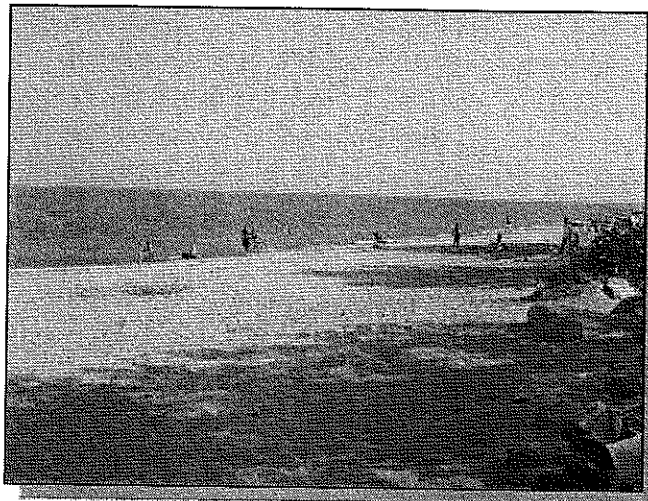


## V REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

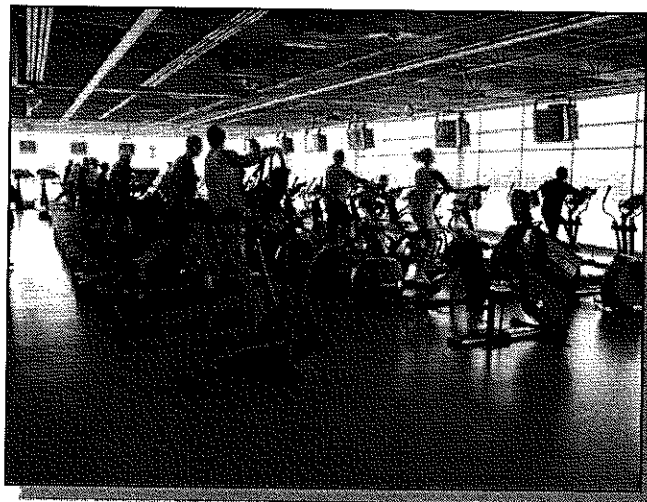
Future park, open space, and recreational opportunities within Pleasant Prairie are influenced by its position in the larger region and its unique physical, environmental, and demographic characteristics. The opportunities available in neighboring communities profoundly affect what is possible or desirable in Pleasant Prairie. Map 2 shows major recreational resources available in southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois.

The recommendations presented in this *Plan* are intended to enhance and contribute to the regional recreational experience by taking into consideration the following resources:



1. **Lake Michigan Frontage:** Pleasant Prairie's Lake Michigan frontage is one of its greatest assets. The lakefront area could be significantly better utilized and organized for a variety of recreational pursuits, both active and passive.
2. **Enhance the Des Plaines River Corridor:** The Des Plaines River is viewed as a major recreational and environmental asset in Illinois. However, it is largely invisible as it crosses through Pleasant Prairie. Opportunities exist to open up that corridor to regional trails and other passive recreational opportunities.

3. **Build Connecting Trails:** With the Kenosha County Trail and lightly traveled lakefront roads, the east side of the community is fairly well connected via north-south biking and walking routes. As land develops in the central parts of the community, the opportunity exists for a major east-west trail connecting Pleasant Prairie Park to the Kenosha County Trail and lakefront. Other connecting trails are possible to connect neighborhoods to these main trails.
4. **Build on Success of Prairie Springs Park/LakeView RecPlex/Pleasant Prairie IcePlex:** These unique facilities are regional amenities. Opportunities continue to exist to build on to existing facilities (e.g. expanded pool), successful programs, and major events that incorporate and spread awareness of the Village's park and trail system.
5. **Create More Outdoor Active Recreational Space:** The LakeView RecPlex provides a phenomenal range of indoor recreational opportunities. However, the number and quality of outdoor recreational fields and courts in the rest of the community—particularly the central and eastern parts of the Village—could be enhanced. The need for these facilities will be required as new development continues to occur in these areas.





exceptional park system. Park and trail planning and land acquisition must occur hand-in-hand with neighborhood planning and the advancement of new development proposals. New development also creates opportunities for funding the park system (e.g. through impact fees).

