

IX RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

The following recommendations are based on projected growth rates and distributional deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this *Plan*. In total, this *Plan* recommends adding 16 new parks throughout the Village and making improvements to nine (9) existing parks over the next 25 years. Based upon 2030 population projections, these recommendations would satisfy SEWRPC's park and recreation standards. The timing of park land acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for recreational facilities in the Village's developed and newly developing areas.

As part of this park planning process, five (5) park concept plans were prepared to further guide the development and enhancement of the Village's park and recreation system. The implementation of these concept plans will be the Village's priority over the next five (5) years. The details of these concept plans are discussed in the following sections. Cost estimates associated with the concept plans are included in Appendix D.

A. PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PARKLANDS

Map 4 shows approximate locations for future parks in the Village. More precise park boundaries will be determined during the preparation of detailed Neighborhood Plans, and when lands are acquired or platted. Map 5 depicts the service areas that will eventually be covered by the Village's planned and existing parks. Following are general descriptions of the park recommendations.

1. Community Parks

It is recommended that the Village acquire and develop three (3) community parks over the next 25 years. Highpoint Park, identified on Map 4, is proposed to be developed in coordination with the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD). This development may occur over the next five to 10 years. The total size of the park is recommended to be approximately 65 acres of Village-owned land. An additional 22.5 acres of adjacent land will be owned and maintained by KUSD for recreational purposes. Highpoint park is proposed to serve as one of the Village's primary outdoor active recreational facilities, potentially providing baseball and soccer fields, basketball goals, tennis courts, and ample parking to accommodate large crowds of spectators and athletes. It is recommended that the Village work in cooperation with KUSD to develop two other community parks, also identified on Map 4. The community park site located south of 110th Street and east of 39th Avenue will eventually be shared by the middle school and elementary school campuses, and the second, north of Prairie Springs Park and west of 88th Avenue, will eventually be shared with a high school campus.

In addition, Section C of this Chapter discusses recommended improvements to Momper's Woods. In the future, the park is proposed to function as a unique community park facility, offering various passive recreational amenities and serving as an area for outdoor education and community meetings.

2. Neighborhood Parks

It is recommended that Pleasant Prairie acquire and develop an additional seven (7) neighborhood parks over the next 25 years. The timing of these parks will coincide with development of adjacent lands. Overall, these parks will provide over 100 additional acres of park land within the Village. The new parks will not only accommodate forecasted population growth, but will also ensure a more equitable distribution of parks and recreational facilities throughout the community. In addition,



these parks will provide a greater diversity of *outdoor* activities to supplement those already offered inside the LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex. Recommended locations for future neighborhood parks are identified on Map 4. The sizes of and facilities in these future parks should conform to the standards identified in Chapter VII. In certain cases, detailed Neighborhood Plans or subdivision plats have identified precise locations, sizes, and facilities for particular parks. Furthermore, although Map 4 suggests names for these proposed parklands, the parks' official names will be decided upon at the time of parkland acquisition and development.

Village Green Park will be located adjacent to a recently platted residential subdivision and directly northwest of the Village's planned mixed-use commercial/retail area referred to as the Village Green Center (see Map 4). Village Green Park will someday provide a location for baseball and soccer games, as well as an area for adults to play volleyball and tennis. Served by ample parking and centrally located in the Village, this park will provide an ideal location for a trailhead. Furthermore, the far western and eastern portions of the park will remain passive, connected by a multi-use path that will run the entire length of the park. This path will continue on to link Village Green with other parks in Pleasant Prairie. In order to accomplish these goals, the Village is proposing to implement the Concept Plan that has been prepared for this park (see Map 6).

Creekside Park is planned for the north central portion of the Village (Map 4). Development in this park is limited by floodplain and wetland areas. However, the park may eventually provide active recreational facilities, such as soccer fields, tennis courts, and a playground area. The northern and southern portions of the park will be linked by a trail that continues on to connect the Creekside neighborhood with other parks and neighborhoods in the Village. In order to accomplish these goals, the Village will implement the Concept Plan that has been prepared for this park (see Map 8).

