

VIII ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the Village's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of quantitative park and recreational facility service standards to reliable population projections for the Village;
- A qualitative analysis of the Village's park system;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the Village's park and open space system; and
- A review of Wisconsin's *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next chapter of this *Plan*.

A. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

The following charts present a comparison of SEWRPC's park and recreation standards to the Village's existing facilities. In Figures 8 and 9, the standards per 1,000 persons were applied to the Village's current population estimate. In Figures 10 and 11, that same standard was applied to the Village's 2030 population projection.

In Figure 8, the *Required Acreage* for Regional Parks was derived by applying the standard per 1,000 persons to an estimated regional population; however, *Total Existing Acreage* for regional parks only accounts for Prairie Springs Park and does not include any acreage located outside Village boundaries. Therefore, it is important to note that although the following chart indicates a deficiency in regional park acreage, there are several regional parks located in the communities that surround Pleasant Prairie. When considered together, these parklands meet SEWRPC's regional park standard.

Furthermore, although Figure 8 lists Special Open Space Acreage, there is no quantitative standard available to measure surpluses or deficiencies of such lands. In Figure 9, the *Total Number of Existing Facilities* includes indoor facilities located in the LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex facilities.



Figure 8: Park Acreage Needs for 2005

Park Type	Standard (acres per 1,000 persons)	Required Acreage	Total Existing Acreage	Park Acres Needed
Neighborhood Parks	1.7	32	35	0
School Parks	1.6	30	50	0
Community Parks ^a	2.2	42	0	42
Regional Parks	5.3	1,257	930 ^b	--
Special Open Space	N/A	N/A	6,127	N/A ^c

^a The only community park in the general area is Anderson Park, which is located outside of the Village and is only partially open to the general public.

^b This number only reflects the number of regional park acres located within the Village. Pleasant Prairie does not plan to develop any additional acreage since there are several other regional parks found within the County.

^c The Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, and archaeologically significant lands as funds become available. See Chapter IX.

Figure 9: Park Facility Needs for 2005

Park Type	Standard (# facilities per 1,000 persons)	# Facilities Required (based on standard per 1,000 persons)	Total # of Existing Outdoor Facilities	Total # of Existing Indoor Facilities	# Facilities Needed*
Baseball Diamond	0.10	2	6	0	0
Basketball Goal	1.13	21	12	40	0
Ice Skating Rink	0.15	3	0	3	0
Playfield	0.50	10	10	0	0
Playground	0.42	8	12	0	0
Softball Diamond	0.60	11	12	0	0
Tennis Court	0.60	11	0	2	9
Soccer Field	0.86	16	22	4	0
Swimming Pools	0.15	3	1	1	1

* These numbers do not take into consideration whether or not the facility is located indoors or outdoors. This is discussed further in the following section of this chapter.

Figure 10: Park Acreage Needs for 2030

Park Type	Standard (acres per 1,000 persons)	Acreage Required (based on standard per 1,000 persons)	Total Existing Acreage	Park Acres Needed
Neighborhood Parks	1.7	67	35	32
School Parks	1.6	63	50	13
Community Parks ^a	2.2	87	0	87
Regional Parks	5.3	1,805	930 ^b	--
Special Open Space	N/A	N/A	6,127	N/A ^c

^a The only community park in the general area is Anderson Park, which is located outside of the Village and is only partially open to the general public.

^b This number only reflects the number of regional park acres located within the Village. Pleasant Prairie does not plan to develop any additional acreage since there are several other regional parks found within the County.

^c The Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, and archaeologically significant lands as funds become available. See Chapter IX.

Figure 11: Park Facility Needs for 2030

Park Type	Standard (# facilities per 1,000 persons)	# Facilities Required (based on standard per 1,000 persons)	Total # of Existing Outdoor Facilities	Total # of Existing Indoor Facilities	# Facilities Needed*
Baseball Diamond	0.10	4	6	0	0
Basketball Goal	1.13	45	12	40	3
Ice Skating Rink	0.15	6	0	3	3
Playfield	0.50	20	10	0	10
Playground	0.42	17	12	0	8
Softball Diamond	0.60	24	12	0	13
Tennis Court	0.60	24	0	2	22
Soccer Field	0.86	34	22	4	12
Swimming Pools	0.15	6	1	1	4

* These numbers do not take into consideration whether or not the facility is located indoors or outdoors. This is discussed further in the following section of this chapter.

The data presented in Figures 8 and 9 indicate that the Village needs to develop approximately 42 acres of community park land in order to satisfy SEWRPC's park standards.

