what it would like to see done. If any objectives previously considered re-emerged, consideration was given to making them a high priority.

Since the primary purpose of this master plan is to develop feasible goals and objectives that can be implemented over the next five years, it was important that the process manage the expectations of everyone involved.

This plan does not include everything that everyone wanted. But through negotiation of reasonable goals and objectives, it does contain many of most desired elements that the community wanted and that which the Rock County Board of Supervisors can reasonably fund,

Therefore, the purpose of this plan is to establish reasonable goals and objectives that represent the negotiated views of the community and to begin the process of implementing these goals.

Ultimately, this plan represents an agreement between the public of Rock County, the advisory board, board of supervisors and the staff. The agreement represents rationality in the public policy formulation process. It also represents the democratic process at its best.

The public has stated its park and recreational needs and desires in well defined terms. The staff has identified those needs through the planning process and brought them to the board of supervisors in order to fund the solutions. The realization of the goals, though, is the domain of the administrative staff of the Rock County Park System. It will be through administration's vigilance that this plan will not be relegated to a shelf in the office, forgotten until the next planning cycle.

### Structure of this Plan

As stated, the most important elements of a master plan are the goals and objectives that it generates. The primary purpose of the plan is to identify goals and objectives to improve parks and recreation services for the Rock County Park System.

This plan does so by telling the story of how the goals and objectives were derived, how the collected information provides an understanding of the needs and desires of the public, how the data was interpreted, and how it translated those needs and desires into themes.

The story includes the levels of engagement between the county supervisors, friends groups and other governmental units. It tells how the park system expanded the mission of improving parks and recreation services to include the collection of input from a Delphi committee of community leaders and that the commission of the committee brainstormed ideas that led to a prioritization of administrative goals and objectives.

The story is important because, even though the planning horizon is short, within the next five years new county supervisors and advisory board members may be elected and appointed, new park staff may be hired and new people will move into the county.

These new people may not feel the ownership in this plan that the previous boards, staff and community members felt. However, it needs to be assumed that desires of the public are still the same, so the agreement needs to be in force.

This 2015-2020 POROS Plan has five sections. The first is the community demographics section, which begins with a brief history of Rock County. Location maps are provided and population characteristics interpreted. Projections for growth are also made.

The second section is an inventory of the current parks and recreation services offered by the Rock County Park System. These services include an inventory of the park systems parks, trails and amenities.

The third section explains how community needs were assessed. The survey and its findings are presented with the level of reliability of the survey instruments considered and the validity of process discussed.

The third section also includes summaries of the public hearings and summaries of the visioning sessions. Also in the Section 3 are Delphi committee recommendations. The Delphi Committee met on several occasions, producing its own goals and objectives for the park system.

The fourth section is the most important. Based on the rationale presented in the preceding three sections, the fourth section presents the goals and objectives for the Rock County Park System for the period of 2015-2020. The goals are supported by specific objectives, which if implemented, will lead to the attainment of the goals.

The categories of the goals and objectives are administration, recreation programs, land acquisition and development, park maintenance, and facilities. Perhaps the most important of these are those dealing with administrative changes.

The fifth and final section of this plan will be the implementation schedule. This section articulates the funding process that is already underway to fund land acquisition and park development. The implementation section also presents the timeline within which administrative goals will be achieved and the new schedule for operating services will be provided. To implement these goals, commitment rather than funding will be the issue, making these goals largely strategic.

## Chapter 12.2- Current Environment

### Demographics

Rock County was created in 1836 as a territorial county on December 7, 1836, as part of Milwaukee County. Rock County was fully organized Feb. 19, 1839 as part of the State of Wisconsin, named for the Rock River, which bisects the county from north to south. As of the 2010 census, Rock County had a population of 160,331 residents. A large portion of the population resides in the Janesville-Beloit, WI Metropolitan Statistical Area and is included in the Madison-Janesville-Beloit, WI Combined Statistical Area.



While the 2010 Census did not present household information, in 2014 most of the data from the 2000 Census could still provide a demographic view of Rock County. As of the 2000 Census there were 58,617 households in Rock County and 40,387 families residing in those households.

According to the 2010 Census:

- The population density in 2010 was 221 people per square mile
- There were 68,422 housing units at an average density of 94 per square mile,
- The racial makeup of the county was 87.6% White, 4.9% Black or African American, 0.3% Native American, 1.0% Asian, 0.02% Pacific Islander, 3.7% from other races, and 2.3% from two or more races. 7.5% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race.
- Of the 68,422 households, 30.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them
- The population of Rock County was spread out with 25.1% under the age of 18, 5.9% from 20 to 24, 33.5% from 25 to 49, 19.3% from 50 to 64, and 13.6% who were 65 years of age or older
- The median age was 36 years,
- The population was 49.1% male, and 50.9% female.

### Structure of Government

Like other counties in the State of Wisconsin, Rock County government would be considered a sub-unit of the state, with every person in Wisconsin residing in one county or another. Municipal governments including cities and townships do not serve every citizen, created by referenda by those who wish to live within them willing to pay taxes for the services that municipalities provide.

The first courthouse was built in 1842 and stood until it was demolished and the current Courthouse constructed in 1955. Rock County covers 720 square miles and includes 6 Cities, 20 Towns and 3 Villages.

Rock County operates under the Board/Administrator form of County government. The elected Rock County Board of Supervisors is the legislative authority. The County Administrator, who reports to the County Board, has a wide range of responsibilities including preparation of the annual budget.

Elected officials serving Rock County include the Sheriff, District Attorney, Clerk of the Circuit Courts, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Registrar of Deeds and the Coroner. Rock County provides a wide range of programs and services to its citizens including public safety, human services, health, public works, conservation and development.

In addition to the Courthouse, Rock County's facilities include a Jail, Youth Services Center, Public Works facility, Public Health Department/ Council on Aging, Rock Haven Nursing Home, Human Services/ Information Technology facilities, the Fairgrounds, 911 Communications Center, Airport and more than 1,000 acres of park land. Rock County also owns the land and building for the UW-Rock County.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Counties in Wisconsin are administered by elected officials, called county supervisors. Rock County has 29 Supervisors, one elected to represent each of the 29 districts of the county. The 29 supervisors and their districts are shown below.

- District 01- Mary Beaver
- District 02- Alan Sweeney
- District 03- Sandra Kraff
- District 04- Mary Mawhinney
- District 05- Jeremy Zajac
- District 06- Eva Arnold
- District 07- Hank Brill
- District 08- Brian Knudson
- District 09- Rick Richard
- District 10- Louis Peer
- District 11- Brenton Driscoll
- District 12- Wayne Gustina
- District 13- Norvain A. Pleasant Jr.
- District 14- Terry Fell
- District 15- Linda Garrett
- District 16- Jason Dowd
- District 17- Betty Jo Bussie
- District 18- Edwin Nash
- District 19- Brent Fox
- District 20- Wes Davis
- District 21- Terry Thomas
- District 22- Russ Podzilni
- District 23- Jason Heidenreich
- District 24- Richard Bostwick
- District 25- Billy Bob Grah
- District 26- Larry Wiedenfeld
- District 27- Kathy Schulz
- District 28- Gregory Addie
- District 29- Thomas J. Brien

The Rock County Administrator that has direct responsibility to the Rock County Board of Supervisors is Joshua M. Smith. All of the department heads have direct responsibility to him in the line of staff authority.

Assisting in the oversight of the various Rock County Department, the county board of supervisors has a created number of committees that meet and hear operational reports from the staffs of these numerous departments.

Specifically, the county park system is one of three divisions of the Department of Public Works, which is overseen by the Director of Public Works, Ben J. Coopman, under the Public Works Committee, along with the highway and airport divisions. The committee is comprised of Betty Jo Bussie, the chairperson, serving with other county supervisors including Eva Arnold, Brenton Driscoll, Brent Fox, and Rick Richard.

The Department of Public Works Committee hears reports from the Director of Public Works and each of the three divisions, including the Parks Director Lori Williams, and her Community Coordinator David Hoffman. County parks staff members that oversee the maintenance of the parks are Dan Cahill, Jim Hessenauer, Andy Kleeberger, and Steve Burtness.

### Park System Categorization

For purposes of categorizing existing parkland in this chapter, County park lands have been classified into the following categories: County Community Parks, County Regional Recreation Areas, County Regional Open Space Parks and Trails. Inevitably, there is some overlap in these categories and a single facility can sometimes serve more than one type of need depending upon its function.

#### County Community Parks

Parks that may contain play areas and equipment, playfields and paved surfaces for court games such as tennis and basketball, as well as limited natural areas. They are generally less than or equal to 25 acres in size and are located within a 15 minute drive from the populations they are designed to serve.

#### County Regional Recreation Areas

These park areas serve regional needs with active uses such as swimming, tennis, boating or other active recreation activities. Generally, these Regional Recreation Areas are more highly developed facilities, with amenities such as interpretive facilities, picnic areas, play areas, turfed meadows, trails, camping facilities and equestrian facilities. They are typically less than 200 acres in size. River access facilities, while generally smaller in size, are also included in this category.

#### County Regional Open Space Parks

Regional Open Space Parks contain passive recreation as the dominant use, and typically have only developed facilities (parking lots, trail head and restrooms). They are generally 200 acres in size, or larger, although there are some exceptions. Passive recreation includes hiking, mountain bike riding, horseback riding and picnicking. Regional Open Space Parks provide for public access, use and enjoyment. As larger facilities, they also play a greater role in preserving functioning ecosystems.

#### Trails

Trails are facilities which provide access to and opportunities to experience cultural and natural resource areas. Trails provide non-motorized access (generally pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian or multi-use, as designated for the particular trail segment). Trails traverse a wide variety of terrain, ranging from urban streets to open rangelands, flood control channels, utility corridors and former railroad rights-of-way.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Facility Type	Acres Per Thousand Population	Suggested Acreage*	Service Area	Primary Providers	Defining Characteristics
County Community Parks (CCP)	3.25/1000	Less than or equal to 25 acres	Park Planning Area (5 miles)	Non-profit organizations, public schools, cities, county service areas & special districts	Play areas, sports fields & picnicking
County Regional Recreation Areas (CRRA)	5/1000	Less than 200 acres (also includes access sites to public waterways)	Park Planning Area (15 miles)	County	Generally above 25 acres where 10% of the area is devoted to developed recreation facilities (boat launching facilities, campgrounds, swimming, beaches, play areas, sports fields)
County Regional Open Space - Passive (CROSP)	15/1000	Less than or equal to 200 acres	Regional (Approximately 30 miles)	County	Resource management with public access
Trails (T)	1 mile per 10,000 people	None	Regional	County, State	Located primarily outside of parkland areas

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The county parks that are the responsibility of the Rock County Park System to maintain and operate are:

Park Name	Classification	Acreage	Location
Airport Park	CCP	2	US Hwy 50 & Knillans Rd.
Avon Park	CCP	17	Sugar River in Village of Avon
Beckman Mill Park	CRRA	52	County Hwy H and Mill Pond Rd.
Carver-Roehl Park	CRRA	53	NE of Clinton on Carver's Rock Rd.
Gibbs Lake Park	CROSP	299	1/2 mile west of intersection of Gibbs Lake Rd. & Eagle Rd.
Hanover Wildlife Area	CRRA	17.5	East of Highway H, Town of Hanover
Happy Hollow Park	CROSP	206	Between Janesville & Beloit off Happy Hollow Rd.
Ice Age Park	CCP	3.4	Off Sable Dr. from Kennedy Rd.
Ice Age Trail	T	-	Runs between Janesville and Milton
Indianford Park	CCP	2.5	Village of Indianford
Koshkonong Lake Access	CCP	12.6	Lakeside Drive, Town of Milton
Lee Park	CRRA	40	Intersection of State Hwy 160 and 67
Magnolia Bluff Park	CRRA	120	Croak Rd. south of State Hwy 59
Murwin Park	CRRA	40	At Fulton and State Hwy 184
Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail	T	-	6 miles, Runs from Clinton to Allens Grove
Royce Dallman Park	CCP	3	County Trunk N north of Milton (Charley Bluff Rd.)
Schollmeyer Park	CCP	0.5	On Turtle Creek on west side of Shopiere Rd.
Sugar River Park	CCP	15	Sugar River next to Nelson Rd.
Sweet-Allyn Park	CRRA	39	On County Trunk J at Shopiere Rd.
Turtle Creek Park	CCP	3.5	6528 S. Smith Road Towns of Turtle & La Prairie
Turtle Creek Parkway	T	-	6528 S. Smith Road Towns of Turtle & La Prairie
Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park	CCP	9	US Hwy 51 north of Janesville

### Capital Projects in the Past Planning Cycle

Since the adoption of the 2009 POROS Plan, a number of capital projects have been accomplished, as per the funding opportunities available to the Rock County Park System and within the recommendations of that plan. The following projects have been undertaken.

#### **Beckman Mill Park**

- Security Lights
- Fishing Pier
- Boardwalk
- Trails

#### **Gibbs Lake Park**

- Shelter
- Parking Lot Paving
- Restroom

#### **Magnolia Bluff Park**

- Trails
- Restrooms
- Parking Lot

#### **Carver Roehl Park**

- Road/ Entrance
- Playground
- Gazebo & Path
- Trails

#### **Turtle Creek Park**

- Acquire Property
- Building Improvements
- Parking Lot Paving

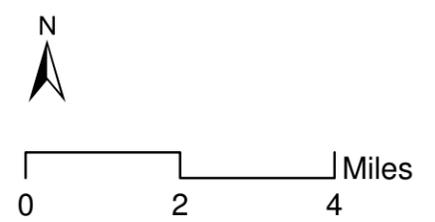
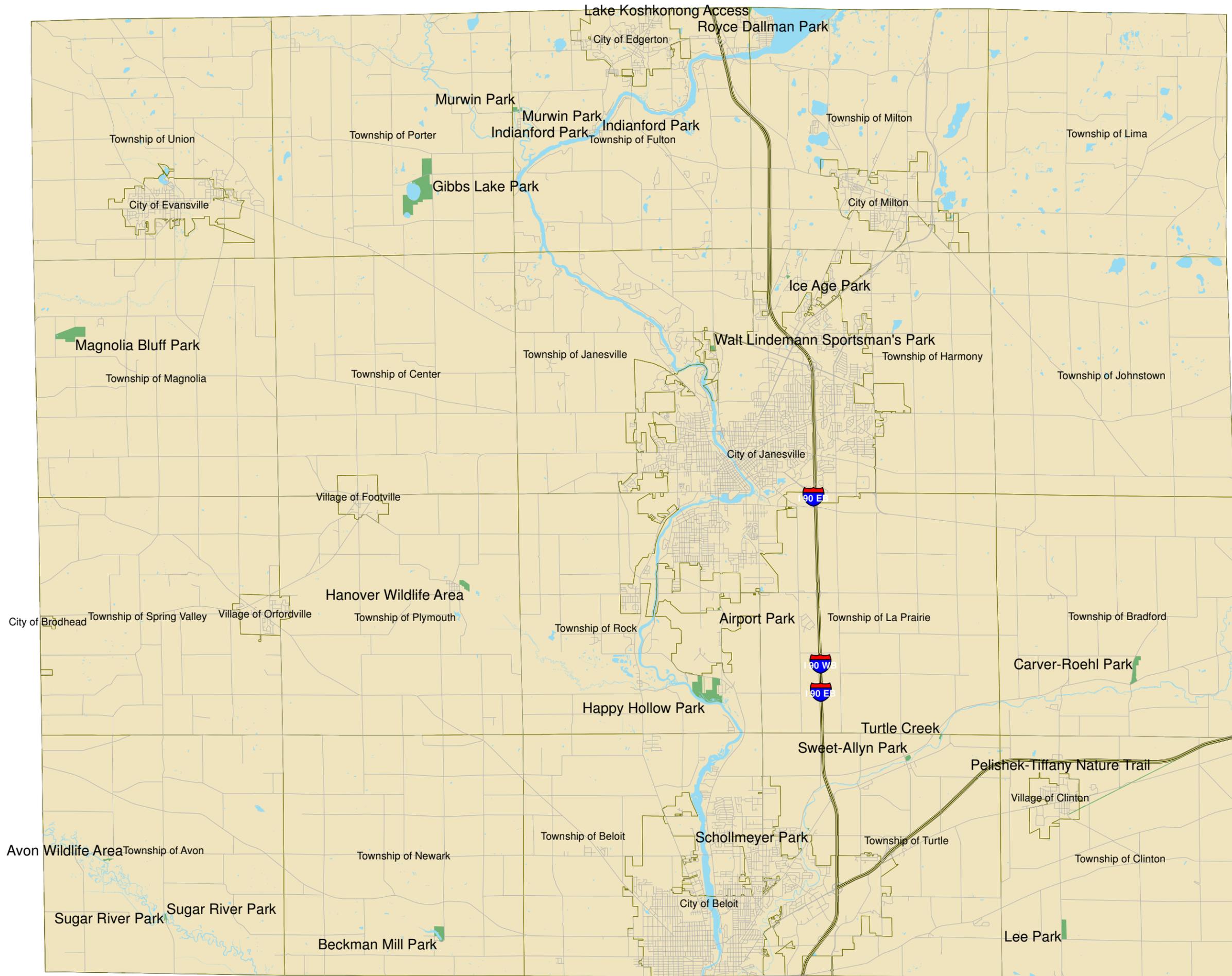
#### **Lee Park**

- Restroom

The projects that have been completed total approximately \$1.2 million during the past planning cycle, with \$170,000 still in progress. The funding sources for these projects came from ATC revenues, some from Wisconsin State grants, some from friends of the parks groups and some from the Rock County Parks Division capital projects funding received from the county.

Legend

- Townships
- Bodies of Water
- Parks
- Rock County





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Airport Park

**Park Location:** Hwy. 51 & Knilians Rd.

**Park Size:** 2 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Picnic tables, benches, shelter, parking

**General Park Impressions:** The park has a great view of the airport, but is under utilized.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Parking lot needs improving
- 2) 1 existing light
- 3) Wood bollards encompass area
- 4) Shelter with benches
- 5) Open space





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Avon Park

**Park Location:** Town of Avon, West Pleasant St

**Park Size:** 17 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Undeveloped

**General Park Impressions:** There is no visible sign for the park location, has limited access, mature tree canopy covers entire park site, has small access to the Sugar River.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Avon Park has the potential for water access to the Sugar River





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Beckman Mill Park

**Park Location:** S. Cty Road H & W Mill Pond Rd

**Park Size:** 52 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Area

**Park Amenities:** Picnic shelters, rest room facilities, educational museums, water pump, old machinery, gardens, prairie, oak savanna, river access, trails, parking, pond, dam, wetlands, lights, boardwalk, trails and paths, overlooks, native plants & berms.

**General Park Impressions:** A park full of history, embracing it, needs access to all areas.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Parking lot is in good shape
- 2) Park hosts tours and events throughout the year
- 3) Boardwalk and trails are in excellent shape
- 4) Mowed trails through the woods are well maintained
- 5) Shelter with ADA access
- 6) All buildings are in good shape
- 7) Fishing pier on the other side of the river (not owned by the Parks Division, but on their property)
- 8) Fishing ladder
- 9) Welty Environmental Center





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Carver-Roehl Park

**Park Location:** E. Creek Rd. & S. Carvers Rock Rd.

**Park Size:** 53 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Area

**Park Amenities:** Picnic shelter, benches, rest room facilities, swings, historic grave site, trails, water pump.

**General Park Impressions:** New picnic shelter able to host outings, limited ADA access.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

### Site Observations:

- 1) New playground equipment with older swings
- 2) Rest room facility needs replacement
- 3) New gazebo
- 4) Entry drive was rebuilt which has greatly reduced the frequency of flooding events
- 5) Trails with defined paths and in some areas the path is hard to follow
- 6) Bridges on the trail network are in good shape
- 7) Benches and bench shelters placed throughout the trail network
- 8) Road has new pavement, entry drive damaged during the flood
- 9) No area set aside for parking





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Gibbs Lake Park

**Park Location:** W. Gibbs Lake Rd. & N. Fox Rd.

**Park Size:** 299 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Open Space  
Park - Passive

**Park Amenities:** Picnic area, rest room  
facilities, parking, trails, lake access, water  
dock, park grills, water pump, bench shelter

**General Park Impressions:** Picnic area needs  
to be defined and ADA accessible.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks  
ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

### Site Observations:

- 1) Motor boats no larger than 3.9 hp allowed  
on Gibbs Lake
- 2) Seperate parking lot for equestrain parking
- 3) Gravel parking lots
- 4) New park shelter & bathroom
- 5) Paved main parking lot





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Hanover Wildlife Area

**Park Location:** East of Highway H, Town of Hanover

**Park Size:** 17.5 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Open Space  
Park- Passive

**Park Amenities:** None

**General Park Impressions:** Mature tree canopy covering entire park site.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Has potential for walking trails





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Happy Hollow Park

**Park Location:** Hwy 51 & S. Driftwood Dr.

**Park Size:** 206 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Open Space  
Park- Passive

**Park Amenities:** Bench shelter, rest room  
facilities, boat launch, equestrian trails, hiking  
trails

**General Park Impressions:** Park does flood  
periodically

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks  
ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Roadway and parking area need repair
- 2) Erosion on riverbank along hiking trails
- 3) Lots of down trees/debris from flooding
- 4) Upgrade boat launch area is needed





Site Inventory & Analysis  
Rock County, Wisconsin  
2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation &  
Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Ice Age Connector Trail

**Park Location:** Runs from Milton to Janesville

**Park Size:** 3.7 Miles\*

**Park Type:** Trail

**Park Amenities:**

**General Park Impressions:** Good signage and wide trail section

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

1) Needs improved trailheads and crossing markings.



\* Mileage is from the Ice Age Trail Foundation. The trail system is still changing and fluctuating due to route changes and negotiation of land and so other resources may have a different mileage for this segment of the trail.



## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Ice Age Park

**Park Location:** North Sable Drive, Town of Harmony

**Park Size:** 3.4 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Benches, picnic tables, pond, sign

**General Park Impressions:** Small park with access to Ice Age Connector Trail.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

1) Ice Age Park has the potential for trailhead and improved multi-use trails





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Indianford Park

**Park Location:** N. CTY. TK. F & W. CTY. TK. M

**Park Size:** 2.5 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Picnic area, rest room facilities, parking, river access.

**General Park Impressions:** Add a fishing pier or overlook that would provide a good view of river dam.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Notes:**

- 1) Re-surface the main parking lot
- 2) Add a fishing pier or overlook





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Koshkonong Lake Access

**Park Location:** Lakeside Drive, Town of Milton

**Park Size:** 12.6 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

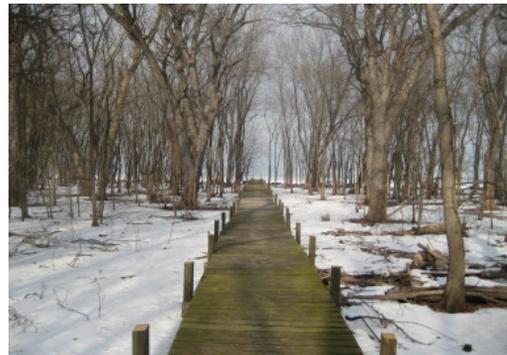
**Park Amenities:** Open Space

**General Park Impressions:** Undeveloped.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks  
ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

1) Koshkonong Lake Access has potential for habitat restoration and elevated boardwalk for lake access.





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Lee Park

**Park Location:** WI-140 & WI-67

**Park Size:** 40 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Area

**Park Amenities:** Picnic shelter, rest room facilities, baseball field, benches, water pump, prairie restoration, trails, parking, arboretum.

**General Park Impressions:** Park provides a variety of recreational uses

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Parking and road are gravel
- 2) Benches and fence look good by the baseball field, the field needs work
- 3) Few trails lead to dead ends
- 4) Shelter needs a new roof
- 5) Trail through woods, some tree species marked
- 6) New restroom facility





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Magnolia Bluff Park

**Park Location:** WI-59 & N. Croak Rd.

**Park Size:** 120 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Area

**Park Amenities:** Rest room facilities, water pump, fire pit, park grills, hiking trails, equestrian trails, parking, new restrooms, new trails, equestrian parking, lower parking lot

**General Park Impressions:** Many trails throughout the park. Erosion is a problem in different areas of the park.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

### Site Observations:

- 1) Add erosion control measures throughout the bluff and park
- 2) Trails need some cleaning of brush and path enhancement
- 3) Three new restroom facilities
- 4) Needs picnic shelter/gazebo, possibly two (at the top and bottom of the park)
- 5) Electricity needed
- 6) New trails have been added
- 7) Equestrian parking & new lower parking lot have been added





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Murwin Park

**Park Location:** W. Caledonia Rd. & N. CTY. TK. H

**Park Size:** 40 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Area

**Park Amenities:** Park grills, picnic tables, water pump, restroom facilities, parking, river access.

**General Park Impressions:** Acces to the river, but elements need to be up-dated

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) New restroom facility
- 2) Parking lot has been repaved
- 3) Canoe access to river, but area floods and can be improved
- 4) Area east of N. CTY. TK. H is fragmented from the rest of the park
- 5) Add picnic shelter





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail

**Park Location:** WI-140 & Mill St.

**Park Size:** 6 Miles

**Park Type:** Trail

**Park Amenities:** Picnic area, parking, benches, rest room facility, trail, parking, fire pit.

**General Park Impressions:** Good trail, should add some small crushed gravel for surface.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Benches & shelters throughout the trail
- 2) Newer rest room facility
- 3) Bridge is in good shape
- 4) Connect trail to other parks or trails in area
- 5) Clean up gravel parking lot





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Royce Dallman Park

**Park Location:** N. Charley Bluff Rd. & E. CTY.  
TK. N

**Park Size:** 3 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Water access, fishing pier, bench shelter, restroom facility, parking, water pump, picnic shelter.

**General Park Impressions:** Park provides good waterfront access

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Park floods periodically
- 2) New boat launch





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Schollmeyer Park

**Park Location:** Trail Dr. & Shopiere Rd.

**Park Size:** 0.5 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Open space, river access.

**General Park Impressions:** Hard to find, feels like you are in the backyards of the residents.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) No signage off of Shopiere Rd.
- 2) No parking
- 3) Nice views with the river access
- 4) Under utilized
- 5) River access could be enhanced for a canoe launch





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Sugar River Park

**Park Location:** W. Beloit-Newark Rd. & S. Nelson Rd.

**Park Size:** 15 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** River access, parking, fire pit.

**General Park Impressions:** Gives people a place to launch their boat into the Sugar River.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Boat launch is in need of periodic maintenance
- 2) Park is mainly under water during the flood season
- 3) Gravel entry drive and parking
- 4) No structures on site due to periodic flooding





Site Inventory & Analysis  
 Rock County, Wisconsin  
 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation &  
 Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Sweet-Allyn Park

**Park Location:** E. Creek Rd. & S. CTY. TK. J

**Park Size:** 39 Acres

**Park Type:** County Regional Recreation Park

**Park Amenities:** Playground, picnic tables, picnic shelter, rest room facilities, memorial area, baseball field, river access, fire department tug-of-war area, parking, sand volleyball, benches, park grills, water pump, dog area, basketball.

**General Park Impressions:** Dog area could be developed into an enclosed dog park.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Picnic shelter has lights, no ADA access
- 2) Memorial area is nice, but no accessibility
- 3) Baseball infield needs work- fencing has been recently repaired
- 4) Path to rest room facility too steep and uneven for ADA access
- 5) Basketball has been moved near playground area
- 6) Sand volleyball court has no nets or posts
- 7) Out-dated playground equipment
- 8) Dog area on North side no fencing
- 9) Repaved parking lot





Site Inventory & Analysis  
Rock County, Wisconsin  
2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation &  
Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Turtle Creek Park

**Park Location:** 6528 Smith Rd. 10 miles northeast of Beloit

**Park Size:** 3.5 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Parking Lot, Open Space, Building

**General Park Impressions:** The park has a great view of the arch bridge.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

**Site Observations:**

- 1) Needs a new roof
- 2) Possible location for a canoe launch
- 3) Good location for rental opportunities





## Site Inventory & Analysis Rock County, Wisconsin 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan



**Park Name:** Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park

**Park Location:** WI-14 & US-51

**Park Size:** 9 Acres

**Park Type:** County Community Park

**Park Amenities:** Deer display, playground, water pump, picnic shelter, soccer field, rest room facilities, park grills

**General Park Impressions:** Great tree canopy, Mystic White Deer area is the main focus.

**Accessibility:** Reference Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan

### Site Observations:

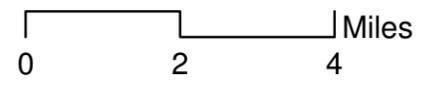
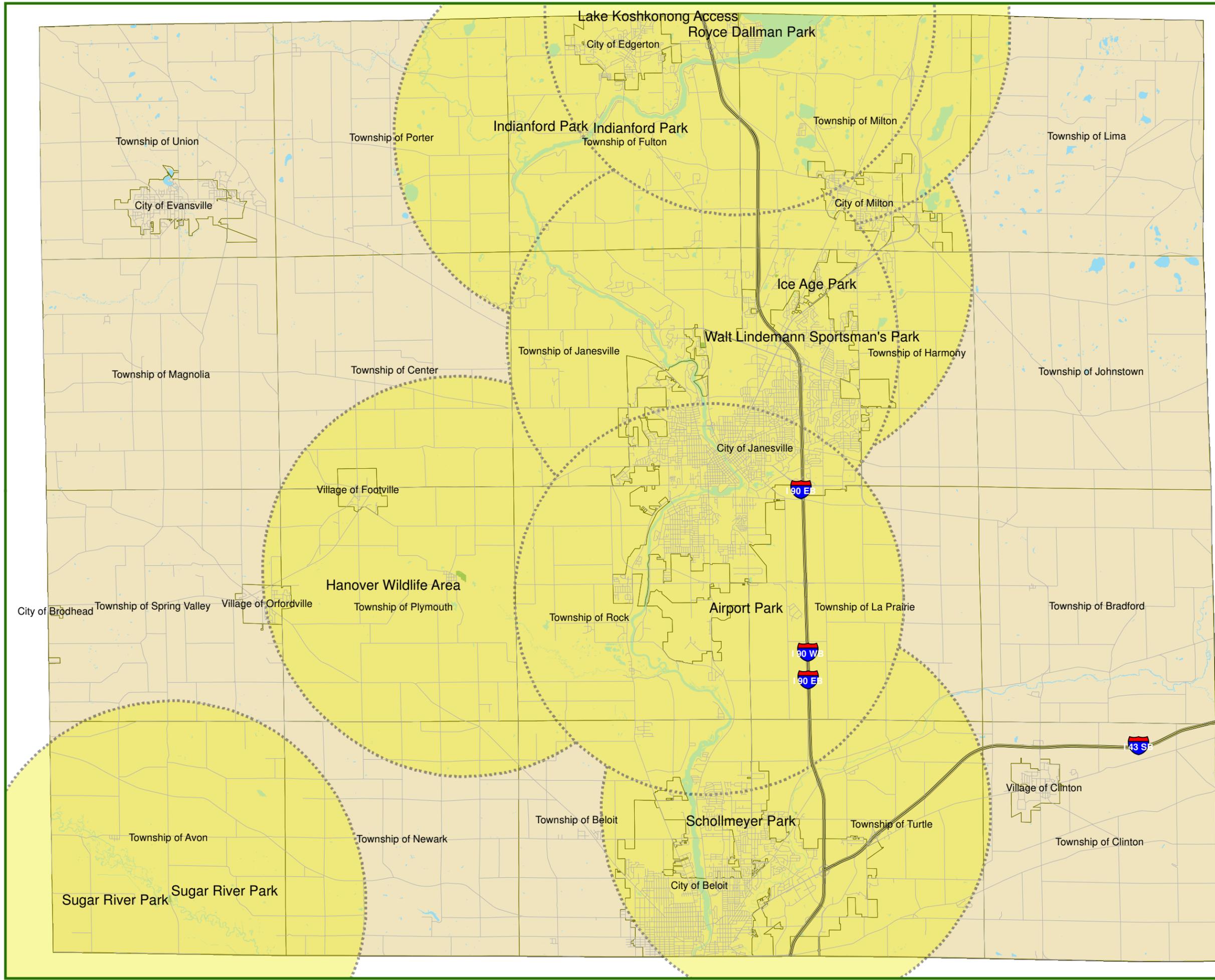
- 1) Shelter/Restroom facilities needs renovations, new roof & has cracks in foundation
- 2) Playground equipment set to be replaced summer of 2015
- 3) Soccer field needs re-seeding
- 4) Rock County Cooperative Pheasant Project Building in corner of the site
- 5) Cottage & garage on edge of park



**Rock County Wisconsin**  
**County Community Parks**  
**Service Area**

**Legend**

-  Townships
-  Bodies of Water
-  Parks
-  Rock County
-  Service Area

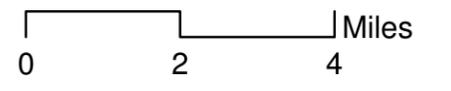
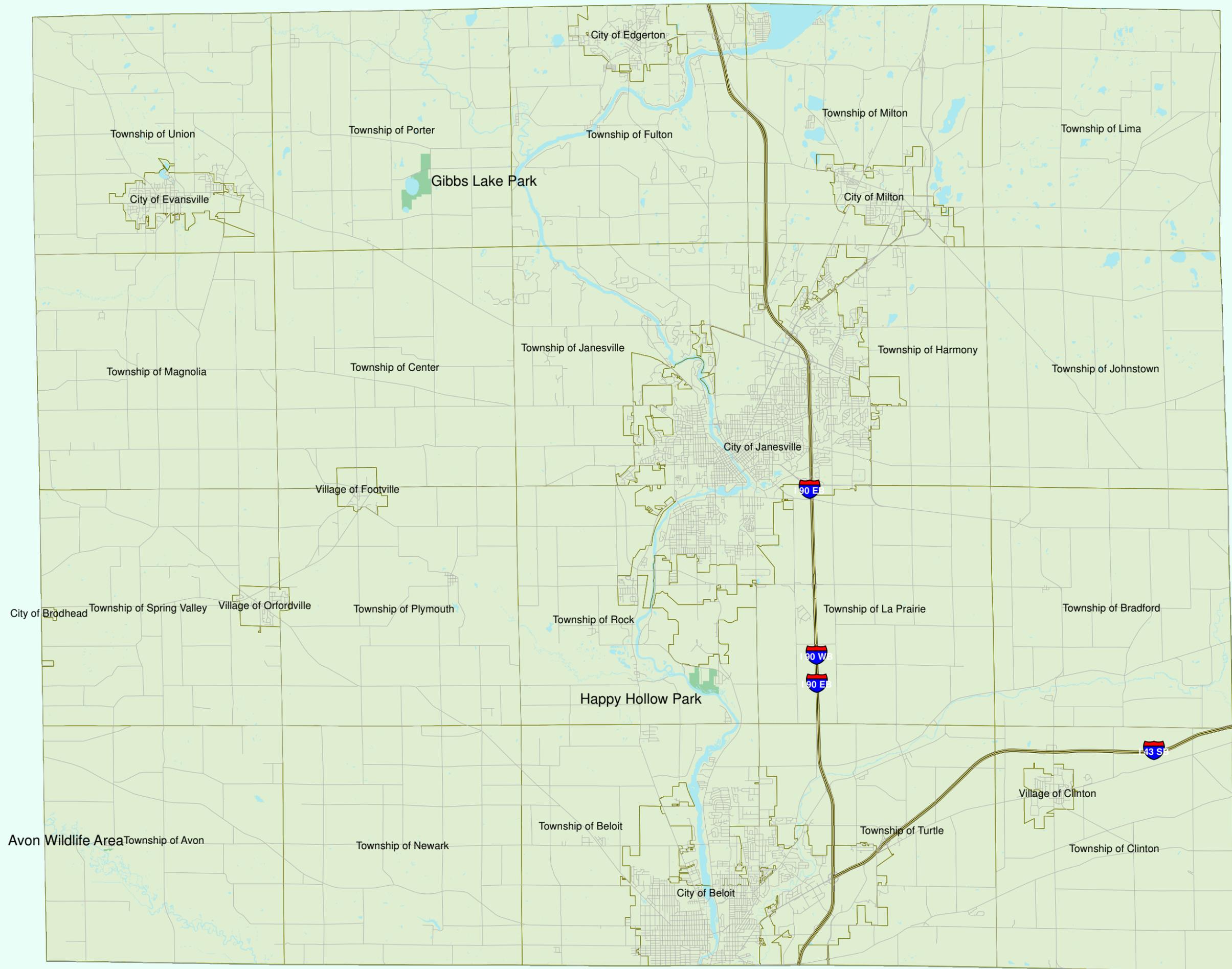


# Rock County Wisconsin

## County Regional Open Space - Passive Service Area

### Legend

-  Townships
-  Bodies of Water
-  Parks
-  Rock County
-  Service Area

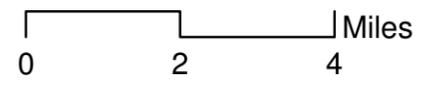
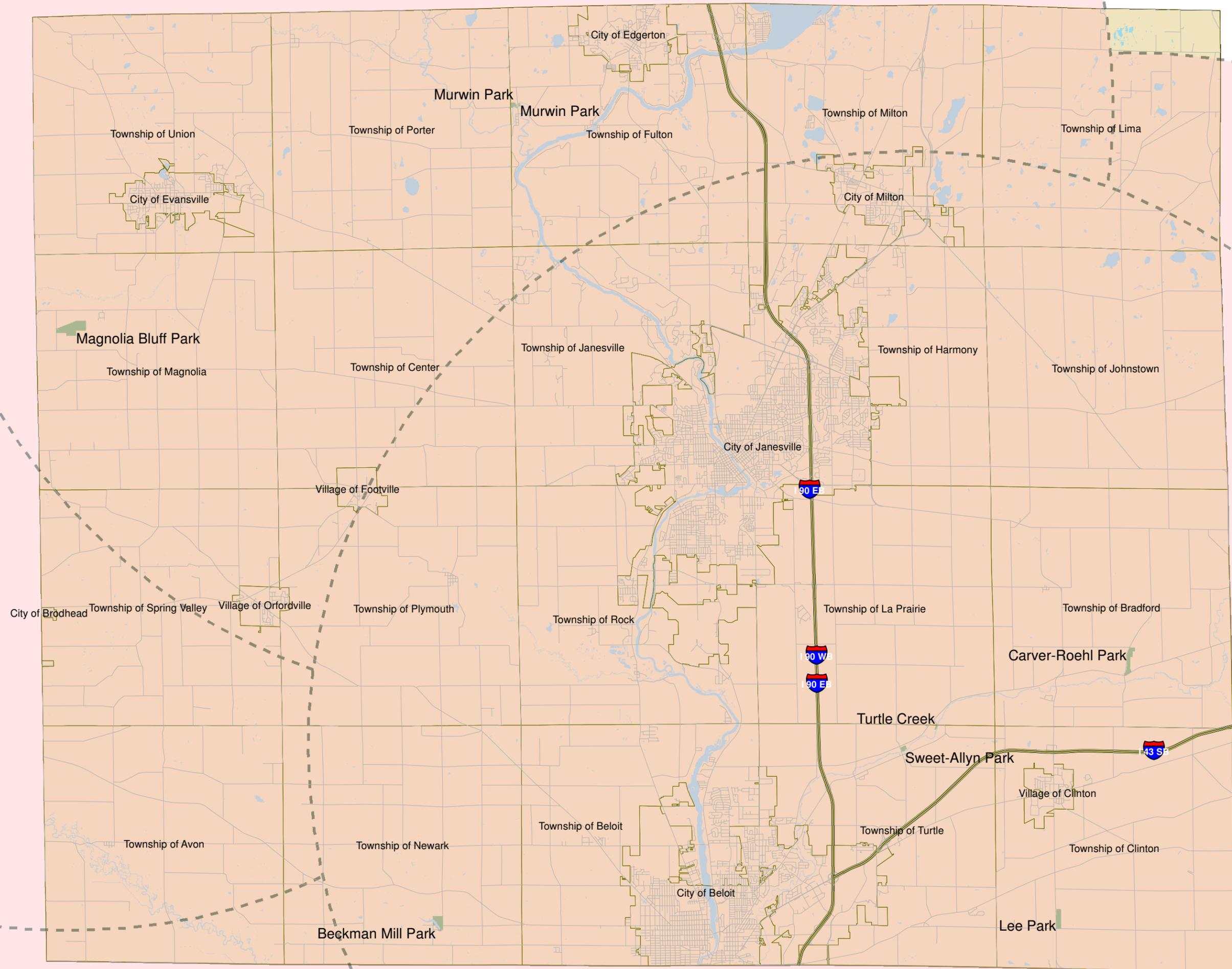


