

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **ANALYSIS OF EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village's park, open space and recreational facilities satisfy the current needs of community based upon the goals, standards and objectives discussed in Chapter 3 and taking into account the public participation activities and community-wide survey results discussed in Chapter 5 of this Plan. The adequacy of the Villages existing park and open space and recreation system will be specifically evaluated by:

- Examining quantitative park, open space and facility service standards developed in Chapter 3 to the reliable population projections for the Village for the plan design year 2017 and to the comprehensive plan design year 2035;
- Analyzing the qualitative analysis of the Village's park system based upon the community-wide survey results, Park and Recreation Commission visioning events, Village Board and staff input and public informational meetings;
- Reviewing the geographic distribution and accessibility of the park and open space areas in the community; and
- Comparing it with the Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

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

#### **QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS**

The following charts present a comparison of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC's) park and recreation standards to the Village's existing facilities. In Figures 6.1 and 6.2, the standards per 1,000 persons were applied to the Village's current 2010 population estimate of 19,719. In Figures 6.3 and 6.4, that same standard was applied to the Village's 2035 population projection estimate of 31,205 under the intermediate population growth scenario. In the Figures, the regional population estimate used was 166,671 persons, which was based upon the 2011 Kenosha County population and the 2035 population projection estimate was 210,078.

In Figure 6.1, the Existing Acreage for Regional Parks was derived by applying the standard per 1,000 persons to an estimated regional population; however, the 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 figure indicates a deficiency in regional park acreage, there are several regional parks located in the communities that surround Pleasant Prairie in Kenosha County. When considered together, these parklands meet SEWRPC's regional park standard. Furthermore, although there is no quantitative standard, Figure 6.1 lists that there is 6,127 acres of Special Open Space Acreage in the Village.

The data presented in Figures 6.1 and 6.2 indicate that the Village needs to develop approximately 42 acres of community park land in order to satisfy SEWRPC's park standards. These figures identify whether the facility is located indoors or outdoors. A policy decision has been made to include a percentage of indoor courts and facilities in meeting the standards.

**FIGURE 6.1  
EXISTING PARK ACREAGE NEEDS IN THE VILLAGE FOR 2010**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Standard (acres per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b>Required Acreage</b>	<b>Total Existing Acreage</b>	<b>Park Acres Needed</b>
Neighborhood Parks	1.7	34	14.3	19.7
School Parks	1.6	32	50.0	0.0
Community Parks*	2.2	43	59.7	0.0
Regional Parks	5.3	883	930.0**	0.0
Special Open Space***	N/A	N/A	6,127.0	N/A***

\* Includes Ingram Park and Village Green Park recently acquired by the Village.

(Note: While Anderson Park as a community park benefits the Village residents through its many park amenities and programs, it is located in the City of Kenosha, so it is not included in the total acreage calculations).

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

\*\*\*The Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, and archaeologically significant special open space lands as donations and grant funding becomes available.

**FIGURE 6.2  
EXISTING PARK FACILITY NEEDS IN THE VILLAGE FOR 2010**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Standard (# facilities per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b># Facilities Required (based on Std. per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b>Total # of Existing Outdoor Facilities****</b>	<b># of Existing Indoor Facilities</b>	<b># Facilities Needed*</b>
Baseball Diamond	0.10	2	6	0	0
Basketball Goal	1.13	22	8	40	0
Ice Skating Rink	0.15	3	0	2	1
Playfield*	0.50	10	13	0	0
Playground	0.42	8	14	0	0
Softball Field	0.60	12	3	0	9
Tennis Court	0.60	12	0	0	12
Soccer Field	0.86	17	19**	4	0
Swimming Pool	0.15	3	0**	2***	1

\* Playfields are considered open space areas in the parks that can be used for unorganized activities. Playfields are located within every Village Park and School Park.

\*\* There are 20 outdoor soccer fields and one (1) outdoor swimming pool located at Anderson Park in the City of Kenosha. These facilities help the Village to meet its recreational standards but the facilities are not controlled by or located within the community.

\*\*\* Includes the RecPlex aqua arena and waterpark/current channel and swim lanes.

\*\*\*\* Includes amenities at the school park facilities.

Figures 6.3 and 6.4 suggest that in the future the Village recently acquired two (2) community parks areas—Ingram Park and Village Green Park, however, construction of amenities has just recently started in these parks. As such, the Village needs to continue to identify and plan for additional neighborhood parks and school parks, and the development of the community parks to meet the needs of its growing population.

**FIGURE 6.3  
PARK ACREAGE NEEDS IN THE VILLAGE FOR 2035**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Standard (acres per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b>Required Acreage</b>	<b>Total Existing Acreage</b>	<b>Park Acres Needed</b>
Neighborhood Parks	1.7	53.1	14.3	38.8
School Parks	1.6	49.9	50.0	0.0
Community Parks*	2.2	68.7	59.7*	9.0
Regional Parks	5.3	1113.4	930.0**	N/A**
Special Open Space***	N/A	N/A	6,127.0	N/A***

\* Includes Ingram Park and Village Green Park recently acquired by the Village.