3. Public School Parks

Map 4 identifies seven (7) potential future school sites, which have been based on previous planning efforts completed by the Village and KUSD. It is recommended that the Village work in coordination with KUSD to develop park facilities at these locations that reflect the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. In the event that these proposed locations change, the Village should revisit the recommendations in this *Plan* and amend them accordingly. As noted above, three of the future school sites are proposed to be associated with community parks, and four school sites are proposed to be associated with neighborhood parks.

4. Special Open Space Areas

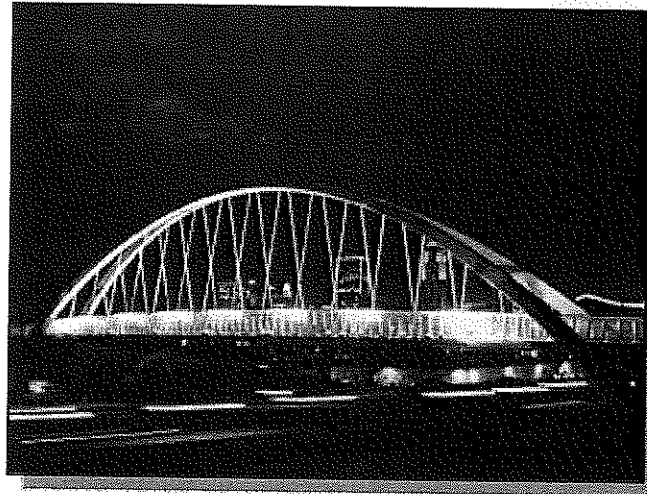
In addition to developing community and neighborhood parks, the Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, and archaeologically significant lands as funds become available. The Village will also support other State, county, regional, and non-profit agencies in such acquisitions. These acquisitions should focus, in particular, on the lands surrounding the Des Plaines River corridor. As such, the Village should work with state, county, and non-profit agencies to develop a coordinated land acquisition plan for the permanent preservation of the primary environmental corridors located in this area of the Village.

Furthermore, Village Green Center will eventually function as a special open space area designed to compliment the Village's planned mixed-use commercial/retail area located in the east central portion of the Village (see Map 4). The area may serve as civic gathering space for Village-sponsored events and performances and will generally accommodate passive uses such as picnicking and walking.

B. PROPOSED RECREATION TRAILS

Map 4 identifies proposed locations for future recreation trails. The Map depicts first and second priority trail routes. First priority routes are those routes for which development will likely occur within the next 5-10 years based upon the current availability of lands and the Village's plans for future developments and land acquisition. The Village will make use of existing and future utility, railroad, and conservation easements to accommodate future trails whenever possible. The trail system will be strategically planned so that it provides a link between existing and future parks and open space areas.

Another priority is to link future industrial park development to the west of I-94 with Prairie Springs Park. It is recommended that the Village work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to explore the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge over the interstate. Not only will this allow pedestrians and bikers to cross the highway safely, but it may also serve as a decorative gateway that welcomes people into the Village and the State.



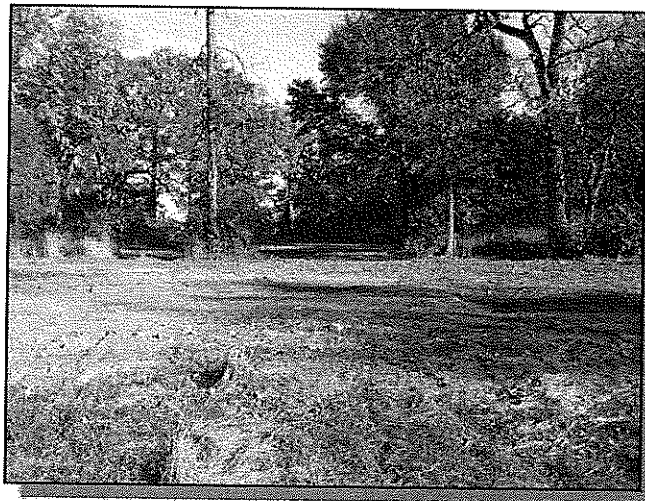
Pedestrian bridge over I-235; Des Moines, Iowa

C. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE LANDS

In addition to the recommendations in the previous sections, which mainly focus on the acquisition of additional parkland in the Village, recommendations for improvements to existing park and open space facilities are as follows:

1. General Recommendations

1. Promote civic group "adoption" of parks to assist in acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities, especially for unique properties such as Momper's Woods and the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Open Space Lands.
2. The Village should continue to emphasize the provision of areas and facilities that support recreational activities for all ages and abilities, rather than facilities geared only toward team sports or certain age groups.
3. Continue to explore opportunities to integrate additional parking facilities in and around Prairie



Springs Park in a manner that does not detract from the aesthetic quality of the park system. Working with existing and future business park users and farmers in this area appears to the

most logical option for securing space for event parking, rather than acquiring additional lands for this purpose.

4. Update the Village's land dedication and fees-in-lieu of dedication regulations to more specifically define the quantity of parkland a developer must provide (or amount of fees to be paid in lieu of dedication). This will streamline future negotiations with developers and will ensure that dedication requirements are fair and equitable.
5. Complete necessary upgrades to bring all park and recreation facilities into compliance with ADA regulations.

2. Recommendations for Existing Parks

Pleasant Prairie Park:

(intersection of 104th Avenue and Bain Station Road)

- Acquire an additional 3 parcels of land: 2 parcels on the eastern perimeter of the park (104th Avenue), and one to the west, backing up to 108th Avenue. These acquisitions will add up to approximately 6.7 acres.
- Expand upon the existing active recreational facilities by improving the baseball and softball facilities, and by adding additional amenities, such as soccer fields and a basketball court.
- Explore opportunities to develop unique facilities within this park, such as a dog park, skate park, and disc golf course.
- Incorporate a system of boardwalks and interpretive exhibits into the park's adjacent wetland area to take advantage of this natural feature. Interpretive exhibits displays information about the surrounding environment: for example, details regarding the species of plants and wildlife that may be observed along a trail or within a park, or the history of the land.
- Implement park concept plan (see Map 9).
- Provide traffic calming devices such as speed bumps or a roundabout to limit the use of the park as a pass-through street.

Woodlawn Park:

(at Harrison Road and 50th Avenue)

- Add signage consistent with the other parks in the Village.
- Upgrade playground equipment.

Rolling Meadows Park:

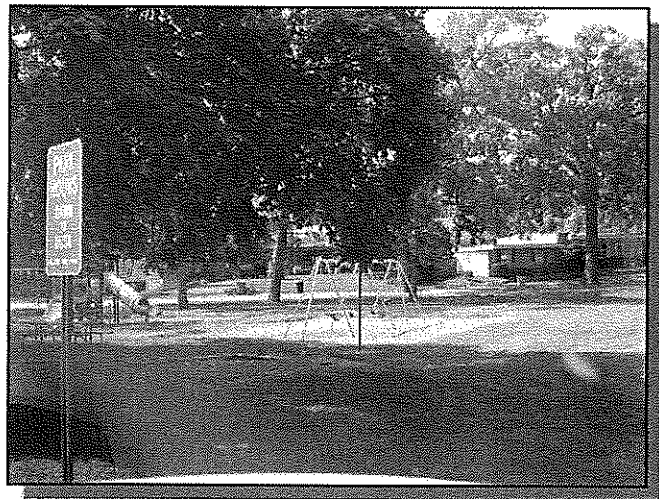
(intersection of 100th Street and 32nd Avenue)

- Create trailhead for Kenosha County Bike Trail.

Becker Park:

(intersection of 76th Street and 48th Avenue)

- Re-grade the land to improve stormwater management and to prevent the collection of water in the middle of the park.
- Improve the condition of the softball field.