# Rock County Wisconsin

## County Regional Recreation Area Service Area

### Legend

-  Townships
-  Bodies of Water
-  Parks
-  Rock County
-  Service Area

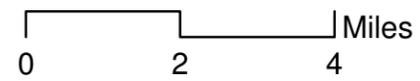
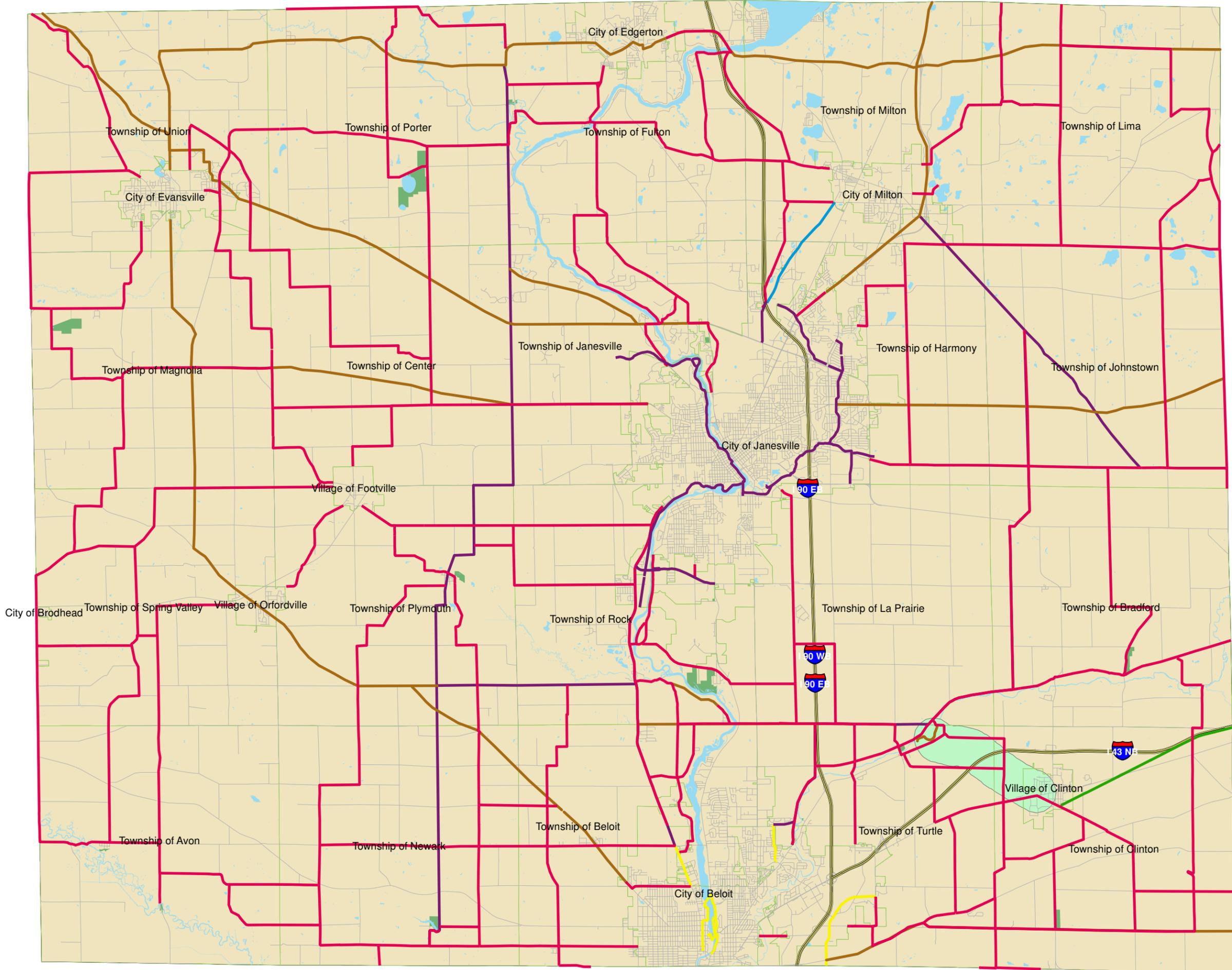


# Rock County Wisconsin

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Trails

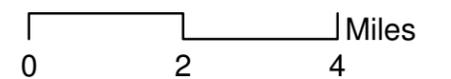
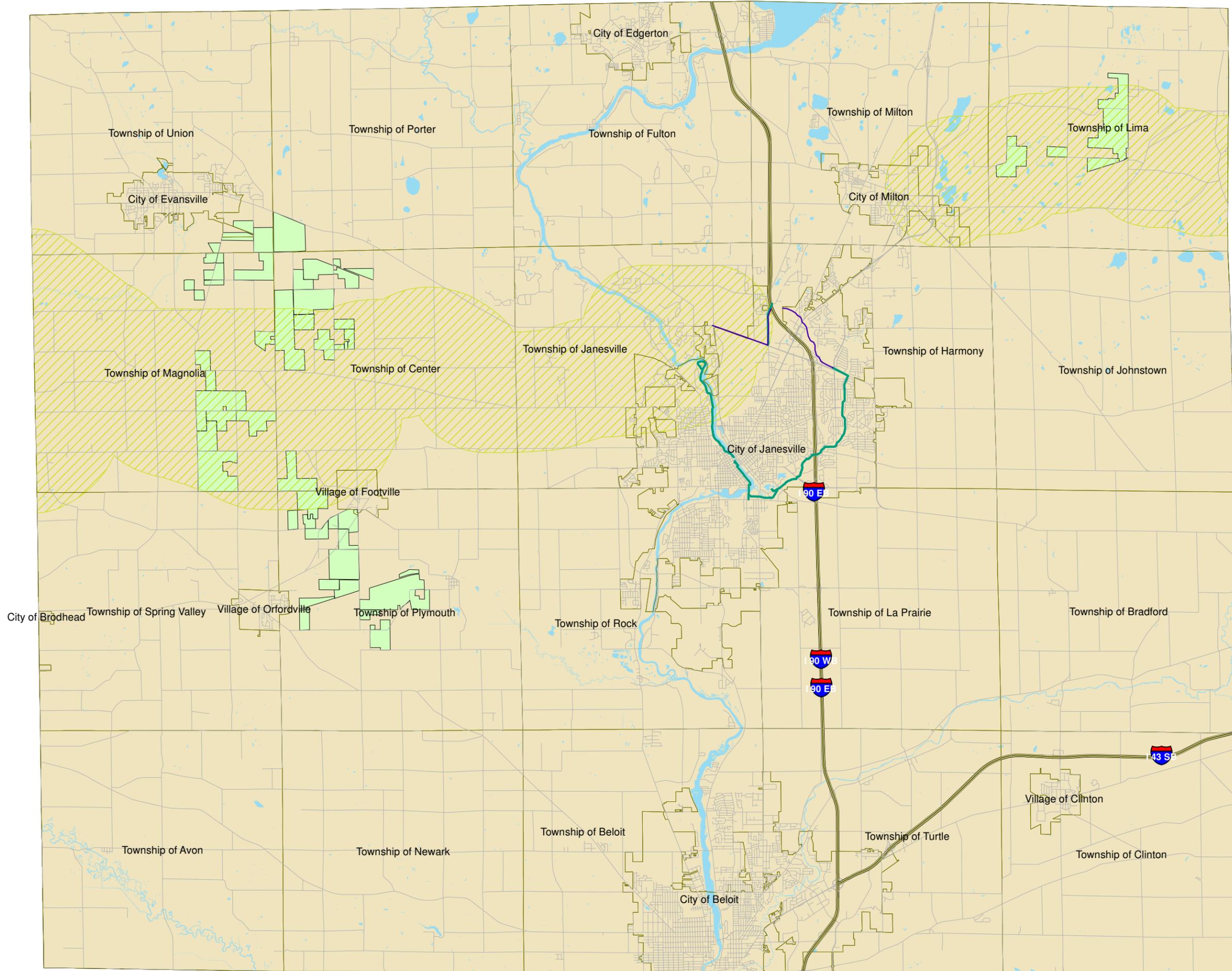
### Legend

- Janesville Bicycle Trail
- County Bicycle Route
- Proposed Off Road Trail
- Pelishek-Tiffany Trail
- Ice Age Multi-Use Trail
- Designated Bicycle Lane
- Beloit Bicycle Trail
- Tiffany 5 Arch Bridge Trail Corridor
- Bodies of Water
- Parks
- Rock County
- Townships



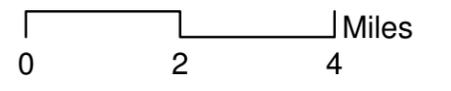
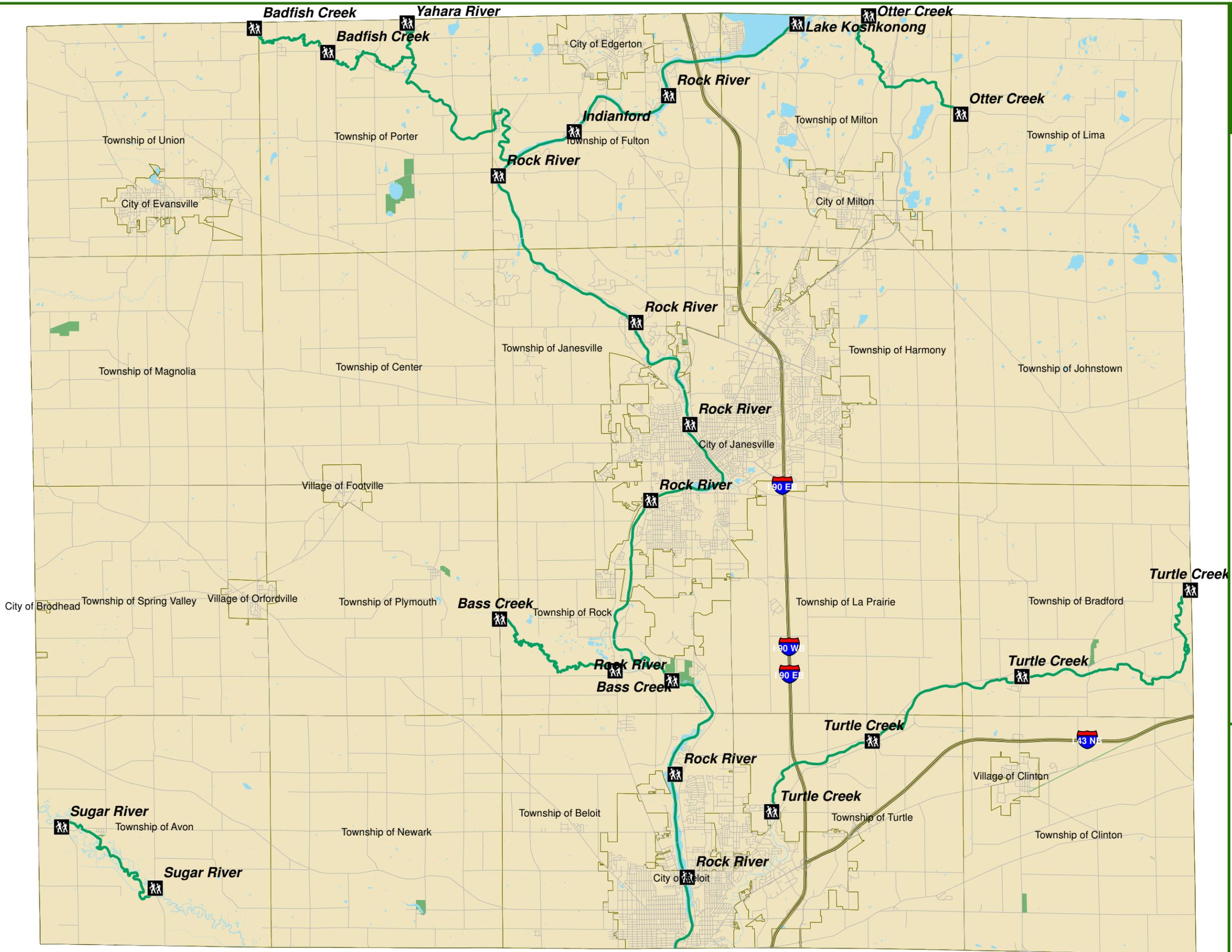
Legend

- Proposed Ice Age Trail
- Proposed Ice Age Trail Connector
- Existing Ice Age Trail
- Ice Age Trail Study Corridor
- Leased Public DNR Land
- Bodies of Water
- Rock County
- Townships



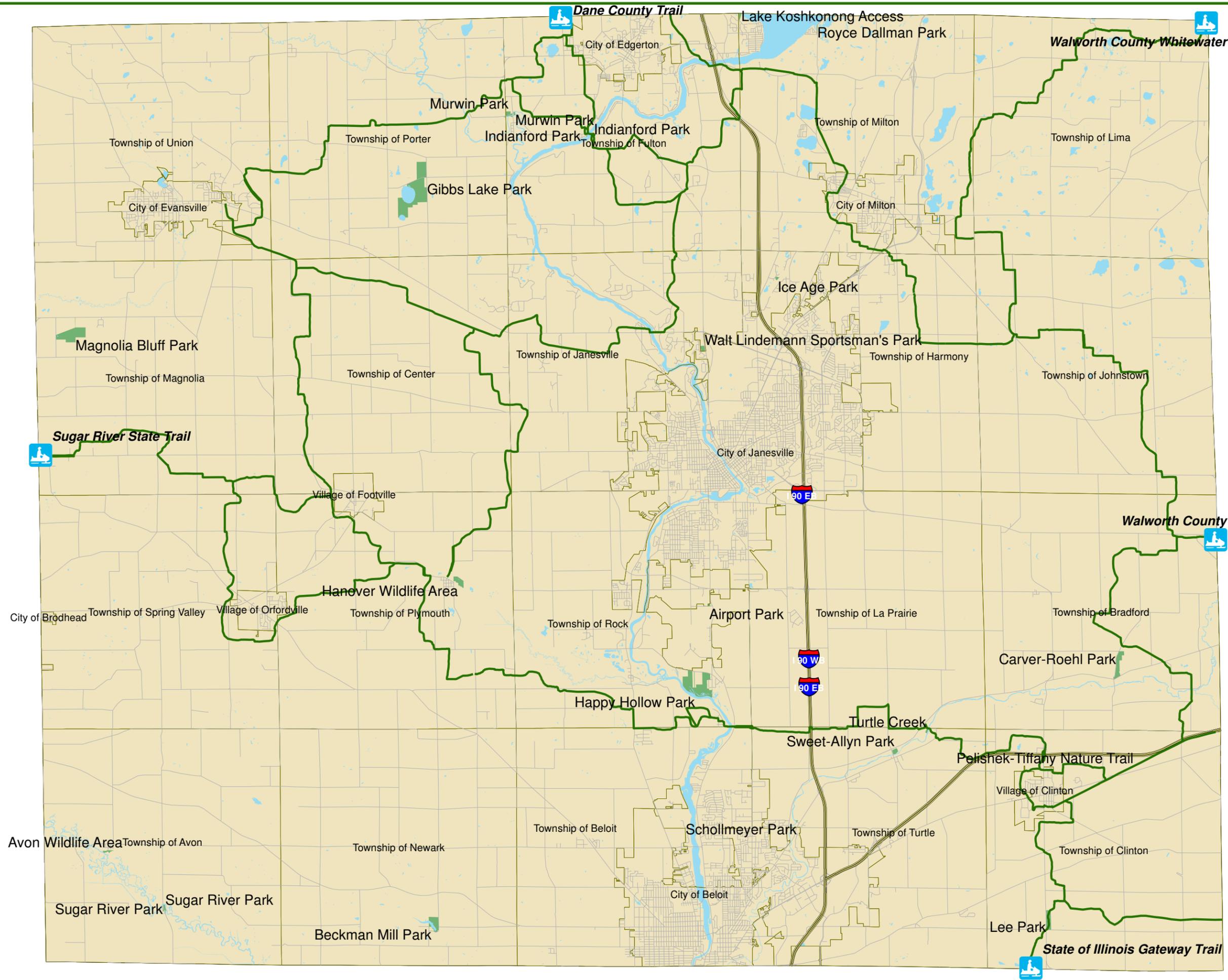
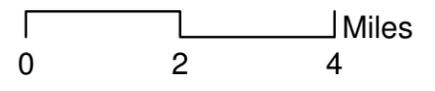
Legend

-  River Trail Access
-  River Trail
-  Townships
-  Bodies of Water
-  Parks
-  Rock County



Legend

-  TrailConnections
-  Snowmobile Trails
-  Townships
-  Bodies of Water
-  Parks
-  Rock County

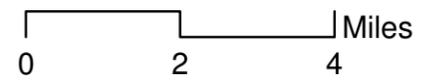
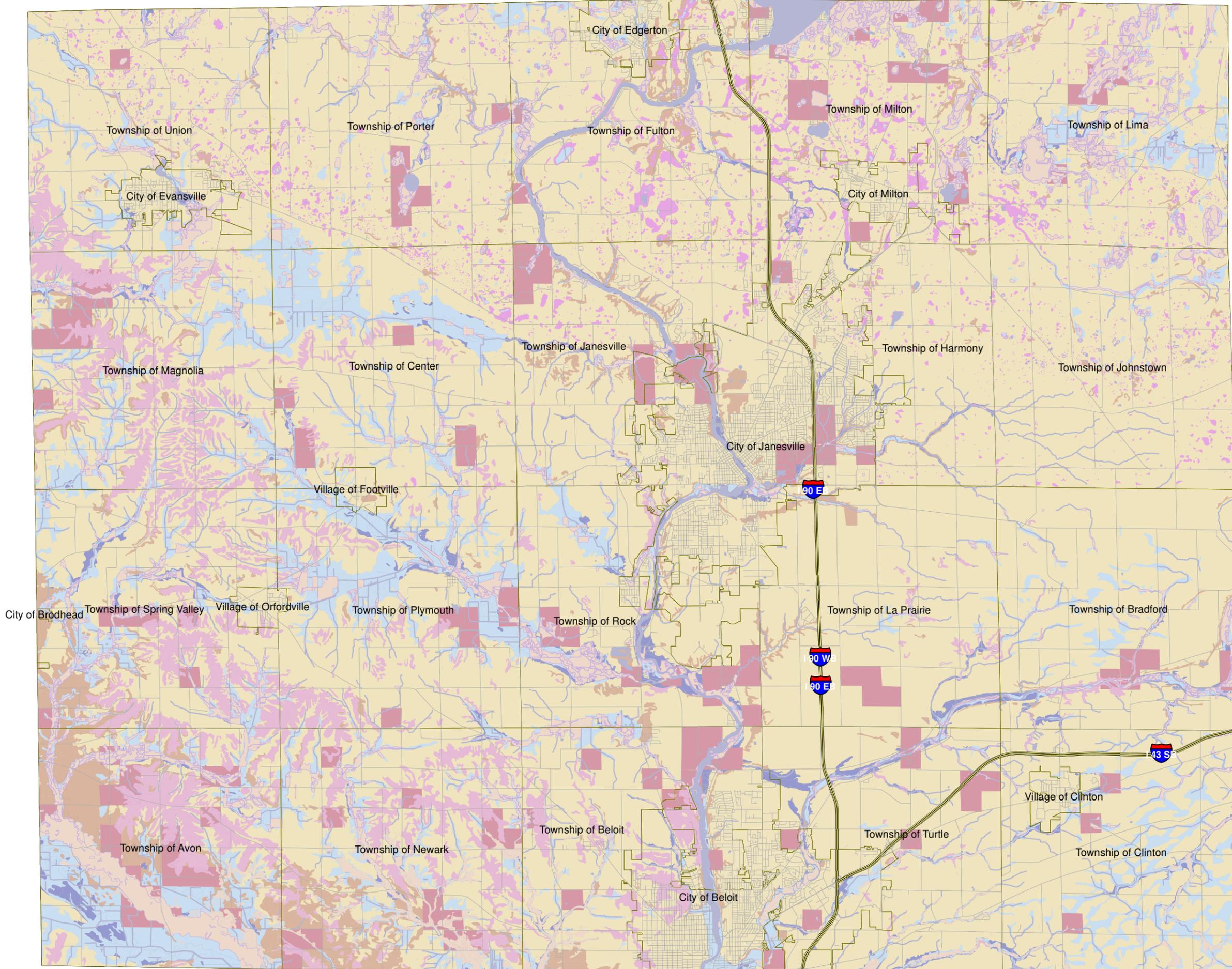


# Rock County Wisconsin

## Environmentally Sensitive Areas

### Legend

- Bedrock <= 20 inches
- FEMA Floodplains
- GWRecharge
- Hydic No Inclusions
- Kettle
- Natural Areas
- Shoreland Setback
- Wetland Buffer
- Wetlands
- Bodies of Water
- Rock County
- Townships



### Wisconsin County Parks Introduction

To understand the role of the Rock County Park System should play in providing parks and recreation services it is useful to understand the role that county park systems in general play. It is also important to understand how county park services are different from national, state or municipal services.

National parks are massive tracts of land that serve as vacation destinations or wilderness areas. They are run by the Department of Interior of the United States government, with most of them in the western part of the country.

State parks exist as conservation areas, scenic drives, or as weekend getaways, typically away from population centers. State parks are often designed to encourage tourism, but their primary purpose is to serve residents of their respective states.

Municipal parks exist to serve residents of municipalities, sometimes on an hourly basis, as hosts for active athletic or recreation programs. This leaves the function of county park systems to fill in the gaps that municipalities and state parks do not serve.

The gaps can include serving a municipal function in portions of the county with municipalities too small to have enough resources to provide parks. County parks also provide larger conservation areas that municipalities cannot provide, or tourist venues for people outside the county.

In order to compare the Rock County park system to other county park systems, it is important to establish bases of comparison. The most reasonable bases of comparison include population, location and structure of government.

Population and location are straightforward enough. But structure of government needs to be explained. In states like Ohio and Illinois, county park services are delivered by special districts, separate from general purpose county governments which provide police and public works services.

In states like Indiana and Wisconsin, county park services are provided by the general purpose county governments that provide police and public works services. In these states county park services are provided by parks departments or divisions of public works departments.

Wisconsin County Departments which are part of their general purpose county governments will be compared to Rock County first because they are more similar in terms of competition for county funding. In this analysis, since other Wisconsin county park systems should be considered relevant in terms of location and structure of government, Wisconsin county park systems of similar population would be considered the most relevant. The following analysis was provided in 2009 and has been updated. It remains relevant in this plan as a basis of comparison with other counties in Wisconsin.

### Wisconsin County Park Systems

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services maintains a website which provides population estimates of county populations and updates them on a regular basis. This analysis searched that website and found nine counties which had populations of between 115,000 and 195,000 as of 2013. Comparable counties were selected based on location within the State of Wisconsin as well as population.

To perform meaningful case study analysis, Public Research Group selected four smaller and four larger Wisconsin counties to compare the Rock County park system to. The distribution is presented in the following table:

#### *Most Comparable Counties in Wisconsin*

Sheboygan	115,266
La Crosse	116,466
Washington	132,804
Marathon	134,961
Rock	160,331
Kenosha	167,314
Winnebago	168,539
Outagamie	179,830
Racine	195,224

In terms of relevant data to compare to Rock County, the number of parks that the comparable systems operate, the total of park acreage that they maintain, and their total operating and capital budgets to do so would be the most important variables to measure. The following table presents findings gathered from phone calls to agencies.

County	Population	Parks	Total Acreage	Operating Budget	Capital
Sheboygan	115,266	1	304	N/A	N/A
La Crosse	116,466	5	1136	\$774,700	\$125,000
Washington	132,804	11	1200	\$1,300,000	\$168,000
Marathon	134,961	19	4077	\$2,600,000	N/A
Rock	160,331	19	935	\$560,000	\$80,000
Kenosha	167,314	7	1725	\$1,600,000	\$512,000
Winnebago	168,539	1	270	N/A	N/A
Outagamie	119,830	9	900	\$750,000	\$185,000
Racine	195,224	25	2698	\$1,800,000	\$190,000

It should be noted that the table above only includes expenditures from the counties park system operations. It does not include large or medium size facility operations that some of these counties operate, which Rock County does not. For instance, the Kenosha County Department operates a golf course with a budget of \$3.2 million per year.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The Racine County Park Department operates several other facilities, including two golf courses with combined budgets of over \$4 million per year. Winnebago County operates a convention center with a budget of over \$1.5 million per year and Marathon County operates an ice rink with a budget of over \$500,000.

In order to compare these counties to Rock County, which has no such similar facilities, golf courses and ice rinks were deleted from consideration in the table. But it should be noted that other counties in Wisconsin do far more than just provide parks and trails.

### Averages

The previous table shows a number of phenomena. One phenomenon is that Sheboygan and Winnebago counties only operate one park. In both cases the county rolled the park budget into the public works department, making it difficult for anyone at those counties to report how much money they spent to maintain or develop that one park.

Considering the budgets of the six counties that did segregate their budgets from other departments in the county, the six comparable counties averaged \$1,470,783 in operating expenditures per year. This average is nearly \$1 million more per year spent on park department operating budgets than Rock County's \$560,000.

On a per capita basis this computes to \$3.52 per Rock County resident to provide park services from its operating budget. Considering the average population of the six counties reporting their operating budgets is 151,000, per capita expenditures from the six reporting counties is \$9.74, nearly three times the \$3.52 per capita operating expenditures budgeted by Rock County. The average capital expenditures by the five counties reporting capital expenditures were \$236,000 year.

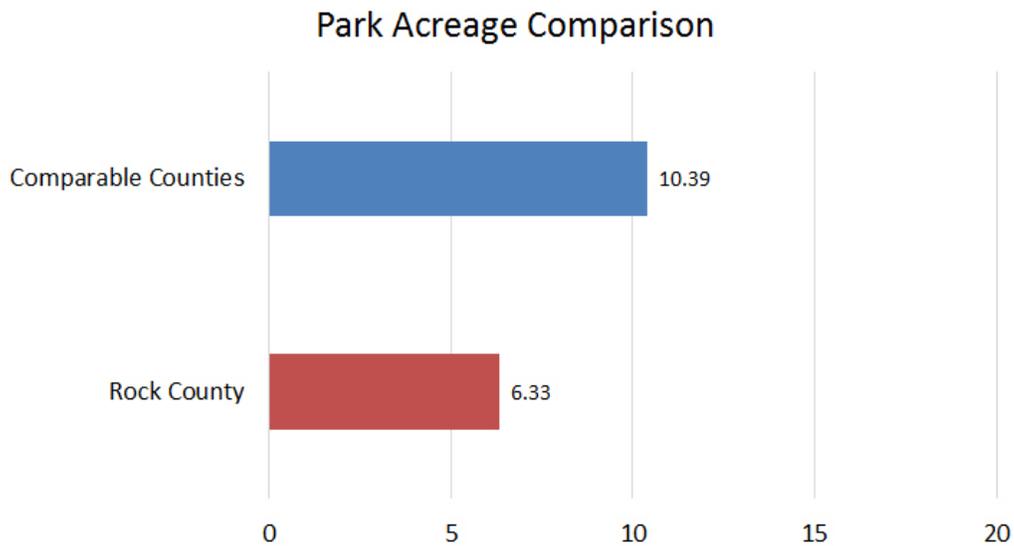
This computes to \$1.52 per person per resident of the five reporting counties, about three times the \$.50 spent per resident Rock County spends for capital improvements. Other relevant averages include the number of parks per thousand residents and the number of acres of parks per thousand people.

The previous table also shows that Rock County has 17 total park sites. This compares to an average of 10 parks provided by the eight similar sized counties. One observation is that Sheboygan and Winnebago counties only provide one park each. This lowers the average.

In terms of total acres within those parks, including Sheboygan and Winnebago counties, the average acreages operated by the eight Wisconsin counties is 1,539 acres. This is about 50% more acres than the 1,007 operated by Rock County.

On a per capita basis, with Rock County having a population of 159,000 and providing 1,007 acres of parks, its per capita acreage computes to 6.33 acres per thousand residents. Considering that the eight reporting counties averaging 148,125 residents, their capita park acreage averaged 10.39 acres per thousand.

This difference is presented on the following graphic.



### Amenities

Another level of comparison is county park system amenities. These are nearly impossible to quantify with any meaning, so this study won't even attempt to do so. Rather, this analysis will present the ones that are readily available, either through website analysis or phone interviews.

For instance, beginning with the smallest county in the previous table, La Crosse County operates campgrounds, nature centers, and a miniature golf course. As mentioned Marathon County has an indoor ice rink, Kenosha and Racine counties have golf courses. In additions, Washington County has a golf course and historical sites, and Marathon County operates a shooting range.

Rock County in contrast has none of these amenities. Rock County does operate equestrian, biking, walking and snowmobile trails, boat launches, fishing areas and a swimming beach, which nearly every comparable system also operates.

## The Midwestern Study

It is possible to corroborate the data from the previously mentioned nine Wisconsin counties comparable to Rock County. In February 2008, George Williams College (GWC) of Aurora University conducted an analysis of the levels of services provided by county park systems in the Midwest. Twenty county park departments and park districts volunteered to respond to the survey.

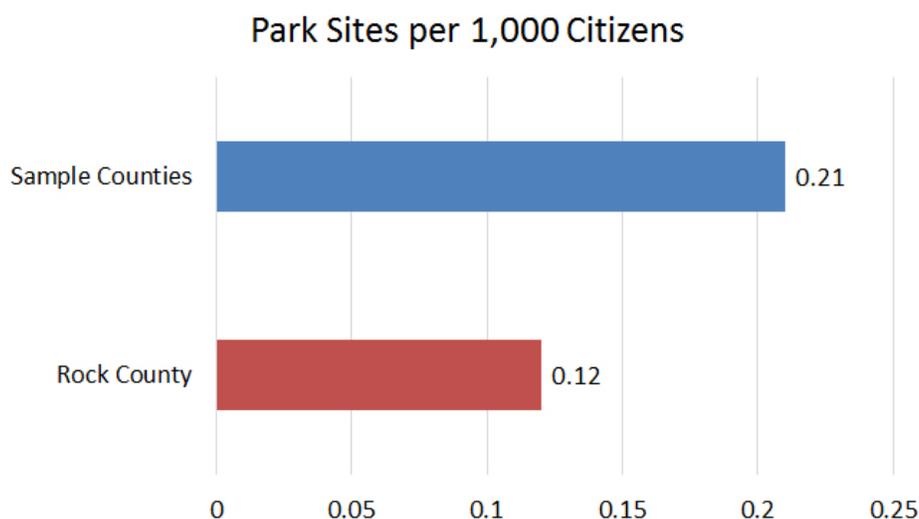
The counties that responded did so anonymously. But most of them indicated within which state they resided, shown in the table below.

State	Percent
Illinois	20%
Indiana	15%
Missouri	5%
Ohio	40%
Wisconsin	20%

The table shows that eight of the responding counties were from Ohio, four were from Wisconsin, four from Illinois, three from Indiana, and one from Missouri. While the responses of twenty agencies do not represent a generalizable statistical sample, they do provide a basis for case study comparison, allowing the services provided by the Rock County Park System to be placed in a perspective beyond Wisconsin.

There were several bases of comparison between the 20 county park systems. The first that will be analyzed in this report will be population, to see if the agencies serve populations of equivalent size.

The second basis of comparison will be park sites that the county agency provides, the third will be and the fourth will be the funding that it provides for operating and capital budgets. To maintain a level of comparison, park sites, park acreage and expenditures will all be controlled for population.



## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The findings suggest that Rock County, while above the sample Midwestern counties in population, is below the sample Midwestern counties in terms of the number of park sites it provides.

Another basis of comparison that is commonly used in parks and recreation is the statistic of acres of park land per thousand that an agency provides.

Again, not counting the trail system, the Rock County Park System maintains about 1,000 total acres of park land. This computes to 6.549 acres per thousand people living in the county. Comparatively, the acres per thousand provided by the sample of Midwestern county park agencies is presented in the table below.

Number of Responding Agencies	Park Acreage per 1,000
20	22.7

The table shows that Midwestern county park agencies average 22.72 acres per thousand residents, nearly four times the acres per thousand that the Rock County Park System provides. Considering the operating budget that Rock County and the Midwestern agencies spend to support their park system, the typical statistical comparison in parks and recreation is the amount of the total operating budget (excluding capital expenditures) divided by the population of the county.

Based on its operating budget of approximately \$550,000, it was determined that the Rock County Park System spends about \$3.60 per resident on to maintain its parks and trails. Comparatively, the Midwestern study showed that county agency budgets average \$2,279,873 as shown in the following table.

	Number of Agencies Responding	Dollar Amount
Total operating expenditures	19	\$2,279,873
Expenditures per resident	19	\$28.27

The table also shows that the average expenditure by Midwestern county park systems responding to the survey is \$28.27 per resident, nearly eight times the per capita expenditures by Rock County.

**Tax Expenditures per Resident**



## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Many of the Midwestern county park agencies were able to report capital expenditures. The average is in the table below.

	<b>Number Responding</b>	<b>Average</b>
Total Capital Expenditures	18	\$1,895,914

The table shows that the average annual expenditures by county governments on their park systems was reported to be \$1,895,914 per year in the Midwestern survey. In terms of per capita capital expenditures by the Midwestern counties responding to the survey, the following table shows the agency average.

	<b>Number Responding</b>	<b>Average</b>
Capital Expenditures per Capita	18	\$10.35

The table shows that the per capita expenditures in the responding Midwestern counties was \$10.35 per resident, in line with the \$9.74 spent by Wisconsin counties similar in population to Rock County.

### Conclusions

The conclusion from this analysis is that, compared to Wisconsin counties of similar population, Rock County provides fewer parks on average and spends less to maintain and improve them. Not much has changed in the past five years. Even though Rock County has made great strides in improving its existing park system, it remains far behind other counties in terms of parks and recreations services.

It's not that there should be a contest as to which county is number one in park and recreation services. On the other hand, it would be difficult to assume that Rock County residents have any lower level of needs than residents of other Wisconsin or Midwest counties. The needs analysis in the upcoming chapter supports the hypothesis that Rock County residents have the need for parks and recreation services.

### Chapter 12.3- Needs Assessment and Public Input

#### Community Survey

##### Methodology

The quantitative data for this 2015 POROS Plan for Rock County, Wisconsin was gathered using three data collection techniques. The three data gathering methodologies were mail, telephone and email surveys. The reason the three were selected was that mail and telephone surveys are somewhat biased toward older respondents and email surveys are somewhat biased toward younger respondents.

By combining the responses, the sample is more representative of the entire population of Rock County than it would be if only one or two of the methodologies were selected.

Mail surveys were sent to 2,000 randomly selected households; 475 were returned for a response rate of 23.75%, considered high in social science research. The mail survey is in the Appendix of this plan.

The pool for telephone surveys was a different data base of 500 randomly selected households; 147 surveys were completed from the first 300 households called, providing the portion of total responses necessary to make the combined sample representative of the entire population of the county. The telephone survey was identical in its sequencing of questions to the mail survey.

In addition, an email survey was sent out to a third randomly selected data base; 133 email survey responses were received. Email surveys were sent out until the entire sample was representative of the entire county population. Likewise, the email survey was identical to the mail and telephone surveys in its sequencing of questions.

It is important to understand that all three of the data bases were separate so that no one individual household could answer more than one of the three surveys. It is also statistically important that the 755 combined survey responses provide a 95% level of confidence that the sample is within a 3.5% margin of error in its representation of the entire 160,331 people of Rock County.

It is also important to note that, of the 755 returned surveys, not every question was answered by every respondent. This is quite common in social science research; however, the vast majority of respondents answered all the questions

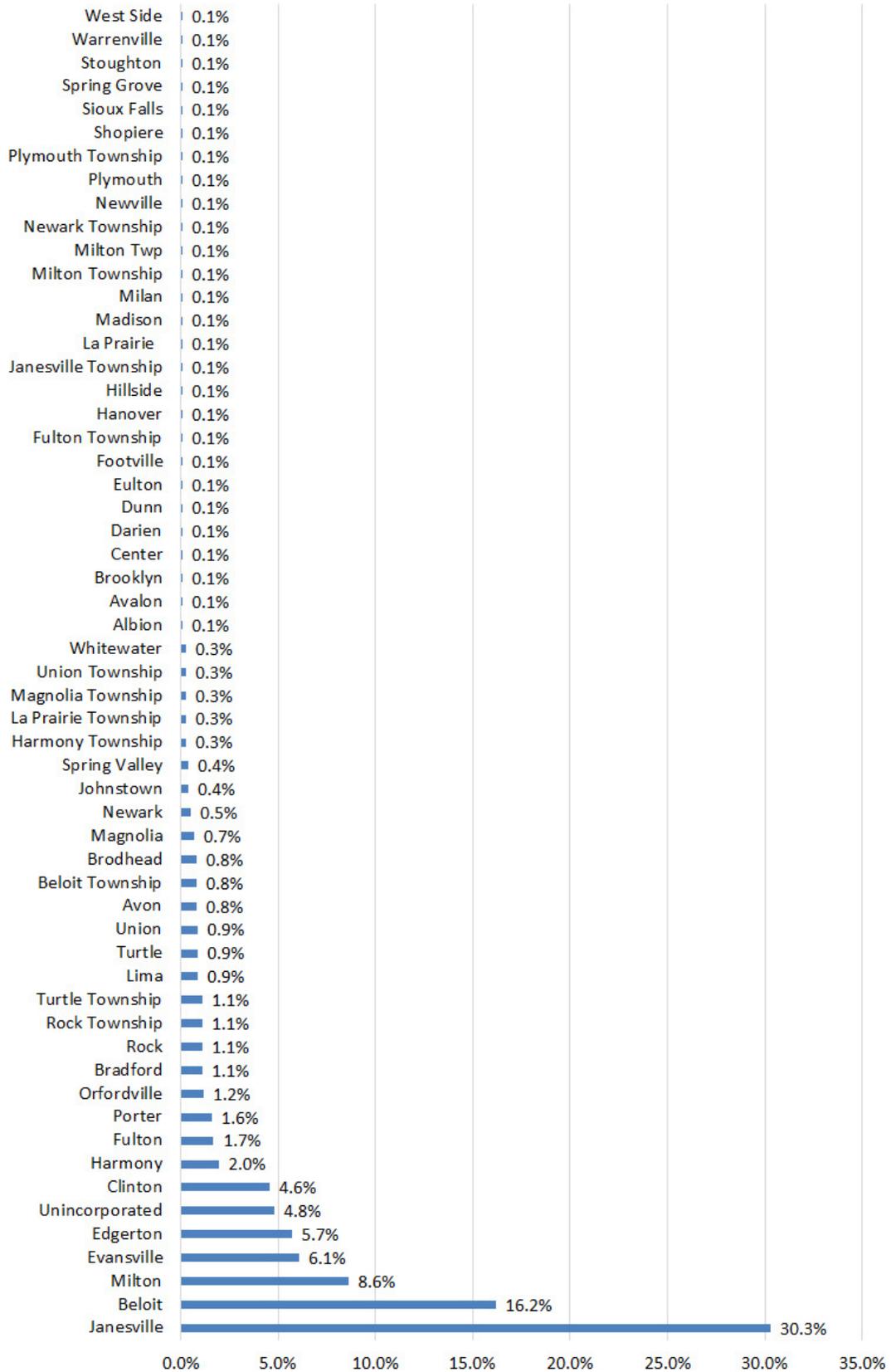
A dimension of the data analysis is comparing results of the 2009 community survey, which was used to develop Rock County Parks System's 2009 POROS Plan. Comparisons are included in this report when the questions are the same and when they can advance the 2014 plan.

### Demographics

Where respondents live is provided in the following table, based on how they answered the first question, "In which community or town do you reside?" Identifying where respondents live, illustrates that the sample is representative of the entire Rock County population by location not just age group.

The graph on the following page shows the unedited responses of those people answering the question. The graph shows the number of respondents who said they lived in a particular community or township and the percent of total responses.

## Community of Residents of Respondents



## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

For instance, 122 respondents said they lived in Beloit, which calculates to be 16.2% of all respondents to the survey. Likewise, 36 respondent households said they lived in unincorporated areas of the county, 4.8% of the sample. These percentages show the sample is representative of the county.

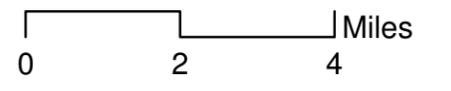
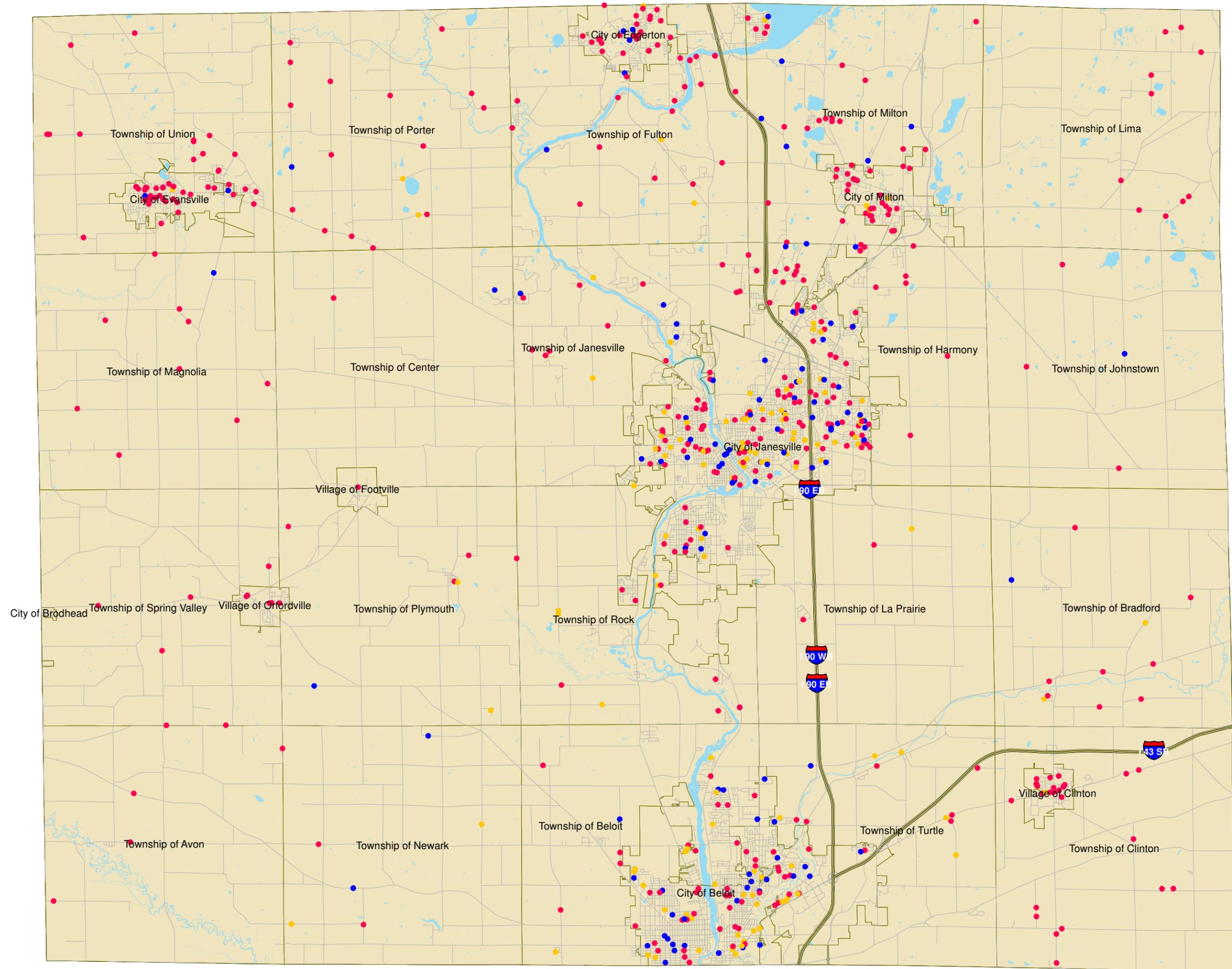
Another representation of where respondents lived is in the following map, which shows the survey responses by location. The map shows that respondents were concentrated in higher population municipalities than rural areas, another indication that the sample is representative of the county.