Figures 10 and 11 suggest that in the future the Village will have to plan for additional neighborhood parks, school parks, and community parks to meet the needs of its growing population. Also, provisions will have to be made in the upcoming years to develop additional recreational facilities.

B. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

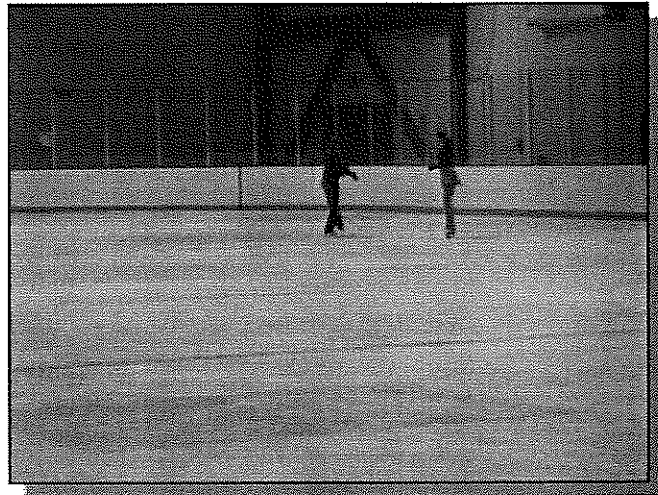
Although the quantitative standards provided by SEWRPC provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this Plan, a thorough assessment of the Village's existing facilities must include a

more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Pleasant Prairie unique from other communities. Furthermore, the following qualitative analysis will identify park system deficiencies that are not captured by universal standards, and will ensure that future facilities meet the specific needs of the Village.

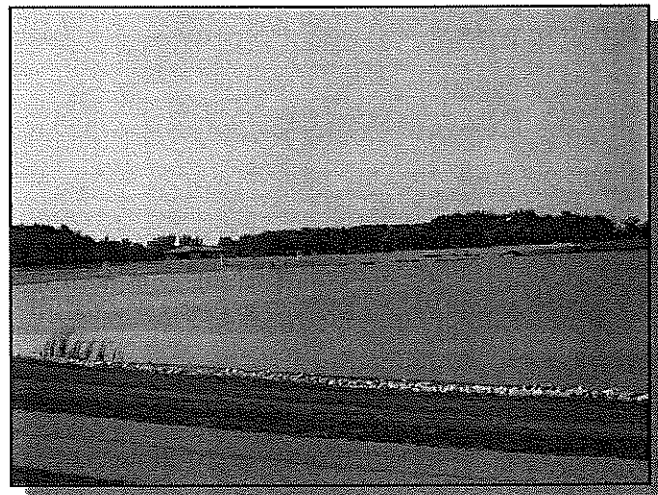
Important qualitative factors include the following:

- Pleasant Prairie needs to accommodate the large number of workers that commute into the Village for jobs.
- The Village's park system needs to accommodate periodic influxes of athletes and spectators for triathlons and other Village-sponsored events having region-wide impacts.
- Segregated land uses (residential, commercial, industrial) need to be connected to each other and to the park system through a network of recreation trails.
- Pleasant Prairie occupies a large land area relative to its population, which increases the number of trail miles needed to interconnect areas of development.

- The LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex house the majority of recreational facilities in the Village. Although these facilities make a significant contribution to the Village's overall recreation system, it should be considered that they are *indoor* facilities and are not open to the general public free of charge. In addition, the RecPlex/IcePlex concentrates all of these facilities in one location. Although the Village's recreational needs are currently being met as a result of the facilities provided at the RecPlex, efforts should be made to expand and enhance the number of outdoor recreational opportunities, particularly in the central (east of State Highway 31) and eastern portions of the Village.



- Through land use and zoning controls, Pleasant Prairie preserves concentrations of high-quality habitat and natural resources, particularly in the Chiswaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area.
- In addition to its formal park system, the Village has a significant amount of Special Open Space Areas that should be recognized as an important component of the overall park system. When combined, Pleasant Prairie has approximately 1,321 acres of Special Open Space Areas (6% of the Village's total land area) and 4,806 acres of mapped environmental corridors and isolated natural resource features.