6. **Increase Variety of Recreational Experiences:** The Village has an opportunity to broaden the variety of park experiences to an increasingly diverse population. These include a future Village Center and additional nature-based educational recreation facilities. Increasing the use of the community's rich natural resource areas as outdoor laboratories and interpretation centers is a related opportunity.
7. **Use Community Growth to Create Great Parks:** The community's growth creates both challenges and opportunities for creating an

## VI GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

In order to conduct a thorough and accurate planning process, it is important to establish a set of goals, objectives, and policies that will serve as the basis for the recommendations in this *Plan*.

### Goals

Goals are broad statements that express general public priorities. Goals are formulated based on the identification of keys issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the park system.

### Objectives

Objectives are more specific than goals and are usually attainable through strategic planning and implementation activities. Implementation of an objective contributes to the fulfillment of a goal.

### Policies

Policies are rules and courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. Policies often accomplish a number of objectives.

The following list of goals, objectives, and policies is based on the information that has been presented in previous chapters of this *Plan*, including citizen input and discussions amongst Village Staff and Park Commission members.

### A. GOALS

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of Village residents and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and young children.
2. Preserve the Village's natural resources and amenities for the benefit of current and future residents.



### B. OBJECTIVES

1. Provide quality public outdoor recreation sites and adequate open space lands for each neighborhood plan area in the Village.
2. Ensure that at least one park or recreational open space is within a safe and comfortable walking distance for all Pleasant Prairie residents.
3. Increase the diversity of recreational opportunities (active and passive, resource-oriented and non-resource-oriented, water-based and land-based), and ensure that these opportunities are well distributed throughout the Village.
4. Provide pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to all parks and recreational facilities.
5. Balance the need to acquire and develop new park and recreational facilities with the need to maintain and upgrade existing park sites and facilities.

### C. POLICIES

1. All citizens should be provided with an opportunity for engaging in recreational experiences, and recreational facilities should be equitably situated.
2. The Village should continue to maintain and upgrade existing parks and recreational facilities for the safety and convenience of the age groups that use them.
3. Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place. All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods. All new residential development should be within one (1) mile of a neighborhood or community park.
4. Parks should be integrated into future neighborhood designs and linked by a network of sidewalks, bike routes, and open space corridors.
5. The Village should explore opportunities to increase controlled public access to Lake Michigan, particularly beach and swimming areas.
6. The Village should take all possible measures to protect and enhance the natural resource base elements and compatible recreational opportunities located in the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach lands, working in collaboration with State and non-profit agencies. Efforts should be made to increase the cohesiveness of these open space lands.
7. Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in advance of or in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning. Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.
8. The Village should continue to develop a diversity of park sizes and types based on the characteristics and needs of individual neighborhoods, and the surrounding land use and natural resource features.
9. Park impact fees are mandated through Village ordinances. Also, alternative means of reserving lands required for open space should be explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public (e.g. non-profit organizations, conservation easements, purchase of developments rights).
10. Parks and recreational facilities should be combined with school facilities where appropriate and feasible, with joint planning and maintenance agreements.
11. The preservation of primary and secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, steep slopes, woodlands and forests, lakes, ponds, streams, lakeshores, floodplains, riparian habitats, wetlands, and prairies should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as vegetative, wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive and active outdoor recreation, and as stormwater management areas, where appropriate.
12. All new residential development should meet the park and open space standards and recommendations as outlined in this *Plan* and implemented by the Village Zoning Ordinance and Land Division and Development Control Ordinance.
13. The Village should explore the need for special recreational facilities, such as dog parks and skateboard parks, through more detailed park and recreation planning initiated following the adoption of this *Plan*.
14. The provision of safe and convenient bike and pedestrian connections between the Kenosha County Bike Trail, Prairie Springs Park, and other park and open space facilities should be emphasized in on-