# Rock County Wisconsin

## Completed Surveys

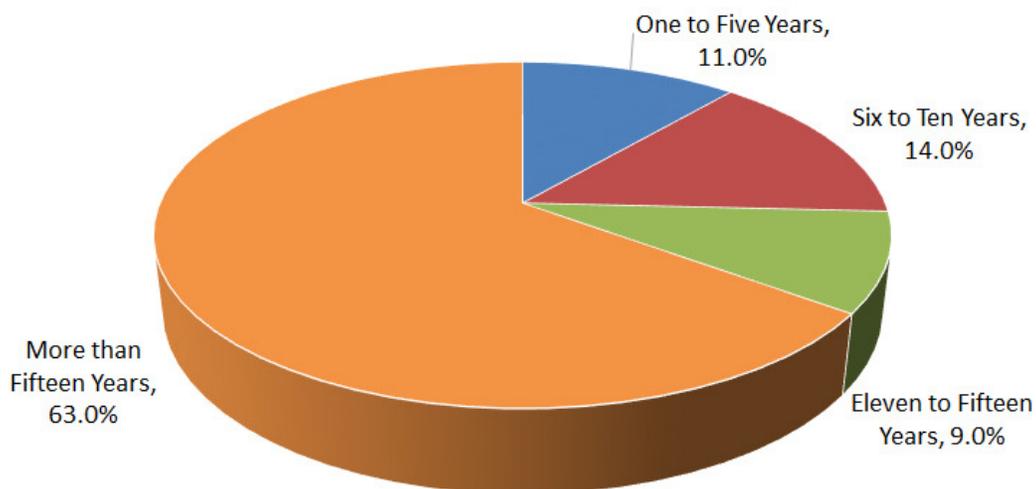
### Legend

- Email
- Mail
- Phone
- Townships
- ☁ Bodies of Water
- ⊕ Rock County



Question 2 asked respondents how long they had lived in Rock County. Respondents were provided the choices 1-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, or more than 15 years.

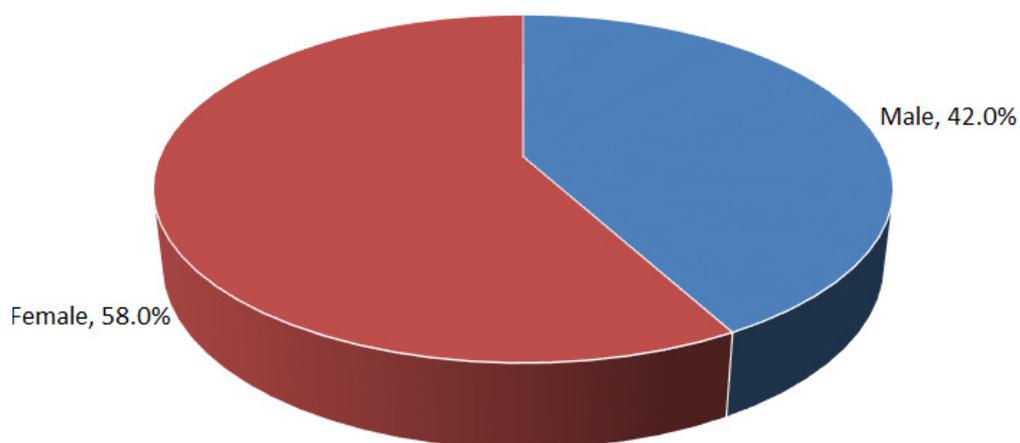
### Length of Residency in Rock County



The data shows that 11% of respondents lived in Rock County from one to five years, 14%, from six to 10 year; 9% from 11 to 15 years, and 63% more than 15 years, very similar to 2010 Census data.

Question 21 asked respondents if they were male or female. Of those who answered the question, the following graph shows the percentages.

### Gender of Respondents



The data shows that 42% of respondents were male and 58% female, all 18 years of age or older. This percentage is somewhat higher than the Census data estimates of 51.5% females and 48.5% of males 18 years or older.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

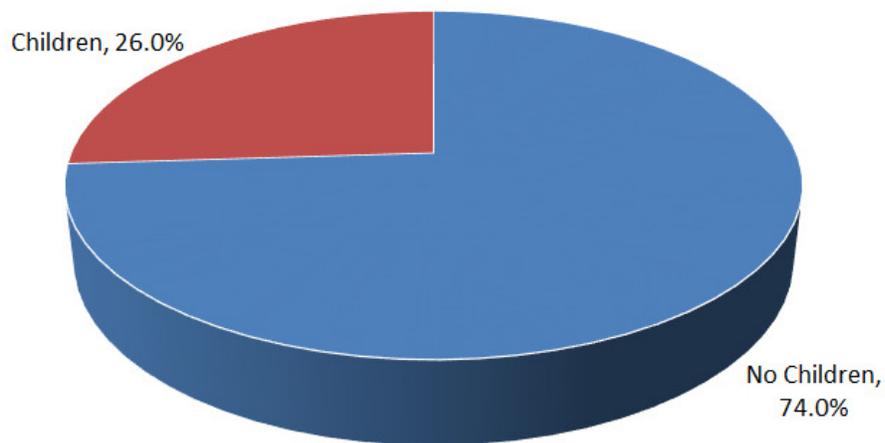
Question 20 asked respondents to list the ages of those people living in their household. The following table shows the average age of respondents, considering that all were 18 years of age or older.

The table shows the average age of respondents to be 57.63 years of age, compared to Census estimates (by gender) in the following graph.

	Number Responding	Average Age
Respondent	675	57.63

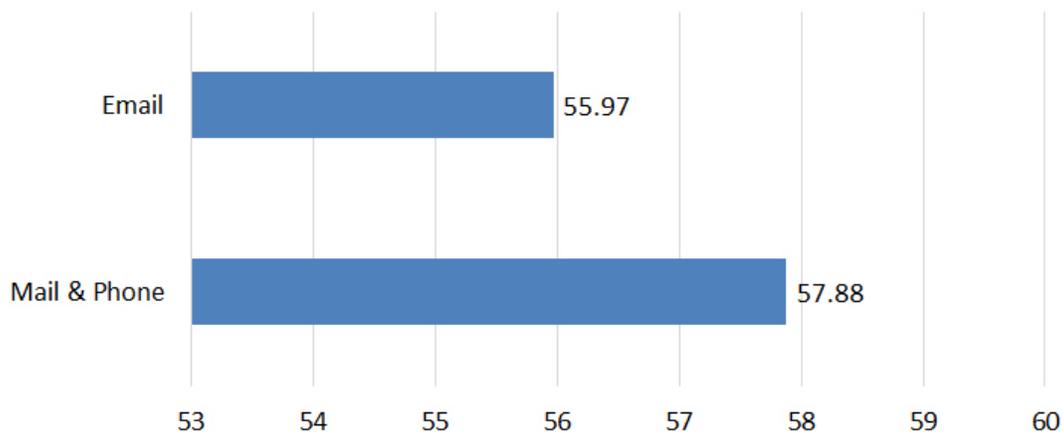
Considering the percentage of households with children, the following chart shows that 26% percent of respondents had children living in their household. Census data is very similar.

### Households with Children



The following presentation discusses the hypothesis that email data is gathered from younger respondents.

### Average Age by Survey Type

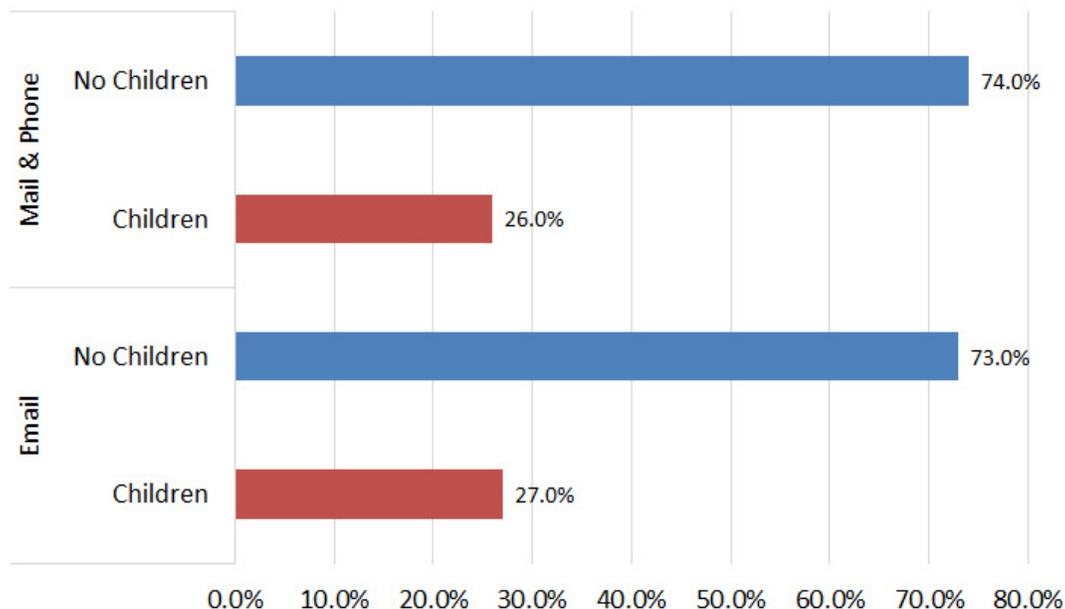


## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The data shows that the average age of email respondents was only two years younger than combined mail and telephone respondents, suggesting the difference is marginally meaningful.

Likewise, the data shows there were slightly higher percentages of households with children from the email data compared to the combined mail and telephone data, probably not meaningful.

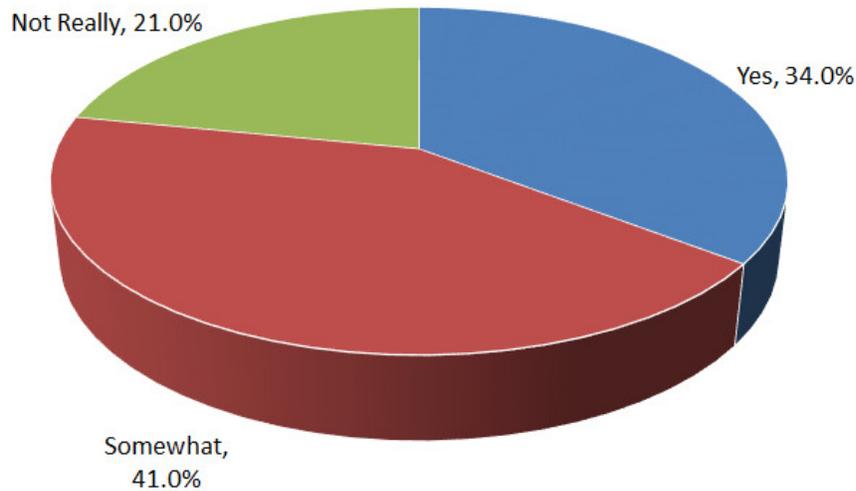
### Households with Children by Survey Type



## Familiarity with the Rock County Parks System

Question 3 asked respondents if they were familiar with the Rock County Parks System. Respondents were provided the choices of yes, somewhat or not really.

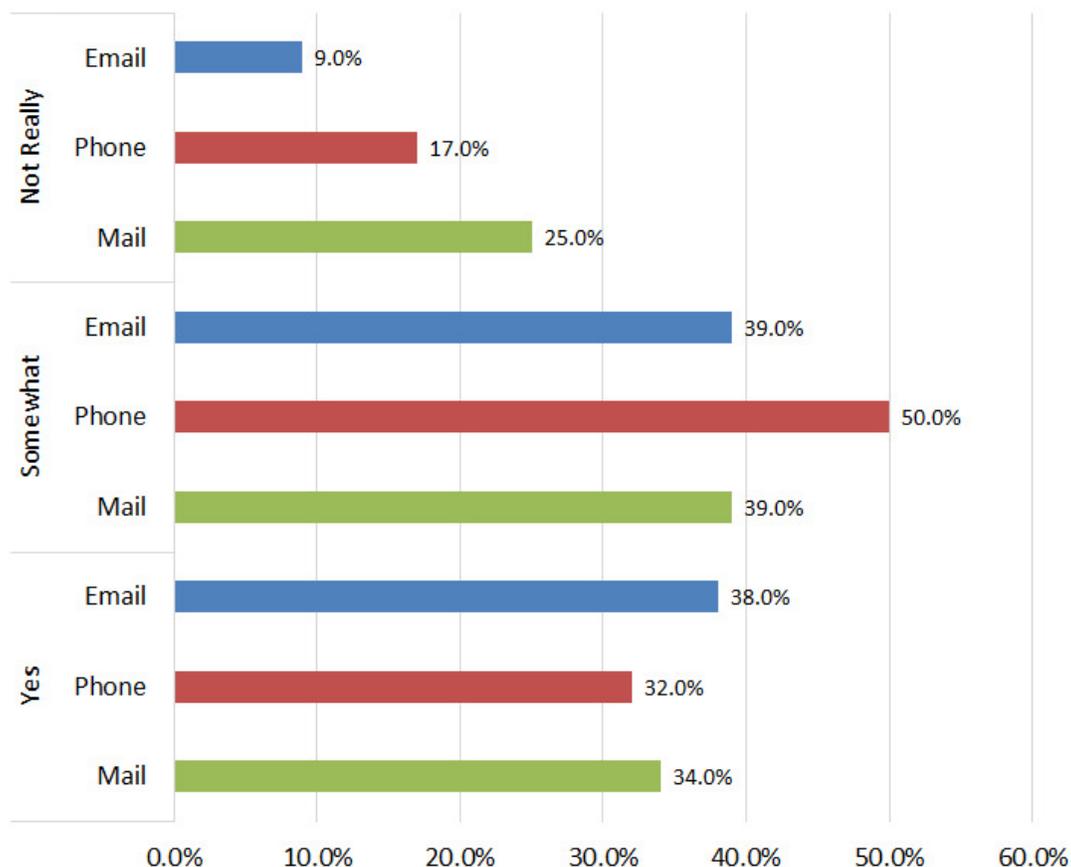
Familiarity with Rock County Parks System



Thirty-four percent said they were familiar with the parks system, 41% said they were somewhat familiar, 21% said they were not really familiar, and 4% didn't answer the question.

Considering familiarity by data gathering type, the graph on the following page compares mail to telephone to email respondents.

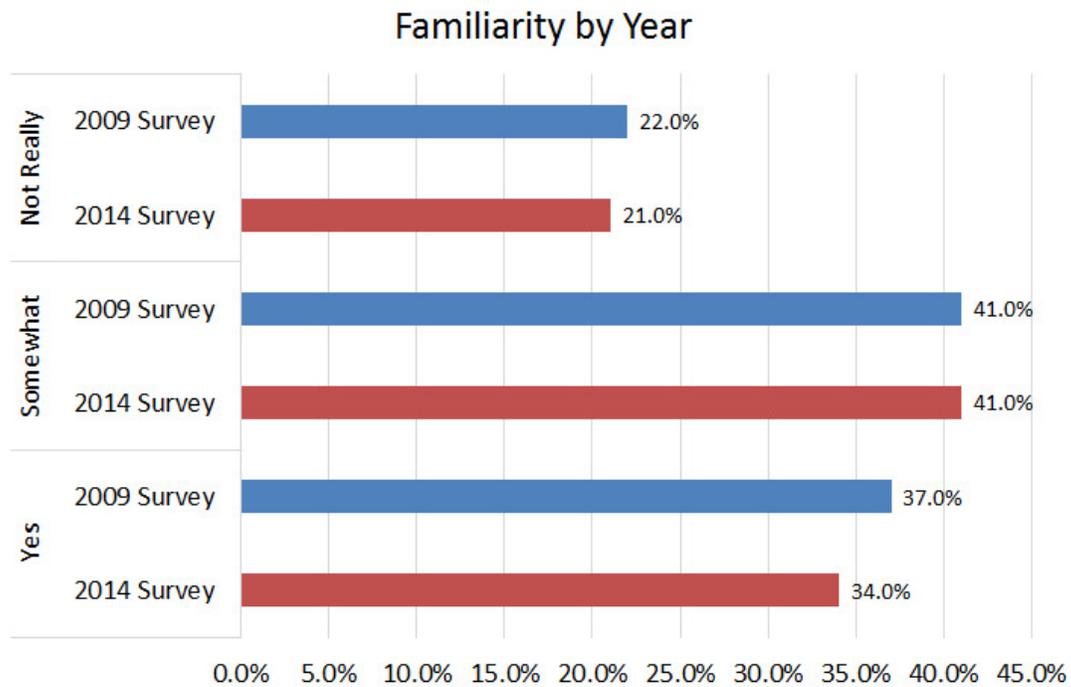
Familiarity by Survey Type



The graph above shows there are differences in the level of familiarity between mail, telephone and email respondents. Seventy-three percent of mail respondents were either familiar or somewhat familiar, compared to 82% of telephone respondents and 77% of email respondents.

The findings suggest that data gathering technique does make a difference, probably based on younger respondents paying more attention to information about the county parks system. However, there may be other factors at work.

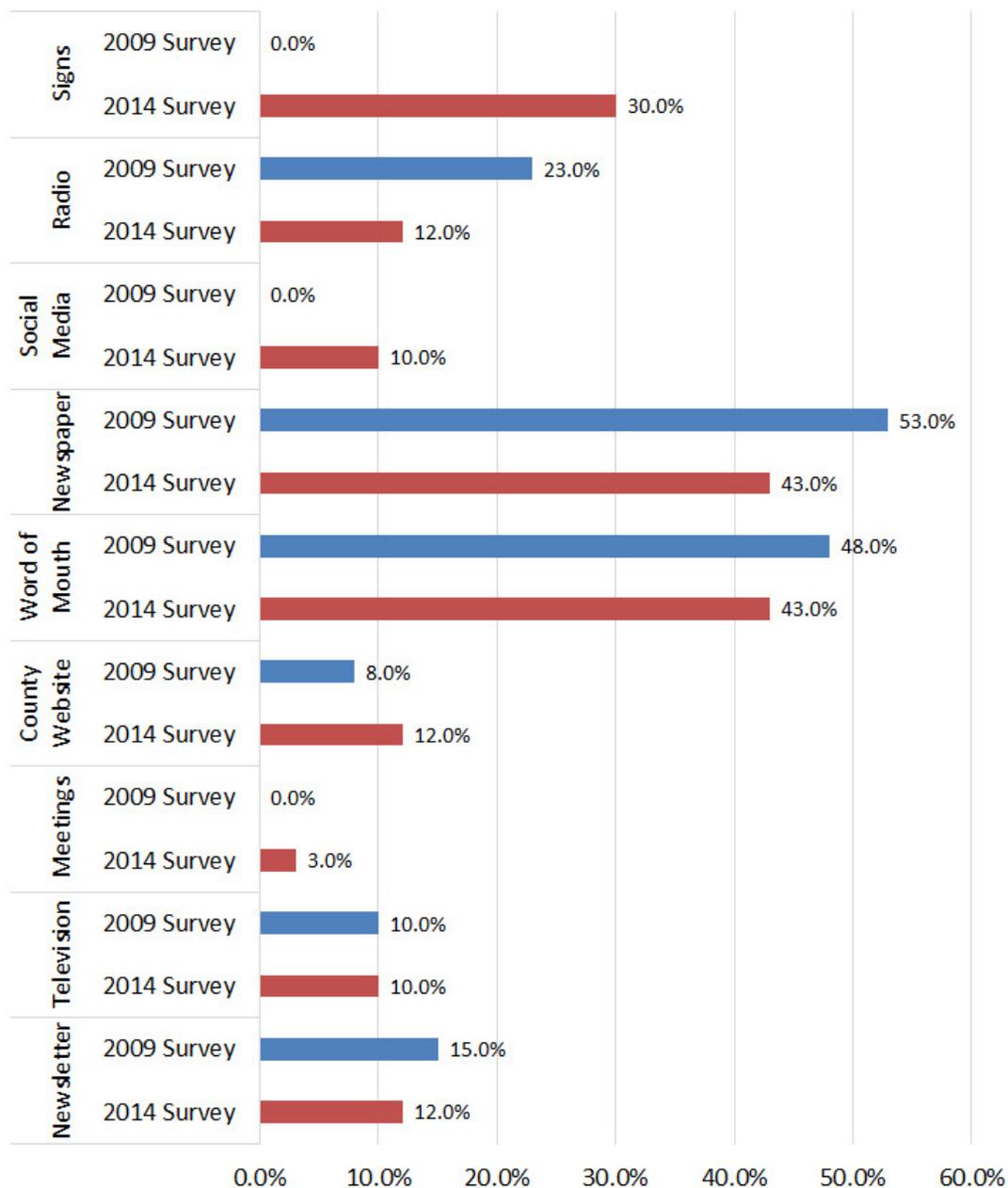
In 2009, a community needs assessment was conducted to gather data for the 2009 Rock County Parks System POROS Plan. In that study, an identical question was asked, although only mail and telephone data were gathered. The following graph compares the responses between the 2014 and 2009 study using the combined data for both studies.



The graph shows that familiarity has remained relatively stable over the past five years with about the same percentage of respondents being not really familiar with the county parks system and exactly the same percentage being somewhat familiar. The percentage of those familiar was slightly higher in 2009.

Question 3a asked respondents how they periodically heard about the Rock County Parks System. Respondents were provided seven choices of responses, including newsletter, the county website, newspapers, radio, television, word of mouth, social media, signs, and meetings. The graph on the following page compares responses to those from the 2009 study with the understanding that fewer media choices were provided in 2009 because choices like the county website, meetings and signage were either not available or not asked then. Open ended responses are in the Appendix of this plan.

Media Outlets Used to Hear About Parks by Year

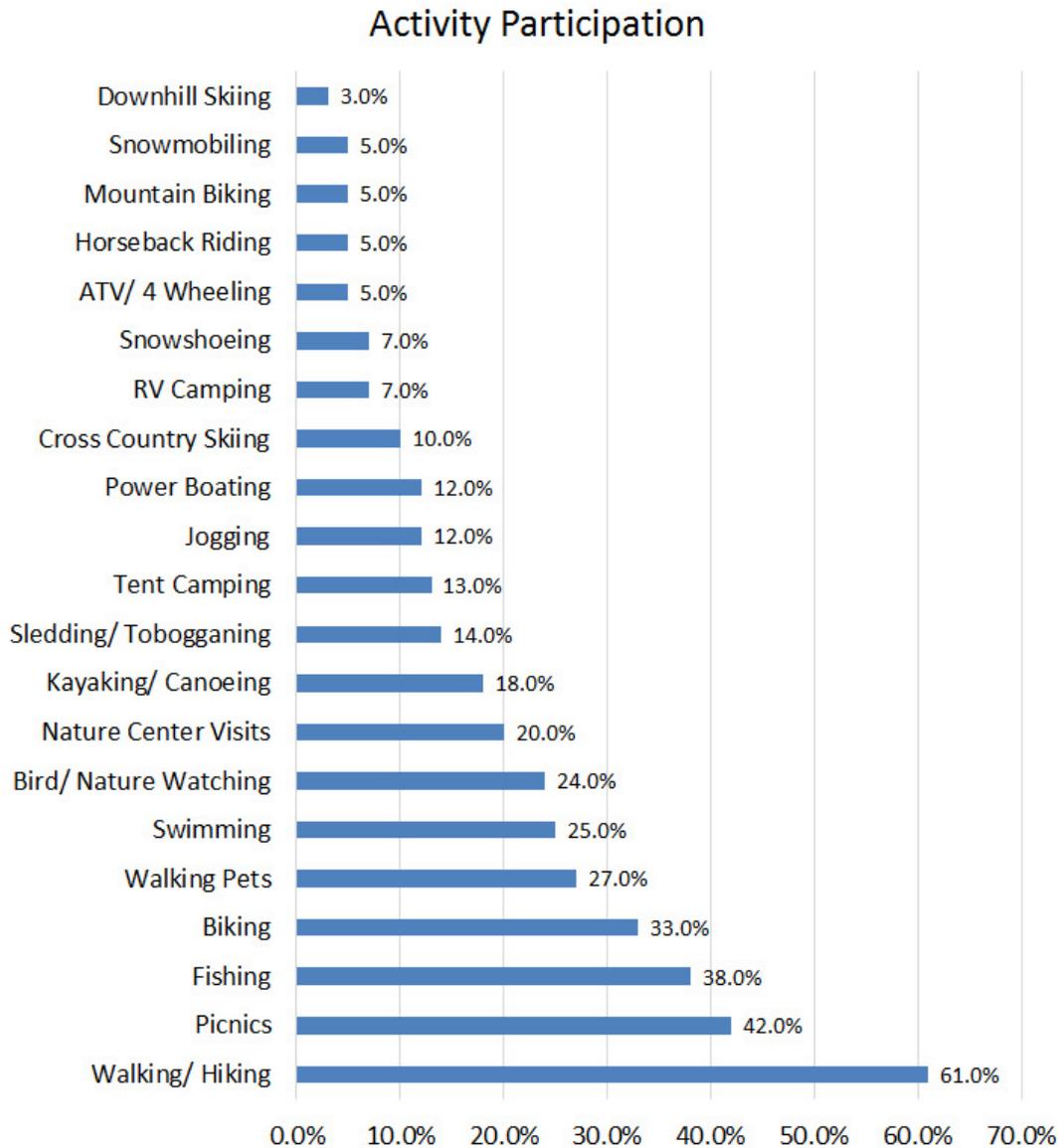


Most notably, hearing about the Rock County Park System through radio and newspapers was down rather significantly in 2014 compared to 2009. This could be attributed to more negative reporting of news stories in 2009, and even though reducing negative stories is a desirable outcome, it does reduce the visibility of the agency. But a bright spot was that website use was also up in 2014.

However, the data suggests that the high percentage of those learning about the parks system through improved signage has probably been helpful in improving the visibility of the agency in a positive way and has made up for the decline in radio and newspaper publicity.

## Participation in Recreation Activities

Question 4 asked respondents in which recreational activities they or family members participated within the Rock County Park System. A list of choices was provided along with an open ended opportunity to provide their own activities. The following table shows the choices that were selected by respondents in this 2014 study.



The data shows the most popular recreational activities were walking and hiking with 61% of those responding saying they did so at Rock County parks. The second highest activity was picnicking at 42% of responses, followed by fishing at 38%.

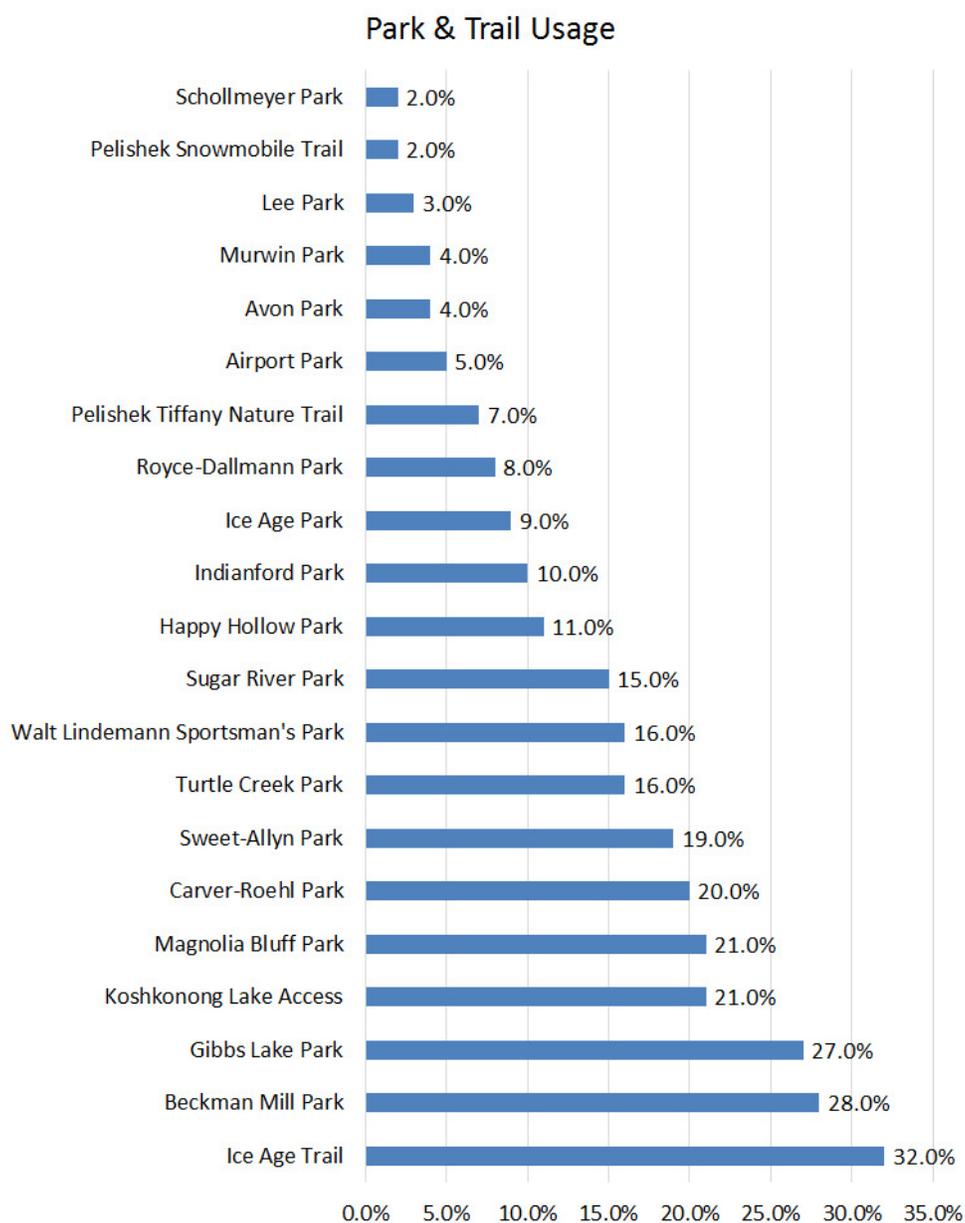
Other significant activities in which respondents participate were biking (33%), walking pets (27%), swimming (25%), bird and nature watching (24%), and nature center visits (20%). Responses to the open ended choice are in the Appendix.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The findings suggest the residents of Rock County are highly engaged in recreational activities offered by the Rock County Park System with the implication that recreational services make a significant impact on residents' quality of life.

### Park Usage

Question 6 asked respondents which of the Rock County parks and trails they or a family member visited. The following graph shows the percentages.

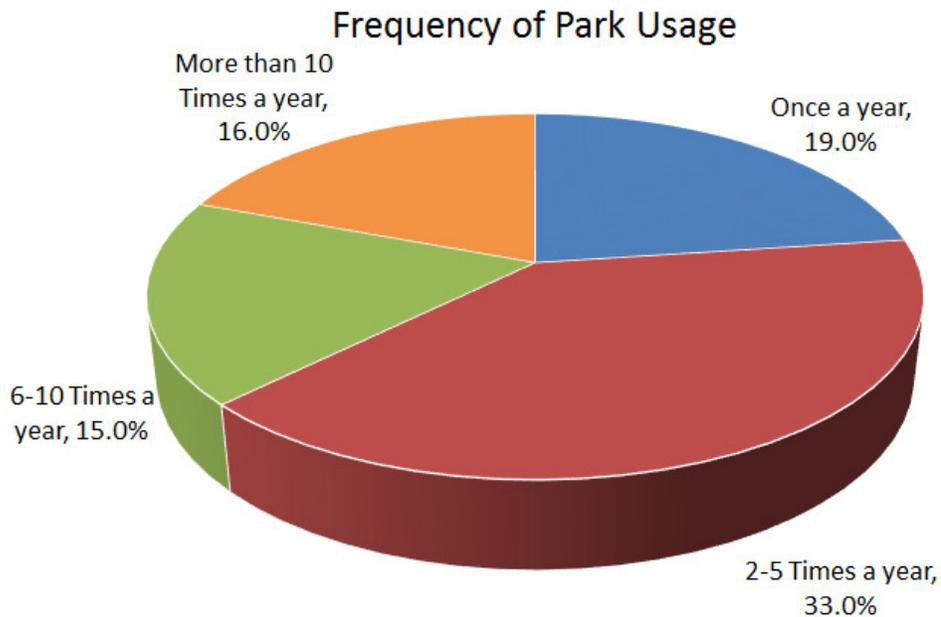


The graph shows that the most widely used Rock County Park is Ice Age Trail, with 32% of respondent households saying they used that trail. Beckman Mill was used by 28% of respondent households, Gibbs Lake Park by 27%, with 21% of household respondents saying they used Koshkonong or Magnolia Bluff parks.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The data suggests that, just like recreation programs, park usage engages a large percentage of Rock County residents, especially when considered cumulatively.

The frequency of park and trail usage is asked in Question 7, where respondents were provided the choices of saying they used the facilities once a year, two to five times a year, six to 10 times a year, or more than 10 times a year.



The graph shows that a high percentage of respondent households said they used the parks frequently, meaning more than once a year. Overall, 64% of respondent said their household was a frequent Rock County Park System user, suggesting that parks and trail services are important to a majority of the Rock County population.

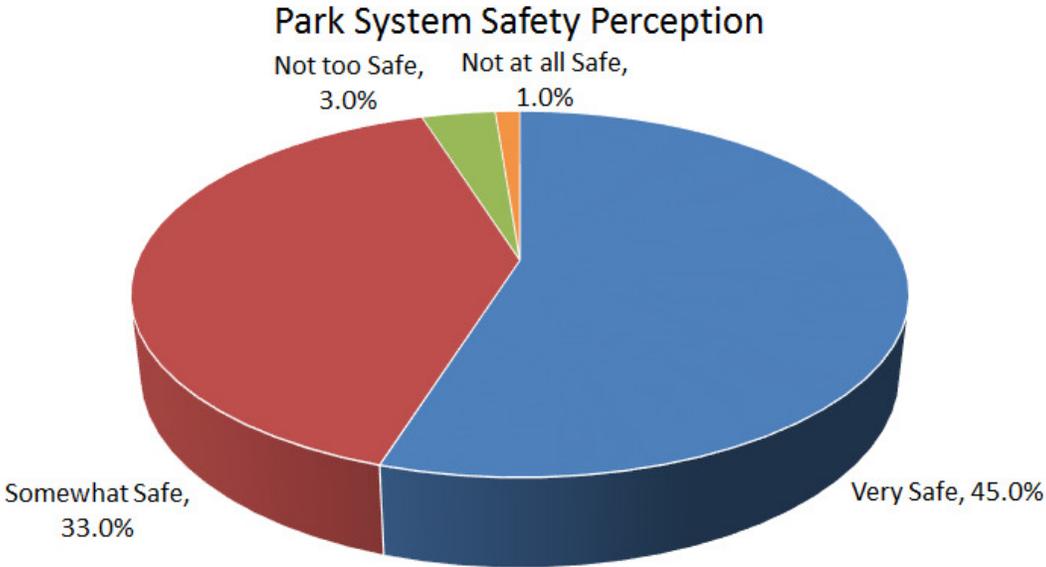
Question 8 asks how respondents get to Rock County parks and trails. Respondents were provided the choices of saying they walked, rode their bikes or drove their cars.



Of those answering the question, 12% said they walked, 15% said they rode their bikes and 79% said they drove their cars, which are surprisingly high percentages of respondents who walk and ride their bikes. The findings suggest that many residents of the county begin their recreational walking when they leave the parks, not just when they arrive at the parks.

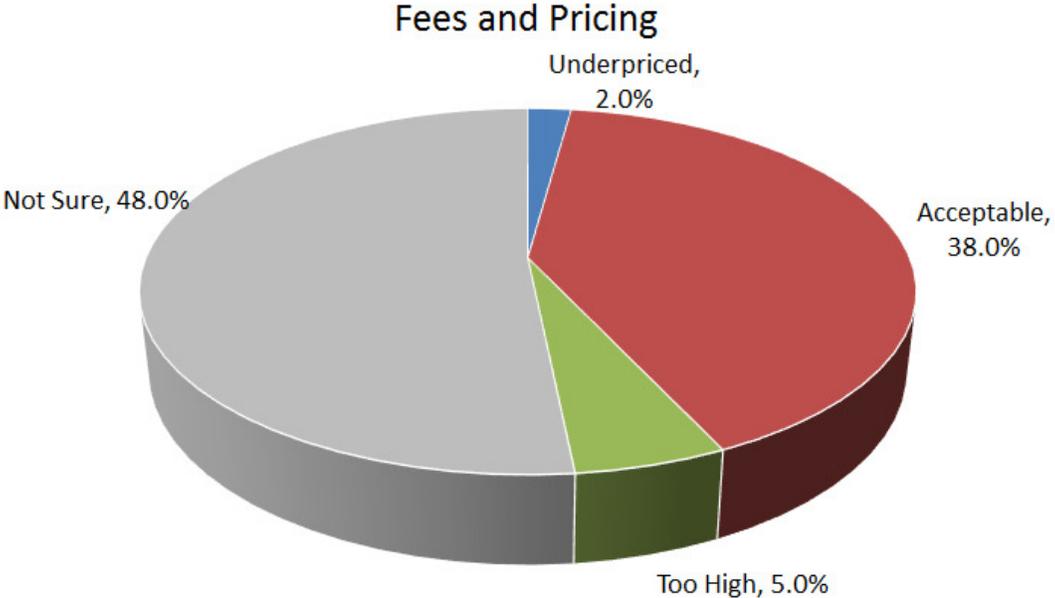
### Perceptions about the Rock County Park System

Question 10 asked respondents if they felt safe while using Rock County's parks and trails. The answer selections were that they felt very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe, and not at all safe.



The graph counts all respondents, including those who didn't answer the question, showing that 45% of respondents said they felt very safe, 33% somewhat safe, 3% not too safe and 1% not at all safe. The other 8% were evidently not park or trails users because they didn't answer the question.

Question 5 asked respondents how they felt about the current program and facility fees. Respondents were provided the opportunity to say fees were under-priced, acceptable, too high, or that they were not sure.

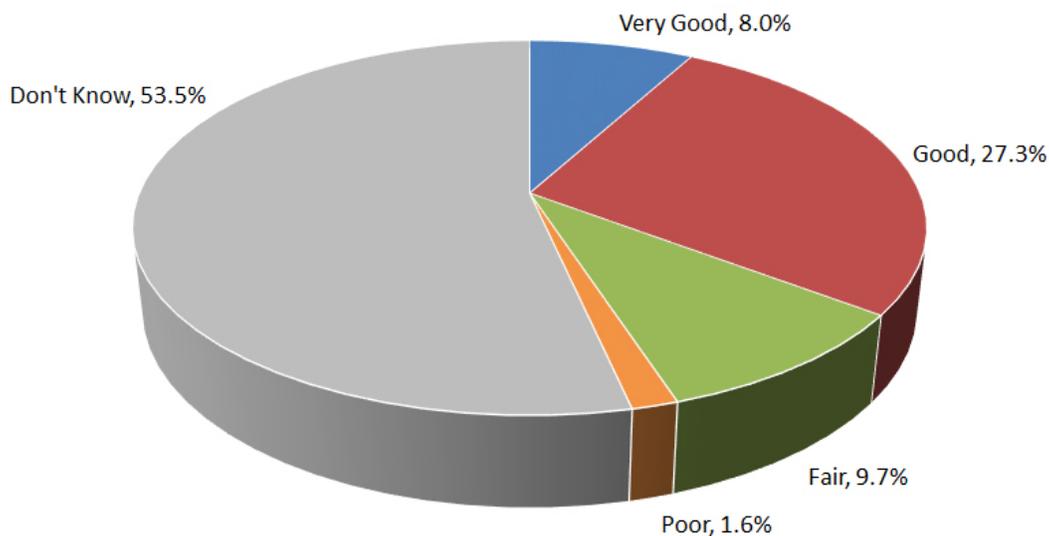


## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

As the survey responses show, most people, quite probably most of those who don't use county park services, were not sure if fees were too high, too low or just right. Thirty-eight percent said they were acceptable, 2% said they were underpriced, and 5% said they were too high, suggesting that fees are probably fine in their current structure. The other 7% of respondents were probably non-users of services and didn't answer.

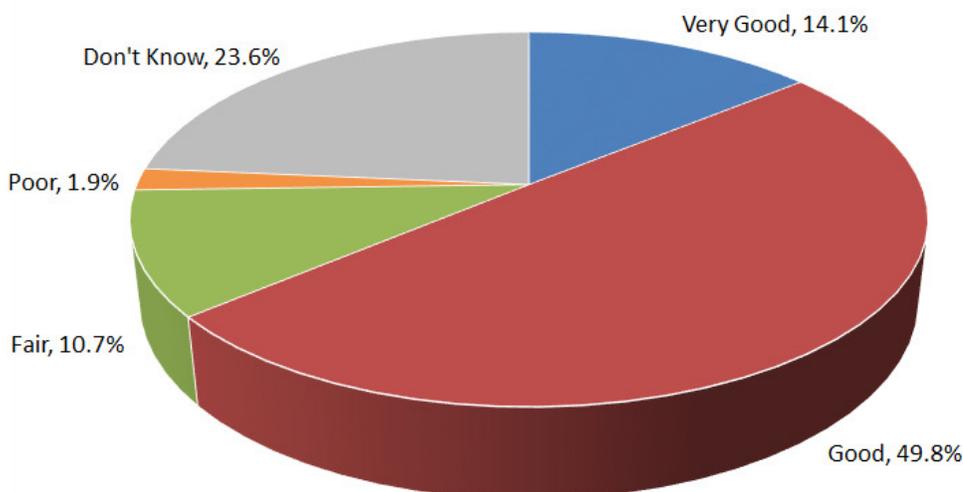
Question 11 asked how respondents rated the Rock County Park System in the areas of acquiring land, maintaining land, nature education, preserving land, recreation, and restoring land. Respondents were provided a Likert Scale of responses where 5 was very good, 4 was good, 3 was fair, 2 was poor, and 1 they didn't know. These areas of consideration are presented in separate graphs.