(Note: While Anderson Park as a community park benefits the Village residents through its many park amenities and programs, it is located in the City of Kenosha, so it is not included in the total acreage calculations).

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

\*\*\*The Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, and archaeologically significant special open space lands as donations and grant funding becomes available.

**FIGURE 6.4  
PARK FACILITY NEEDS IN THE VILLAGE FOR 2035**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b>Standard (# facilities per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b># Facilities Required (based on Std. per 1,000 persons)</b>	<b>Total # of Existing Outdoor Facilities*</b>	<b># of Existing Indoor Facilities</b>	<b># Facilities Needed*</b>
Baseball Diamond	0.10	3	6	0	0
Basketball Goal	1.13	30	8	40	0
Ice Skating Rink	0.15	4	0	2	2
Playfield*	0.50	13	13	0	0
Playground	0.42	11	14	0	0
Softball Field	0.60	16	3	0	13
Tennis Court	0.60	16	0	0	16
Soccer Field	0.86	23	19**	4	0
Swimming Pools	0.15	4	0**	2***	2

\* Playfields are considered open space areas in the parks that can be used for a wide variety of active sporting activities. Playfields are located within every Village park.

\*\* There are 20 outdoor soccer fields and one (1) outdoor swimming pool located at Anderson Park in the City of Kenosha. These facilities help the Village to meet its recreational standards but the facilities are not controlled by or located within the community. Also, there are five (5) soccer fields which are used as practice fields at the local school parks.

\*\*\* Includes the RecPlex aqua arena and waterpark and channel lanes.

## 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 gathered from the community-wide survey results; Park and Recreation Commission visioning events; and public informational meeting input revealed the following information when analyzing park needs:

- There are three large corporate/industrial parks in the Village—LakeView Corporate Park East/West, PrairieWood Corporate Park and the future Abbott Campus. Currently over 80 businesses generate over 8,000 employees, many of which are looking for recreational opportunities for their workers.
- Pleasant Prairie occupies a large land area relative to its population, which increases the number of trails and bike paths miles needed to interconnect areas of existing and future development.
- The Village is uniquely located by Lake Michigan and Lake Andrea and should take advantage of constructing and promoting additional park and recreational amenities at the two (2) beaches.
- Segregated land uses (residential, commercial and industrial) need to be interconnected to each other and to the parks through a network of walking and running trails; bike lanes and paths; and recreation trails. These new trails should offer amenities such as trail markers, benches, garbage facilities and water fountains along the trails.
- Open space preservation, woodland restoration projects and educational opportunities offer the Village chances to partner with area conservancy groups and the local universities through land donations made to the Village—Momper's Woods and Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farm.
- 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. 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.
- Through careful planning, land use and zoning controls, Pleasant Prairie preserves concentrations of high-quality habitat and natural resources, particularly in the environmental corridors and isolated natural areas of the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area and the Des Plaines River Watershed.

- The Village's park system needs to accommodate the influxes of athletes and spectators for triathlons, swimming events, volleyball and basketball tournaments, hockey and figure skating events, along with other Village-sponsored special events having region-wide impacts.
- The RecPlex and Prairie Springs Park provides for the majority of recreational opportunities in the Village. Although these facilities make a significant contribution to the Village's overall recreation system, it should be considered that they are primarily indoor facilities and are not open to the general public free of charge. In addition, the RecPlex concentrates all of these facilities in one location. Although most of 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 STH 31) and eastern portions of the Village.
- Two (2) recent community park land donations were made to the Village for Ingram and Village Green Parks. As donations, grant funding and budgetary conditions allow, park and recreational amenities should be added to these parks.
- With the parks being more defined and park land opportunities increasing for the Village, consideration should be given for expanding on the outdoor recreational programming which focuses on activities such as: farmers markets, community gardens, music and art in the park, and other programs.
- The Village completed an impact fee assessment in 2005, which identified 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 10-15 years and two new parks have been added, this Plan recommends that the impact fee assessment and recommendations be re-examined.
- Marketing efforts should be undertaken to make the residents and business community aware of the park and recreational services being offered in the Village.

## **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, Map 6.1 (found at the end of this Chapter) depicts the service areas of the Village's existing parks. These service areas are based on the SEWRPC's standards identified in Chapter 3 of this Plan.