- going Village planning and acquisition efforts. Wherever possible, Pleasant Prairie's trail network should also be interconnected with trails in the City of Kenosha and Lake County, Illinois.
15. Bike and trail connections should focus on linking industrial and commercial areas with residential areas and parks to facilitate multi-modal transportation opportunities.
  16. The Village should encourage public awareness of the Village's parks and outdoor recreational facilities by promoting them through maps, signage, internet, and other materials. In addition, Village parks should serve as locations for outdoor education centers/classrooms.
  17. The Village should take measures to ensure that existing park facilities are upgraded to comply with ADA design guidelines. Future parks should be designed so that they are barrier-free and accessible to persons with disabilities.
  18. The Village should continue to plan for a park system that can accommodate Village residents, as well as the large number of people that commute into Pleasant Prairie for jobs on a daily basis, and the periodic influxes of athletes and spectators for triathlons and other large Village-sponsored events.
  19. The Village should continue its Neighborhood Planning process to identify future land uses, road and lot layouts, and the locations of parks, open space corridors, and trails.



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## VII PARK AND RECREATION STANDARDS

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In order to guide the park planning process, it is important to establish a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. Such standards enable a community to quantitatively measure how well its existing facilities are meeting the needs of residents and to plan for future facilities based on projected population growth. As such, park and recreation standards are commonly expressed as a ratio of the number of minimum acres recommended per 1,000 residents. For example, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that for every 1,000 residents, a community should provide 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parks.

SEWRPC has developed more localized park and recreational facility standards that have been used to guide the recommendations presented in this *Plan*. SEWRPC has used these standards in the past to conduct regional park and open space planning.

### A. REGIONAL PARKS

#### General Description:

Regional parks are large outdoor recreation sites that are able to accommodate visitors from multiple counties. Such sites tend to be natural resource-oriented. That is, they provide amenities for nature-based recreational activities and opportunities for local residents to enjoy the natural environment. Examples include hiking, fishing, and camping.

#### Service Area:

10-mile service radius

#### Desirable Size:

250 acres or more

#### Acres Per 1,000 Population:

5.3 acres<sup>a</sup>

#### Basic Facilities and Activities:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, and indoor recreational facilities;
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, nature study areas, and camp sites;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Lighting for security at night; and
- Adequate off-street parking spaces.

### B. COMMUNITY PARKS

#### General Description:

Community parks are intermediate in size and are able to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods. These sites focus on both the developed aspects of the park, such as playfields and tennis courts, as well as the natural-resource amenities.

#### Service Area:

2.0 mile service radius

#### Desirable Size:

25-99 acres

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<sup>a</sup> For Regional parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total population of the region.

**Acres Per 1,000 Population:**2.2 acres<sup>b</sup>**Basic Facilities and Activities:**

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, biking/walking/skiing trails, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball courts;
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Lighting for security at night; and
- Adequate off-street parking spaces, where the size of the park and the neighborhood context allow.

**C. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS****General Description:**

Neighborhood parks are small sites designed to accommodate the surrounding neighborhood. Like community parks, neighborhood parks may be non-resource oriented and can often be found in more densely populated urban areas.

**Service Area:**0.5-1.0 mile service radius<sup>c</sup>**Desirable Size:**

Up to 25 acres

**Acres Per 1,000 Population:**1.7 acres<sup>b</sup>**Basic Facilities and Activities:**

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks;
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, storage, and restrooms;
- Lighting for security at night; and
- Adequate off-street parking spaces.