### Acquiring Land



The first graph shows that 114 of the 755 combined survey respondents didn't answer the question, and 343 didn't know for sure. Of those 298 respondents who did have an opinion, only 10 (3.4%) said the park system did a poor job, 62 (20.8%) said the system did a fair job, 175 (58.7%) said it did a good job, and 51 (17.1%) said it did a very good job.

### Maintaining Land

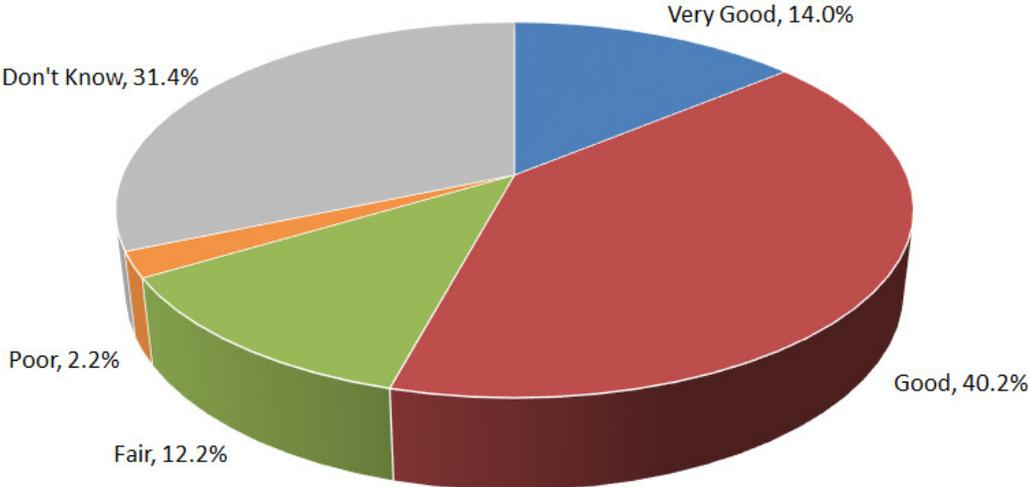


## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Considering the issue of how the county park system has maintained its land, 110 people didn't answer the question and 152 didn't know. Of those 493 respondents who did have an opinion, 12 (2.4%) said the park system did a poor job of maintaining its land, 69 (14%) said it did a fair job, 321 (65.1%) said good job, and 91 (18.5%) said a very good job.

For the first two elements of Question 11, the public seems to be satisfied with the maintenance of the parks and trails but somewhat less high in their ratings about its efforts to acquire new land. The issue of preserving land is shown in the following two charts and receives similar endorsements.

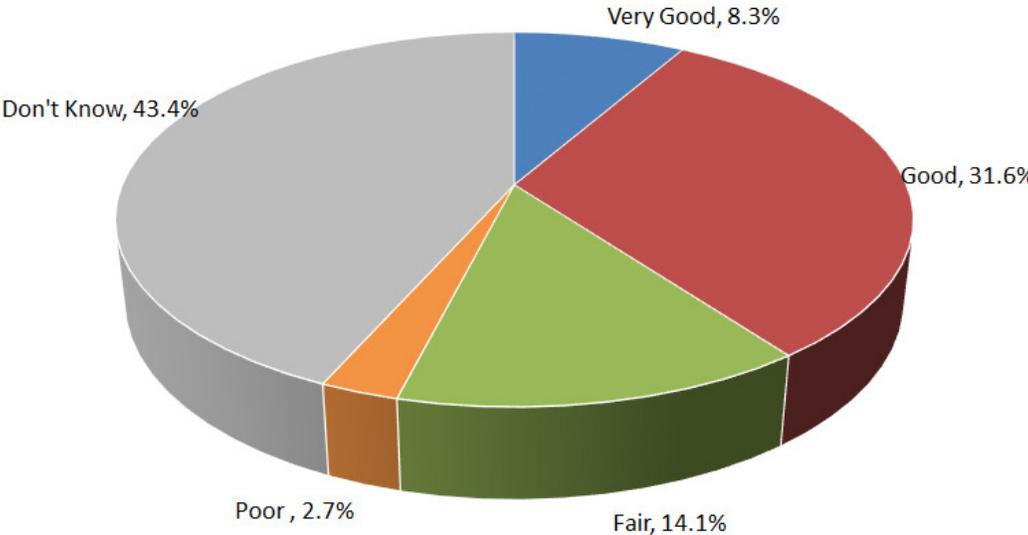
Perserving Land



Of those 641 people rating the Rock County Park System's efforts in preserving land, 201 said they didn't know. Of those 440 who had an opinion, 14 (3.2%) said it did a poor job, 78 (17.7%) said it did a fair job, 258 (58.6%) said it did a good job, and 90 (20.5%) said it did a very good job.

Restoring land is an important task that the Rock County Park System addresses. People seemed equally satisfied with the park system's efforts, as the following chart shows.

Restoring Land



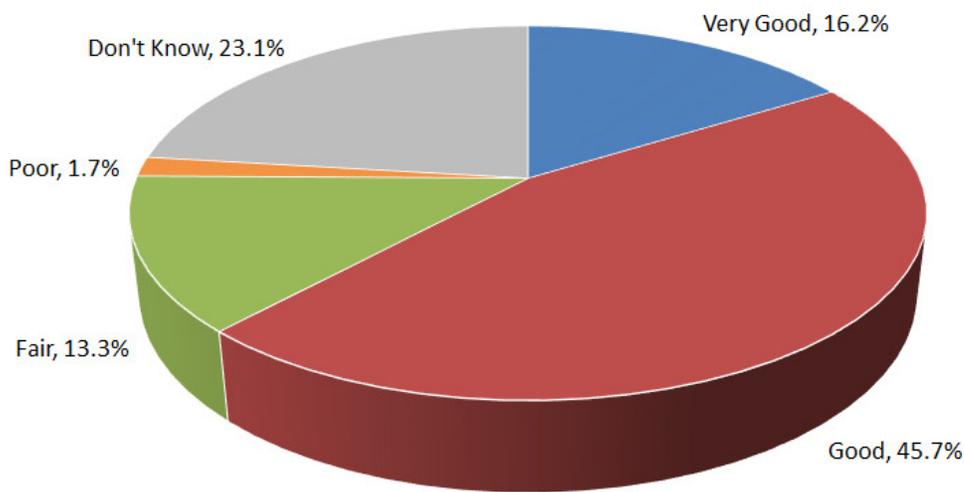
## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The respondents' ratings for restoring land were based on the 362 people who answered the question, eliminating those who didn't know or who didn't answer. Of those who did, 4.7% said the system did a poor job, 24.9% said fair, 55.8% said it did a good job, and 14.6% said very good.

Overall, the Rock County Park System received high marks for acquiring, maintaining, preserving, and restoring land. The highest marks were for maintaining land, where 83.6% of those responding saying the park system did a good or very good job. The second highest ratings were to the park system's efforts in preserving land, where 79.1% said it did a good over very good job. Acquiring land was third at 75.8% followed by restoring land at 70.4%.

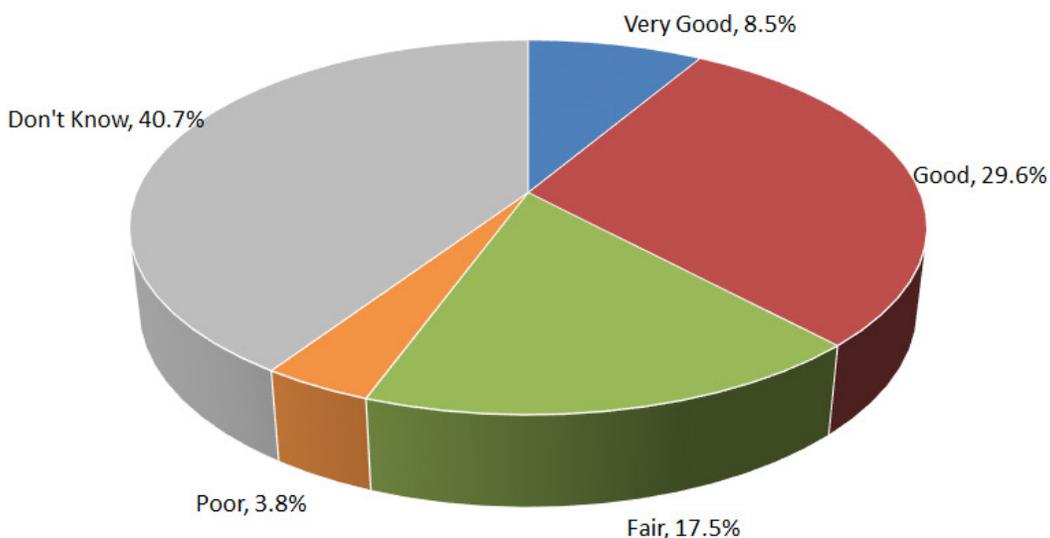
Two of the six subsets of Question 11 were about the provision of recreation services and nature education.

### Recreation



There were 107 people who didn't respond to the question and 150 who said they didn't know. Of the 498 who had an opinion, 2.2% said the park system did a poor job of providing recreation, 17.3% a fair job, 59.4% a good job, and 21.1% a very good job.

### Nature Education



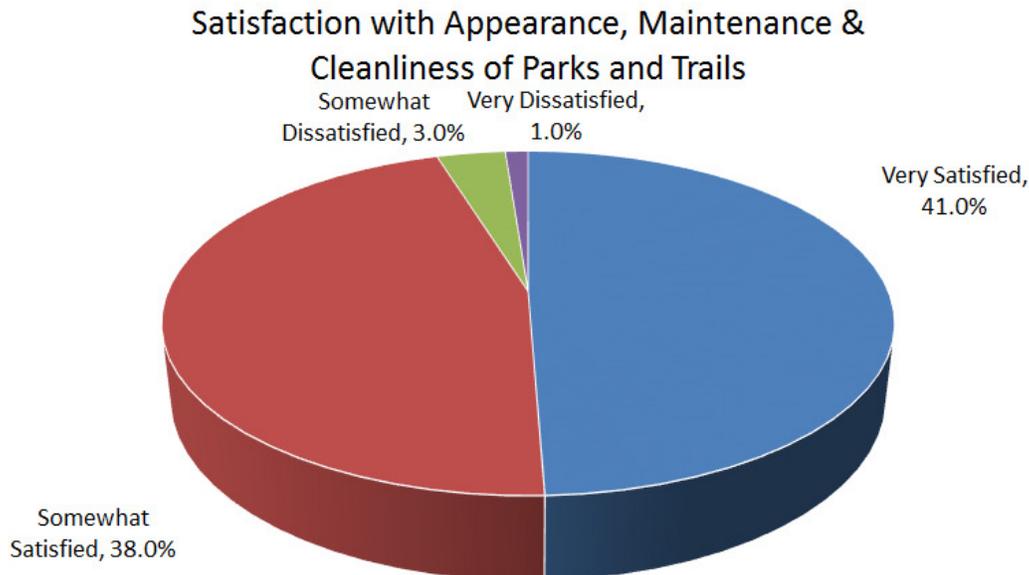
## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Eliminating those respondents who didn't answer the nature education question or didn't know, 379 had an opinion. Of them, 6.3% rated the park system as doing a poor job, 29.6% a fair job, 49.9% a good job, and 14.2% a very good job.

Considering the recreation and nature education questions, recreation received higher ratings than nature education with 80.4% of respondents rating the Rock County Park System as good or very good, compared to 64.1% who rated nature education as good or very good.

Considering all of the elements of Question 11 together, the Rock County Park System was rated highest in maintaining parks (83.6%) and providing recreation activities (80.4%) and lowest in providing nature education (64.1%).

Question 9 asked respondents to rate the appearance, maintenance and cleanliness of Rock County's parks and trails. This question corroborates the issue of park maintenance discussed in Question 11. Choices of answers provided were that they were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. In addition, Question 9a asked respondents to explain why they might be somewhat or very dissatisfied.



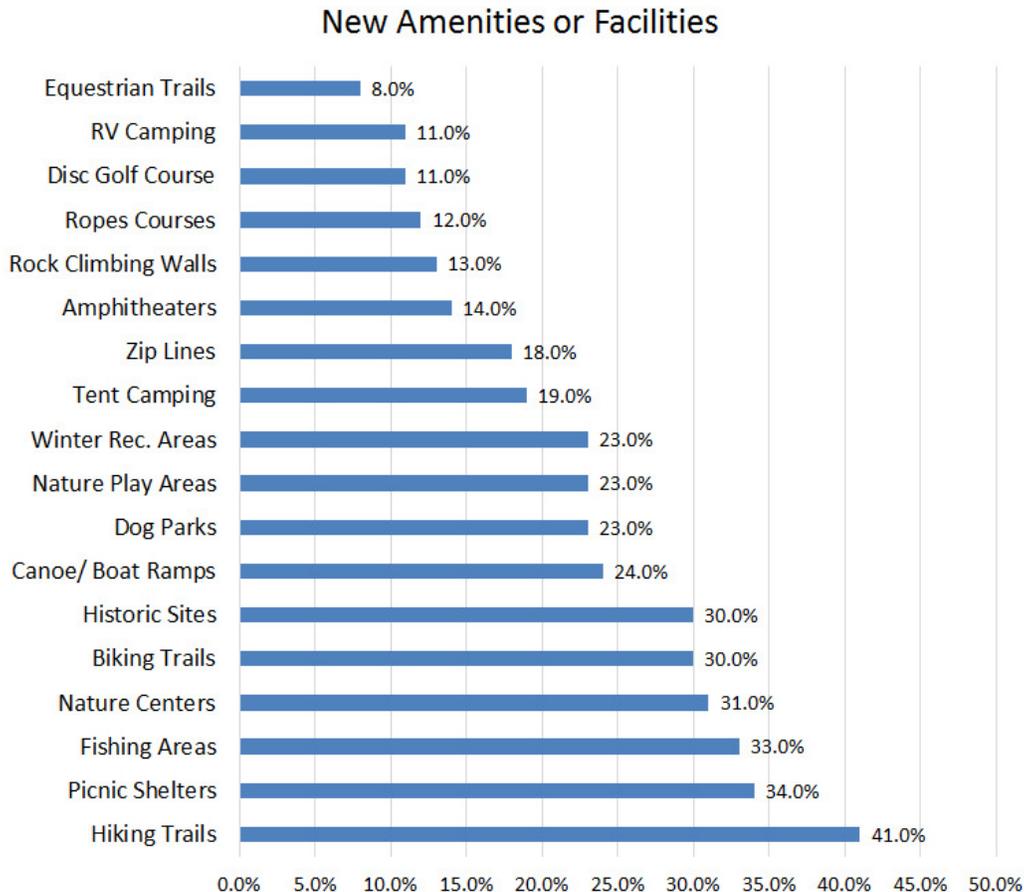
The responses to Question 9 show that 41% of respondents said they were very satisfied, 38% somewhat satisfied, and only 4% either somewhat or very dissatisfied. Seventeen percent of those survey did not answer the question, suggesting that 79% of respondents are very or somewhat satisfied with the maintenance, appearance and cleanliness of the parks.

The explanations provided in 9a are in the Appendix. Most of the explanations of dissatisfaction have to do with occasions when respondents saw trash somewhere. But overall, the complaints are relatively few.

## Park Amenities

Question 13 in the survey asked what amenities or facilities respondents would like to see added to the Rock County Parks. Survey respondents were provided a list of choices and also provided an opportunity to explain what amenities or facilities they would like to see added that were not on the list in the survey.

Since respondents could select more than one choice, the percentages reflected in the following graph are the percentages of all respondents that selected a specific choice. The total of those not selecting any of the choices is not presented.

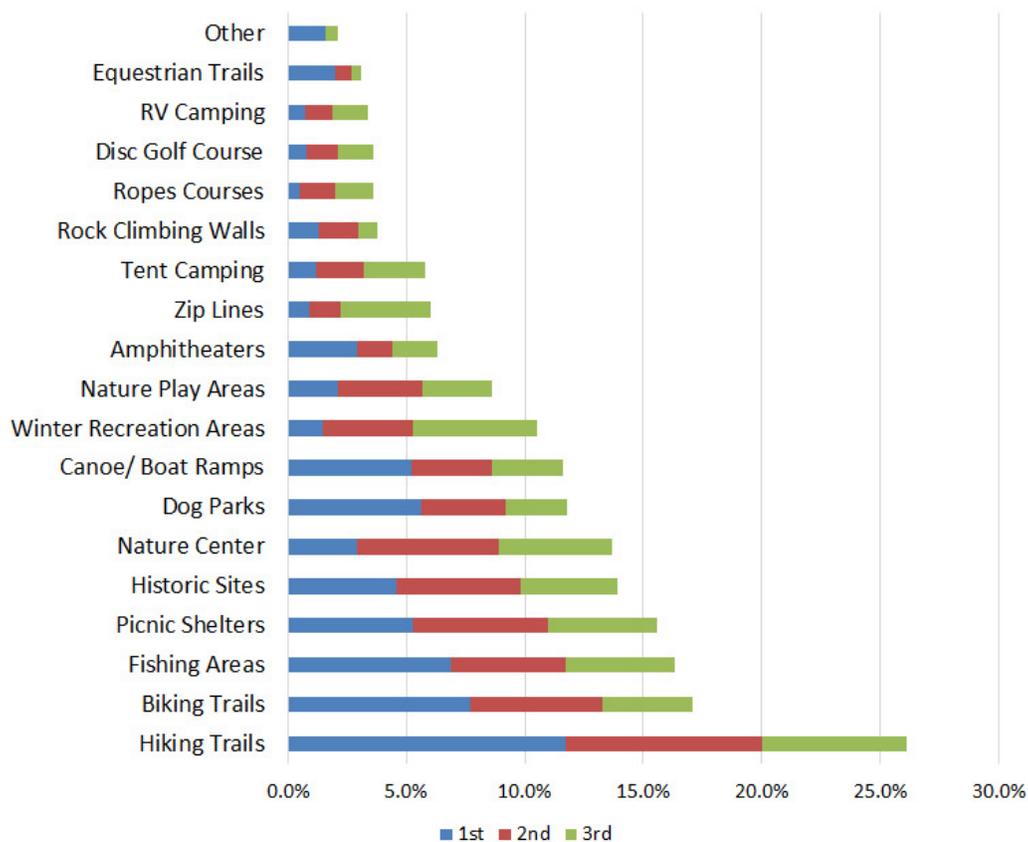


The graph shows that the most popular amenity or facility in this study was more hiking trails with 41% of all respondents selecting them as a choice. Picnic shelters were second with 34%, fishing areas were third with 33%, nature centers fourth with 31%, and biking trails and historic sites were tied at fourth with 30%.

The few open ended responses to Question 13 are in the Appendix. Some contain ideas about restrooms or porta-potties. Others suggest ATV trails.

Considering that capital improvement resources might be scarce, in Question 14 respondents were asked to rank their three most important outdoor recreation facilities from the previous question. The graph on the following page shows the amenities or facilities that were selected as the most important, second most important and third most important.

## Most Important Elements



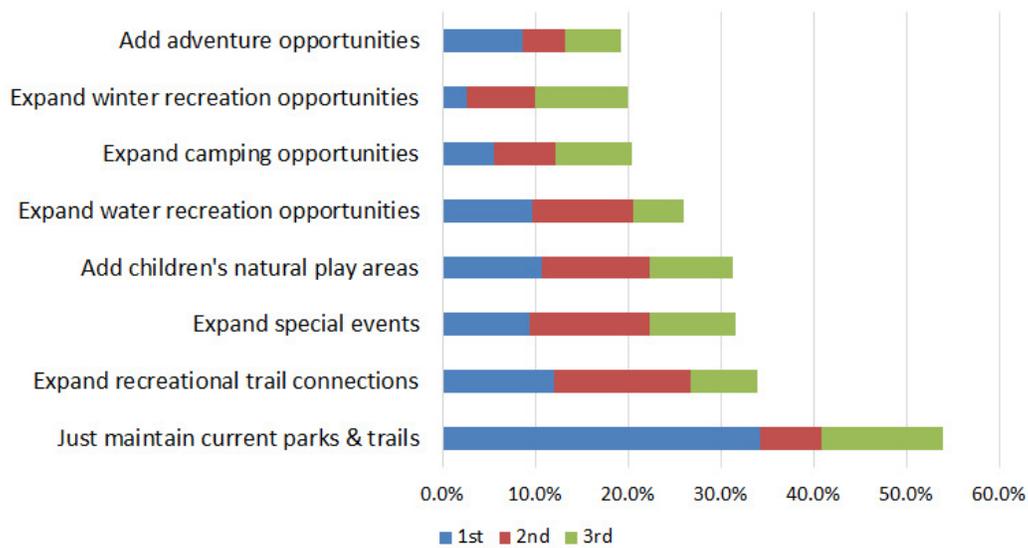
The findings from Question 14 show that, consistent with the findings from Question 13, hiking trails were the highest most important category, also the highest second most important as well as the highest third most important with a total of 26.1% of those responding choosing one of the three.

Biking trails had the second highest cumulative total at 17.1%, fishing areas were third at 16.3%, and picnic shelters were fourth at 15.6%. Historic sites were fifth at 13.9% and nature centers sixth at 13.7%.

The findings suggest that respondents were consistent in their responses about what facilities and amenities they would like to see added to the Rock County Park System.

Question 19 asked respondents to rank what improvements should be funded over the next five years. In the following table, 1 is the highest priority, 2 is the second highest and 3 is the third highest.

## Priority Ratings



The graph shows that 34.2% of all respondents ranked just maintaining the current parks and trails as the number one priority with 6.6% ranking it as the second highest priority and 13.2% ranking it as the third highest priority. The total percentage of 54.0% was the highest sum of all three priorities. Such findings are typically the case, where maintaining current services are the most important considerations.

In this study, the most important issue raised by Question 19 is what comes after maintaining existing services. In this case, expanding recreational trail connections would be the highest priority of adding or expanding new services with 33.9% of respondents selecting this additional service as being their first, second or third priority. The second highest priority of expanding existing services would be to expand special events at 31.6%. The third highest would be to add children's natural play areas at 31.3%. After these, adding water recreation opportunities would be next at 26%.

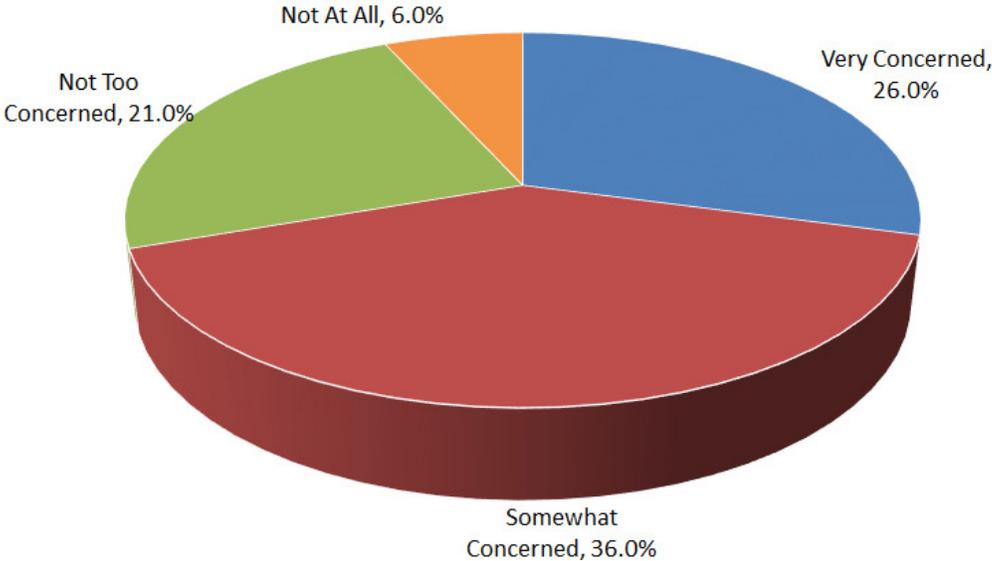
The findings show which priorities the public chooses to be the most important as well as the least important. But the least important should not be ignored. For instance, while expanding camping opportunities may seem like a low priority, since it would be the assumption that most residents would want to go outside the county for their camping experiences, it is understandable that expanding camping opportunities would be the third lowest priority.

On the other hand, since camping may provide revenue streams from outside the county, expanding camping opportunities may be a priority the county should consider.

**Park Land Preservation**

Question 12 of the survey asked how concerned respondents were with the protection of the remaining open space in Rock County. Respondents were provided the choices of being not at all concerned, not too concerned, somewhat concerned, or very concerned. The following graph shows the percentages of respondents who chose to answer the question.

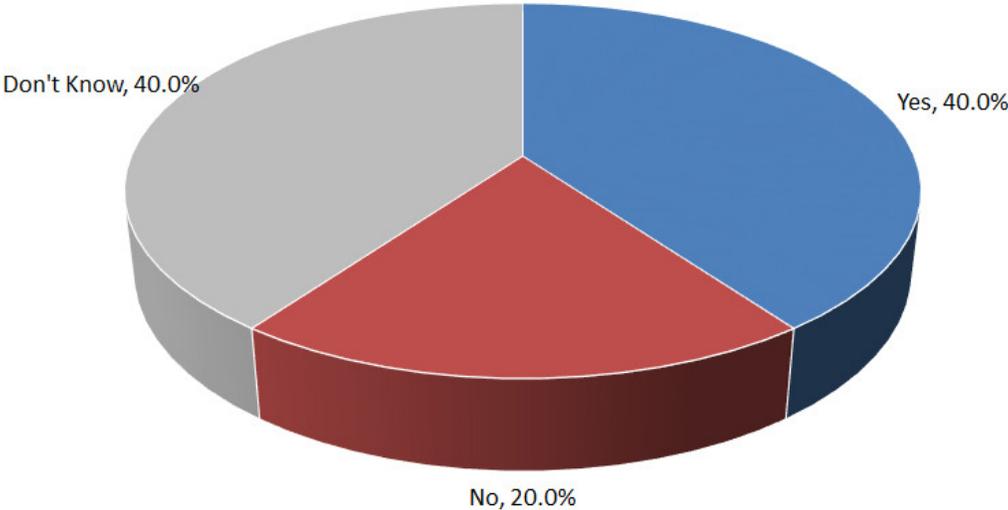
**Concern with the Protection of Remaining Open Space**



The chart shows that only 6% of all respondents were not at all concerned with the protection of the remaining open space in Rock County, while 62% were either somewhat concerned or very concerned; 21% were not too concerned and 11% didn't answer the question.

Question 15 asked respondents if they would be in favor of the Rock County Park System acquiring more park land. Choices were yes, no and that they didn't know.

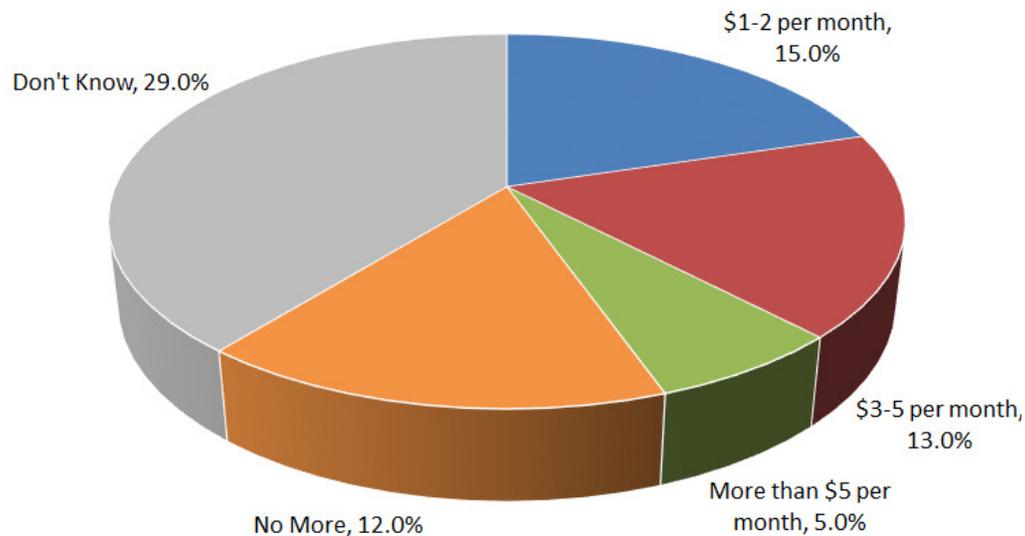
**In Favor of Acquiring More Park Land**



The chart shows that 40% of respondents said that they were in favor of acquiring more park land, 18% were opposed to the idea, and 40% didn't know, with 2% not answering the question. The findings indicate that residents are overwhelmingly supportive of acquiring more county park land.

The real test of resolve on behalf of county residents is whether they would support a tax increase for acquiring more county park land. In Question 16, survey respondents were asked how much they would be willing to pay. Other answer choices were no more and that they weren't sure.

### How Much More Would They Pay



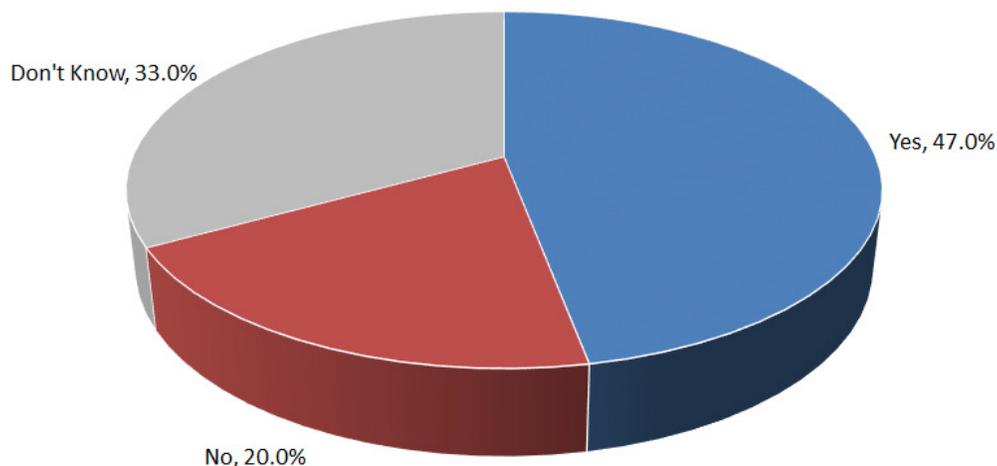
The data shows that 15% of those responding said they would pay \$1-2 more per month, which computes to \$12-24 more per year. Thirteen percent said they would pay \$3-5 more per month (\$36-60 more per year), and 5% said they would pay more than \$5 per month.

In total, 33% of respondents would be willing to pay something more per month for the county to acquire additional park land, while 12% would pay no more and 29% were not sure. Twenty-six percent did not answer the question. The findings show that by nearly a three to one margin, respondents who could make a decision were in favor of increasing their own taxes.

## Nature Center

Question 17 asked respondents if they would be in favor of building a nature center. Respondents were offered the choices of saying yes, no and that they didn't know.

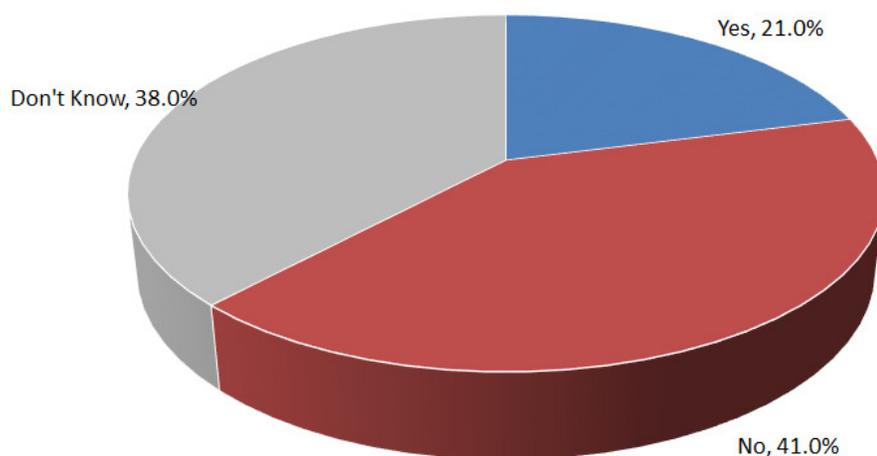
Building a Nature Center



The chart shows that 47% of those responding said they were in favor of the County Park System building a nature center, 20% were opposed to the idea, and 34% were undecided, a more than two to one margin of support for the idea.

Question 18 tested the resolve of the survey respondents by asking them if they would be willing to pay more in sales taxes to build a nature center. Respondents were provided the choices of saying they were in favor of the idea, opposed to it or that they didn't know.

Support for a Sales Tax Increase



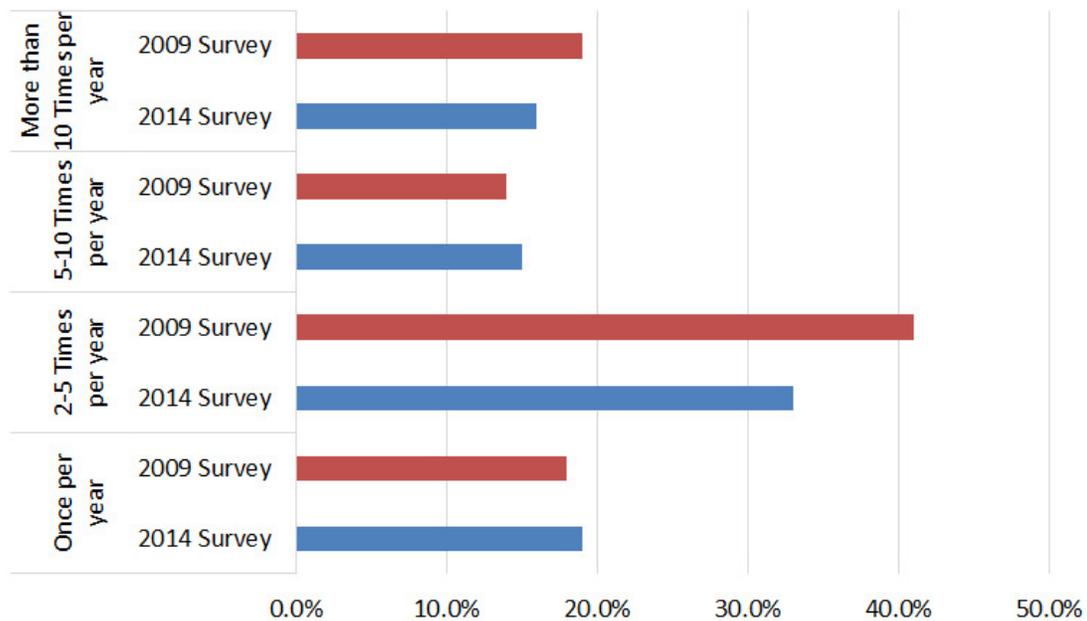
The data shows that the willingness to pay for a nature center with a sales tax increase is opposed by respondents by nearly a two to one margin with 21% in favor, 41% opposed, and 37% undecided. The findings suggest that, while respondents were in favor of a nature center, sales taxes are not necessarily the means of funding such an initiative.

## Comparison to 2009 Survey

The following graphs compare survey responses to questions asked by the current community survey, as well as in the survey completed in 2009 to support the 2010-2014 POROS Plan.

This graph compares the frequency that respondents said they use Rock County parks throughout the year. Overall, the responses between the two surveys are very similar, however 2009 did show more respondents visiting a county park 2-5 times per year.

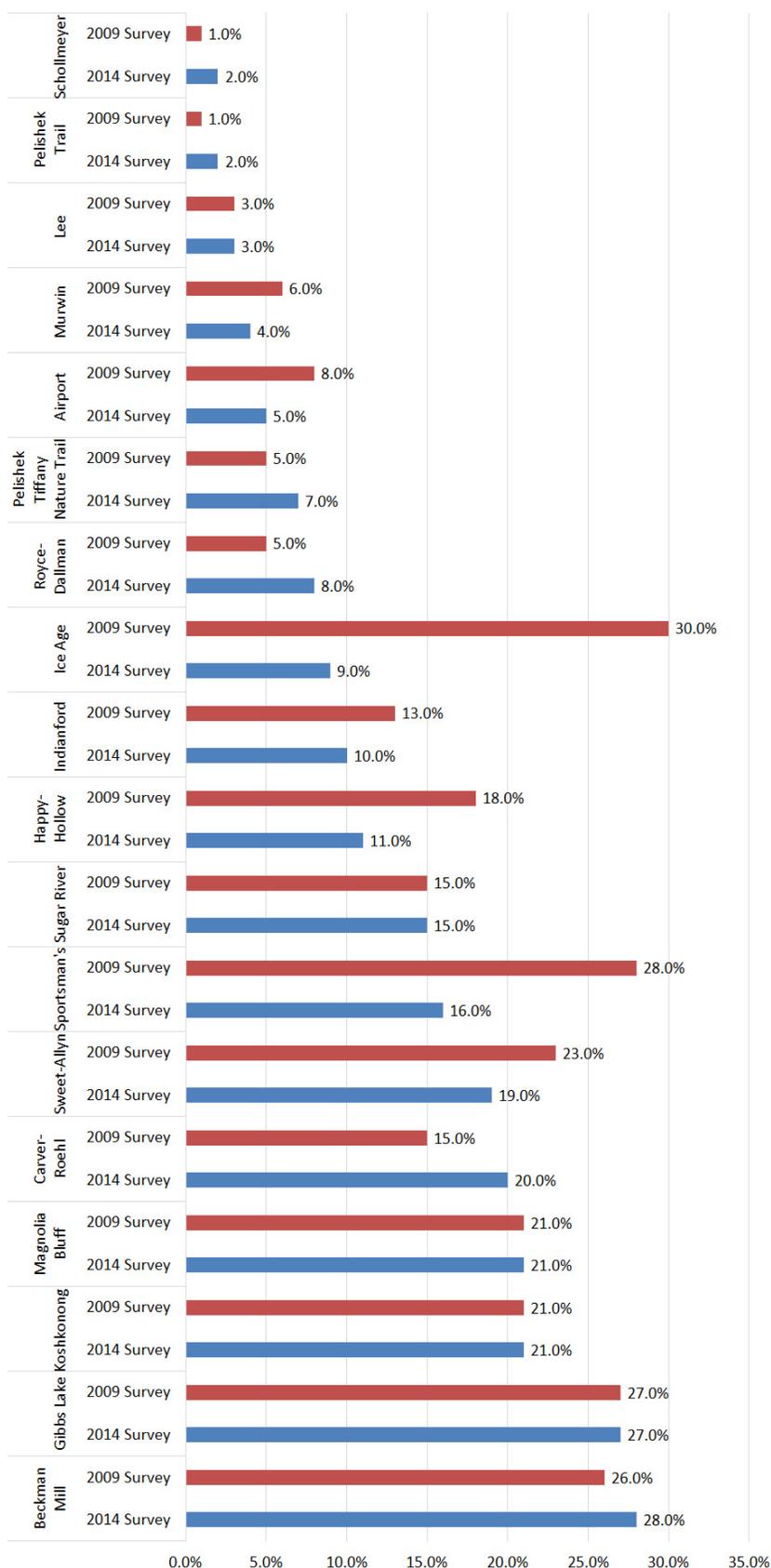
Frequency of Park Use Comparison



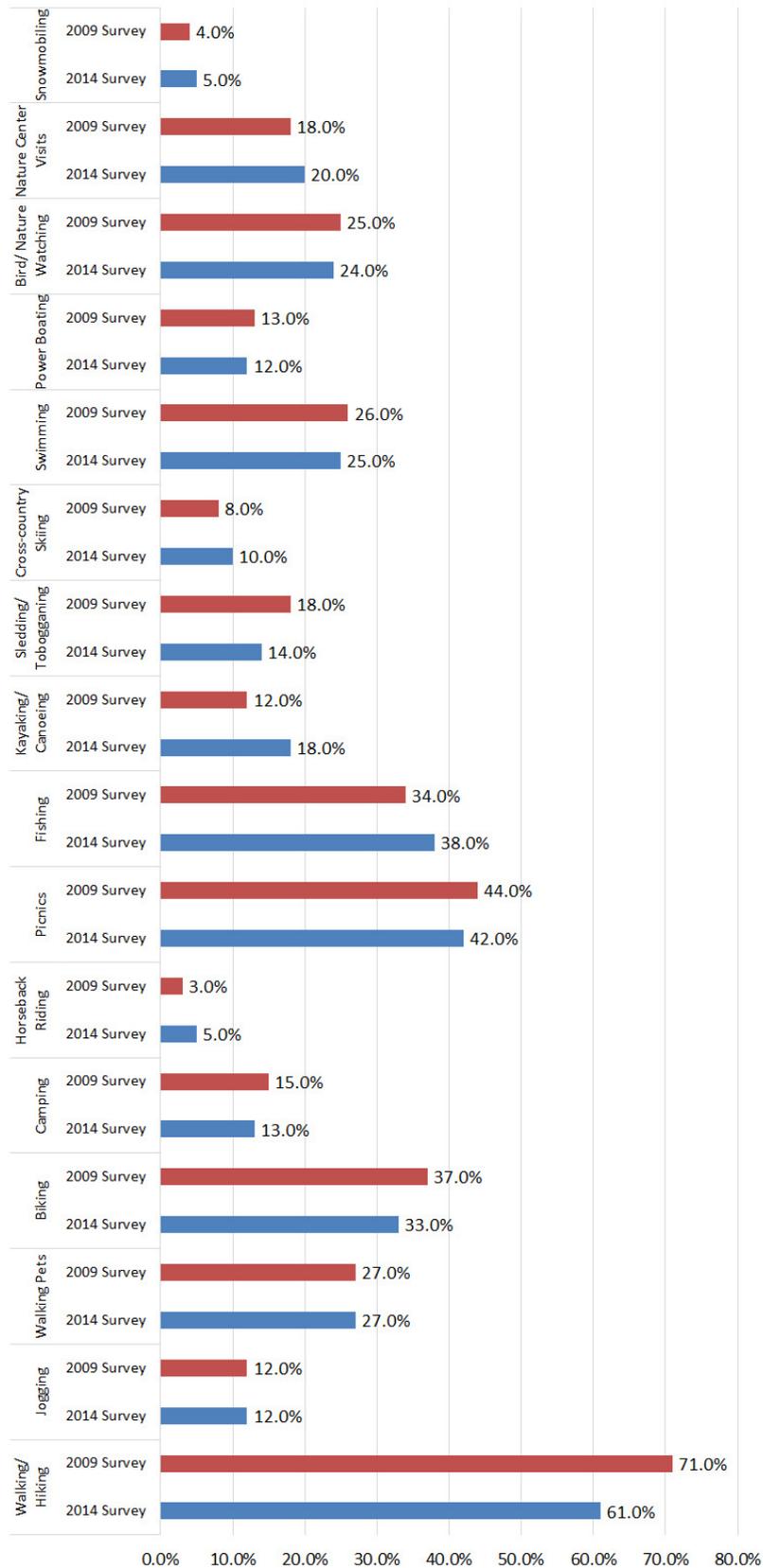
The two graphs on the following pages show which parks, and which activities respondents use the most. The graphs compare responses from 2009 to 2014, and for most of the parks and activities, the responses are very close. Each of the graph shows a couple of variations between the 2009 and 2014 data which may highlight some changing needs of the community, however, the majority of the parks and activities had very similar usage rates.