An analysis of Map 6.1 suggests that the central and southeastern portions of the Village are not as well served with park improvements in terms of neighborhood parks or community parks. As mentioned previously that although Anderson Park serves the northeastern portion of the Village, the park is not located in the Village and is not entirely open for public use as special permits are needed to use the soccer, softball and football field facilities. Therefore, it important that these areas of the Village are supplemented with a sufficient number of neighborhood parks to meet residents' recreation and park needs. The southwestern and western portions of the Village are served by Prairie Springs Park and two (2) other neighborhood parks, which offer many of the amenities needed by the community.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

The results of the visioning workshop and public informational meetings are discussed in Chapter 3 of this Plan. These discussions indicated that the Village's existing recreational facilities could use improvements or updates in the following areas:

- Walking/running and biking paths/lanes and recreation trails to interconnect the residential, recreational and commercial areas;
- Active outdoor recreational facilities in the Ingram and Village Green community parks;
- Passive outdoor recreational/educational facilities in the Momper's Woods and Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farm special use parks;
- Public access and amenities for the Lake Michigan Park and Lake Andrea Beach, particularly with respect to beach/swimming areas, shade, concessions and restrooms;
- Handicapped accessibility for the playground and restroom facilities in the neighborhood and community parks.
- Focus should be placed on improving amenities in Village Parks, other than Prairie Springs Park.

## **REVIEW OF THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)**

The last component of the needs assessment involves a review of the 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR). Every five (5) years, Wisconsin publishes the SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. The document is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities. The plan also presents information on the various levels of outdoor recreation and policies. At the national level, the SCORP recognizes the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local grassroots conservation and recreation initiatives.

This Plan shows how Pleasant Prairie is following the State's vision in preserving and improving recreational opportunities in the community and how that fits within the State's and national initiative of conservation and recreation. The SCORP describes and quantifies some of the most important benefits of recreation and established goals to improve outdoor recreation across Wisconsin. This Plan achieves those same objectives. The SCORP further targets assessments on several key relationships that include: 1) public health and wellness, 2) access to outdoor recreation and 3) public and private partnerships—all of which this Plan and previous Village planning efforts have focused on for years.

Public participation was an extensive component of the State's planning process. An External Review Panel comprised of nine members participated in several phases of the state's planning process. Members representing a broad range of recreational providers and experts contributed their expertise to initiatives such as identifying and prioritizing significant statewide outdoor recreation issues and determining possible solutions. In addition, seven (7) focus groups were held across the State that represented a broad spectrum of recreation and conservation interests.

Statewide recreation demand surveys conducted between the years 2005 and 2009 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. Refer to Appendix B of the 2011-2016 SCORP for a detailed discussion of the outdoor recreation demand survey methodology. The SCORP Appendix describes the methods and results of the 1994-2009 National Survey on Recreation and Environment (NSRE) which has been conducted on a continuing basis since 1994. The NSRE conducted the an-home survey to over 90,000 households across all ethnic groups throughout the United States, 3000 of which were from Wisconsin.

In Appendix C of the SCORP, the WI DNR categorized and evaluated recreation activity intensities, caloric expenditures by body weight, by appropriate location and by participation. The top or tier one activities had between a 50 and 90 percent participation rate. These activities primarily included walking for pleasure, visit nature centers, general gardening, view/photograph natural scenery, family gathering, view/photograph other wildlife, driving for pleasure, view/photograph wildflowers, and sightseeing. The middle or tier two activities had participation rates that are between 30 and 50 percent. These include general bicycling, picnicking, visit historic sites, yard games, gather mushrooms, berries, etc., golf, boating, swimming in lakes/streams, view/photograph birds, general hiking pool swimming, visit a wilderness, visit a farm, warm water fishing, attend outdoor concerts/plays, soccer, running/jogging, and mountain biking. The bottom or tier three activities have participation rates up to 30 percent. The primary tier 3 activities included sledding, view/photograph fish, camping, racquetball/handball, visiting a waterslide, football, off-highway vehicle driving, snowmobiling and visiting a waterslide.

The top 10 growing recreation activities in the State of Wisconsin between 1994 and 2009 were:

1. Outdoor soccer
2. View/photograph other wildlife
3. Golf
4. Handball or racquetball outdoors
5. Walk for pleasure
6. Attend outdoor sports events
7. Bicycling
8. Day hiking
9. Running/jogging
10. View/photograph birds



*2012 Softball Game during Prairie Family Days*

The SCORP noted that "walking" is by far the most popular outdoor activity in the State. The SCORP indicated that 40-50% of Kenosha County residents are within ½ mile walk of a public park. And, Kenosha County ranks fourth in the top ten counties in Wisconsin for pedestrian park and trail access opportunities.



*Soccer game at Pleasant Prairie Park*

The SCORP also noted that gardening is a popular recreational activity which provides many benefits, including improved access to fresh produce, increased physical activity and community building. A recent State recreation survey indicated that almost 70% of Wisconsin adult's garden or landscape for pleasure. Gardening activities can be divided into two categories: backyard and community. The extent of backyard gardens is between 25-49 acres in Kenosha County.



*Community Garden at Prairie Springs Park*

Recommendations and implementation strategies presented in the Village's Plan will generally reflect residents' needs for facilities that accommodate tier one and tier two activities as reflected in the Wisconsin SCORP.