**D. SCHOOL PARKS****General Description:**

School parks have many of the same characteristics as neighborhood or community parks, depending on their size. As such, school parks primarily serve as locations for active recreational facilities associated with school functions; however, these sites can and do benefit the surrounding community during off-school hours. These parks may be owned and maintained by the Village or the school district, but are open to all neighborhood residents.

**Service Area:**0.5-1.0 mile service radius<sup>c</sup>**Desirable Size:**Up to 99 acres<sup>d</sup>

<sup>b</sup> For Community and Neighborhood Parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the population of the region residing in urban areas.

<sup>c</sup> A 0.5-mile service radius applies to high-density urban areas; a 0.75-mile service radius applies to medium-density urban areas; and a 1.0-mile service radius applies to low-density urban areas.

**Acres Per 1,000 Population:**1.6 acres<sup>b</sup>**Basic Facilities and Activities:**

- Active recreational facilities such as playfields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and ice-skating rinks;
- Passive recreational facilities such as picnic/sitting areas and nature study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter and storage;
- Lighting for security at night; and
- Adequate off-street parking spaces.

**E. SPECIAL OPEN SPACE AREAS****General Description:**

Areas of open space that cannot be measured by a quantifiable standard because of their unique and diverse contributions to the community. Special Open Space Areas enhance an overall park and open space system by maintaining and improving the community's natural resource base, accommodating special activities that are not included in other parks, and providing interconnections between isolated parks and recreation areas.

Examples of Special Open Space Areas are varied but can include those lands that accommodate passive or special recreational activities, such as golf courses, sledding/skiing hills, marinas, beaches, display gardens, arboreta, and outdoor amphitheaters, areas of historical or archaeological significance, as well as lands that have been protected for their environmental significance or sensitivity and provide limited opportunity for recreational use. Examples of the latter may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelands and shoreland setback areas, drainageways, stormwater management basins, conveyance routes, environmental corridors or isolated natural areas as mapped by SEWRPC, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants, and restoration areas.

**Service Area:**

Variable—depends on function

**Desirable Size:**

Variable—depends on function

**Acres Per 1,000 Population:**

Variable- most Special Open Space Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons

**Basic Facilities and Activities:**

Variable, but some may include:

- Active recreational facilities such as areas for swimming and boating, skiing hills, biking/walking/skiing trails, skating rinks, and golf courses;
- Passive recreational facilities such as walking trails, picnic/sitting areas, and natural study areas;
- Service buildings for shelter, equipment storage/rental, concessions, and restrooms;
- Educational facilities;

<sup>b</sup> For Community and Neighborhood Parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the population of the region residing in urban areas.

<sup>c</sup> A 0.5-mile service radius applies to high-density urban areas; a 0.75-mile service radius applies to medium-density urban areas; and a 1.0-mile service radius applies to low-density urban areas.

<sup>d</sup> School parks are typically the size of neighborhood parks (up to 25 acres), but are sometimes as large as a community park (25-99 acres).

- Signage, trail markers, trash receptacles, information booths;
- Lighting for security at night; and
- Off-street parking spaces if appropriate to the area.

## F. RECREATION TRAILS

### General Description:

Recreation Trails accommodate various outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, nature study, and cross-country skiing. A well-designed park system provides connections between parks and open space lands and effectively integrates urban and suburban areas with the surrounding natural environment by linking off-street trail segments with on-street bike routes. Recreation trails can be designed to serve different functions and to accommodate various, and sometimes conflicting, activities. Therefore, this section provides descriptions of the different types of recreation trails that this *Plan* will address and how recommendations will be formulated for each type of trail.

### 1. On-Street Bicycle Facilities

#### General Description:

There are two primary types of on-street bicycle facilities: bicycle lanes and paved shoulders.