# 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Park Usage Comparison



## Activity Participation Comparison



### Comments

Question 22 asked respondents to add comments about the Rock County Park System. It was an open ended opportunity for respondents to say whatever they would like about it. The responses are in the Appendix of this plan.

There were a number of comments. Comments included appeals by respondents of support for the Rock County Park System and praise for the job it is doing. Some comments appealed for no tax increases. Others suggested specific improvements that should be made at county parks. But overall, comments were generally positive and constructive.

### Conclusions

The combined data from mail, telephone and email surveys showed where respondents lived, how long they have lived there and their familiarity with the Rock County Park System. The survey showed who respondents were in terms of gender, average age, and whether they had children in the household.

The survey showed that newspapers and signage are the most important means of informing Rock County residents about the existence of the park system, and word of mouth is important. However, the park system's website has more usage than in 2009, and social media, while low, is emerging with use by 10% of respondents. The Internet should not be ignored, especially for communicating to a younger more family-oriented clientele.

The survey showed that Rock County residents are highly engaged in recreational activities provided by the Rock County Park System, as well as being frequent users of county parks. Many Rock County residents walk or ride their bikes to the parks, corroborating the desire of a high percentage of residents to improve and expand the existing trail system.

The survey showed high levels of support for the acquisition of new park land with even higher support for maintaining and preserving and restoring land, as well as expanding recreation services. The addition of park amenities and facilities to the Rock County Park System was highly supported in the survey with the willingness to pay for the acquisition of new park land, but lower support for the construction of a nature center.

Overall, the survey reveals the importance of the Rock County Park System to Rock County residents by virtue of high park and recreation usage and wide interest in seeing expanded services in many areas. Specifically, the expansion of trails emerged as a funding priority over other initiatives.

### SWOT Analysis & Staff Input

A strategic tool useful in the development of planning documents is the SWOT process. The goal is to develop an understanding of the strengths, weakness which is usually more internally focused and the opportunities and threats which is usually more externally focused surrounding the agency. The following is the data collected from the SWOT exercise.

#### *Strengths*

- Parks staff & advisory committee (Champions of the cause)
- Quality parks & outdoor recreation space
- Niche unique to the county as our parks do not compete with local municipal park agencies

#### *Weakness*

- Limited resources and in particular funds as much of the effort has been on infrastructure catch up
- Public awareness
- Individual identity & autonomy away from Public Works

#### *Opportunities*

- Visibility in communities & more networking
- Social media & networking
- Continue to improve the parks system with programming opportunities
- More friends groups to advance individual parks

#### *Threats*

- Lack of knowledge by new supervisors
- Push back on plan
- Diminishing grant funds
- Aging friends groups (succession planning)

### Resources Discussion

As a follow up to the data gathered from the SWOT exercise, a discussion was held regarding resources. The main theme from the discussion centered on the desire to gain more resources. The following is a short summary of ideas as to how to accomplish this.

- Continue green fund (handles misc. items such as appraisals, etc)
- Create an endowment fund for natural resources
- Grants
- Develop a gifts catalog
- Maintain and more importantly, increase the parks budget each year
- Select Logging of county parks to clean out old growth

### Recreation Programming Discussion

The opportunity to discuss ideas centering on recreation programming was a part of the staff input process. The data that gathered and reviewed showed a desire to grow programs that fit within county parks mission and natural resources. The primary focus should be on nature, the environment and recreation in the great outdoors. The following summarizes the major topics covered;

- There is a desire to staff up for programming. Would be great to offer limited nature based programs
- Current programs/activities in the county parks
  - Stream
  - Fishing
  - Snowshoeing
  - X-cross skiing
  - Bike ride (Special event)
- New programs/activities ideas
  - Geo-caching
  - River clean up
  - Zip Line/rock climbing/rappel ling at Magnolia Bluff
  - Wilderness survival skills camp for adults
  - Horse riding camp/lessons

### Advisory Committee Visioning Session

The committee had an opportunity to engage in the planning process by participating in a visioning Meeting was held on Tuesday July 7, 2014 at 8 am. The following are the highlights from that meeting.

Top Goals:

- Purchase and/or gather more parkland
- Maintain what we have at a high level
- More support/strong support for the committee

What is the biggest challenge facing the County Parks?

- Resources
- Purchase more parkland
- More people power
- Budget
- Staffing/appointing committee members

Do you think the taxes and fees paid are fair to the average resident? Why or why not?

- Fees and taxes are fair to the residents

What additional resources need to be available for the Parks Division to improve in the future?

- Land resources as well as physical resources
- Look at transferring or leasing smaller park spaces to free up limited resources
- We know what we should do
- What are the hidden jewels/gems in the county in terms of parks/open space and protect for future generations
- We maintain 1100 acres with 3 FT staff (Very amazing compared to other agencies)

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

The visioning questionnaire led to comments centered on both current and future concerns. The table highlights the findings of the questionnaire.

Yes	No	Question
4	1	Do you feel adequate park & recreation opportunities are being provided by the County Parks
5	0	Do you think that the parks are adequately maintained
5	0	Do you think the parks are safe
3	0	Do you feel that the Board of Supervisors supports Rock County Parks
4	0	Do you wish to expand the presence of the Rock County Parks within the various communities
4	0	Do you think that the Rock County Parks is on good terms with other intergovernmental agencies
1	4	Are you comfortable with the financial position for Rock County Parks
4	1	Would you support additional monies spent on future Capital Improvements within Rock County Parks
4	0	Do you think acquiring more park land/ open space should be the primary mission for the agency for the next 5 years
4	1	Are the policies and procedures in place to operate the agency appropriate
4	0	Do you feel that being an advisory committee member is rewarding for you with the time spent
3	2	Are you aware of what other communities around you are doing in terms of park and recreation

### Delphi Committee Findings

#### Executive Summary

1. Park system should evaluate divest land holdings of less than 40 acres to other jurisdictions or public land holding entities, except where such holdings provide access to or protect natural resources.
2. Efforts should be completed to purchase current land offering on Turtle Creek.
3. Priority should be given to satisfying unmet recreational needs including more launches and access to the Rock River, as well as the need for campgrounds, dog parks, and disc golf, The Community Coordinator position has proven to very valuable and should be fully funded via the Operating Budget.
4. The need exists for an umbrella friends group 'Friends of Rock County Parks.' This group should meet annually to represent all volunteers and to allow staff to direct people and resources where and when they are needed most.
5. Since the last POROS Plan a fine parks website has been established. The next steps are for a Facebook page for promotion to youth and the social media demanding public and expending funds to market use of the park system.
6. A tagline or slogan is needed to promote Rock County Parks just as Janesville has Wisconsin's Park Place and Beloit has The Gateway to Wisconsin.
7. Promotion opportunities can be increased with park staff regularly meeting with the local tourism organizations Visit Beloit and The Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.
8. Match Grant Opportunities can be increased by meetings with the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin in Janesville and the Stateline Community Foundation and Beloit Foundation both in Beloit.
9. Tremendous value has been received from the \$900,000 in American Transmission Company (ATC) over the last six years. With these funds being all but depleted it is recommended that Rock County commit \$90,000 annually to on-going capital improvements in Rock County Parks. Further it is recommended that 90% of these funds be used to match local, state or federal grants and 10% be used to implement marketing of the county parks to promote tourism and increase park usage.

#### The Delphi Committee

On July 7, 2014 Delphi Committee for the Rock County Park System initially organized and met. This nine member committee was charged with reviewing and evaluating the park system and preparing recommendations for consideration as a part of the 2015-2020 Rock County Parks and Open Space (POROS) Plan. Comprised of diverse outdoor interests, committee members include staff, citizens, and a County Board representative. Members reside throughout Rock County, each sharing a common interest in the future of the County's park system. The committee met a total of six times.

The committee met at a cross section of Rock County Parks as a part of our review process to experience what resources, facilities, and programming are offered. Park meeting locations were selected by the committee. Park staff was asked to attend some of the meetings to answer a considerable list of questions that were developed by the committee. Discussion topics included budget, staffing, public relations, marketing, citizen support and involvement, resource protection, programming, facilities, and park usage.

The committee reviewed the 2008-2013 Delphi Committee recommendations. In addition it reviewed the resources available to service the 1100 acre park system with a budget of \$326,268 (2014), staffing at 5.75 FTE'S or equivalent positions, and a capital improvement budget of \$180,000 (2014). The many accomplishments made in the past five years implementing the current POROS Plan were discussed. While the Delphi Committee felt that much is being accomplished with very little staff and funding, the need for a long-term consistent source of funding is clear.

The 2014 Delphi Committee found value in reviewing past recommendations and benchmarking progress being made toward implementation. The Committee felt that it should continue to exist throughout the next 5-year POROS planning cycle and meet annually with Park Department Staff to review continued progress.

### **General Evaluation of Current County Parks**

With its current 18 parks and 4 trails there was discussion about what county land resources have been preserved and what land acquisitions and opportunities should be a priority for the future. Small land holdings of fewer than 40 acres generally were not considered of county significance, unless they provide access to key recreational resources. As an example, Avon Park is a 17 acre park on the Sugar River in the unincorporated Village of Avon which is immediately adjacent to Wisconsin DNR land. At present, it is a totally undeveloped park, but provides key access to the Sugar River for canoeists and kayakers. Another example is the ½ acre Schollmeyer Park in Beloit that provides public access to Turtle Creek for canoeing and fishing.

Within the current inventory, efforts should be made to find other jurisdictions or entities capable of caring for small parcels along with imposing protective easements in order to better utilize staff and resources for significant land holdings. At the same time a comprehensive review of unprotected lands is important to the committee along with priority funding to protect county significant land 'jewels'. Efforts should be made to purchase current land offerings such as an available parcel along Turtle Creek. Lands needed to connect and extend trails are equally important.

### **Unmet Outdoor Recreational Opportunities**

The committee discussed outdoor-based recreational opportunities which should be available to county residents. Among these are linear destination trails that link County Parks and surrounding communities, outdoor facilities such as boat launches, campgrounds, dog parks and disc golf courses. The committee felt strongly that with comprehensive planning accomplished via ongoing communication with Rock County towns, villages, a list of needed outdoor recreation facilities can be prioritized. Priority should be given to high use revenue-generating activities that utilize low cost part time staffing and/or no cost volunteers. A review of need based on travel distance to such existing facilities would help justify services and help to establish priority locations for acquisition. New revenue streams are both politically desirable and help to support overall operational expenses.

### **Community Coordinator Position Nets Park System Usage**

The committee recognizes the considerable value of the Community Coordinator position. Since its inception this staff position has proven to be invaluable to the director and more importantly to the bonds that have been established with volunteers and citizen supporters of the parks. The increase in volunteerism in the parks and the long list of accomplishments including new programming, public education, and park system visibility are all reason this position must be maintained with annual funding

through the County's operating budget. Successful programs serving county residents include Youth fishing, stream exploration, snowshoeing, and candlelight skiing and hiking.

### **Working with and Uniting Volunteers and Friends Groups**

Currently there is a strong network of friends groups and support organizations providing meaningful service to the Rock County Park System. Nine such groups exist with a long list of accomplishments. The Community Coordinator does a fine job of communicating with these volunteers and maximizing their effectiveness.

The partnership with the Friends of Beckman Mill is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by a group of dedicated volunteers who are engaged, empowered and supported by County staff and resources.

The Committee recommends that the County Staff annually call a "Friends of County Parks Summit" to allow the volunteer groups to learn about and celebrate the successes of the Friends groups in the past year and to help County Staff prioritize improvements and activities for the coming year. The Friends groups should be encouraged to coordinate an annual "Celebrate Rock County Parks Day" where each Friends organization would host outdoor activities in their respective parks and where all County residents would be encouraged to visit and enjoy multiple County parks. A "Celebrate Rock County Parks Day" could also be marketed regionally with cooperation from the Janesville and Beloit visitor and convention bureaus.

Meanwhile the Delphi Committee sees a lost opportunity in not uniting and harnessing the energy of what amounts to hundreds of volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours into causes which are of broad benefit to the park system. The Community Coordinator could lead the charge on major 'work together' projects that over time would touch all the county parks in very significant ways.

### **Trails Trails Trails**

Rock County has 4 wonderful off-road pedestrian and bike trails and there is certainly need for more.

1. The 5.6 mile long Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail is a grass and gravel trail serving the southwest area of the county and is anchored by a parking and picnic area in the Village of Clinton.
2. The 4.1 mile Janesville to Milton Trail is a gravel multiuse trail, linking the northeast neighborhoods in Janesville to the southwestern portion of the City of Milton. Improvements include a paved parking area at the Janesville terminus of the trail on Kennedy Road and a gravel parking area on Rotamer Road at Townline Road.
3. The planned 6.75 mile gravel trail connection between the Peace Trail at Tripp Road through Afton and traveling through Big Hill Park to Afton Road (by 2015). This trail segment forms part of the Rock River Trail initiative (detailed below).
4. The recently completed (late 2014) 9.0 mile paved trail from Milton to the Rock - Jefferson County line. This trail segment connects to the Glacial River Trail that parallel's STH 26 from Fort Atkinson to Watertown that links the various communities along the Rock River in southern Wisconsin. Rock County and the City of Janesville need to finalize plans and construct the connection of this trail to the City of Janesville trail system at the STH 26 pedestrian overpass at Rotamer Road.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Trails are tremendous assets for Rock County tourism and pedestrian-oriented transportation. Rock County needs to rally and support efforts to finalize the route of Rock County's portion of the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail and use the Ice Age Trail to link and enhance exposure to those County parks in the northern part of the county. County planning staff should meet with staff in Janesville and Beloit to plan for and secure further trail connections which would link residents to recreational opportunities before growth and development make trail extensions difficult and cost prohibitive.

Rock County is also a key link and destination along the recently designated Rock River Trail. The Rock River Trail was established in 2010 to promote recreational use of all 320 miles of the Rock River. Preservation, restoration & appreciation of the natural & historic attributes of the Rock River are the goal of this trails initiative. A water trail along the Rock River, a separate Rock River Scenic and Historic Route on roads within the river corridor, and a designated on-and off road bicycle route provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty and historic and cultural assets of the Rock River Valley

The Committee felt there was great potential to develop a system of designated, on-road bicycle routes utilizing lower volume town roads to link the County Park facilities to the urban centers and to the existing and developing trail network. The recently published "Greater Beloit Rides" booklet shows the potential for on-road bike routes. Such a system of bike routes could be effectively marketed through the Janesville Convention and Visitors Bureau and Visit Beloit to attract regional visitors and their tourism related expenditures to Rock County. The bike route system should also be featured in future editions of the TRAVEL WISCONSIN OFFICIAL BIKING GUIDE with copies of the route maps and County Park brochures available at the I-39/90 Wisconsin Travel Center at Beloit and at the local bicycle shops.

The Committee also noted that there seems to be a disconnect between the implementation of the POROS Plan and the transportation component of the Rock County Comprehensive Plan. The County Comprehensive plan includes a transportation component that designates roads that are suitable for on-road bicycling. When these suitable bike routes are reconstructed, the resurfacing project should include accommodations for bicyclists to improve safety. The recent reconstruction of CTH "M" from Milton to the southeast was designated as a bike route in the Transportation Plan, but the reconstruction project did not improve the roadway with extra shoulders to improve bike safety. In the future, road improvement projects on designated bike routes should plan for improved bicycle safety.

### **Marketing and Social Media**

The last Delphi Committee report spoke to the need of greater visibility and image. The 2014 Delphi Committee echoes this need. Since the last report, an appealing county parks web site with easy to find information on Rock County's Parks has been developed. Likewise, new informative park brochures with maps and directions now exist. The next step is marketing via Facebook and other social media. The Parks Department could organize a tech savvy group of youth who support county parks and charge them with coming up with initial marketing ideas. The Committee felt that social media are where citizens and tourists expect to find park and tourism information and they base their planned activities on the information they find on-line. The Welty Environmental Center reports enhanced participation and support with their Facebook page.

The Committee noted that both Visit Beloit (CVB) and the Janesville Convention and Visitors Bureau have a staff person devoted to marketing the area to visitors and tourists. The Committee recommends that the County Parks Staff meet quarterly with the CVB staff to coordinate plans and identify joint marketing opportunities

The last Delphi Committee recommended the need for a separate county parks logo. This is not as important as having a tagline or slogan that can be marketed to promote the essence of Rock County's parks.

### **Replacement of the Parks Portion of the ATC Funding**

What a blessing Rock County has had with the gift of \$900,000 from American Transmission Company (ATC) designated for enhancement of the Rock County Park System. An equal amount was appropriated to the County Land Conservation Committee. Since its initiation, six years ago a long list of necessary and valued park improvements have been made without the need to increase county taxes. Replacement of several old wooden vault toilets, and resurfacing deteriorated parking lots, trail repairs, and boat docks are a large component of the completed work. ATC funds also provided need park master planning and provided matching staff funding. Fortunately such master planning prepared the county to successful obtain matching state and federal grants to leverage other park improvements.

The parks portion of the ATC funds is now all but exhausted. The Countywide citizen survey conducted as part of this POROS Plan shows that residents value the County Park System and are willing to invest tax dollars to enhance them. A new funding commitment is now needed to continue with repairs, improvements, and needed land protection around existing parks and for trail extensions.

With funding from the ATC easement dwindling, the Committee feels that the Rock County Parks system needs secure and consistent funding for future Park capital improvements and for marketing the County Parks system. In 2014, Rock County's budget provided less than \$4.00 per capita in annual funding for the County parks department. This meager funding level pales in comparison to the funding per capita in neighboring Dane County or Winnebago County, Illinois

The 2014 Delphi Committee recommends that the Rock County Board annually commit \$90,000 for on-going capital improvements in the County Parks. One possible source of funding would be County sales tax revenues, which the County Board has consistently used for capital projects.

This funding commitment would replace the one-time funds secured through the ATC monies. The impact of this funding commitment should be maximized by using a 90% of the sales tax funding to match federal and state grants for park improvements. The remaining 10% of sales tax funding should be used to implement a marketing strategy designed to inform County residents of the recreational opportunities available in the Rock County Parks, and to attract tourists to Rock County to utilize the wonderful park system. Over the 5-year POROS Planning period, this funding commitment for Park Capital Improvements would result in \$405,000 in local funding to leverage grant funding and \$45,000 to market the County Park system to Rock County residents and tourists.

The Committee further recommends the County Parks Staff establish on-going relationships with the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin and the Stateline Community Foundation or Beloit Foundation) to more fully utilize the available funds from charitable donations and donor advised funds, and to attract future bequests and donations to the County Parks system.

### **Seeking Citizen Comment**

Jim Cheadle of the Delphi Committee made a huge effort to obtain citizen comment on the needs of Rock County's Parks. Two articles entitled "Now's the Time to Provide Input About County Parks" were published in local newspapers which showcased the parks and opportunities found in Rock County's park system. In and of themselves these articles were provided a real boost to visibility of the parks. A number of responses received back were of thanks for sharing this information and for sharing where to go to obtain more information on the county website. With 60 responses to the article it shows interest and the need for ongoing marketing.

### **Visibility with Park Directional Signage**

The Delphi Committee points to the need for greater motorist and user visibility as to the direction and location of county parks. It is reported that the WI Department of Transportation has a program where they make and install roadside county park directional signs and install them. A priority of the committee is for staff to prepare a comprehensive list along with prioritization of all the roadside signs that are needed to direct users from county and state roads as well most commonly used local roads to each county park.

### **Delphi Committee Appreciation**

The Delphi Committee wishes to extend our appreciation to the Rock County Parks Director Lori Williams, Community Coordinator Dave Hoffman, and Consultant Dave Emanuelson for giving of their time to meet with us and giving us the opportunity to participate in the planning process for the 2015-2019 Rock County Parks POROS plan.

### Public Meetings

#### First Public Meeting

A public meeting to discuss the future of the park system, present survey data and very preliminary capital improvement ideas was held on October 13, 2014 at 6 pm. There were approximately 15 people in attendance. The following is a collection of the comments made and discussed during the public hearing.

- The County should look into acquiring the old rail line in Afton for a rail to trails conversion
- Is there a lot of success with increased sales tax measures in Wisconsin for additional park and recreation funding?
- The sales tax increase is not really an option as Rock County already levies the ½ cent. Any monies left over from the spending of the sales tax should be spent on capital project of which the Parks Division has projects that could be funded.
- In Fiscal Year 2015, the Parks Division is forecasting a \$200,000 capital improvement budget
- Marketing is always needed to get information out into the communities. The Parks Division is starting to work with Rock County Tourism to develop more ideas to showcase the parks.
- Tourism grants are available. Ideas like a poker run to various parks could be an existing start to developing special events that include tourism opportunities.
- A new unified "Friends of Rock County Parks" should be created as a nonprofit foundation to mold all of the smaller friends groups into a single group. This will allow for more opportunities to raise money, a greater use of funds and develop the next generation of leaders.
- The idea of a gifts catalog has been explored but should be advanced to allow for memorials and opportunities for giving
- The difference between county parks and municipal parks should be expressed in the plan as the county parks are unique and do not compete with the local forms of recreation
- The community coordinator position is an important position for the success of the Parks Division
- The elected board of supervisors needs to be educated on the parks and the benefits they provide. We have done so much with limited resources, and we can accomplish more with on-going support.
- The bottom line is there is a need for more people in our parks

#### Second Public Meeting

A public meeting to present goals and objectives as well as the capital improvement plan in more detail was held December 8, 2014 at 6 pm. There were 9 people in attendance. The following is a collection of the comments made and discussed during the public hearing.

- The Delphi Committee should continue meeting and providing guidance on the plan for the next five years
- The friends groups should have a yearly summit to discuss important topics facing each individual group as well as a collective ensemble to advance park improvements within the system
- To continue the visibility of the parks system both inside the county departments as well as within the communities of Rock County

### Chapter 12.4- Goals, Objectives & Policies

The goals and objectives surrounding capital improvements as well as those with an administrative focus should be viewed as high priorities. These goals also should be viewed as interrelated activities as each will have a profound effect on each other. They will have influence on the remaining goals by providing much needed space for programs and the enhancement outdoor recreation opportunities.

#### Vision

Rock County is a growing system of parks, trails, and open spaces that are designed to preserve areas of natural beauty, significant ecological and historic value while balancing land stewardship with recreational opportunity while being fiscal responsible.

#### Goals & Objectives

Planning goals are functional ideas and values that help guide the planning process. Goals address major essential issues, which become apparent through the planning process. They are ideas and values, which are in the public interest and provide an end toward which the planning process is directed. Goals are followed by objectives, which are more specific statements that further define the goal and help shape the direction of the plan. Objectives also help measure progress toward meeting the established goals. A policy is defined as a course of action as pursued by a government, organization or individual entity.

Thus far, this plan has reviewed input provided by a number of sources in the community. Public meetings have been conducted, a group of community leaders have offered their suggestions, an email, mail and telephone survey has been analyzed and the staff and advisory committee have provided their ideas.

All of these sources need to be taken into consideration to determine the needs of the community as well as the needs of the Rock County Park System. For this reason, goals and objectives of this plan will be categorized as administrative, programming, land acquisition and park development.

### Rock County Park System Administrative Goals

#### Goal 12.1

Continue to educate the County Supervisors about the mission and importance of the Rock County Park System to the residents of the county.

#### Objectives

##### 12.1.1

Submit written and verbal annual reports at County Supervisor meetings about the contributions the park system makes to the quality of life in Rock County.

##### 12.1.2

Schedule annual meetings between the County Administrator and Public Works Parks Advisory Committee to discuss operations and budgetary items as needed.

##### 12.1.3

With the permission of the County Administrator, meet with individual County Supervisors to answer any questions they might have about the mission and importance of the Rock County Park System.

##### 12.1.4

With the permission of the County Administrator, meet with the media that covers Rock County Supervisors regular meetings to explain the importance of the mission and contributions of the Rock County Park System.

#### Goal 12.2

Continue to work with the Public Works Parks Advisory Committee to educate its members about the mission and importance of the Rock County Park System.

#### Objectives

##### 12.2.1

Provide the Public Works Parks Advisory Committee with detailed information about Rock County Park System usage by residents and visitors to the county.

##### 12.2.2

Schedule regular visits to Rock County Parks in order to show Public Works Advisory Committee members the condition of the parks and help them understand how the vision for park development will improve the parks.

##### 12.2.3

Involve Public Works Advisory Committee members in the planning process so that they can better understand the complexity of the planning and implementation process.

### 12.2.4

In advance of the submission of capital expenditure requests, show Public Works Advisory Committee members the costs associated with the park development goals for the year.

### **Goal 12.3**

Increase public visibility and awareness of the Rock County Parks Division.

#### **Objectives**

##### 12.3.1

Develop a Rock County Parks Division logo that provides an understanding of what the department is and what it does.

##### 12.3.2

Update the Rock County Parks Division website, providing the public with current maps and images of the county parks and their amenities on a regular basis.

##### 12.3.3

Develop and provide the public informational brochures for each park and about the parks and recreation services that the Parks Department provides.

##### 12.3.4

Install uniform signage at all county parks, trails and amenities as well as directional signage to Rock County Parks.

##### 12.3.5

Provide the media with regular news releases about the activities, parks services, recreational opportunities offered by the department or friends groups.

### **Goal 12.4**

Foster and maintain relationships with related governmental groups and committees.

#### **Objectives**

##### 12.4.1

Meet regularly with the municipal parks and recreation agencies within Rock County as well as the Department of Natural Resources, other state agencies, and federal agencies.

##### 12.4.2

Network and coordinate with other county departments, local green agencies and industries, scouting and youth groups, and convention bureaus to promote park services within the county.

##### 12.4.3

Continue to utilize the various Rock County resources of Planning, Public Works, and Sheriffs Departments in mapping and planning, large structural repairs and maintenance, and policing and related efforts.

### **Goal 12.5**

Encourage friends group organizations to maintain and improve their partnerships with the Rock County Parks Division.

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.5.1*

Continue to develop and update formal agreements for collaboration with friends groups.

##### *12.5.2*

Develop volunteer handbooks and provide these handbooks to the groups and volunteers.

##### *12.5.3*

Encourage and partner with local corporations to support their employees in seeking out volunteer positions and projects with Friends groups.

### **Goal 12.6**

On an annual basis, revisit the planning process in order to assess the direction for growth and to see what capital improvements will achieve directional goals.

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.6.1*

Develop an ongoing data collection process in order to base direction and improvements on Rock County resident needs.

##### *12.6.2*

Provide the data findings to Public Works Advisory Committee members and County Supervisors in order to pursue acquisition and preservation of additional park land and scenic areas based on the data collected.

##### *12.6.3*

Use the data collection process as an opportunity to educate the public about how it feels about the County Park System in order to build public support for park development initiatives.

##### *12.6.4*

Using the data collection process, through contacts with the media, and from Rock County Park System marketing efforts, seek additional input from the public about its needs.

##### *12.6.5*

Continue to focus on Natural resource management, provision of tourist supportive amenities and the maintenance of trails to provide unique and separate functions than municipal service agencies.

##### *12.6.6*

Develop specific site improvement plans for each existing county park and trail area based on the survey results which show the prioritize preferences.

### **Goal 12.7**

Promote Capital initiatives for the Rock County Parks Division consistent with the 2015 POROS Plan and with the data received through the ongoing data gathering process.

#### **Objectives**

##### 12.7.1

Recognize from the community surveys, public meetings and friends groups that residents of Rock County support research to acquire land, maintain land, develop a nature center, preserve land, recreation programs and preserve land.

##### 12.7.2

Provide an opportunity for the public and friends groups to donate funds to make park improvements using the vehicle of a foundation as the source for receiving and allocating those donations.

### **Goal 12.8**

Develop stable and sufficient financial support for Rock County's Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Facilities.

#### **Objectives**

##### 12.8.1

Secure adequate county funding for land acquisition, facility improvement, operation and maintenance to update and improve infrastructure

##### 12.8.2

Focus on the securing of grant monies for land acquisition and amenity development.

##### 12.8.2

Pursue and utilize Federal, State and private grants as available.

##### 12.8.3

Seek in kind donations from other governmental units.

##### 12.8.4

Seek grants from non-profit foundations that provide funding to parks and recreation agencies.

##### 12.8.5

Continue to research and expand the user fee system for Rock County Parks.

##### 12.8.6

Continue to utilize the Capital Improvements Plan for Rock County Parks according to the needs and resources available.

### **Goal 12.9**

Improve the marketing efforts of the provided by the Rock County Park System, both to residents and prospective visitors.

### **Objectives**

#### *12.9.1*

Communicate information to the citizens and County Board through PSA's, written reports, quarterly meetings and the Rock County Website.

#### *12.9.2*

Establish a Rock County Parks Facebook page and utilize other social media to market programs and services.

#### *12.9.3*

Develop relationships with visitor and tourism bureaus both in and outside of Rock County in order to create links to their websites and linking the Rock County Park System website in order to create mutually beneficial outcomes.

### Programming Goals

#### **Goal 12.10**

Continue to expand outdoor environmental education program series focusing on recreation for families and children through greater marketing efforts.

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.10.1*

Recognize from the survey that environmental education and nature based programming ranked high on the needs of the community.

##### *12.10.2*

Expand partnerships with outside organizations where possible, while retaining control of new programs to provide a new revenue stream for the Parks Division.

##### *12.10.3*

Provide valuable outreach services in terms of visibility within the community through area schools and service group events and fairs.

##### *12.10.4*

Identify ways to focus on children and families in order to meet their programmatic needs.

#### **Goal 12.11**

Develop outdoor recreation programs surrounding current natural features found with the existing park system.

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.11.1*

Develop program opportunities within the existing park system for meaningful recreation program opportunities, such as a kayaking class on Gibbs Lake.

##### *12.11.2*

Create and host special events, including candelight hikes or ski events.

### **Goal 12.12**

Investigate addition program ideas and revenue sources.

### **Objectives**

#### *12.12.1*

Explore and develop programs such as: tree cutting program, educational programs, special events, and trail passes.

#### *12.12.2*

Using new fee resources generated from program offered to Rock County residents expand program offerings.

#### *12.12.2*

Develop fee supported programs and services for non-residents of Rock County in order to generate revenues to provide services to Rock County residents.

### Primary Land Acquisition & Development Goals

#### **Goal 12.13**

Invest into park development

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.13.1*

Prioritize limited capital development funds into projects that provide maximum benefits where possible.

#### **Goal 12.14**

Develop an improved pathway system

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.14.1*

Continue to identify funding sources to improve and enhance pathway system.

##### *12.14.2*

Apply for grants and assemble matching resources to fund construction of specific pathway projects.

##### *12.14.3*

Develop a map of pathway system and include it on the agency's website and program brochure.

#### **Goal 12.15**

Explore opportunity for a new environmental education center at Beckman Mill Park

#### **Objectives**

##### *12.15.1*

Further discussion with appropriate interest groups and form an advisory sub-committee.

##### *12.15.2*

A preliminary design concept of a facility should be developed inexpensively providing the advisory committee a starting place for discussions.

##### *12.15.3*

Explore alternative sources of capital funding for an environmental education center.

##### *12.15.4*

Perform a financial feasibility study once concept plans are ready on the probability on how the building will succeed on a financial and programming basis.

### **Goal 12.16**

Acquire additional park space to address gaps in level of service.

### **Objectives**

#### *12.16.1*

Perform a market analysis study to find suitable locations to address any gaps in service.

#### *12.16.2*

Evaluate the parcels with the assistance of the county planning department.

#### *12.16.3*

Make offer for parcels if the land will provide recreation/environmental benefit, is cost effective and there is a willing seller.

**Defining Characteristics of the County Regional Parks**

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Acres Per Thousand Population</b>	<b>Suggested Acreage*</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Primary Providers</b>	<b>Defining Characteristics</b>
County Community Parks (CCP)	3.25/1000	Less than or equal to 25 acres	Park Planning Area (5 miles)	Non-profit organizations, public schools, cities, county service areas & special districts	Play areas, sports fields & picnicking
County Regional Recreation Areas (CRRA)	5/1000	Less than 200 acres (also includes access sites to public waterways)	Park Planning Area (15 miles)	County	Generally above 25 acres where 10% of the area is devoted to developed recreation facilities (boat launching facilities, campgrounds, swimming, beaches, play areas, sports fields)
County Regional Open Space - Passive (CROSP)	15/1000	Less than or equal to 200 acres	Regional (Approximately 30 miles)	County	Resource management with public access
Trails (T)	1 mile per 10,000 people	None	Regional	County, State	Located primarily outside of parkland areas

Areas of County Recreation Parks/ Thousand Population by Park Planning Area

Park Planning Area	Population for the Planning Area (2014)	Total Acres of County Community Parks (CCP)	Acreage Guideline at 3.25 Acres/ 1,000	Recommended Land Acquisition by 2019
County Total	160,000	68.5	520	451.5
Park Planning Area	Population for the Planning Area (2014)	Total Acres of County Regional Recreation Area (CRRA)	Acreage Guideline at 5 Acres/ 1,000	Recommended Land Acquisition by 2019
County Total	160,000	361.5	800	438.5
Park Planning Area	Population for the Planning Area (2014)	Total Acres of County Regional Open Space-Passive (CROSP)	Acreage Guideline at 15 Acres/ 1,000	Recommended Land Acquisition by 2019
County Total	160,000	505	2400	1895
Park Planning Area	Population for the Planning Area (2014)	Total Miles of Trails (T)	Miles Guideline at 1 Mile/ 10,000	Recommended Land Acquisition by 2019
County Total	160,000	9.7	16	6.3

## Chapter 12.5- Plan Implementation

A plan is only as good as its ability to be implemented. The previous chapter outlined specific goals and objectives that have the ability to make the Rock County Parks Division a stronger and more successful agency. This chapter is organized into a series of action plans that should be implemented to meet the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. All of the work involved in this plan is represented in the following pages. It is the culmination of all the research, meetings, responses and discussions that have transpired during the planning process. The end goal of this plan is to set priorities for the Parks Division to follow with the support of the public each year that will positively impact the quality of life for the residents.

The following sequence of action items should be viewed as an agreement between the agency and the public. It is specific in nature to make significant improvements to the agency in a short amount of time. One of the key items that will allow for continued improvements and implementation are frequent internal staff discussions regarding project costs and direction as well as the timeframe that will be necessary to accomplish the project. This is encouraged to match the agency's financial position with capital project funding. This is a key step to ensure project success. It is important to have a clear funding picture for the projects of this master plan to get the necessary buy-in at all levels within the organization. This will ensure the financial monies are in place during the upcoming budget years to move forward with each component of the implementation action plan. The costs that follow are only preliminary numbers and will need to be finalized each budget year.

In review of the recent survey data, the preferred amenities include the following ranked in order:

Rank	Amenity	Rank	Amenity
1	Hiking Trails	11	Amphitheatres
2	Biking Trails	12	Zip Lines
3	Fishing Areas	13	Tent Camping
4	Picnic Shelter	14	Rock Climbing Walls
5	Historic Sites	15	Ropes Courses
6	Nature Centers	16	Disc Golf Course
7	Dog Park	17	RV Camping
8	Canoe/ Boat Ramps	18	Equestrian Trails
9	Winter Recreation Areas	19	Other
10	Nature Play Areas		

The action items outlined by year are based on the public survey data, public meetings and meetings with various county groups and staff. The conceptual ideas for each park are subject to change as each specific park is looked at. Final programming and development for each park will be developed with a master plan and public input process specific to that park.

The Rock County Parks Division has certain infrastructure needs and obligations, such as maintaining the trail network, facilities and service roads and creating safe environments that will continue to be reviewed and evaluated.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

Goal	Objective	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Administrative</b>						
1	Submit written and verbal annual reports at County Supervisor meetings about the contributions the park system makes to quality of life in Rock County	X	X	X	X	X
1	Schedule annual meetings between the County Administrator and Public Works Parks Advisory Committee to discuss operations and budgetary items as needed	X	X	X	X	X
1	With the permission of the County Administrator, meet with individual County Supervisors to answer any questions they might have about the mission and importance of the Rock County Park System	X	X	X	X	X
1	With the permission of the County Administrator, meet with the media that covers Rock County Supervisors regular meetings to explain the importance of the mission and contributions of the Rock County Park System	X	X	X	X	X
2	Provide the Public Works Parks Advisory Committee with detailed information about Rock County Park System usage by residents and visitors to the county	X	X	X	X	X
2	Schedule regular visits to Rock County Parks in order to show Public Works Advisory Committee members the condition of the parks and help them understand how the vision for park development will improve the parks	X	X	X	X	X
2	Involve Public Works Advisory Committee members in the planning process so that they can better understand the complexity of the planning and implementation process	X	X	X	X	X
2	In advance of the submission of capital expenditure requests, show Public Works Advisory Committee members the costs associated with the park development goals for the year	X	X	X	X	X
3	Develop a Rock County Parks Division logo that provides an understanding of what the department is and what it does	X				
3	Update the Rock County Parks Division website, providing the public with current maps and images of the county parks and their amenities on a regular basis	X				
3	Develop and provide the public informational brochures for each park and about the parks and recreation services that the Parks Department provides		X			
3	Install uniform signage at all county parks, trails and amenities as well as directional signage to Rock County Parks			X		
3	Provide the media with regular news releases about the activities, parks services, recreational opportunities offered by the department or friends groups	X	X	X	X	X
4	Meet regularly with the municipal parks and recreation agencies within Rock County as well as the Department of Natural Resources, other state agencies, and federal agencies	X	X	X	X	X
4	Network and coordinate with other county departments, local green agencies and industries, scouting and youth groups, and convention bureaus to promote park services within the county	X	X	X	X	X

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

4	Continue to utilize the various Rock County resources of Planning, Public Works, and Sheriff's Departments in mapping and planning, large structural repairs and maintenance, and policing and related efforts	X	X	X	X	X
5	Continue to develop and update formal agreements for collaboration with friends groups	X	X	X	X	X
5	Develop volunteer handbooks and provide these handbooks to the groups and volunteers	X	X	X	X	X
5	Encourage and partner with local corporations to support their employees in seeking out volunteer positions and projects with Friends groups	X	X	X	X	X
5	Hold and host a friends summit once a year	X	X	X	X	X
6	Develop an ongoing data collection process in order to base direction and improvements on Rock County resident needs	X	X	X	X	X
6	Provide the data findings to Public Works Advisory Committee members and County Supervisors in order to pursue acquisition and preservation of additional park land and scenic areas based on the data collected	X	X	X	X	X
6	Use the data collection process as an opportunity to educate the public about how it feels about the County Park System in order to build public support for park development initiatives	X	X	X	X	X
6	Using the data collection process, through contacts with the media, and from Rock County Park System marketing efforts, seek additional input from the public about its needs	X	X	X	X	X
6	Continue to focus on Natural resource management, provision of tourist supportive amenities and the maintenance of trails to provide unique and separate functions than municipal service agencies	X	X	X	X	X
6	Develop specific site improvement plans for each existing county park and trail area based on the survey results which show the prioritize preferences		X	X	X	
7	Recognize from the community surveys, public meetings and friends groups that residents of Rock County support research to acquire land, maintain land, develop a nature center, preserve land, recreation programs and preserve land	X	X	X	X	X
7	Provide an opportunity for the public and friends groups to donate funds to make park improvements using the vehicle of a foundation as the source for receiving and allocating those donations	X	X	X	X	X
8	Secure adequate county funding for land acquisition, facility improvement, operation and maintenance to update and improve infrastructure	X	X	X	X	X
8	Focus on the securing of grant monies for land acquisition and amenity development	X	X	X	X	X
8	Pursue and utilize Federal, State and private grants as available	X	X	X	X	X
8	Seek in kind donations from other governmental units	X	X	X	X	X
8	Seek grants from non-profit foundations that provide funding to parks and recreation agencies	X	X	X	X	X
8	Continue to research and expand the user fee system for Rock County Parks		X		X	

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

8	Continue to utilize the Capital Improvements Plan for Rock County Parks according to the needs and resources available	X	X	X	X	X
9	Communicate information to the citizens and County Board through PSA's, written reports, quarterly meetings and the Rock County Website	X	X	X	X	X
9	Establish a Rock County Parks Facebook page and utilize other social media to market programs and services	X	X	X	X	X
9	Develop relationships with visitor and tourism bureaus both in and outside of Rock County in order to create links to their websites and linking the Rock County Park System website in order to create mutually beneficial outcomes	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Programming</b>						
10	Recognize from the survey that environmental education and nature based programming ranked high on the needs of the community	X	X	X	X	X
10	Expand partnerships with outside organizations where possible, while retaining control of new programs to provide a new revenue stream for the Parks Division	X	X	X	X	X
10	Provide valuable outreach services in terms of visibility within the community through area schools and service group events and fairs	X	X	X	X	X
10	Identify ways to focus on children and families in order to meet their programmatic needs	X		X		X
11	Develop program opportunities within the existing park system for meaningful recreation program opportunities, such as a kayaking class on Gibbs Lake	X	X	X	X	X
11	Create and host special events, including candlelight hikes or ski events	X	X	X	X	X
12	Explore and develop programs such as: tree cutting program, educational programs, special events, and trail passes		X		X	
12	Using new fee resources generated from program offered to Rock County residents expand program offerings		X		X	
12	Develop fee supported programs and services for non-residents of Rock County in order to generate revenues to provide services to Rock County residents		X		X	
<b>Land Acquisition &amp; Development</b>						
13	Prioritize limited capital development funds into projects that provide maximum benefits where possible	X	X	X	X	X
14	Continue to identify funding sources to improve and enhance pathway system	X	X	X	X	X
14	Apply for grants and assemble matching resources to fund construction of specific pathway projects		X		X	
14	Develop a map of pathway system and include it on the agency's website and program brochure	X				
15	Further discussion with appropriate interest groups and form an advisory sub-committee	X				
15	A preliminary design concept of a facility should be developed inexpensively providing the advisory committee a starting place for discussions		X			

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

15	Explore alternative sources of capital funding for an environmental education center			X	X	X
15	Perform a financial feasibility study once concept plans are ready on the probability on how the building will succeed on a financial and programming basis				X	
16	Perform a market analysis study to find suitable locations to address any gaps in service		X		X	
16	Evaluate the parcels with the assistance of the county planning department		X		X	
16	Make offer for parcels if the land will provide recreation/ environmental benefit, is cost effective and there is a willing seller			X		X

## QOS Scorecard

The chart shown below is the Quality of Service Scorecard. It takes four categories (facility use, cost, level of service and impact) and ranks each park or facility. The highest scores are the most important items, which should be focused on first.