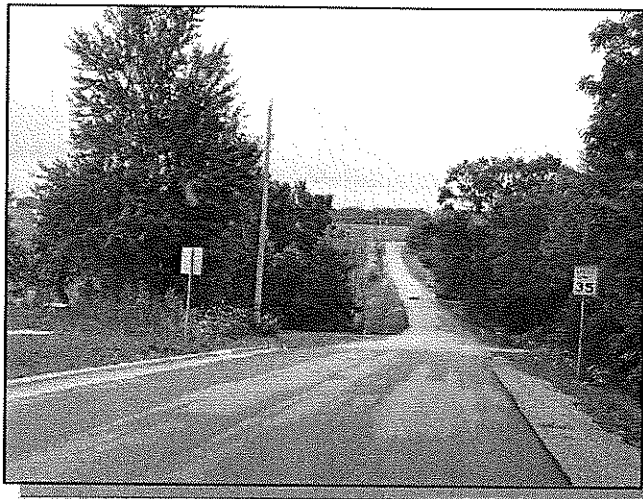


Although the existence of these lands does not reduce the need for parks, a consideration of these lands should not be left out of a comprehensive discussion and analysis of the Village's park, recreation, and open space system. Special Open Space Areas provide many benefits to a community and enhance ecological integrity and human health by maintaining

natural processes. Public Special Open Space Areas should be considered specifically when planning trail networks, as these corridors can provide ideal locations for such facilities. In addition, these lands easily accommodate trailheads and can help establish a framework for a Village-wide trail system.

- Furthermore, the Village recently completed an impact fee assessment, which identifies the general locations of new parks, recreational facilities, and recreation trails. Because Pleasant Prairie's current impact fees are based on the assumption that these parks will be developed within the next 15 years, this *Plan* will reflect the results and recommendations of that impact fee assessment.

C. GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provides a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of Village residents. To illustrate this distribution, Maps 3a and 3b depict the service areas of the Village's parks. These service areas are based on the SEWRPC standards identified in Chapter VII of this *Plan*.

An analysis of Map 3a suggests that the central and southwestern portions of the Village are not well served in terms of neighborhood parks or community parks. It should also be noted that although Anderson Community Park serves the northeastern portion of the Village, the park is not entirely

open for public use. Therefore, it is important that this area of the Village is supplemented with a sufficient number of neighborhood parks to meet residents' recreation and park needs. The southwest portion of the Village is served by Prairie Springs Park, which offers many of the amenities that would be found in a neighborhood or community park.

D. PUBLIC INPUT

The results of the Visioning Workshop are discussed in Chapter III of this *Plan*, and a comprehensive list of the results is located in Appendix B. This information indicates that the Village's existing facilities fall short in the following areas:

- Recreation trails;
- Active outdoor recreational facilities;
- Passive outdoor recreational facilities; and
- Access to Lake Michigan, particularly with respect to beach and swimming areas.

E. REVIEW OF THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

The last component of this needs assessment involves a review of the State of Wisconsin's *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Statewide surveys conducted between the years 1990 and 2000 were designed to collect information regarding the types of recreational activities that people engaged in most frequently, as well as residents' level of satisfaction with the state's existing facilities. Please refer to the 2000-2005 SCORP for a detailed discussion of survey methodology.

Based upon the results of this research, the DNR categorized recreation participation levels into three groups. *Tier one* activities had between a 50 and 90 percent participation rate. These activities included walking and driving for pleasure, swimming, viewing wildlife, and picnicking. *Tier two* activities have participation rates that are between 30 and 50 percent. These include fishing, hiking, bicycling, nature study, motor boating, and nature photography. *Tier three* activities have participation rates up to 30 percent, and include activities such as scuba diving, skiing, and ice hockey. Participation in these activities generally requires specialized equipment and some degree of training or skill.

A separate survey measured participants' satisfaction with the State's existing park and recreational facilities. Satisfaction is generally a factor of the availability and quality of places to recreate, which can help identify deficiencies in the supply of certain facilities. Results of this survey indicated that golfers, joggers, walkers, and skiers were the most satisfied with the available facilities. Off-road truck enthusiasts, ATV riders and motor boaters were among the least satisfied.

Preliminary reports that have been prepared for the 2005-2010 SCORP identify *tier one*, *two*, and *three* activities by region. Results for the Kenosha County region indicate that *tier one* activities remained mostly the same, but now include "visiting a beach." Furthermore, swimming dropped from a *tier one* to a *tier two* activity. The list of previously identified *Tier two* activities also remained the same, but now include camping, visiting wilderness areas, and jogging.

Recommendations presented in this *Plan* will generally reflect residents' needs for facilities that accommodate *tier one* and *tier two* activities.