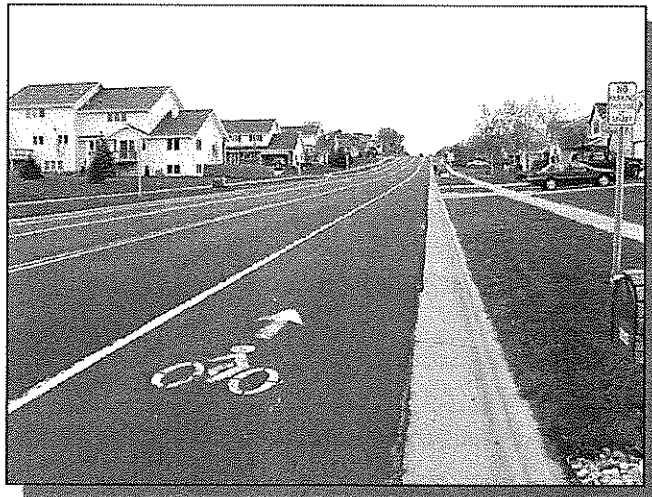
Bicycle lanes are areas of the road striped off for exclusive use by bicyclists. They are the preferred bicycle facility for urban arterial and higher volume collector streets (generally more than 2,000 vehicles per day). Striping bicycle lanes establishes designated traffic channels that promote an orderly flow by both bicyclists and motorists. Typically, bicycle lanes are established on roadways that

are 32 feet or wider with no on-street parking. Shared bicycle/parking lanes generally function well where sufficient space is provided and the parking turnover rate is not too high.

Paved shoulders are not a bicycle facility per se, but rather a roadway condition that improves bicycle travel and bicyclist safety. They function much like a bicycle lane by separating the motor vehicle travel from bikes. Paved shoulders are ideal for higher volume streets or highways (more than 1,000 cars per day) with rural cross sections (i.e. no curb and gutter)

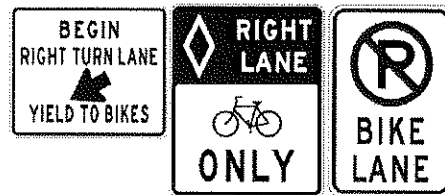
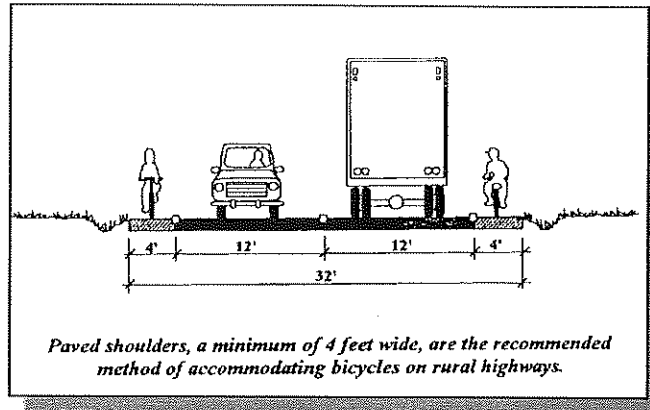
#### Treatment in this Plan:

Although this *Plan* presents general recommendations regarding locations for future on-street bike facilities, more formal and detailed recommendations would require more in-depth analyses of the Village's road network, including traffic patterns and street widths.



**Desirable Design Criteria for Bicycle Lanes:**

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet along an arterial street.
- When used along side a parking lane, should be at least 5 feet wide and located to the traffic side of the parking lane.
- Where bike lanes and on-street parking is provided, minimum combined width should be 11 feet (13 feet where there is substantial parking or turnover of parked cars is high).
- Lanes painted with a bicycle pavement symbol or the words "bike lane" according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.
- Street signs should be used to identify bicycle lanes.



**Desirable Design Criteria for Paved Shoulders:**

- Minimum width should be 4 feet, or 5 feet where traffic speeds exceed 50 miles per hour.
- A stripe separating shoulder from roadway is recommended.
- These are generally not marked as an exclusive bike facility.

**Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population:**

N/A

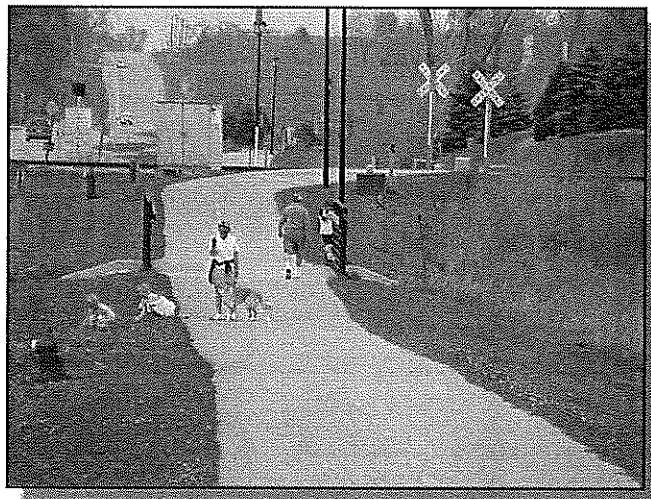
**2. Off-Street Recreation Trails**

**General Description:**

There are two primary types of off-street recreation trails: multi-use paths and rural walking/hiking trails.

Multi-use paths are designed to accommodate bicyclists, walkers, runners, and in-line skaters. Such facilities are often located along railroad and street rights-of-way, rivers and lakeshores, and through parks and environmental corridors.

Rural trails provide connections between urbanized areas, and access to parks and open space areas. Walkways may be restricted to pedestrian use because of environmental conditions. In certain locations, they may also be suitable for equestrian and/or bicycle use. Rural walkways are often sited along creeks, streams, rivers, field boundaries, and other natural linear systems.



**Treatment in this Plan:**

This *Plan* presents recommendations for the location of future off-street recreation trails. However, the design and type of such facilities will not be identified in this *Plan*.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Multi-Use Paths:**

- In urban areas, paths should be a minimum of 10 feet in width to accommodate two-way bicycle traffic. Paved surfacing is recommended to facilitate bike, walking, running, and skating.
- In rural areas, the path should be a minimum of 8 feet wide, surfaced with limestone screenings or similar material.
- Avoid placement alongside roadways where multiple cross-streets and driveways are or will be present.
- Minimum 20 mph design speed.

**Desirable Design Criteria for Rural Walking/Hiking Trails:**

Because these trail facilities often travel through sensitive environmental areas, they are generally not paved. Rather, they are surfaced with crushed limestone, wood chips, hard packed earth, or mowed grass.



**Linear Miles Per 1,000 Population:**

The provision of trails is best related to an analysis of supply versus demand and the size of the community, rather than a single quantitative standard.

**3. Trailheads**

**General Description:**

Trailheads can provide visible access points to major off-street paths in the community's system. They generally provide a parking area, locational and directional maps or other information about the trail system. Some might contain restroom facilities, picnic tables, or benches for snacks or breaks. Such facilities should be sited with easy and direct access to the trail system.

**Treatment in this Plan:**

This *Plan* will make general recommendations regarding the future location of trailheads. Suggestions will be based upon both existing and proposed park facilities and parking locations.

**Desirable Design Criteria:**

N/A

**Number of Facilities Per 1,000 Population:**

N/A

**G. OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

SEWRPC also developed, and this *Plan* endorses, standards for the provision of outdoor recreational facilities. Such standards are expressed as a ratio of the number of facilities recommended per 1,000 residents (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Per Capita Requirements for Outdoor Recreational Facilities**

Facility	Facilities per 1,000 Residents
Baseball Diamond	0.10
Basketball Goals	1.13
Ice-skating Rink	0.15
Playfield	0.50
Playgrounds	0.42
Softball Diamonds	0.60
Tennis Courts	0.60
Soccer Fields	0.86
Swimming Pool	0.15

*Source: SEWRPC*