Park	Facility Use	Cost	Level of Service	Impact	Score
Environmental Education Center	3	3	4	3	13
Gibbs Lake Park	3	1	3	3	10
Regional Trail Development	3	3	4	2	12
Park Land Acquisition	1	3	4	3	11
New Park Development	2	3	4	2	11
Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail	1	1	4	2	8
Ice Age Connector Trail	2	1	4	3	10
Sweet-Allyn Park	3	1	2	2	8
Beckman Mill Park	3	1	2	1	7
Happy Hollow Park	2	1	3	2	8
Magnolia Bluff Park	2	2	2	2	8
Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park	3	1	1	3	8
Carver-Roehl Park	2	2	2	1	7
Murwin Park	1	1	2	2	6
Lee Park	1	1	2	2	6
P&T Snowmobile Trail	1	1	4	1	7
Snowmobile Trail	1	1	4	1	7
Ice Age Park	3	1	1	1	6
Sugar River Park	2	1	1	1	5
Indianford Park	2	1	1	1	5
Koshkonong Lake Access	2	1	1	1	5
Royce Dahlman Park	1	1	1	1	4
Airport Park	1	1	1	1	4
Schollmeyer Park	1	1	1	1	4
Avon Park	1	1	1	1	4
Hanover Wildlife Area	1	1	1	1	4
Turtlecreek Park	3	1	4	2	10
	1- Low Use	1- Low (\$300,000 & Under)	1- Low (CCP)	1- Low Impact	
	2- Medium Use	2- Medium (\$300,000- \$800,000)	2- Medium (CRRA)	2- Medium Impact	
	3- High Use	3- High (Over \$800,000)	3- High (CROSP)	3- High Impact	
			4- High (Special Use/ Trails)		

### Capital Improvement Recommendations Overview

#### 2015 Development Action Plan

<i>Turtle Creek Park:</i>	\$50,000-\$55,000
1. New Roof	
<i>Happy Hollow Park:</i>	\$120,000-\$125,000
1. Asphalt paved entry road, boat launch & parking lot area with van accessible parking space with sign	
2. Upgrade boat launch area	
3. Lower informational kiosk for fee paid envelopes	
<i>Carver- Roehl Park</i>	\$70,000-\$75,000
1. Pre-fabricated restroom building	
2. Parking area with handicap parking spaces close to restroom	
3. Asphalt walking path for accessibility	
<i>Sweet-Allyn Park</i>	\$50,000-\$55,000
1. Pre-fabricated restroom building	
<i>Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park</i>	\$75,000-\$80,000
1. Playground renovation	
<i>Pathway Development</i>	\$20,000-\$25,000
1. ADA limestone paths	

## 2016 Development Action Plan

<i>Turtle Creek Park</i>	\$25,000-\$30,000
1. New canoe launch	
<i>Murwin Park</i>	\$10,000-\$15,000
1. Upgrade canoe launch	
<i>Carver- Roehl Park</i>	\$50,000-\$55,000
1. Fitness stations	
2. 18 Hole frisbee golf course	
<i>Dog park</i>	\$75,000-\$80,000
1. Basic Design- Open one location in 2016	
<i>Pathway Development</i>	\$100,000-\$110,000
1. Carver-Roehl Park	

## 2017 Development Action Plan

<i>Gibbs Lake Park</i>	\$75,000-\$80,000
1. Mountain bike circuit/ Pump track	
<i>Beckman Mill Park</i>	\$175,000-\$180,000
1. Nature/ adventure playground	
<i>Sweet-Allyn Park</i>	\$75,000-\$80,000
1. Playground renovation with accessible walk	
<i>Indianford Park</i>	\$70,000-\$75,000
1. Parking lot upgrade with asphalt	
2. Van accessible parking space with sign for each lot	
3. Limestone paths to restroom area	
4. Shoreline native plantings	
5. Fishing station	
<i>Pathway Development</i>	\$20,000-\$25,000
1. Sugar River Park	

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

### 2018 Development Action Plan

<i>Lee Park</i>	\$125,000-\$130,000
1. Paved parking lot	
2. Boardwalk area	
<i>Dog Park</i>	\$75,000-\$80,000
1. Basic Design- Open one location in 2018	
<i>Pathway Development</i>	\$50,000-\$55,000
1. Lee Park	
<i>Nature Center (Partnership)</i>	\$TBD
1. Beckman Mill Park	
<i>Land Acquisition</i>	\$TBD
1. Acquire 50-80 acre park to be added into the system	
2. Acquire additional land at Magnolia Bluff Park if possible	

### 2019+ Development Action Plan

<i>Magnolia Bluff Park</i>	\$150,000-\$160,000
1. Lookout/ observation tower	
<i>Campground Development</i>	\$40,000-\$45,000
1. Magnolia Bluff & Gibbs Lake Parks	
<i>Regional Trail Development</i>	\$TBD

### A. Indianford Park

Park Description: Indianford Park is made up of two parcels (2.5 acres) of land on both sides of the Rock River. Currently it has non-flushing restroom facilities, parking areas, picnic table and shoreline for fishing. The shoreline is dammed with rip-rap.

Recommendations:

1. Parking Lot Upgrade with Asphalt	\$30,000
2. Van accessible parking space with sign for each lot	\$3,000
3. Limestone paths to each restroom	\$2,000
4. Add shoreline native plantings	\$7,000
5. Add fishing station	\$15,000
6. 20% Contingency	\$11,400
Total:	\$68,400

### B. Gibbs Lake Park

Park Description: Gibbs Lake Park is 229 acres and currently has equestrian and hiking trails, boat launch, two parking areas – one for equestrian trailers and one for cars. The area also includes lake shoreline, wetlands, woodlands, prairie and savanna areas.

Recommendations:

1. Mountain bike circuit/Pump track	\$75,000
2. Hiking foot paths	\$10,000
3. Fitness stations circuit (5)	\$30,000
4. Native plantings/Invasive plant removal	\$20,000
5. Environmental education pods (3)	\$15,000
6. Tent campground site	\$20,000
7. Lower informational kiosks for fee paid envelopes	\$700
8. Limestone path to the boat launch informational kiosk	\$1,000
9. 20% Contingency	\$34,300
Total:	\$206,040

### C. Carver-Roehl Park

Park Description: Carver-Roehl Park contains 53 acres of hiking and cross-country skiing trails, group shelter, playground area, non-flushing restroom facilities, benches, historic grave site, water access, and picnic tables.

Recommendations:

1. Pre-fabricated restroom building	\$50,000
2. Parking area with handicap parking spaces close to restroom	\$10,000
3. Upgrade bridges	\$15,000
4. Establish new trails and trail connections	\$100,000
5. Asphalt walking path for accessibility	\$5,000
6. Fitness stations circuit (5)	\$30,000
7. 18 hole frisbee golf course	\$20,000
8. Site furnishings (Benches/Litter Cans/Picnic Tables, Etc.)	\$25,000
9. Signs	\$5,000
10. 20% Contingency	\$260,000
Total:	\$312,000

### D. Beckman Mill Park

Park Description: Beckman Mill Park is 50 acres and currently includes educational museums, picnic shelters, flushing and non-flushing restroom facilities, water access, old machinery and demonstration areas, river access, trails, fire ring and parking area. The park also contains the Beckman Howe Mill and the Welty Environmental Center.

Recommendations:

1. Nature/adventure playground with accessible walkway	\$175,000
2. Environmental education pods (5)	\$50,000
3. Nature center (LEED Certified)	\$TBD
4. 20% Contingency	\$45,000
Total:	\$270,000

### E. Airport Park

Park Description: Airport Park is 2 acres and provides a grassy picnic area to watch airplanes taking off and landing at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport. The park currently includes a small parking lot, shelter, park benches, picnic tables, and a fire ring.

Recommendations:

1. Van accessible parking space with sign	\$1,500
2. 20% Contingency	\$300
Total:	\$1,800

**F. Royce-Dallman Park**

Park Description: Royce-Dallman Park is 3 acres and currently has a fishing pier, bench shelter, parking area, drinking water, picnic shelter and restroom facilities.

Recommendations:

1. Van accessible parking space with sign for boat launch	\$1,500
2. Van accessible parking space with sign for restroom	\$1,500
3. Limestone path to boat launch informational kiosk	\$1,000
4. Lower informational kiosk for fee paid envelopes	\$500
5. 20% Contingency	\$900
Total:	\$5,400

**G. Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park**

Park Description: Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park is 10 acres and includes a deer observation area, playground, drinking water access, picnic shelter, an open area with soccer field overlays, restroom facilities and park grills.

Recommendations:

1. Playground renovation with accessible walkway	\$75,000
2. 20% Contingency	\$15,000
Total:	\$90,000

**H. Sugar River Park**

Park Description: Sugar River Park is 15 acres and sits on the Sugar River, park amenities include a boat launch area, parking and a fire pit. Much of the park is floodplain forest and stream bank.

Recommendations:

1. Improve canoe/Boat launch	\$10,000
2. Hiking path	\$25,000
3. Site furnishings (Benches/Litter Cans/Picnic Tables, Etc.)	\$5,000
4. 20% Contingency	\$8,000
Total:	\$48,000

**I. Murwin Park**

Park Description: Murwin Park is 40 acres and located on the Yahara River, it currently provides river access, picnic tables, drinking water access, park grills, restroom facilities and a parking area.

Recommendations:

1. Improve canoe/Boat launch	\$10,000
2. Picnic shelter with accessible limestone path	\$35,000
3. Site furnishings (Benches/Litter Cans/Picnic Tables, Etc.)	\$5,000
4. 20% Contingency	\$10,000
Total:	\$60,000

### J. Magnolia Bluff Park

Park Description: Magnolia Bluff Park is 120 acres and contains the highest point in Rock County. The park contains a picnic shelter, restroom facilities, drinking water access, fire pit, park grills and a series of trails, including hiking and equestrian trails. There are also two parking areas, one at the bottom of the bluff and one at the top. Natural areas include woodland, prairie/savanna, bluff restoration and wetlands.

Recommendations:

1. Playground with accessible walkway	\$75,000
2. Van accessible parking space with sign at each lot	\$3,500
3. Lower informational kiosk for access	\$500
4. Tent campground site	\$20,000
5. Picnic Shelters (2)	\$15,000
6. Site Furnishings (Benches/Litter Cans/Picnic Tables, Etc.)	\$15,000
7. Lookout Tower	\$150,000
8. 20% Contingency	\$55,800
Total:	\$334,800

### K. Sweet-Allyn Park

Park Description: Sweet-Allyn Park is 39+ acres bordering Turtle Creek and includes a playground, picnic tables, picnic shelter, restroom facilities, a memorial area, a baseball field, boat launch area, fire department tug-o-war area, sand volleyball, benches, park grills, drinking water access, dog area, basketball area and parking. Natural areas include stream bank, woodland areas and drainage way.

Recommendations:

1. Playground renovation with accessible walkway	\$75,000
2. Pre-fabricated restroom building	\$50,000
3. Asphalt walking paths for accessibility	\$30,000
4. 20% Contingency	\$31,000
Total:	\$186,000

### L. Lee Park

Park Description: Lee Park is 40 acres of woodland with a small prairie area and a small stream running east to west in the property. The park contains an arboretum, baseball field, non-flushing restroom facilities, picnic shelter, benches, drinking water access, trails (both mown and woodchip) and two small parking areas.

Recommendations:

1. Asphalt paved parking lot area with van accessible parking space with sign	\$75,000
2. Boardwalk area	\$50,000
3. Asphalt walking paths	\$50,000
4. Site Furnishings (Benches/Litter Cans/Picnic Tables, Etc.)	\$7,000
5. 20% Contingency	\$36,400
Total	\$218,400

**M. Happy Hollow Park**

Park Description: Happy Hollow Park is 206 acres bordering on the Rock River. It provides hiking trails, a boat launch, parking area, shelter with benches, picnic tables, drinking water access and restroom facilities.

Recommendations:

1. Asphalt paved entry road, boat launch and parking lot area with van accessible parking space with sign	\$75,000
2. Upgrade Boat Launch Area	\$25,000
3. Limestone path to boat launch informational kiosk	\$1,000
4. Lower informational kiosk for fee paid envelopes	\$500
5. 20% Contingency	\$101,500
Total:	\$121,800

**N. Turtle Creek Park**

Park Description: Turtle Creek Park is a picturesque 3.5 acre park along Turtle Creek with a fantastic view of the Five Arch Stone Bridge. The park has a building for rent with appropriate parking and open space.

Recommendations:

1. Roof Replacement	\$50,000
2. 20% Contingency	\$10,000
Total:	\$60,000

**Park Acquisition:**

- Acquire 50-80 acre parcel in NE part of County
- Acquire additional land at Magnolia Bluff if possible

**Buildings:**

Seek out a LEED Certified Nature Center for Rock County to be built with a strong partnership. This building should be state of the art in environmental education.

**Regional Trails:**

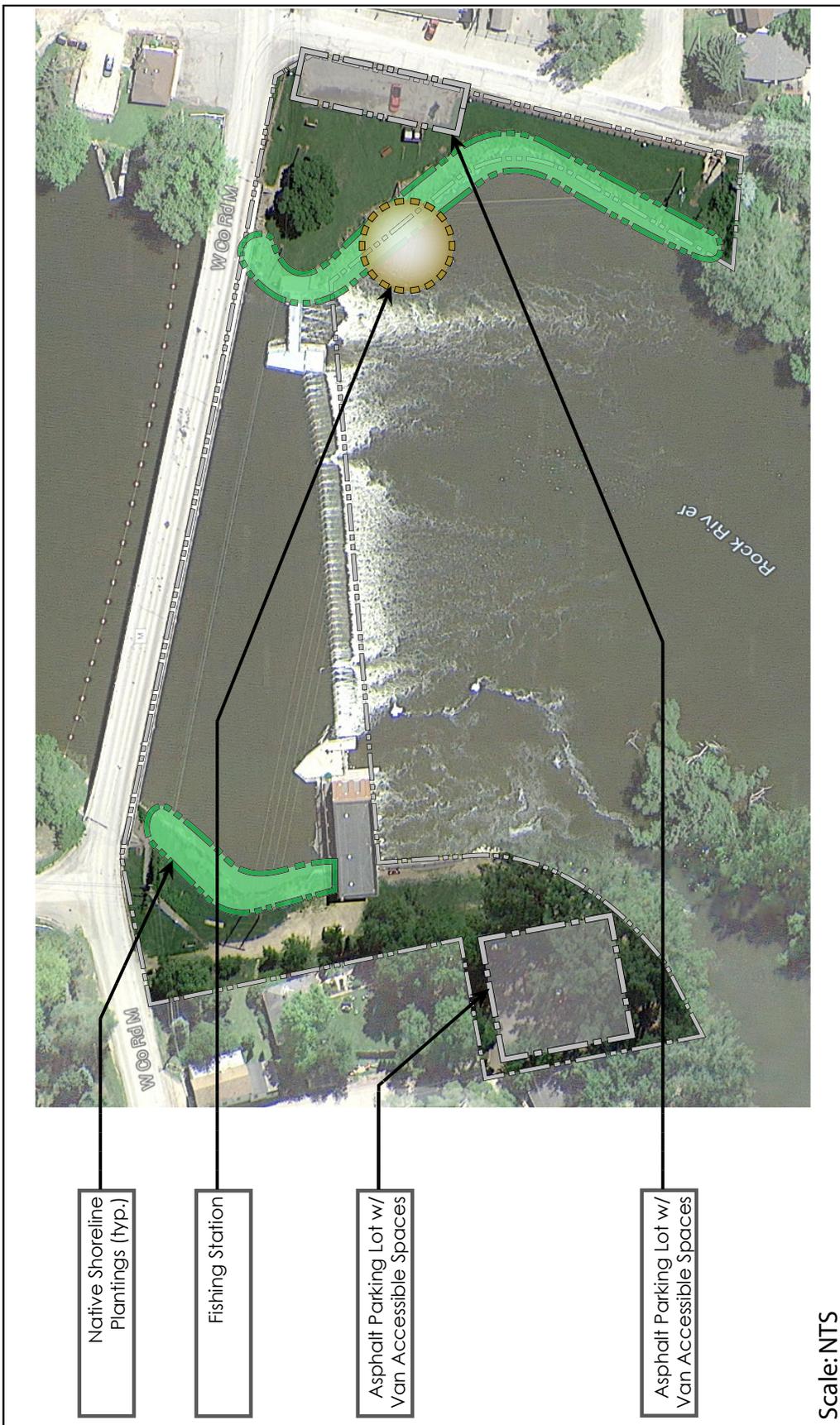
Seek out funding partnerships and acquire needed easements to complete missing or incomplete trail. Look at developing a “Rock River Trail” running from North of Janesville to IL state line. This would be fantastic multi-use trail and could become a regional draw.

### **Conceptual Park & Facility Planning**

Conceptual park & facility planning is developed through existing conditions inventory, current amenities analysis and the recreational needs of the residents to further develop each individual park site. The following plans are conceptual in nature, and are not to be interpreted as the final designs for each park site except for Magnolia Bluff and Carver-Roehl parks as those two have been master planned through a comprehensive site planning process. Based upon the inventory and analysis, these ideas give a general idea as how the different park sites can be improved for the benefit of the park system.

# Indianford Park

Concept

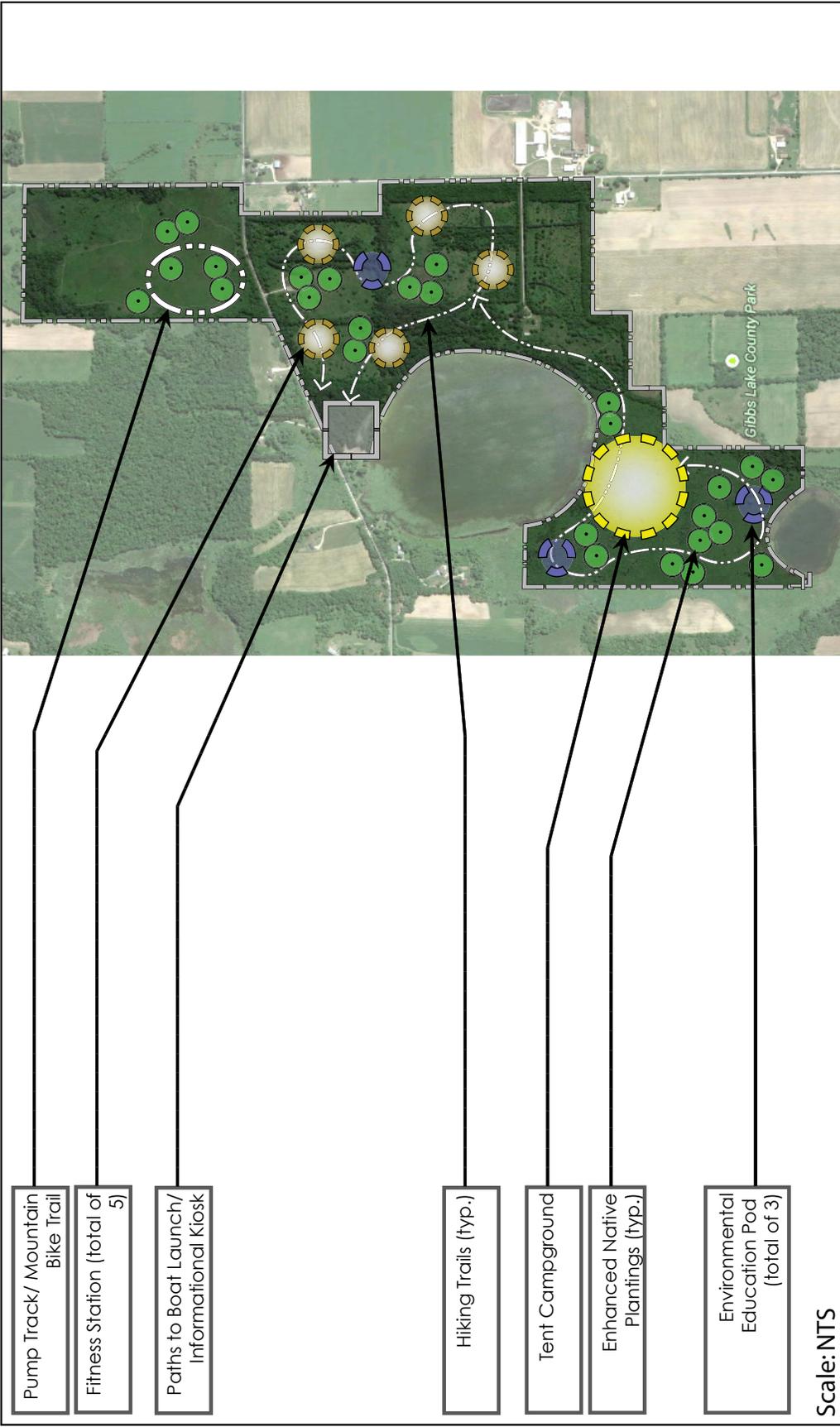


January 2015



Gibbs Lake Park

Concept



Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Recommendations

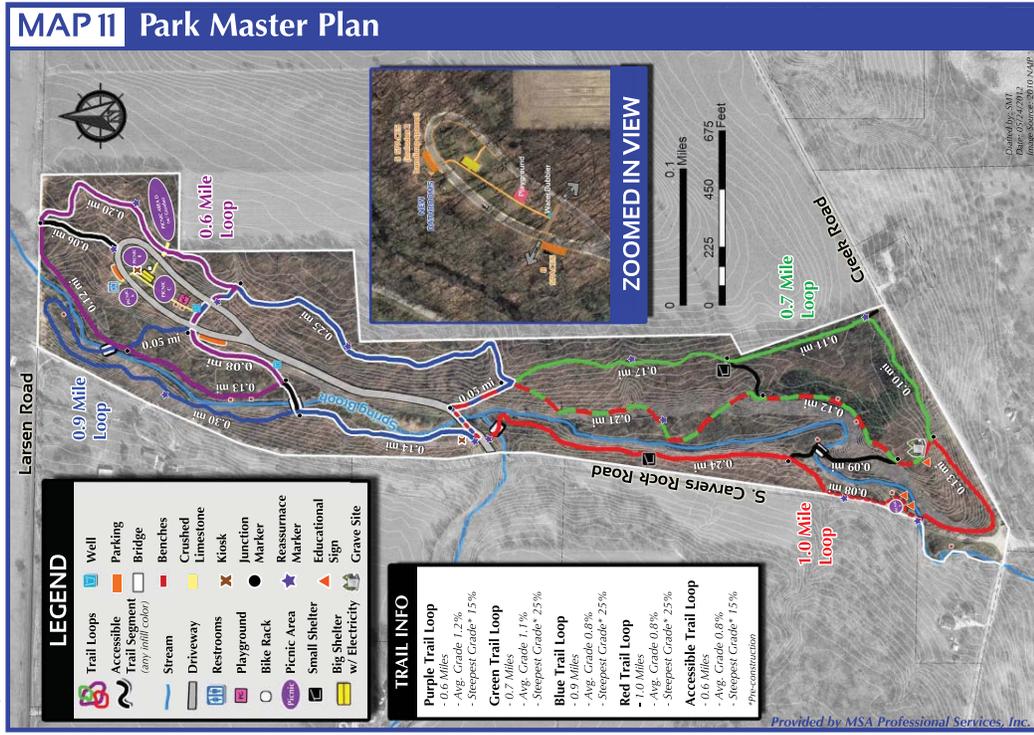
## 24 - Park Facilities / 26 - Trail System / 27 - Signage / 28 - Land Management / 30 - Other

In developing the recommendations for Carver-Roehl Park, the 2009-2014 Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space (POROS) Plan was reviewed. The POROS Plan was created as a vision for the entire park system with some specific recommendations for each park. The map displayed on the right illustrate the major suggested improvements for Carver-Roehl Park. Since the POROS Plan was adopted, the driveway entrance was upgraded, a playground was built (however it was located within the looped driveway), and the turnaround has been paved. Due to feedback from County staff, Friends of Carver-Roehl and the general public, some of the suggested improvements were not carried forward in this plan. These recommendations include a support building for day camp/groups, additional picnic shelters and an additional parking lot with a new park entrance. The remainder of the recommendations have been included in this plan.



The Carver-Roehl Park Master Plan (shown in Map 11) provides a vision for the park in the form of public improvements to be completed over the next ten to twenty years. This Master Plan is intended to enhance existing assets and identify opportunities for improvements. The subsequent sections of this chapter will outline the specific action steps to meet this vision. Chapter 4 will discuss implementation strategies and estimated costs.

Map 11: Master Plan



**CHAPTER THREE**

**3.1 PARK FACILITIES (PF) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Build a new vault toilet building near the other park facilities (along the looped driveway).** The current building has outlived its life cycle, as it needs major repairs and lacks newer technology to mitigate odors associated with vault toilets. The proposed location for this facility (near Picnic Area A) will greatly improve user access as compared to other park facilities. New parking to include handicap spaces will be directly adjacent to this facility (see Action PF.3).

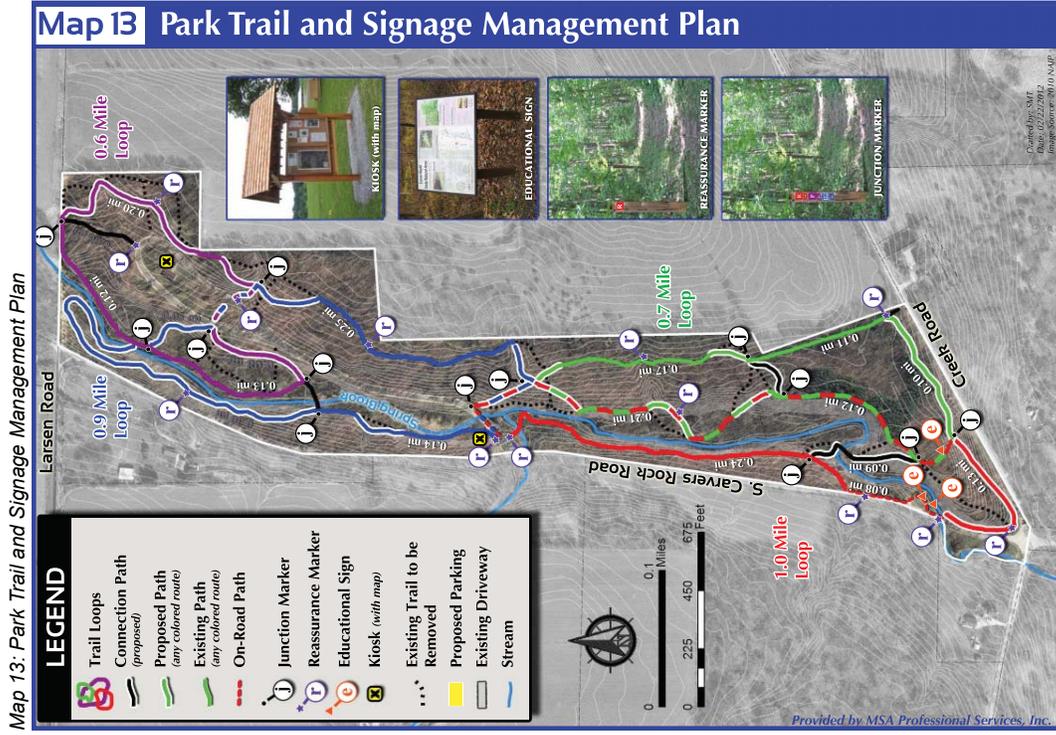
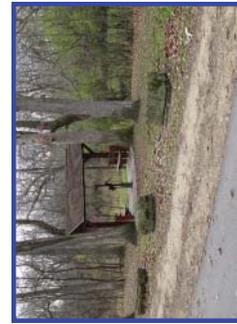

- 2. Pave an area for 5-8 parking spaces adjacent to the restrooms, including two handicap spaces.** In conversations with park users, parking is not an issue outside of the two major events held at the park and they did not want any major disturbance to the green space within the looped driveway. As proposed, the limited number of spots will not affect the existing tree canopy or overall atmosphere within the park. It will, however, provide ADA-compliant parking with easy access to all of Carver-Roehl's park facilities.
- 3. Build a ADA-compliant path in the looped driveway section, connecting the proposed bathroom facility (see Action PF.1), existing pavilion, playground, and the proposed water hand pump (see Action PF.4).** This path could either be a concrete sidewalk or a hard surfaced crushed limestone trail. The key is to provide a firm and stable surface at least 5' wide connecting the main park facilities.
- 4. Add an ADA-compliant water hand pump within the looped driveway adjacent to proposed trail crossing.** The current hand pump is still in good condition; however, it is significantly further away from the other park facilities and is not ADA-compliant. This distance is not great, but can be overlooked by users due to its location. The



**CHAPTER THREE**

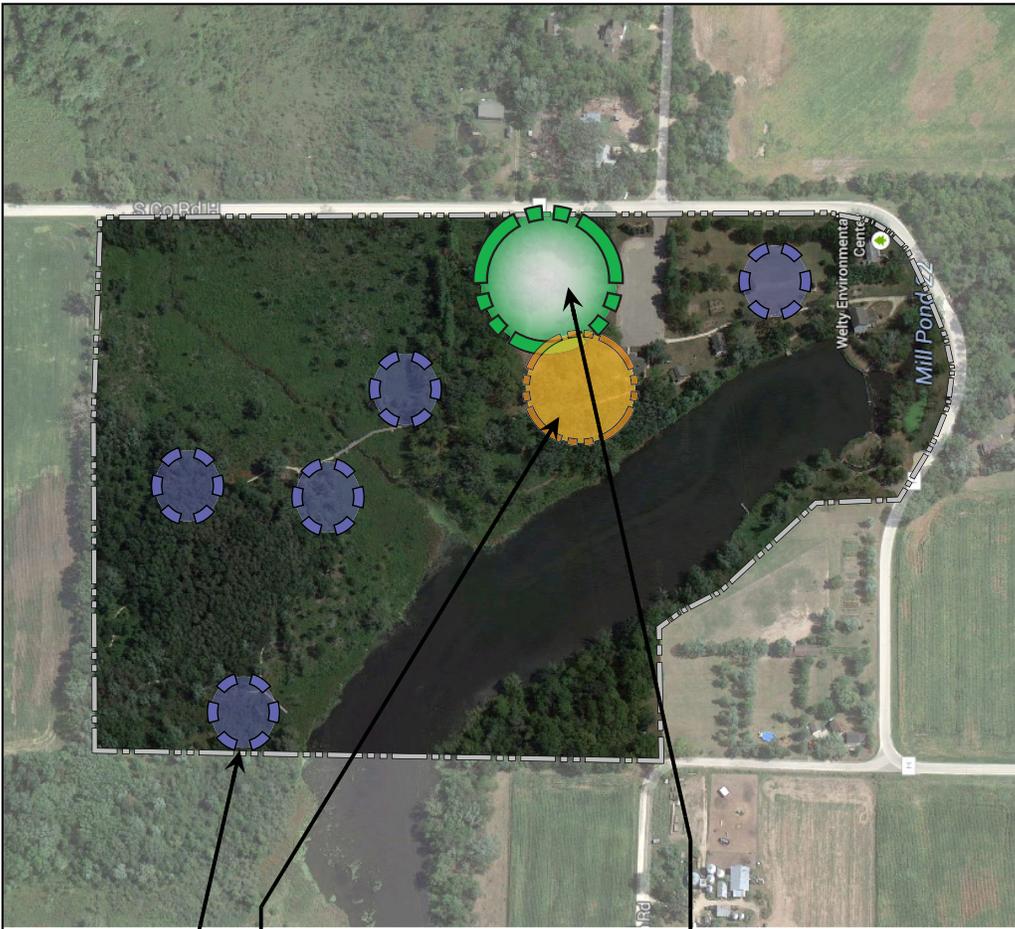
**3.2 TRAIL SYSTEM (TS) RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Close trail sections that have erosion and accessibility issues, and establish new trail segments to complete the trail system.** As discussed in Chapter 2, there are several locations where grade changes and constant foot/ski traffic has created erosion issues. Additionally, these sections often are inaccessible to all trail users. The proposed changes shown in Map 12 will mitigate these issues, creating a low-impact and sustainable trail system. Refer to Appendix B for additional information on trail redesign guidelines.
  - **As part of the trail reconstruction, create several interlocking trail loops that can be followed using a map and park signage.** Instead of establishing a single trail route, this plan suggests creating several trail loops. This allows the user to create their own experience and/or exercise route. It is recommended that each loop be given a color or name (e.g. animal or tree species).
2. **Establish a new trail west of Spring Brook from the park entrance to existing trails east of Spring Brook.** During the public process it was noted that this section of the park was inaccessible to its users, and that they would like a trail be built within this area. As proposed this trail will require a crossing (see Action PF.10).
3. **Establish a trail that is accessible to all users, especially disabled individuals confined to a wheelchair.** The Park Master Plan (Map 11) identifies a trail loop that could be converted from a natural surface to a hard mineral surface to provide an accessible trail within the park. This loop was chosen because it connects the park's main facilities and because the existing natural grade has the least amount of undulations compared to the other trail segments. A firm and stable surface (e.g. crushed limestone) at least 5' wide is recommended. In addition, a hard surfaced trail should be provided from the edge of the driveway to the existing water hand pump if this facility is upgraded with an ADA hand pump.



# Beckman Mills Park

Concept



Environmental Education Pod (total of 5)

Nature Adventure Playground

Nature Center

Scale: NTS



**Design Perspectives, Inc.**  
Grounded in Creativity

January 2015

# Airport Park

Concept



Van Accessible Parking Space with Sign

Scale: NTS

January 2015



Royce Dallman Park

Concept



Limestone Path to Boat Launch

Van Accessible Spaces w/ Signs for Boat Launch and Restroom

Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park

Concept



Playground Renovation  
w/ Accessible Walks

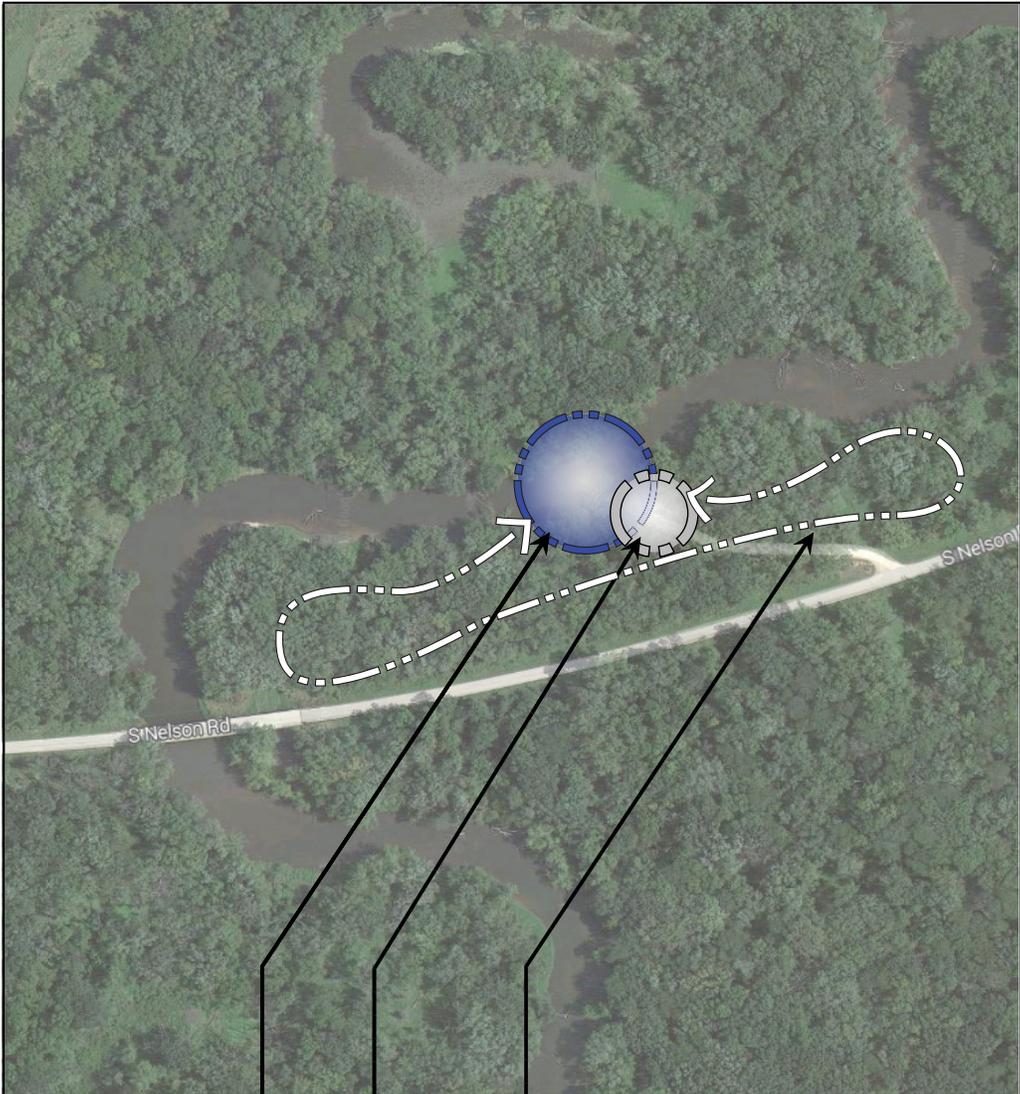
Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Sugar River Park

Concept



Improved Canoe/ Boat Launch

Site Furnishings

Hiking Trails

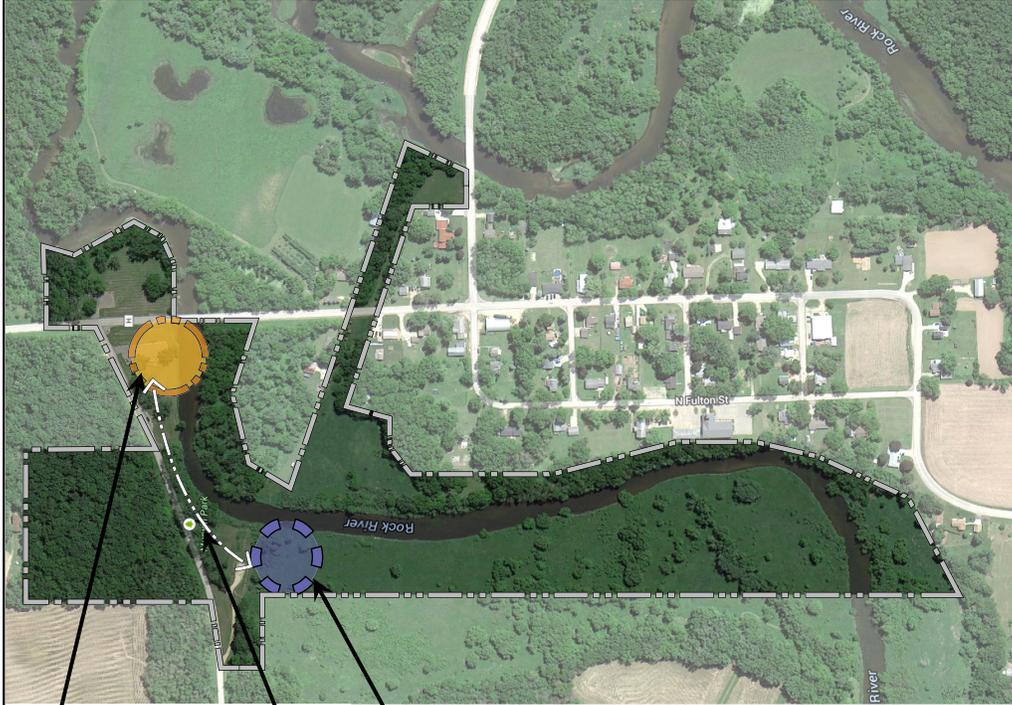
Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Murwin Park

Concept



Improved Canoe/ Boat Launch

Accessible Walkways

Park Shelter w/ Furnishings (benches, litter can, picnic tables)

Scale: NTS

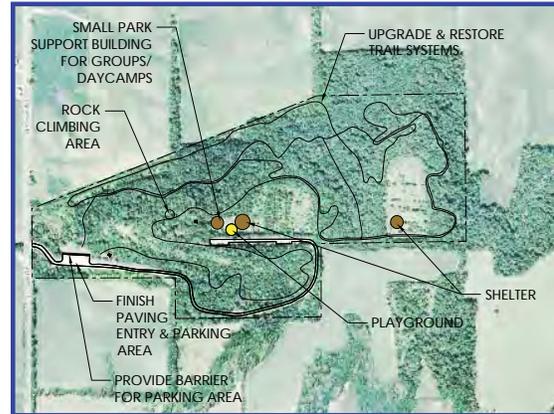
January 2015



# Recommendations

28 - Facilities / 29 - Trails / 31 - Signage / 33 Land Management / 35 Other

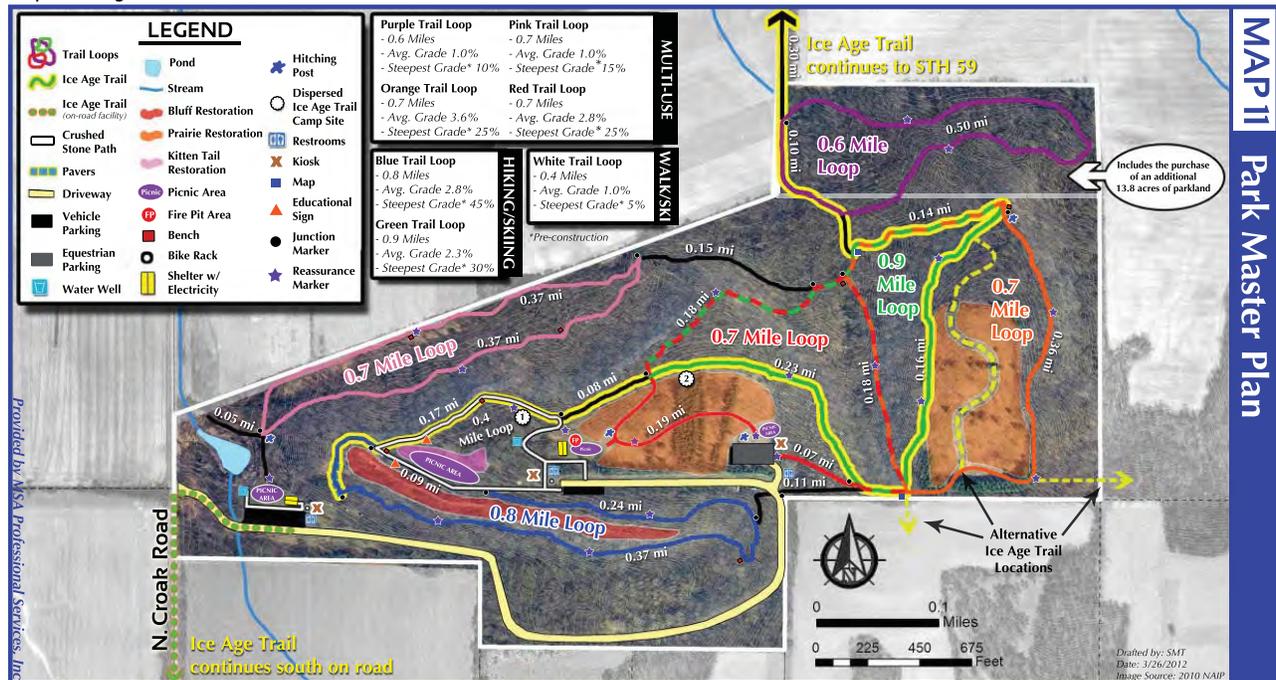
In developing the recommendations for Magnolia Bluff Park, the 2009-2014 Rock County Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space (POROS) Plan was reviewed. The POROS Plan was created as a vision for the entire park system with some specific recommendations for each park. The map displayed on the right illustrate the major suggested improvements for Magnolia Bluff Park. Since the POROS Plan was adopted, the lower parking area was paved and the guard rail was removed. Due to feedback from County staff, Rock County Multi-Use Trail Group and the general public, some of the suggested improvements were not carried forward in this plan. These recommendations include adding a playground and a small nature center. The remainder of the recommendations have been included in this plan.