Carol Beach Park:

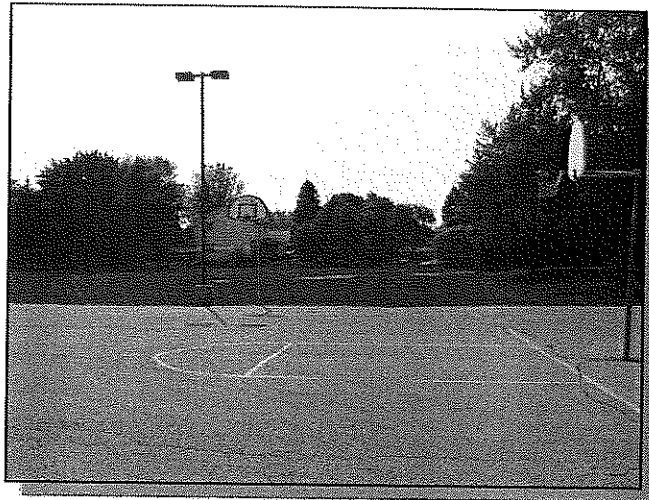
(intersection of 111th Street and 9th Avenue)

- Replace basketball goals.
- Upgrade playground equipment.
- Improve condition of softball field.
- Upgrade pavilion.

Momper's Woods:

(west side of State Highway 31 and between 104th Street and 116th Street)

- Add park signage that establishes Momper's Woods as a park of the Village's park system.
- Preserve this park as a special open space area.
- Continue to solicit input from local area environmentalists on how to appropriately manage the site.
- As early investments, focus on developing a small parking area on the eastern side of the park and creating a trail system through the wooded portion of the site.
- Include interpretive exhibits to begin the process of transforming the property into a working outdoor classroom and nature study area, and showcase the site's historical significance in the Village.
- Explore opportunities to construct a nature center and/or indoor classroom/lecture hall on the portion of the property that has already been cleared of trees.
- Provide outdoor meeting and reception areas in the park.
- Implement park concept plan (see Map 10).

**Prairie Springs Park:**

(north of 104th Street and west of 88th Avenue)

- Build addition onto LakeView RecPlex that includes an Olympic-size 8-lane swimming pool.
- Use River Planning Grant monies to assess the condition of the natural resources within the park and develop a natural resource management plan for the area.
- Extend the trail system within the park and create interpretive exhibits that highlight the natural resources of the area.
- Design trails and firebreaks to accommodate 5K and 10K triathlons.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships with local Eagle Scouts and other community and grass-roots organizations to help develop trails and interpretive exhibits.
- Either acquire land on the northeast perimeter of the park for off-street parking, or obtain cross-access easements from the adjacent land use for parking and access.



Lake Michigan Park:

(East side of Lakeshore Drive between 102nd Street and 113th Street)

- Acquire approximately one (1) additional acre of land adjacent to the park.
- Explore alternatives for providing controlled and monitored swimming areas and restricting motor boat and Jet Ski activity in the park.
- Develop restroom facilities.

Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Open Space Lands:

(east of Sheridan Road)

- Work collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy, the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, and the DNR to establish uniform signage and interpretive exhibits throughout the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach lands.
- Work with the DNR to promote the unique natural characteristics of the Kenosha Dunes to the north and the Nature Conservancy prairie complex to the south; use these lands to establish a more distinctive framework for the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area.
- Transfer ownership of Village-owned parcels within the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area to the DNR or The Nature Conservancy for long-term preservation and management.

X IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations presented in this *Plan* will be phased over time. This phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use and by the funding available to the Village to make necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance implementation. These funding sources include recently adopted impact fees and those sources listed in Appendix C. It should be noted that funds from many of these programs are subject to change due to fluctuations with current federal, state, and local budgets. The park and open space improvements recommended in this *Plan* should be incorporated into the Village's regular capital improvement plans and programs. This *Plan* must be updated every five (5) years to ensure that it reflects the evolving needs of the community and retains its DNR certification.

The Village should coordinate efforts with other units of government (e.g. City of Kenosha, Town of Bristol, Lake County, IL), governmental departments and public agencies (e.g. Kenosha Unified School District, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), and private and non-profit agencies (e.g. The Nature Conservancy) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this *Plan*.

Generally, Pleasant Prairie should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this *Plan*. The Village's Land Division and Development Control Ordinance and development review process, in particular, provide opportunities for the Village to secure parklands as development occurs.