The Magnolia Bluff Park Master Plan (shown below) provides a vision for the park in the form of public improvements to be completed over the next ten

to twenty years. This Master Plan is intended to enhance existing assets and identify opportunities for improvements. The subsequent sections of this chapter will outline the specific action steps to meet this vision. **Chapter 4** will discuss implementation strategies and estimated costs.

Map 11: Magnolia Bluff Park Master Plan



CHAPTER THREE

3.1 FACILITIES (F) RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Add picnic shelters with electricity within the lower and upper picnic areas.

A picnic shelter is a great asset to a park, as it provides cover from weather



conditions (e.g. sun exposure, rain, etc.), can be rented out for events, or used as part of environmental education programs. As shown in the above example, a unique structure could be built using reclaimed wood from land management activities. The two shelters need not be built at the same time, although this may provide some cost savings. Electricity is preferable because it allows for a greater variety of hosted events. Electricity would be brought in from Croak Road, 1,500 feet north of the park entrance. Consideration should be given to placing the wires underground and along the driveway to minimize its affect on the park's natural setting, although this does increase cost. An additional alternative is to provide only electricity to the

lower shelter, or to use a photovoltaic system, particularly for the upper shelter to minimize the amount of land disturbance. Depending on the outcome of a solar assessment it may be possible to mount the solar panels directly to the roof of the park shelter. A half to one kilowatt system is probably sufficient for the electrical needs of the park. If lights are provided at the shelter consideration should be given to full cut off (dark sky compliant) fixtures to reduce light trespass or impacts to wildlife.

2. Update the existing wells with ADA-compliant water hand pumps.

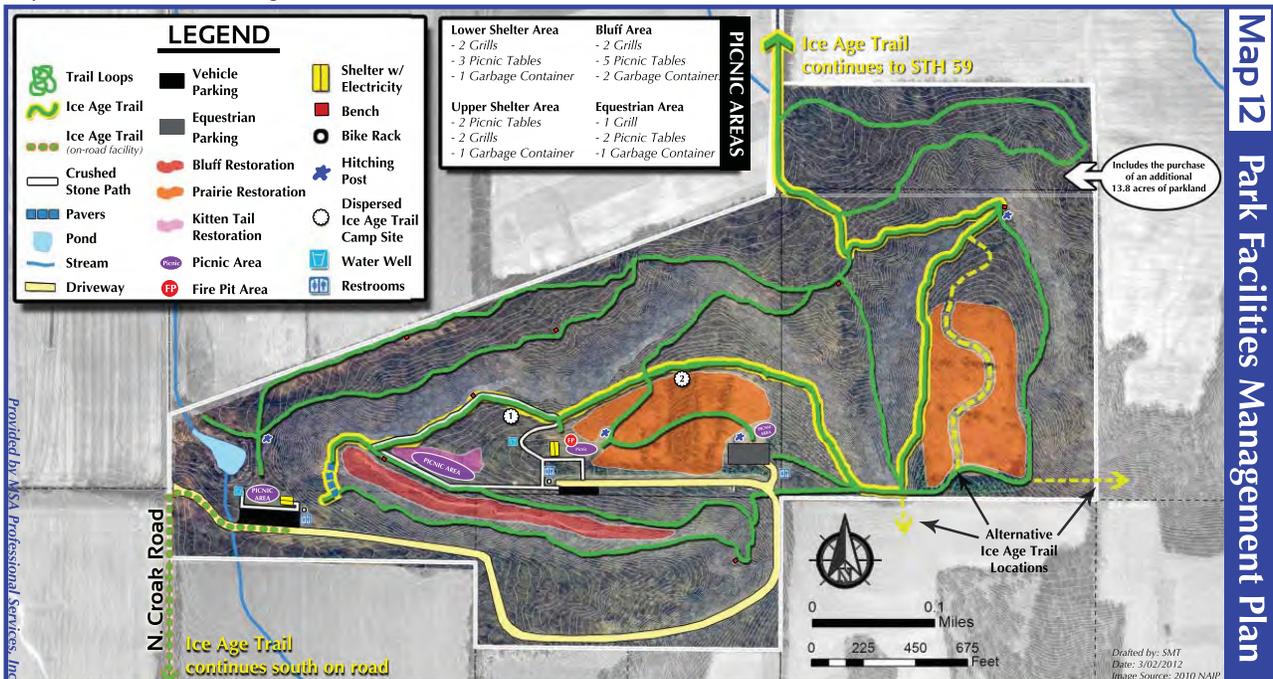
The current hand pumps are still in working condition; however, they are not ADA-compliant. Updating them will benefit all park users, especially those that are handicapped.



3. Improve the equestrian parking area.

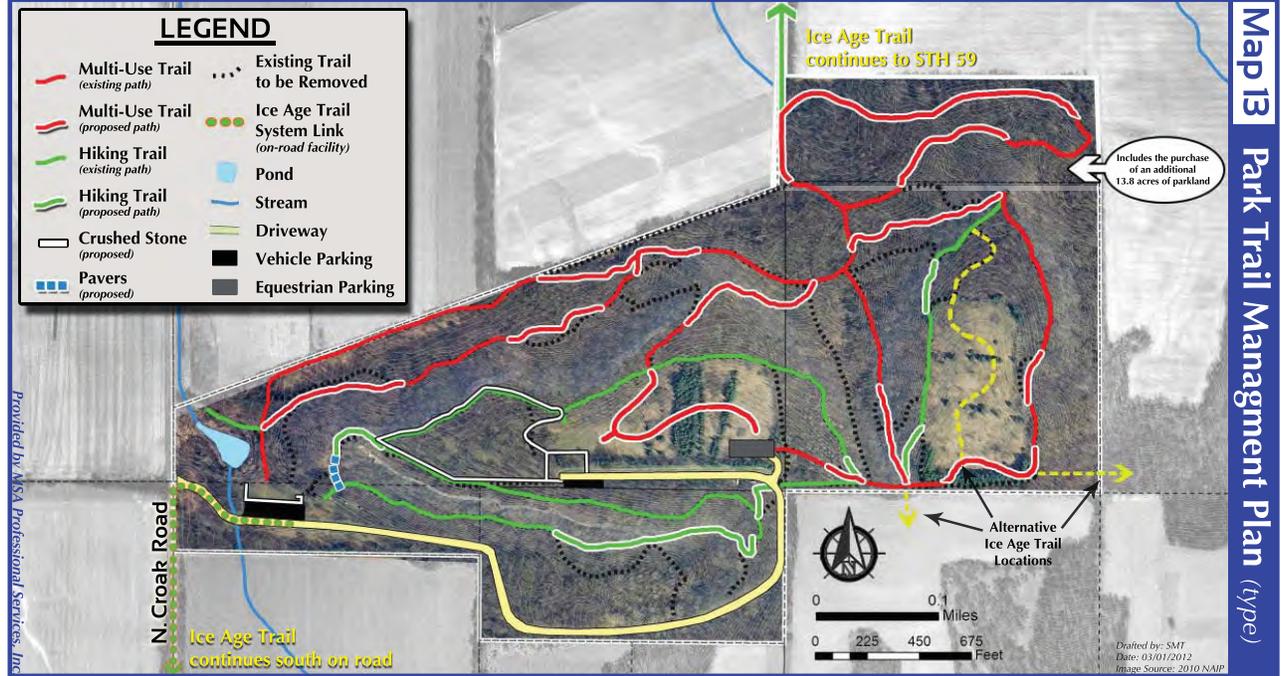
The majority of the parking area lacks hard surfacing, such as crushed limestone or asphalt. Creating a full driveway loop will help alleviate erosion and rutting issues.

Map 12: Park Facilities Management Plan

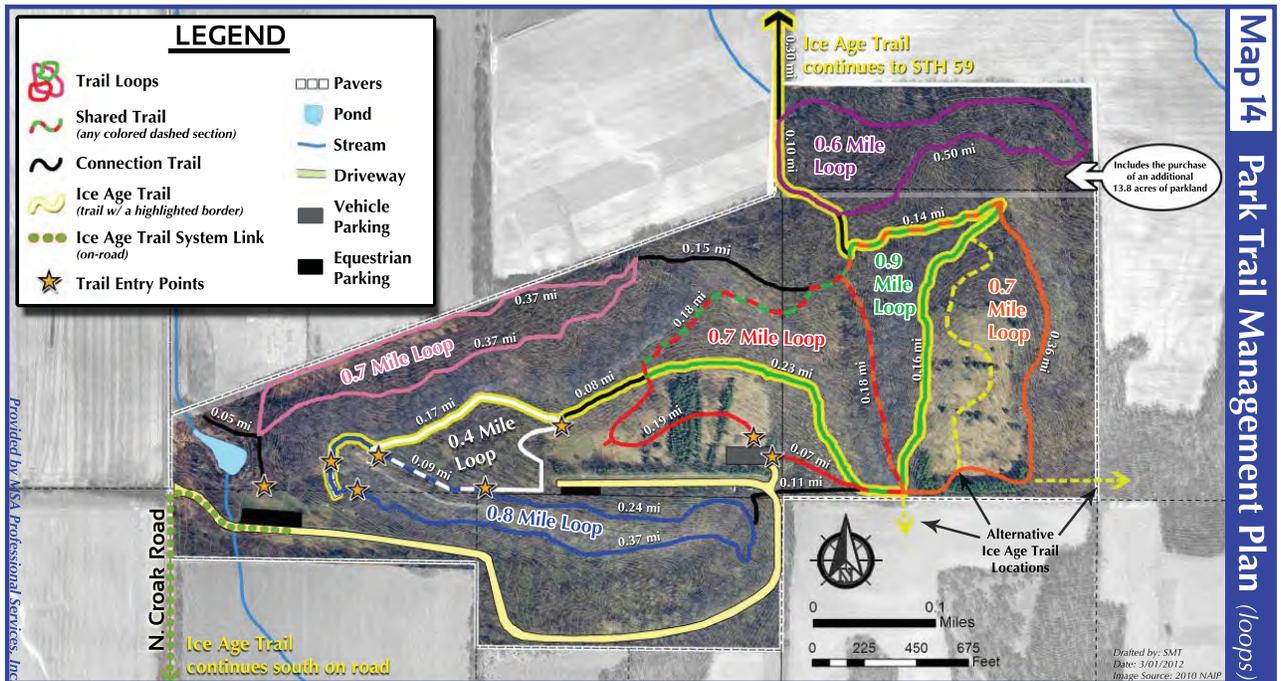


CHAPTER THREE

Map 13: Park Trail Management Plan (Type)

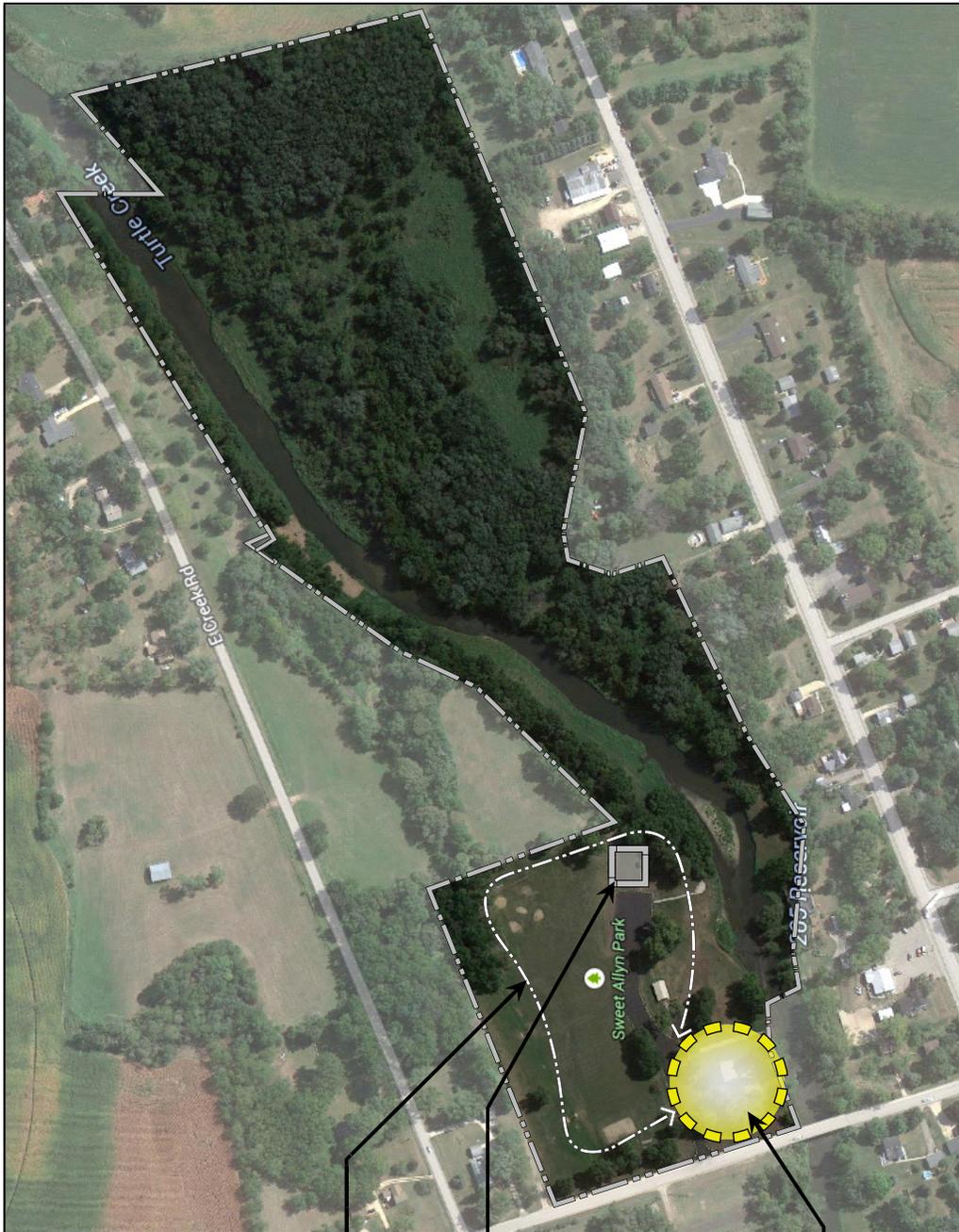


Map 14: Park Trail Management Plan (Loops)



# Sweet-Allyn Park

Concept



Accessible Asphalt Pathways

Pre-fabricated Restroom Building

Playground w/ Accessible Walks

Scale: NTS



January 2015

Lee Park

Concept



Site Furnishings  
(benches, tables)

Asphalt Parking Lot w/  
Van Accessible Space

Accessible Asphalt  
Walking Paths

Boardwalk Area

Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Happy Hollow Park

Concept



Asphalt Entrance Drive

Asphalt Parking Lot w/  
Van Accessible Space

Accessible Walkway to  
Boat Launch

Upgrade Boat Launch

Scale: NTS

January 2015



# Turtle Creek Park

Concept



Roof Replacement

Scale: NTS

January 2015



### Conclusion

*"Action is the foundational key to all success."* (Pablo Picasso)

The previous plan has been a valuable tool to advance Rock County parks into a better place during the last 5 years. The parks system provides many outdoor recreation experiences, mostly centered on passive interaction with nature. It has been building a new brand, holding better dialogues with partners and made improvements that centered on improving the basic infrastructure of the park system.

This plan focuses on bringing new and exciting park improvements into the system, expanding nature based recreation programs and advancing partnerships to create enhanced opportunities to learn and enjoy nature. The new environmental education center at Beckmill Mill Park is just one example of those opportunities.

In the past several months, much work has been done in gathering data and seeking to develop an understanding of it in preparation of this plan. Several items became clear. First, there is a need to increase capital funding both for park improvements and land acquisition. Second, advancing marketing and communication efforts in continuing the development of the Rock County Parks brand will lead to increasing visibility and ultimately to more resident use. Finally, there is a need to find the way to advance capital projects that have the ability to change residents' perception of the park system and make a difference in the public's eye.

There are still areas that need attention in finances, organizational footprint, recreational programming and capital development. This master plan does not provide every answer but does provide strategic direction to advance the park system into a better position into the future by giving recommendations based upon layers of analysis. Improvement needs to be charted regularly, and the plan discussed frequently in the next five years. The plan will provide the framework for a better park system for the residents of Rock County to enjoy for many years to come.

# Appendix

**County of Rock**  
**Public Works Department**  
Highways  
Parks  
Airport



3715 Newville Rd.  
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545  
Telephone: 608/757-5450  
Fax: 608/757-5470

July 15, 2014

Dear Resident,

Thank you for your support of the Rock County Park System. We really appreciate it. But as you might suspect, we need more of your help.

The County Park System is updating our parks, outdoor recreation and open space (POROS) plan to accommodate your expanding recreational needs. We are considering many improvements to make your life better.

Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope. The more people that respond, the better decisions we can make. Your response is confidential.

And please call me at 608-757-5451 or email me at [williaml@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:williaml@co.rock.wi.us) if you have any questions.

Again, thank you for your support. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Williams".

Lori Williams  
Rock County Parks Director

## Rock County Parks Questionnaire

The Rock County Parks Division is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan for the future. You were selected to participate in a survey to assist in identifying community needs. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope by Friday August 8, 2014. Your contribution to the success of the Rock County Park System is greatly appreciated. Your responses are confidential.

Please note that the Rock County Park System is completely separate from local municipal park systems run by cities such as Beloit and Janesville. The Rock County Park System includes 19 properties, 3 trail ways, covering 1,100 acres across Rock County, mostly in rural areas of the county.

1. In which community or town do you reside in \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long have you lived in Rock County? **(Please check the appropriate answer)**

\_\_\_ 1-5 years    \_\_\_ 6-10 years    \_\_\_ 11-15 years    \_\_\_ more than 15 years

3. Are you familiar with the Rock County Parks System?

\_\_\_ Yes (Answer Q#3a)    \_\_\_ Somewhat (Answer Q#3a)    \_\_\_ Not really (Skip to Q#4)

3a. How do you periodically hear about the Rock County Park System?  
**(Please check all that apply)**

\_\_\_ Newsletter                      \_\_\_ County Website                      \_\_\_ Newspaper                      \_\_\_ Radio

\_\_\_ Television                      \_\_\_ Word of Mouth                      \_\_\_ Social Media                      \_\_\_ Signs

\_\_\_ Meetings                      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. In which of the following recreational activities do you and your family participate at the Rock County Park System or elsewhere? **(Please check all that apply)**

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ ATV/4 Wheeling               | ___ Mountain Biking        |
| ___ Biking                       | ___ Nature Center Visits   |
| ___ Bird/Nature Watching         | ___ Picnics                |
| ___ Camping (Tent)               | ___ Power Boating          |
| ___ Camping (RV)                 | ___ Sledding/Tobogganing   |
| ___ Cross country skiing         | ___ Snowmobiling           |
| ___ Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding | ___ Snowshoeing            |
| ___ Fishing                      | ___ Swimming               |
| ___ Horseback Riding             | ___ Walking/Hiking         |
| ___ Jogging                      | ___ Walking Pets           |
| ___ Kayaking/Canoeing            | ___ Other (Specify): _____ |

5. How do you feel about the current program and facility fees charged directly to you by the Rock County parks? **(Please check the appropriate answer)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fees are under-priced for the value received  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fees are acceptable for the value received  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Fees are too high for the value received  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not sure

Please answer the questions on the reverse side of this page.

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

6. Which of the Rock County parks and trails do you or your family visit? **(Please check all that apply)**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airport Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Age Trail                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelishek Snowmobile Trail       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avon Park                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Indianford Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Royce-Dallman Park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beckman Mill Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Koshkonong Lake Access         | <input type="checkbox"/> Schollmeyer Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carver-Roehl Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee Park                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar River Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gibbs Lake Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Bluff Park            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet-Allyn Park                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Hollow Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Murwin Park                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Turtle Creek Park               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Age Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelishek- Tiffany Nature Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____ |   |  |

7. How often do you or your family visit these parks or trails? **(Please check the best answer)**

- Once a year     2-5 times per year     6-10 times per year     More than 10 times

8. How do you currently get to Rock County parks and trails? **(Please check all that apply)**

- Walk                       Ride my bike                       Drive my car

9. How satisfied are you with the appearance, maintenance and cleanliness, of Rock County's parks and trails? **(Please check the best answer)**

- Very satisfied     Somewhat satisfied     Somewhat dissatisfied     Very dissatisfied

9a. If you answered somewhat or very dissatisfied, please tell us why:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you feel safe while using Rock County's parks and trails? **(Please check the best answer)**

- Very safe                       Somewhat safe                       Not too safe                       Not at all

11. How would you rate the Rock County Park System in the following areas? **(Please circle the best answer)**

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Acquiring land	5	4	3	2	1
Maintaining land	5	4	3	2	1
Nature Education	5	4	3	2	1
Preserving land	5	4	3	2	1
Recreation	5	4	3	2	1
Restoring land	5	4	3	2	1

12. How concerned are you with the protection of the remaining open space in Rock County? **(Please check the best answer)**

- Not at all                       Not too concerned                       Somewhat concerned                       Very

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

13. What amenities or facilities would you like to see added to the existing Rock County Parks?  
**(Please check all that apply)**

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. Amphitheaters _____           | k. Nature centers _____          |
| b. Biking trails _____           | l. Nature play areas _____       |
| c. Canoe/boat ramps _____        | m. Picnic shelters _____         |
| d. Disc golf course _____        | n. Rock climbing walls _____     |
| e. Dog Parks _____               | o. Ropes courses _____           |
| f. Equestrian trails _____       | p. RV camping _____              |
| g. Fishing areas _____           | q. Tent camping _____            |
| h. Hiking trails _____           | r. Winter recreation areas _____ |
| i. Historic sites _____          | s. Zip lines _____               |
| j. Other (Please specify): _____ |                                  |

14. Please rank the three most important outdoor recreation facilities in the previous question.  
**(Please insert the letter of the amenities from the previous list)**

\_\_\_ Most important                      \_\_\_ Second most important                      \_\_\_ Third most important

15. Would you be in favor of the Rock County Park System acquiring more park land?

\_\_\_ Yes (Answer Q#16)                      \_\_\_ No (Skip to Q#17)                      \_\_\_ I don't know (Skip to Q#17)

16. How much of a tax increase would you be willing to pay to acquire more county park land?

\_\_\_ \$1-2 per month    \_\_\_ \$3-5 per month    \_\_\_ more than \$5 per month    \_\_\_ None    \_\_\_ I don't know

17. Would you be in favor of the Rock County Park System building a nature center?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ I don't know

18. Would you be willing to pay more in sales taxes to build a nature center?

\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    \_\_\_ I don't know

19. The Rock County Park System funds the development, operations and maintenance of park sites and services with tax dollars, donations, user fees and grants. What is your opinion concerning where future funding for improvements for the next 5 years should be spent? Please rank your highest priority by inserting a "1", "2" or "3" as your priorities. **(Please choose only three)**

- \_\_\_ Add adventure opportunities (e.g., ropes courses, zip lines, climbing walls, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Add children's natural play areas (i.e., climbing boulders, sand play, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Expand camping opportunities
- \_\_\_ Expand recreational trail connections
- \_\_\_ Expand special events and programs (e.g., nature education, concerts, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Expand water recreation opportunities (e.g., boat launches and rentals, programs, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Expand winter recreation opportunities (e.g., sledding, cross country skiing, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Just maintain the current parks and trails

20. Beginning with yourself, what are the ages of the people living in your household?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the questions on the reverse side of this page.

21. What is your gender?

Male

Female

22. Please feel free to add any comments you might have about the Rock County Park System.

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Thank you very much for your time. Please return this questionnaire as soon as you can. Survey results will be posted on the Rock County Park System website by the end of August (<http://www.co.rock.wi.us/parks-home>)

### Question 3a- Other

- Daily visits
- Don't hear too much
- Don't really see ads, none that I can remember at least
- Drive by
- Driving thru area
- Found location of parks on Rock Co map
- Frequent user
- Friends
- Friends groups
- General knowledge from living in area
- General knowledge of Rock Co. parks and trails
- General knowledge
- Gibbs Lake is only a few miles away
- Husband Don Webb originally donated the Alden Hill property to Janesville
- I don't hear about them
- Just living in Janesville area for 30 years
- Lived here 32 years before
- Looking for myself
- Maps
- Maps
- Maps internet search
- Park Board of Clinton
- Personal experience
- Publications
- Rotary botanical gardens
- Travel center info
- Visits as a child
- Voter
- Web search

### Q4- Other

- Basketball
- Water skiing
- Beckman Mill
- Children's play areas
- Don't do any of the above
- Driving
- Elderly; doesn't participate
- Enjoy peace & quiet
- Enjoying the beauty
- Family
- Geocaching
- Golf
- Golf
- Grandkids at Clinton Park
- Hiking

- Hunting
- Ice Age Trail
- Just outdoors
- Just sit and enjoy scenery
- Looking for wildflowers
- Medal detecting
- Metal detecting
- Nature events
- Need place to swim
- None right now
- Picnics at Palmore Riverside Park
- Playground
- Playground equipment
- Playground equipment
- Playgrounds
- Playing on the playgrounds
- Rollerblading
- Roller skating
- Snow tubing
- Sports
- Taking grandkids
- Taking studying to the park for quiet time; taking children to play grounds
- Too old for the above
- Trails, boating fees
- Tubing on Yahara River
- We really don't participate, because we don't know what they have and where they are located.

### Q9a- Tell us why not satisfied

- 90 years old, do not use
- Always trash when visit
- Appearance
- Appears a bit unkempt as far as grass and weeds go
- Basically clean & groomed
- Bathroom updates needed grass mowed
- Broken bottles
- Consider marking the trail at Turtle Creek off Milwaukee Rd
- Could be better
- Do not visit parks
- Don't even know where any of the parks are located
- Don't feel Safe
- Don't go to any ever often
- Don't visit
- Garbage control is a
- Gibbs Lake Park needs work
- Happy Hallow launch needs dredging; it's always very shallow. Not safe
- Happy Hollow boat launch is not good and fees are nuts when we already pay too much in taxes I've never visited Rock Co Parks
- Indianford park has litter & dead fish issues

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

- Litter
- Litter left by others
- Lived in Rock Co all my life and did not know we have 21 parks and trails that I help pay for Facilities leave much to be desire
- More natural resources planning
- Most are clean & mowed
- Mowing and maintenance of city parks are excellent. I am unfamiliar with county parks
- Need a map to know where they are
- Need cleaner & updated bathrooms
- Need more communication
- Notice improvement this summer, but before parks I enjoy were neglected
- Occasionally appears not to be kept up
- Parks seem under-tended, bathroom facilities not maintained
- Pelishek trail full of holes
- People leaving garbage/littering
- Please continue to eradicate unwanted plant species.
- Poor signage; parks need much better and more maps/"You are Here" signs along trails
- Shower rooms are not regularly cleaned
- Some parks are well taken care while others are not
- Some people are litterbugs and don't care about how it looks
- Sometimes littered
- Sometimes party lots dirty with trash
- Sometimes there is too much garbage
- Sometimes they are messy
- Sportsman park is good Others are very run down
- There's always room to approve anything; should always be a work in progress.
- They should be all connected Janesville thru Milton
- Trash
- Trash
- Trash can be maintained better
- Trash pieces, bags.
- Trouble walking and hard to go by wheelchair
- Usually drive out of county to other parks
- We need to keep up on the mowing/edging
- Weeds and underbrush growth sometimes get in the way.
- Wish Rock River was cleaner
- Won't use toilets

### Q13- Other

- 4wheel trails
- A lot of people put in canoes on Hwy 59 into Yahara River. A parking lot and ramp would make it safe
- Additional Rec programs
- ATV & UTV Trails
- ATV UTV Routes trails
- Bathrooms
- Better boat launches
- Clipping weeds in lake

- Don't know
- Don't know parks enough to have opinion; no children and we are seniors
- Don't use
- Foot bridge over turtle creek to connect trails
- Hiking trails we use are fine
- Hunting
- I use the county parks so seldom
- It's counterproductive to add mechanized artificial amusements to a park.
- Maintain what we have
- Man made lakes or ponds
- Metal detecting allowed
- More places to swim
- Mountain biking single track trails
- Move fairgrounds to a different location
- No opinion
- No preference
- Not familiar w parks yet
- Paved trails for rollerblading
- Porta potties, benches on Ice Age Trail
- Public swimming areas/beaches
- Purchase more land
- Restroom
- Restrooms
- Some weed control on Gibbs lake to help provide a healthier lake and fish population.
- Swimming
- The zip lines at Palmer Park
- Water park
- X-country skiing, snowshoe trails
- Zip lines would be great, but liability?

### Q22- Comments

- 6 or 7 dollars to launch a boat seems very high
- Like to spend time with grandkids
- Please consider improving the Koshkonong lake access area
- Thanks for this survey
- I think it's silly to have No firearms signs on every building and outhouse in the county  
A Rock County Conservation Foundation or similar fund would be a way to attract funding.  
Long term planning should continue.
- Above all maintain parks and activities and reasonably affordable amenities replacing worn out elements
- Add handicapped accessibility at dog parks so service dogs can run and handicapped owners can sit and let their dogs play; also make all parks accessible and add area for seniors to socialize. Add more self funding river access and trails
- Adding rope courses, zip lines, climbing walls etc should help pay for other programs  
Adequate opportunities provided by county, city and state; focus should be on maintaining existing facilities, expanding substandard existing parks if funding available thru partnerships, not tax increase.
- As I age don't use park like I used to. The park system is at least worth preserving and keeping

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

maintained

- At my age I'm mostly home bound and cannot get ride to church
- At my age, limit use of parks but want it available for all families.
- At our age we don't partake any of these
- Based on current use and population trends, Rock County's excellent system of parks will serve us well for many years to come with minimal additions and upgrades.
- Beckman Mill park is outstanding
- Better signs telling where the parks are. Not everybody has the internet
- Bike trails allow everyone to see the area from a different perspective.
- Bring more revenue in by adding camping
- Can the Nature Center that already exists at the Janesville School's Outdoor Lab be made available to the public instead of building another?
- Carver Rock well maintained; have special events
- City of Beloit itself needs to build an indoor recreation center
- Clean up the river, dredge boat landing; why do we have to pay launching fees on the river?
- Community coordinator position is vital to linking friends groups and the county parks.
- Complete trail from Afton to Big Hill
- Concentrate on nature, not softball diamonds
- Conserve as much land for wildlife and work more towards educating the public the importance of conservation
- Did not know about a county park system Maybe you should spend some money promoting the system
- Do not use the park system
- Does not see a need for expansion
- Doesn't use parks
- Doing well so far!!!!!!!
- Don't do much of anything but work 2 jobs
- Don't know any of the parks; only visit the one park mentioned in Evansville and do 4th of July and church service there
- Don't use any of the parks
- Emphasize natural phenomena. Add more wildflowers. Eradicate garlic mustard. Keep paths easy to walk on and Carver-Roehl family oriented.
- Enjoy drives through parks now
- Enjoy spending lot of time in the Rock County
- Entertaining is lacking Not just a Rock Co issue
- Would like to see picnic areas and shelters expanded in the Rock Co parks & Trails areas
- Expand camping opportunities and add equestrian trails
- Expand money making activities. Use existing park land instead of acquiring new
- Expand the ice age trail through the Milton area
- Family visits in summer
- Gibbs Lake Park needs to be better maintained. There is a lot of garbage in the park
- Good luck with future planning.
- Happy just to have a park system that gets attention.
- Have always enjoyed the parks in Janesville as a kid
- Have never Heard anything about Rock Co parks & what they ha
- Have not lived in Rock Co long enough for an opinion
- Haven't had much time for parks in my life
- How do you advocate for volunteers If so let volunteer time work towards yearly pass for household park use

- I am a firm believer that if the county doesn't acquire land now it will be lost in the future for purchase and protection.
- I am new to this area I have a tendency to go to my old favorite spots in Dane Co
- I am not in favor of raising taxes
- I am pleased with the improvements at Magnolia Bluff and Carver's Rock. Thank you!
- I am very pleased with how the park near Lake Usta in Evansville maintained
- I appreciate the availability of public use lands for those who do have interest and use them, as I did while I was raising my family. I live in the country and get exposure to nature at my own place I appreciate the opportunity to give input
- I don't know anything about other parks
- I don't know much about the parks and the way it works. I also did not understand the questions where you have to drag and put your priorities, so disregard those questions. I would like to see a bike
- I don't use the parks much but my families do
- I don't utilize many of our parks that often. I tend to use the Janesville city bike trails. I'm very in favor of purchasing more park land and developing open space for future use.
- I feel with all the boat recreation our launch system for boats is very inadequate for the amount of recreational users
- I generally use city parks
- I have nothing against any parks But tax money needs to go to cleaning up Avon
- I haven't visited the Rock Co parks I visit the local (Oregon bike paths)
- I like parks but don't know anything about Rock Co parks
- I like that park hours are enforced by law enforcement. Just wish that there could be some gray area in the closing hours for fisherman that are there to do some night time fishing
- I love camping My husband loves TV
- I moved from Dane Co -Rock co is very nice because of the Parks
- I no longer ride horseback so we don't use the park as often
- I pay the same registration fees on my ATVs as the snowmobiles do
- I really don't get out much I am busy all week
- I think Rock County currently does a good job maintaining the parks for what money they have to work with.
- I think we pay too much taxes as it is
- I would like to be able to walk my dogs in the park anytime of the year I'd like to.
- I would like to see more attention to creating and maintaining a buffer along Badfish Creek
- I would like to see more news stories on Rock Co parks This survey has sparked my interest
- I would like to see more private public projects like the ice age trail, no federal dollars and keep the taxing to a minimum. Thanks
- I would like to see the parks maintained at a reasonable level for all to enjoy
- I would love lake swimming without the high fees
- I would strongly advocate a natural play area for Rock County. Kids could explore with their senses and experience the world through the motion of their own bodies.
- I'm impressed by all the parks & facilities that the county parks division manages and do so with an extremely limited number of staff and funding! They should be commended for the excellent job!
- I'm retired on a fixed income. Do not use county park system that much. I don't want to see my taxes go up
- Ice Age Trail is beautiful and a wonderful ride
- If you need more funds they should come from the so-called campgrounds

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

- Important to provide good & healthy activities for all ages and families; we have a beautiful state with lots of resources
- Improve Happy Hollow Boat Launch
- In younger years, golfed often and found the golf offered very well maintained. Wish I could use them now
- Increasing youth appreciation for nature is important
- It is unfortunate that metal detecting is not allowed in the park system.
- It would be nice to know where the county parks are or have one built in this area
- It would be really great if a weed management program like the one started but never maintained in the early 90s was restarted at Gibbs Lake.
- It would be nice to add adventure facilities/Bike/ Kayak rentals for paraplegic Janesville in the city of parks. Rock Co could also benefit from bringing people to county parks.
- Quality of life issue
- Just maintain what we have now & keep it nice
- Just providing green space is an important function for the county. if people want more, they can get it through commercial vendors. i.e. water park or summer camp
- Keep it simple
- Keep parks as they are They're pretty nice
- Keep up great work! I appreciate signs that show directions, distance or type of trees, land etc. There are too many deer in Turtle Creek area. A foot bridge to connect trails on Turtle Creek would
- Keeping dogs away from the parks
- Land trusts are effective ways to preserve land and purchase it for the future.
- Like green space for hiking and walking dogs; building in green space questionable
- Like to ski at Gibbs Lake but many times after a snow I go there And the parking lot is not cleared for up to 2 days
- Living in Janesville we have no need to use the County park system
- Love walking my dog on the trail off Afton Rd. Safety concerns for me, however
- Madison has all these things and is a short drive away, Janesville is too small to spend money on such things! There won't be enough interest and it will cost way too much!
- Make "hidden amenities" more visible, keep encouraging friends groups and volunteers, keep focusing on maintaining and restoring natural areas.
- Maybe are aware of maps of parks, but not aware of them. Nature Center ok if they work with cities
- More ads in shopper and on radio
- More equestrian trails
- More info sent on parks or advertising
- More publicity; promote activities to engage children; add splash pad somewhere. Eminent domain is wrong. No more amenities, plenty wonderful facilities exist already
- More trails for horses, bikes walking
- Most all county parks are under utilized! Why are you considering spending more tax payer funds? Most of these parks go unused for weeks/months, except for trash dumping grounds. Enough Parks in Rock Co
- My husband golf's almost daily. I enjoy hiking and picnicking. we really don't use the parks except for Magnolia
- My property taxes are already too high to the point I'm considering moving
- My retired husband has been grooming the Pelishek Tiffany for many years
- My sister comes to visit to take her kids to Palmer park a couple of times /month
- My wire is afraid to ride her bike down trails for fear of running into dogs and others that want

- to rob or rape her. Not everyone likes dogs although dog owners think everyone does
- Need dog parks
- Need more for older kids to do to stay out of trouble, outdoor programs: skidoo rentals, boat rentals, bike rentals
- Need more places to camp, fish and picnic
- Need to make trails for UTV and ATVs
- Never add or include hunting or trapping or ATV
- No more taxes
- No more taxes!!!
- Not familiar with the majority of parks names
- Our family is already grateful for the wonderful park system that Rock County has. Any additions would be a bonus for us.
- Our family loves the park system but would really appreciate a place our 5 yr old dog could also play
- Our taxes are so high now we are moving to another state during our retirement
- Overall nice parks but if you look at a map open space that is usable
- Overall, I think the county does a good job with its park system. However, there's always room for improvement.
- Park is good the way it is; don't raise taxes for nature center; try to keep out roadways and business
- People fishing take over boat launch areas They need their own areas
- People today want active outdoor activities. These are the areas I suggest you concentrate on.
- Please contact us if interested in purchasing wayside on Hwy 140 which public currently uses as a canoe launch in turtle creek
- Please do not ask for more tax money
- Police patrolling would be nice
- Preserve the land. Improve wisely. nature center good idea
- Put in more playground equipment
- Put park and activity info at travel centers; printed info on trails and rec options
- Really upset about the rocks put on the river but too far in shore
- Resident is wheelchair bound Would like to see wheelchair accessibility
- Riverside park is one of the best in Wisconsin
- Rock County park system and city of Janesville park dept. have a great opportunity for all ages to enjoy our out of doors. please do not increase our property taxes to pay for this
- Rock Co should look into combined use trails that connect to other county trails
- Rotary Gardens should be free we used to go once every week or two and take our grandchildren
- Since Clinton doesn't have any lakes or ponds, I would like to see water or swimming pools for Clinton residents too.
- Some County parks are dirty as kids use parks as dumpsters
- Still walk in parks, lots of music concerts; love to to Nature Center; family wedding in park
- Stop spending; don't expand at this time; too many taxpayers hurting; ideas are nice but certainly not necessary
- Tax form be given more information on the parks
- Thank you for asking for input We enjoy Big Hill park in Beloit
- Thank you for more toilets easy for elderly and handicapped
- Thank you for placing No Swimming signs @Gibbs Lake boat I
- Thank you for the opportunity to share our feedback

## 2015-2020 Parks, Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

- Thanks for the great Rock Co park system. Walworth Co only has 2 parks!
- The Fulton fishing was ruined & powerhouse were removed
- The park is nice and peaceful
- The parks need to be marketed much better using all means of communication. Beloit and Janesville CVG's can help.
- The people that actually use them should pay for them Our taxes are too high
- There many beautiful parks
- There needs to be more promotion of the current parks before adding
- There's people that can't afford their own houses
- they talk a good story but never do anything or get upset if someone take it upon themselves to do what needs to be done
- Thinks it would be beneficial for the Rock County Parks Division to add adventure opportunities such as zip line rock climbing, ropes courses in one recreation facility.
- This person wrote a letter
- Use existing building for nature center; special events like music, theatre would be nice in an amphitheater
- Very nice parks, need a little more TLC, maybe flowers
- Very satisfied
- Visitors love seeing Beckman Mill
- Wants bike trails only in wooded areas not on streets
- We are 85 years old and do not get to do things as we used to
- We are on a fixed income and pay high property taxes We cannot afford to continue paying higher and higher taxes
- We are overtaxed
- We don't actually use the parks on a regular basis
- We don't use much of the parks
- We enjoy the parks as they are - quiet & peaceful
- We had family reunions at County parks
- We have a ton of parks around , don't need to spend more money
- We have enough parks in this town
- We have many parks in Rock County that are under utilized
- We love Evansville parks We have very little knowledge of
- We need a good dog park available fenced in type
- We need more available and unlocked bathrooms more recreation opportunities
- We need our roads repaired
- We need to take care of what we have without having to raise taxes and take on more expenses. We really don't use the Rock Co park system so we can't say what we think needs to be done
- We use trail by water treatment plant for unleashed dogs
- We've always spent lots of time in parks-starting when our children were young. We continued with our grandchildren. We spent time fishing, swimming and picnicking, and we always carried outdoor gear.
- What concerns me is the upkeep, weeds, cans, cigarettes, plastic etc
- What would you include in the Nature Center Please answer in News Media
- Why buy more land then turn around and sell it off
- Wood cutting permits
- Work on boat landings Gibbs Lake needs help
- Would be great to see dog park or allow dogs in pars in Edgerton; more concerts in Central Park

- Would like to see enhancements as long as they don't involved tax increases
- Would like to see the Ice Age Trail expanded
- Would like to see the Rock County park systems maintain & provide
- Would like to see more publicity and information Rock County parks
- Would like to utilize more of the county parks but don't have info on programs
- You are doing a great job. Please be sure to add more police patrols to keep the sexual deviants and the drug users out of our nature areas. I am happy with the current safety in the parks.
- You could do more promotion of Rock Co's park system
- You do take care of the current parks well I will admit
- You need some camping. Rock County has a few private campsites, but no public ones that I know of. Your survey needs to be redesigned as one entire section lacks a N/A choice. Also first question ends
- You need to preserve the lakes & water quality in the park system



# **Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan**

**Adopted September 27, 2012**



**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Works Committee  
INITIATED BY

Lori Williams, Parks Director  
DRAFTED BY

Public Works Committee  
& Parks Advisory Comm.  
SUBMITTED BY



August 21, 2012  
DATE DRAFTED

**ADOPTION OF THE ROCK COUNTY PARKS  
ADA ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- 1 WHEREAS, it is good management practice for the Rock County Parks Division to evaluate and have long-
- 2 range plans for its parks operations, and assets in regards to accessibility requirements; and,
- 3
- 4 WHEREAS, state and federal regulatory standards were used as the basis for evaluation of the facilities; and,
- 5
- 6 WHEREAS, the Rock County Parks Division has prepared an assessment of park facilities for compliance with
- 7 applicable state and federal accessibility guidelines; and,
- 8
- 9 WHEREAS, the Parks Division has prepared a report that identifies improvements needed to bring facilities up
- 10 to these standards to the maximum extent possible; and,
- 11
- 12 WHEREAS, the Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan is intended to be used by the Rock
- 13 County Board of Supervisors to direct the Public Works Committee and County staff to pursue appropriate
- 14 projects in Rock County Park facilities; and,
- 15
- 16 WHEREAS, the Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan has been reviewed and
- 17 recommended for adoption by the Public Works Committee and Parks Division staff.
- 18
- 19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors on this 27 day of
- 20 September, 2012, hereby adopts the Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan; and,
- 21
- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors shall pursue the implementation of
- 23 the Rock County Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan as opportunities and resources are presented and
- 24 available.

12-9B-135

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Kurtis L. Yankee  
Kurtis L. Yankee, Chair

Betty Jo Bussie  
Betty Jo Bussie, Vice-Chair

Eva M. Arnold  
Eva M. Arnold

Brent Fox  
Brent Fox

Dave Brown  
Dave Brown

Endorsed by:  
PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Floyd Finney  
Floyd Finney

Thomas Presny  
Thomas Presny

Dean Paynter  
Dean Paynter

**ADOPTION OF THE ROCK COUNTY PARKS ADA ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Page 2

FISCAL NOTE:

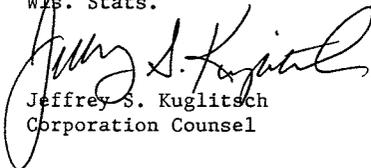
This resolution approves the Parks ADA Assessment and Improvement Plan and has no fiscal impact in and of itself. Funding for items included in the Plan would need to be approved through the budget process or by separate resolution.



Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to § 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Craig Knutson  
County Administrator

**ADOPTION OF THE ROCK COUNTY PARKS  
ADA ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY -**

The Rock County Parks Division has prepared an assessment and Improvement Plan for the purpose of documenting and evaluating park facilities for compliance with applicable state and federal accessibility guidelines. It also identifies needed improvements to bring facilities up to these standards to the maximum extent feasible.

The regulatory standards that are the basis for evaluation of the facilities include the following:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act 2010 Standards for Accessible Design
2. Title II of the ADA; 2010 Standards for State and Local Government Facilities
3. US Access Board Accessible Recreation Facilities
4. Wisconsin Administrative Code, Department of Commerce, Chapter Comm 69, Barrier Free Design

For all regulations, the requirements apply to newly constructed or altered facilities and are not retroactive. If a facility was built prior to 1991, no standards were in place at the time of construction. If a facility was built between 1991 and March 15, 2012 the 1991 standards apply. Any new construction or alterations built after March 15, 2012 must comply with the 2010 standards. Many of the Rock County facilities were built prior to 1991 and reasonable accessible improvements are proposed to the maximum extent feasible.

For each park we have provided an assessment identifying the primary amenities and the compliance status of each. The assessment was completed with the assistance of Andrew Janicki, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Coordinator.

Also provided are the improvement recommendations for each park. Recommended improvements will require further evaluation and design to determine the best approach and resolution.

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	2
Accessibility Assessment and Recommendations	
Airport Park .....	3
Avon Park.....	4
Beckman Mill Park.....	5
Carver-Roehl Park.....	10
Gibbs Lake Park.....	13
Hanover Wildlife Area.....	16
Happy Hollow Park.....	17
Ice Age Park.....	20
Ice Age Connector Trail.....	21
Indianford Park.....	22
Koshkonong Lake Access .....	24
Lee Park.....	25
Magnolia Bluff Park .....	28
Murwin Park .....	32
Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail .....	34
Royce Dallman Park.....	35
Schollmeyer Park .....	37
Sugar River Park.....	38
Sweet-Allyn Park.....	39
Turtle Creek Parkway.....	42
Walt Lindemann Sportsman’s Park .....	44
Policy Review.....	46
Summary.....	47

## Introduction

The Rock County Parks Division has prepared the following report. The purpose is to document and evaluate a list of park facilities for compliance with applicable state and federal accessibility guidelines and to identify improvements to bring facilities up to these standards to the maximum extent feasible.

The regulatory standards that are the basis for evaluation of the facilities include the following:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act 2010 Standards for Accessible Design
2. Title II of the ADA: 2010 Standards for State and Local Government Facilities
3. US Access Board Accessible Recreation Facilities
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For all regulations, the requirements apply to newly constructed or altered facilities and are not retroactive. If a facility was built prior to 1991, no standards were in place at the time of construction. If a facility was built between 1991 and March 15, 2012, the 1991 standards apply. Any new construction or alternations built after March 15, 2012 must comply with the 2010 standards. Many of Rock County Park's facilities were built prior to 1991 and reasonable accessible improvements are proposed to the maximum extent feasible.

For each park, we have provided an assessment identifying the primary amenities and the compliance status of each. The assessment was completed with the assistance of Andrew Janicki, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Coordinator.

Also provided are the improvement recommendations for each park. Recommended improvements will require further evaluation and design to determine the best approach and resolution.

Duplicated amenities are recommended for improvements in a 1:3 ratio (1 accessible per 3 duplicated amenities) and dispersed throughout the county.

For the purpose of recommendations for improvements to Rock County Park facilities, we classified the recommended improvements in the following classifications:

1. Immediate Priority: Improvements must be made as quickly as funding allows. Plan to complete these improvements over the next three years.
2. Desirable Priority: Plan to make these improvements as funding allows after completing all of the immediate priority improvements. Plan to complete these improvements over the next three to ten years.
3. No Improvements Planned: Similar amenities are accessible in other locations in the system and the facility was built before 1991. No improvements are planned at this time.
4. Technically Infeasible: Unable to be accomplished without major modifications.

Item priority is detailed further by their rank in each priority list. For example, the first item listed is the highest priority in that category.

<b>Accessibility Assessment</b>			
<b>Date:</b> December 15, 2011			
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Shelter At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table	Only one table in shelter, is accessible	Not enough space to maneuver around	Built pre-1991
Path to shelter At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Picnic area At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair		No other accessible table or picnic area in park	

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Designate van accessible parking space.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area adjacent to the proposed accessible parking space.

### No Improvements Planned:

None

### Technically Infeasible:

1. Shelter is too small to make accessible, there is not enough maneuver space around the one existing picnic table.

## **Avon Wildlife Area**

At the end of Main & Madison Streets  
Avon, WI

Map-able address:  
9731 South Main Street  
Brodhead, WI 53520

Currently, this parcel is completely undeveloped with no visible sign for the park location and very limited access. It is basically a wildlife area with mature tree canopy covering the entire park site. There is potential for access to the Sugar River.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

## Beckman Mill Park

11450 South County Highway H

Beloit, WI 53511

<b>Accessibility Assessment</b>			
<b>Date:</b> December 15, 2011 and March 16, 2012			
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking (main lot) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%	Yes		
Number of accessible parking spaces (main lot) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible	Yes		2 spaces
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 35" high	Force to operate too high	
Water fountain 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", Control at front operable with closed fist	Yes		
Path to water fountain or well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Neither water fountain or well has accessible path	
Visitor Center restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		58" x 58" stalls	All other elements accessible
Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"		Entry doors to both men's and women's 15 lbf	
Restroom sink 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, max 34" to rim or counter surface, faucets operable with closed fist		Sink height 35"	
Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
Information kiosk (main lot) If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	Two lower brochure holders reach 40"	Upper brochure holder reach 57"	No route needed, it is adjacent to the main parking lot

<b>Path to kiosk (fish ladder)</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	No information to take, just to read, so kiosk height is acceptable
<b>Savanna interpretive trail guide</b> If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		Reach 56"	
<b>Shelter</b> At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table		No accessible tables in shelter	
<b>Path to shelter</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair		None	
<b>Hiking trails</b> At least 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Savanna trail from bathroom north to boardwalk, and south to mill, to the greatest extent feasible	Northwoods trail not accessible	
<b>Boardwalk</b> 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, Curbs or barriers shall extend min 2" above the deck surface	Yes, across boardwalk	End of boardwalk to northwoods trail not accessible	
<b>Path to sawmill display</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
<b>Fishing pier</b> Railing height max 34" for 25% of railing with edge protection provided, turning space 60" x 60"		Rail height 36" all around	All other elements accessible
<b>Path to fishing pier</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes, to the greatest extent feasible	Highest cross slope 7.2%	
<b>Path to heritage garden</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	

<b>Visitors center</b> Entrance door min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48", space between aisles min 36" wide, service counter 28"-34" high	35" wide, screen/storm opens out	entry door handle inoperable with closed fist	
<b>Visitors center ramp</b> Slope max 8%, rise for run max 30" (if more, need landing), each landing 60" square, min width 36", railing or curb on each side, railing height 34"-38"		9.6% slope for 180" run	
<b>Cooperage museum</b> Entrance door min 32" wide, change in level max 1/4", force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48", space between exhibits min 36" wide	Yes (door opened by request)		
<b>Path to cooperage museum</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
<b>Cooperage museum ramp</b> Slope max 8%, rise for run max 30" (if more, need landing), each landing 60" square, min width 36", railing or curb on each side, railing height 34"-38"		8.6% slope for 156" run	
<b>Beckman Mill</b> Entrance door min 32" wide, change in level max 1/4", force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48", space between exhibits min 36" wide	South entrance is accessible by request	Stairs at the main entrance	Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, all accessibility alterations must comply to the maximum extent feasible without significantly changing the historic aspect of the building
<b>Path to mill</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Entrance path from the north is accessible	South entrance path gravel size too large to be firm, stable surface	
<b>Accessible parking (south)</b> Van accessible: min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		Signs too low, no accessible aisle	
<b>Path from south parking</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Gravel size too large to be a firm, stable surface	
<b>Welty Environmental Center (WEC)</b> Entrance door min 32" wide, change in level max 1/4", force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48", space between furniture/displays min 36" wide		Door handle inoperable with closed fist	Temporary building to be removed when new facility is built

<b>Path to WEC</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		Temporary building to be removed when new facility is built
<b>WEC ramp</b> Slope max 8%, rise for run max 30" (if more, need landing), each landing 60" square, min width 36", railing or curb on each side, railing height 34"-38"		12% slope for 122" run	Temporary building to be removed when new facility is built
<b>Covered bridge</b> At least 36" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Approach slope 11.6%	
<b>Path to covered bridge</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	



Accessible savanna trail



Visitors Center (ramp entrance on left and restroom path on right)



Cooperage Museum accessible entrance



Beckman Mill



Welty Environmental Center (temporary building)



Accessible water fountain

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Lower informational kiosks so the brochures are in appropriate reach range or add new brochure holders to the kiosk posts.
2. Build a paved accessible route from the shelter to the water fountain.
3. Add fines to the south path to the mill.
4. Remove accessible parking spaces on the south end of the park – this really should be designated as no parking because it blocks a main access gate.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build crushed limestone accessible routes to the heritage garden, covered bridge, and sawmill display.
2. Add a crushed limestone, firm, stable surface 36” wide adjacent to one of the benches in the park. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the bench. This is not a requirement for compliance, but would allow someone in a wheelchair to sit next to someone on the bench.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the pit toilets (and an accessibility study was not conducted on these facilities) because flush restrooms are available and accessible.
2. No changes are proposed to the fishing pier railing height or the accessible bathrooms (sink height or stall size) because the measurements are 1-2” away from compliance.

### Technically Infeasible:

1. No improvements are planned for the Beckman Mill because it is on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. No improvements are planned for the Cooperage Museum ramp because it is a historic building.
3. No improvements are planned for the Welty Environmental Center because it is a temporary facility.

# Carver-Roehl Park

4907 South Carvers Rock Road

Clinton, WI 53525

<b>Accessibility Assessment</b>			
<b>Date:</b> January 25, 2012 and March 20, 2012			
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	No parking spots marked, just park at will along park road
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	No parking spots marked, just park at will along park road
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 35" high	Force to operate too high	
Path to well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Women's stall 56" x 43" Men's stall 56" x 49"	Built pre-1991
Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"		Women's exterior door 14 lbf, handle 50" high Men's exterior door 14 lbf, handle 49" high	Built pre-1991
Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved surface worn and unstable to both men's and women's, cross-slope by doors 7%	Built pre-1991
Information kiosk If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		Reach 69"	
Path to kiosk At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	

<b>Shelter</b> At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table		No accessible tables in shelter	
<b>Path to shelter</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		At steepest point, slope 8.7%	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair	One accessible picnic table in picnic area	No accessible route or firm, stable surface around table	
<b>Multi-use (hiking and cross country ski) trails</b>		None	
<b>Bridges</b> 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, Curbs or barriers shall extend min 2" above the deck surface		Approach slope varies among bridges from 4.5% - 13.4%, May have step up as high as 7"	Built pre-1991 by CCC, has historic value
<b>Interpretive sign</b> Min height for bottom of sign 30", max height 48"	Yes		
<b>Path to interpretive sign</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
<b>Playground equipment</b> Ground surface comply with ASTM F 1951, transfer platform level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 11"-18" high with at least one means of support, transfer steps shall have level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 8" high max rise, accessible lanes to all ground-level equipment with	Transfer station meets requirement, 2 of 8 elements at ground level, crash material meets ASTM F1951 when properly maintained		Engineered wood fiber must be raked and compacted regularly to continue to meet standards.
<b>Path to playground</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	Ramp goes from crash area to grass



Accessible playground (built 2011)



Accessible route to shelter



Historic trail bridge

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Replace one of the picnic tables in the shelter with an accessible picnic table.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the playground ramp.
3. Lower the informational kiosk to appropriate reach range. (The kiosk location is on the accessible trail recommended in the park's master plan, so this could be lowered as part of the trail improvements, or it can be lowered now with the accessible route built as part of the trail improvements.)
4. Designate van accessible parking space, the best location for this is on the northwest side of the parking loop. Pull-in parking spaces are recommended in the park's master plan and one will be designated as van accessible.

### Desirable Priority:

1. An accessible trail is recommended in the park's master plan as part of the trail sustainability redesign. Implement this in the first phase of the trail improvement process.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area adjacent to the proposed accessible parking space.
3. Add a firm, stable surface 36" wide adjacent to the benches by the playground. Add an accessible route to the bench. This is not a requirement for compliance, but would allow someone in a wheelchair to sit next to someone on the bench.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the bathroom facilities. A replacement is recommended in the park's master plan. The replacement will be ADA compliant.
2. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well because a new water fountain is recommended in the park's master plan. The replacement will be ADA compliant.

### Technically Infeasible:

3. No improvements are planned for the bridges because of their historic value.

# Gibbs Lake Park

9103 West Gibbs Lake Road

Janesville, WI 53545

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** December 15, 2011

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking (main lot) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (main lot) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (equine lot) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (equine lot) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf		Force to operate too high	
Path to well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		
Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Slope 0.2%	Gravel size too large to be a firm, stable surface	
Information kiosk by bathroom If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		Reach 67"	
Boat launch fee envelopes Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		Reach 52"	

Boat launch fee drop Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	Reach 34"		
Path to kiosk by lake At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Boat launch dock 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, barrier-free sides	Yes		
Path to boat launch At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		6.5% walkway slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Picnic area At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair,	One accessible picnic table in picnic area	No accessible route or firm, stable surface around table	
Multi-use (hiking, equestrian and cross country ski) trails At least 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No trails accessible	



Boat launch dock



Path to restroom with picnic area in background

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Designate van accessible parking spaces in both parking lots. In the boat launch parking lot, one accessible space should be designed adjacent to the bathroom path and one space should be designated closest to the boat launch.
2. Lower both informational kiosks so the fee envelopes and brochures are in appropriate reach range.
3. Add fines to the path to the restroom.
4. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the boat launch informational kiosk.

Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area off of the bathroom path.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible path to the hand-pump well.
3. Build a horse mounting ramp in the equestrian parking lot.

No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.

Technically Infeasible:

1. The multi-use trails are fairly flat, but cannot be considered a firm, stable, surface, as most trails are grassy paths. Accessibility improvements would not be wise because horses are hard on trails and may compromise the surface. Accessible trail improvements across the entire Rock County Park system focus on hiking-only trails.

## **Hanover Wildlife Area**

Corner of Schuman Road and Mill Street  
Hanover, WI

Map-able address:  
South Schuman Road  
Orfordville, WI 53576

Currently, this parcel is completely undeveloped with no visible sign for the park location and very limited access. It is basically a wildlife area with mature tree canopy covering the entire park site with Bass Creek flowing on the south. There is potential for hiking trails.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

**Happy Hollow Park**  
 1731 Happy Hollow Road  
 Janesville, WI 53546

**Accessibility Assessment**

**Date:** December 15, 2011 and March 16, 2012

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking (boat launch) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		Designed, but doesn't meet requirements	Designation is painted on the pavement, not properly signed. The total stall width is correct, but the access aisle isn't painted.
Number of accessible parking spaces (boat launch) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible	Yes		
Van accessible parking (well/bathroom) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		Designed, but doesn't meet requirements	Sign height 51", cross slope 4.5%, width 125"
Number of accessible parking spaces (well/bathroom) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible	Yes		There is one accessible parking spot on the east side of the entrance road, but it doesn't meet van requirements.
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 34" high	Force to operate too high	
Path to water fountain or well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved path 8.6% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Women's stall 59" x 48" Men's stall 59" x 48"	Built pre-1991
Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Women's exterior door handle 33" high, Men's exterior door handle 34" high	Women's exterior door 16 lbf to open (gets stuck) 6 lbf to swing, Men's exterior door 6 lbf	Built pre-1991
Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved path 8.1% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible

Boat launch fee envelopes Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		51" reach	
Boat launch fee drop Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	29" reach		
Path to kiosk At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Boat launch dock 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, barrier-free sides	Yes		
Path to boat launch At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		10.6% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Picnic area At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	
Multi-use (hiking, equestrian and cross country ski) trails		No trails accessible	



Boat launch dock



Restroom and paved path

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Properly sign the boat launch accessible parking space.
2. Lower the boat launch informational kiosk so the fee envelopes and brochures are in appropriate reach range.
3. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the boat launch informational kiosk.

Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area adjacent to the parking lot.

No Improvements Planned:

1. The well/bathroom parking space sign is slightly too low and the cross-slope is too steep, and it is not wide enough for a van. But proper parking is given in the main launch lot and this stall is useable. No improvements are planned.
2. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.

Technically Infeasible:

2. The hand-pump well path is paved, which is the best we can get without completely re-grading the entire area.
3. The boat launch path is the best we can get without completely re-grading the entire parking lot and launch.
4. The multi-use trails are fairly flat, but cannot be considered a firm, stable, surface as most trails are grassy paths. Accessibility improvements would not be wise because horses are hard on trails and may compromise the surface. Accessible trail improvements across the entire Rock County Park system focus on hiking-only trails.

## **Ice Age Park**

5504 North Sable Drive  
Janesville, WI 53545

Currently, this parcel is undeveloped. The park contains a suburban storm water retention pond and one picnic table. The property is adjacent to the Ice Age Trail, so there is potential for trailhead connection, although no linking trail exists at this time.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

## **Ice Age Connector Trail**

Runs from Milton to Janesville

Trailhead Location:

4101 Kennedy Road

Janesville, WI 53545

This trail runs along an old railroad bed, so surface is gravel, bare mineral soil, or grassy.

An accessibility study was not conducted because the trail allows horses and accessibility improvements would not be wise because horses are hard on trails and may compromise the surface. Accessible trail improvements across the entire Rock County Park system focus on hiking-only trails.

**Indianford Park**  
 3895 Riverside Drive  
 Edgerton, WI 53534

**Accessibility Assessment**

**Date:** December 15, 2011

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking (east) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (east) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (west) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (west) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel lot with no parking spots marked
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 35" high	Force to operate too high	
Path to well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Canoe launch 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%		Totally unimproved launch	
Porta-potty (east) Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"		56" x 56"	All other elements accessible
Porta-potty partition entry (east) Min 60" wide	66" wide		
Path to porta-potty (east) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Slope 3.2%, path not a firm, stable surface		

<b>Porta-potty (west)</b> Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"		56" x 56"	All other elements accessible
<b>Porta-potty partition entry (west)</b> Min 60" wide	63" wide		
<b>Path to porta-potty (west)</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Slope 4.6%, Gravel path only 16" wide		

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Designate van accessible parking spaces in both parking lots.
2. Build crushed limestone accessible routes to each restroom.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible path to the hand-pump well.
2. Improve canoe launch, making route accessible to the maximum extent feasible.

### No Improvement Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.

### Technically Infeasible:

None

## **Koshkonong Lake Access**

1005 East Lakeside Drive  
Edgerton, WI 53534

Currently, this parcel is completely undeveloped. The park contains a suburban storm water retention pond, but the majority of acreage is a floodplain forest. The park has potential for an elevated boardwalk for lake access.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

# Lee Park

9205 E. STH 67  
Clinton, WI 53525

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** March 16, 2012

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	No parking spots marked, just park at will along park road
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	No parking spots marked, just park at will along park road
Hand pump well (north) 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 33" high	Force to operate too high	Built pre-1991
Path to well (north) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Hand pump well (south) 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf	Spout 35" high	Force to operate too high	Built pre-1991
Path to well (south) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Restroom stall (north) Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Not accessible, specifics not measured because obviously not accessible and replacement planned in 2012	Built pre-1991
Restroom door (north) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"			Built pre-1991
Path to restroom (north) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface			

<b>Restroom stall (south)</b> Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Not accessible, specifics not measured because obviously not accessible and replacement planned in 2012	Built pre-1991
<b>Restroom door (south)</b> Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"			Built pre-1991
<b>Path to restroom (south)</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface			
<b>Shelter</b> At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table		No accessible tables in shelter	Built pre-1991
<b>Path to shelter</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	
<b>Hiking trails</b>		No trails accessible	
<b>Path to softball field fan seating</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
<b>Path to softball player benches</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	



Park driveway



Softball diamond and player's benches

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Bathroom replacement is scheduled for the summer of 2012, replace with an accessible restroom and build an accessible path.
2. Replace one of the picnic tables in the shelter with an accessible picnic table.
3. Designate one van accessible parking space near the shelter, new bathroom location, and softball diamond.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the shelter.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to one of the hand pump wells.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.
2. No improvements are planned for the route to the softball field. Similar improvements are planned for Sweet-Allyn Park, which is very close to Lee Park and the more used field.
3. The trails are fairly flat, but cannot be considered a firm, stable, surface, as most trails are grassy paths. Since the trails are not a main feature of the park and the park's driveway acts as an accessible link from north to south, no improvements are planned.

### Technically Infeasible:

1. None

# Magnolia Bluff Park

4002 North Croak Road

Evansville, WI 53536

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** December 15, 2011

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking (lower) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (lower) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (upper) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (upper) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (equestrian) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (equestrian) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Hand pump well (lower) 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf		Force to operate too high, spout 42" high	Built pre-1991
Path to water fountain (lower) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Hand pump well (upper) 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf		Force to operate too high, spout 42" high	Built pre-1991
Path to water fountain (upper) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	

Restroom stall (lower) Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door (lower) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		
Path to restroom (lower) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		9.5% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Restroom stall (upper) Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door (upper) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		
Path to restroom (upper) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		6.8% slope, 7.8% cross slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Restroom stall (equestrian) Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door (equestrian) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		
Path to restroom (equestrian) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
Information kiosk (lower) If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		63" reach	
Path to kiosk (lower) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Information kiosk (upper) If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		63" reach	
Path to kiosk (upper) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	

Information kiosk (equestrian) If any materials are available, reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		50" reach, bench is in the way	
Path to kiosk (equestrian) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Donation can (equestrian) Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	Yes		
Path to donation can (equestrian) At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Picnic area At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	
Multi-use (hiking, equestrian and cross country ski) trails		None	
Hiking trails		None	
Interpretive signs Min height for bottom of sign 30", max height 48"	Yes		
Path to interpretive signs At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	



Lower accessible restroom (installed 2011)



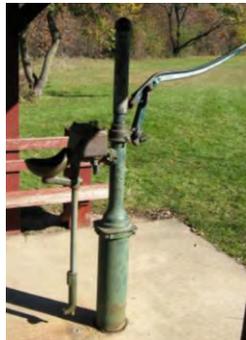
West overlook



Equestrian kiosk



Upper kiosk



Lower well

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Lower all informational kiosks to appropriate reach range or add new brochure holders to the kiosk posts.
2. Designate van accessible parking spaces in all three lots.

### Desirable Priority:

1. An accessible hiking trail is recommended in the park's master plan as part of the trail sustainability redesign. Implement this in the first phase of the trail improvement process.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the lower hand pump well.
3. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area adjacent to the lower parking lot and hand pump well path.
4. Update one of the hand-pump well with an accessible handle.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No plans to build an accessible horse mounting ramp; one is planned for Gibbs Lake Park.
2. No plans to build a crushed limestone accessible route to the equestrian donation can since a mounting ramp is not planned.

### Technically Infeasible:

5. The multi-use trails are fairly flat, but cannot be considered a firm, stable, surface, as most trails are grassy paths. Accessibility improvements would not be wise because horses are hard on trails and may compromise the surface. Accessible trail improvements across the entire Rock County Park system focus on hiking-only trails.

# Murwin Park

6407 West Caledonia Road  
Edgerton, WI 53534

<b>Accessibility Assessment</b>			
<b>Date:</b> December 15, 2011			
<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<b>Not Accessible</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Van accessible parking (west) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (west) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (east) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (east) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Van accessible parking (gravel) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces (gravel) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Gravel/grass lot with no parking spots marked
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf		Force to operate too high, but artesian at times; spout 39" high	Built pre-1991
Path to water well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved path, 9.3% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Restroom Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		

<b>Path to restroom</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		
<b>Canoe launch</b> 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%		Totally unimproved launch	
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	
<b>Hiking trails</b>		None	



Route to well (added 2011 when lot was re-paved)



Accessible restroom and route

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Designate van accessible parking spaces in the west parking lot.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Improve canoe launch, making route accessible to the maximum extent feasible.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible picnic area adjacent to the west parking lot.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the hiking trails because they are not a highly used amenity in this park.
2. Accessible stalls are not planned for the other two lots. They do not lead to any amenities and are not used often.
3. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.

### Technically Infeasible

None

## **Pelishek-Tiffany Nature Trail**

Runs from Clinton to Allens Grove

Trailhead Location:  
Farmer's Gateway Park  
128 Mill Street  
Clinton, WI 53525

This trail runs along an old railroad bed, so surface is gravel, bare mineral soil, or grass. At points, the surface could be considered accessible, but not the entire trail. Picnic areas, benches, rest stop shelters, and bike racks are provided along the trail.

An accessibility study was not conducted because the trail allows horses and accessibility improvements would not be wise because horses are hard on trails and may compromise the surface. Accessible trail improvements across the entire Rock County Park system focus on hiking-only trails.

However, accessibility was discussed with the DNR Accessibility Coordinator. This park poses a unique challenge: Rock County Parks constructed a restroom (on County property) adjacent to the trailhead park, which is owned by the Pelishek Nature Trail Foundation. An accessible path is required to the restroom, but the path would run on land not owned by Rock County. A cooperative agreement must be made to build this path.

# Royce Dallman Park

11500 N. Charley Bluff Road

Milton, WI 53563

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** December 15, 2011

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf		Force to operate too high	Built pre-1991
Path to well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Restroom Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max	Yes		
Restroom door Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		
Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved path, 5.6% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
Boat launch fee envelopes Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)		52" reach	
Boat launch fee drop Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	Yes		
Path to kiosk At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		16.8% slope	
Boat launch dock 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, barrier-free sides		47" wide	

<b>Path to boat launch</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		7.3% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
<b>Shelter</b> At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table	2 of 4 tables accessible	Only 26" maneuver space	
<b>Path to shelter</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Paved path, 5.2% slope	Accessible to the greatest extent feasible
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	



Boat launch (will be replaced 2012)



Shelter with accessible route



Well shelter (no accessible route)

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Boat launch dock replacement is scheduled for the summer of 2012, replace with an accessible pier.
2. Designate van accessible parking spaces. One handicapped space should be designed adjacent to the bathroom and one handicapped space should be designated closest to the boat launch.
3. Lower the informational kiosk so the fee envelopes are in appropriate reach range.
4. Remove one picnic table from the shelter so there is enough maneuver space.
5. Improve the accessible route to the boat launch informational kiosk with crushed limestone.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible path to the hand-pump well.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. No improvements are planned for the hand-pump well.

### Technically Infeasible:

1. The boat launch path is the best we can get without completely re-grading the entire parking lot and launch.

## **Schollmeyer Park**

2767 East Trail Drive

Beloit, WI 53511

Currently, this park is undeveloped. It is under utilized, but some people use it as an unimproved canoe/kayak launch site.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

## **Sugar River Park**

11317 South Nelson Road

Beloit, WI 53511

Currently, this parcel is mostly undeveloped with an unimproved canoe/kayak launch on the Sugar River.

No park improvements are planned at this time.

An accessibility study was not conducted.

# Sweet-Allyn Park

7149 South CTH J

Beloit, WI 53511

## Accessibility Assessment

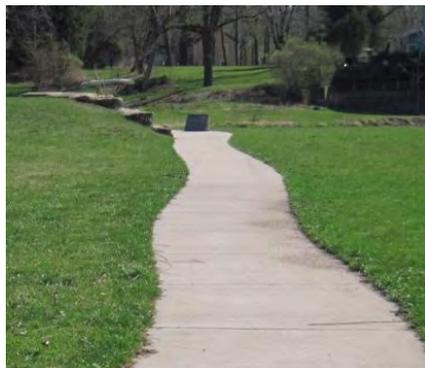
**Date:** January 25, 2012

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
<p>Van accessible parking (west) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%</p>		<p>Designed, but doesn't meet requirements</p>	<p>Designation is painted on the pavement, not properly signed. The total stall width is correct, but the access aisle is too narrow and the stall too wide.</p>
<p>Number of accessible parking spaces (west) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible</p>	<p>Yes</p>		
<p>Van accessible parking (east) Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%</p>		<p>No accessible parking spots designated</p>	
<p>Number of accessible parking spaces (east) 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible</p>		<p>No accessible parking spots designated</p>	
<p>Hand pump well 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", force to operate under 5 lbf</p>		<p>Force to operate too high</p>	<p>Built pre-1991</p>
<p>Path to well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface</p>		<p>Stairs from shelter, no accessible route</p>	
<p>Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max</p>		<p>Men's and Women's stall size 47"x57"</p>	<p>Built pre-1991</p>
<p>Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>Built pre-1991</p>
<p>Path to restroom At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface</p>		<p>Slope max 9/8%, pavement too broken to be considered firm and stable, cross slope by men's entry door is 7.4%, women's 8.5%</p>	

<b>Canoe launch</b> 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%		Totally unimproved launch	Some people use the paved drainage path to launch canoes
<b>Shelter</b> At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table			Built pre-1991
<b>Path to shelter</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
<b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	
<b>Playground equipment</b> Ground surface comply with ASTM F 1951, transfer platform level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 11"-18" high with at least one means of support, transfer steps shall have level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 8" high max rise, accessible lanes to all ground-level equipment with		Not accessible	Built pre-1991
<b>Path to playground</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
<b>Softball field fan seating</b> Firm, stable surface adjacent to fan seating min 36" wide		None	
<b>Path to softball player benches</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		None	
<b>Path to dam memorial</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Paved path, slop 0.3%	55" wide	



Restroom path  
(note condition of walkway)



Route to dam memorial



Accessible picnic table on grass



Stairs from shelter to well



Shelter

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Properly sign the accessible parking spaces.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the shelter.
2. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the hand pump well.
3. Improve canoe launch, making route accessible to the maximum extent feasible.
4. When playground equipment is replaced, use accessible equipment and add crushed limestone accessible route.
5. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to the softball player benches.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. Parking stalls will not be relined for proper aisle and stall width until entire lot is relined. The total stall width is OK.

### Technically Infeasible:

None

# Turtle Creek Parkway

6528 S. Smith Road

Clinton, WI 53525

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** January 25, 2012

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible		No accessible parking spots designated	Paved lot with no parking spots marked
Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Not accessible, specifics not measured because obviously not accessible and replacement planned in 2012	Built pre-1991
Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"			Built pre-1991
Restroom sink 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, max 34" to rim or counter surface, faucets operable with closed fist			Built pre-1991
Building entrances Entrance door min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48", change in level max 1/4"		Door opens in, force to open too high, change in level 1 3/4"	
Service counter 28"-34" high		46" high	
Picnic area At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface		None	



Building exterior before any improvements



Serving kitchen  
(note height on the service window counter)

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Building renovation scheduled for 2012, which will create one unisex accessible restroom, an accessible entrance, parking lot resurfacing with designated stalls and other building improvements, such as new windows, floor, etc...

### Desirable Priority:

None

### No Improvements Planned:

None

### Technically Infeasible:

None

# Walt Lindemann Sportsman's Park

3411 North Hwy. 51  
Janesville, WI 53545

## Accessibility Assessment

**Date:** December 15, 2011 and March 16, 2012

Amenity	Accessible	Not Accessible	Additional Comments
Van accessible parking Min 96" wide with access aisle min 60" wide, properly signed, sign min height 72", surface slope max 2%		Designed, but doesn't meet requirements	The total stall width is correct, but the access aisle is too narrow and the stall too wide. Sign height 65"
Number of accessible parking spaces 1 accessible per 25 spaces, at least 1 van accessible	Yes		
Water fountain 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, spout outlet no higher than 36", Control at front operable with closed fist		Spout height 37"	Built pre-1991
Path to water fountain or well At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		Concrete pad under fountain has 2" raise from shelter concrete	
Restroom stall Min size 60" wide x 56" deep, 17"-19" height of toilet seat, grab bars 36" high rear and 42" high side, flush control height 44" max		Men's and Women's stall size 44' x 60'	Built pre-1991
Restroom door (entry and/or stall) Min 32" wide, force to open under 5 lbf, door open out, handle/latches operable with a closed fist, handle height max 48"	Yes		Built pre-1991
Restroom sink 30" wide by 48" deep clearance space, max 34" to rim or counter surface, faucets operable with closed fist	Yes		Built pre-1991
Donation can Reach 48" max, 15" min (prefer ~30" min, 40" max)	Yes		
Path to donation can At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface		No accessible route	
Shelter At least one accessible table in shelter with min 36" space between each table	Yes		Built pre-1991
Path to shelter and restrooms At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface	Yes		

<p><b>Picnic area</b> At least one accessible table in picnic area with accessible path leading to it and a firm stable surface 60" around table, grill has clearance space of 30" x 40" for wheelchair, also within accessible path or stable surface</p>	<p>One accessible picnic table in picnic area</p>	<p>No accessible route or firm, stable surface around table</p>	
<p><b>Playground equipment</b> Ground surface comply with ASTM F 1951, transfer platform level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 11"-18" high with at least one means of support, transfer steps shall have level surfaces min 14" deep, 24" wide, 8" high max rise, accessible lanes to all ground-level equipment with</p>	<p>One swing has poured in place surfacing</p>	<p>Swing isn't accessible – it is the standard bench swing</p>	
<p><b>Path to playground</b> At least 36" wide, if passing is needed (can't see end of path) 60" wide, cross slope max 2%, walkway slope max 5%, 80" clear head-room, firm stable surface</p>		<p>No accessible route</p>	



Accessible parking with shelter route



Poured in place surface



Accessible picnic table on grass

## Improvement Recommendations

### Immediate Priority:

1. Properly sign the accessible parking spaces.

### Desirable Priority:

1. Build a crushed limestone accessible route to deer donation can.
2. When playground equipment is replaced, use accessible equipment and add crushed limestone accessible route.

### No Improvements Planned:

1. Parking stalls will not be relined for proper aisle and stall width. The total stall width is OK.
2. The drinking fountain is very close to accessible, the spout is only 1" too high. Considering that it was built before 1991, no improvements are planned.

### Technically Infeasible:

1. No improvements are planned for the bathroom stalls or water fountain path. Given the bathroom design (not square) and the fact that the shelter was built well before 1991, standards could not be met without significant shelter renovations.

## Policy Review

The current ordinances state:

### CHAPTER XI – PARKS:

#### 11.01 ROCK COUNTY PARK ORDINANCE.

(2) Regulation of Motor Vehicles.

(e) Disabled persons may use a motorized wheel chair or similar means of personal conveyance.

(f) Golf carts may be authorized for transporting physically challenged persons on trails designated by the Director.

All park brochures currently state:

Rock County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in accommodations provided to persons using our parks. For additional information or if special accommodations are required, please contact us.

Rock County Parks feels these policies allow for reasonable accommodations.

## Summary

Three major accessibility deficits can be found across the entire Rock County park system:

1. Parking stalls not marked or not adequately marked
2. Bathrooms do not meet current standards
3. Kiosks, boat launch fee envelopes, and brochures racks have very high reach ranges

These deficits are listed as immediate priorities in all of the parks where they exist.

Of 11 parks with drinking water provided, mostly with hand-pump wells, only 1 is currently accessible (Beckman Mill) and one is very close to meeting accessibility standards (Sportsman's Park). Improvements are planned for 2 more (Magnolia Bluff and Carver-Roehl Park), which will spread this accessible amenity evenly around the county and ensure that drinking water is accessible in our most used parks.

Of 3 parks with playgrounds, 1 is currently accessible, although it does not currently have an accessible route, which is an immediate priority. The remaining playgrounds will be updated as equipment is replaced.

Most of the developed boat launches do not meet new accessibility standards, but are as accessible to the greatest extent feasible given the grade of the park and launches. The Rock County park system contains several unimproved canoe launches that also do not meet accessibility standards. As these launches are improved, accessibility issues will be addressed.

Although accessible trail standards are still in the draft form, Rock County Parks has included proposed improvements in two parks with frequently used hiking trails. ADA trail loops are proposed for both Magnolia Bluff Park and Carver-Roehl County Park. These parks were chosen because of their high use and desirable vistas. The ADA loops are also included in both park's master plan as part of a larger trail improvement. In the summer of 2011, an accessible trail was built in Beckman Mill Park, connecting a new accessible board with the savanna hiking trail and leading south to the museum and mill.