



Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan

2019 – 2023
Adopted May 28, 2019

Plan Summary - Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan

Recreation planning has become an essential element of long-range community planning. Increased leisure time, renewed emphasis on physical fitness, and the need to find relief from the pace of life in urbanizing communities has underlined the need for an increased variety and expansion of recreational facilities. Parks also serve a valuable function for providing open space in an increasingly urbanizing environment, provides important habitats for urban wildlife and laboratories for environmental/conservation education. As a community grows and densities increase, parks also function as the focal point for community aesthetics.

An attempt has been made in planning McFarland's parks and conservancy areas, to view outdoor recreation facilities as part of a system, serving diverse functions for all members of the community. Parks are no longer viewed as single-use facilities serving only limited groups in a community; rather, there is now an emphasis on providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities for all ages and social groups. In viewing parks as part of a system, issues such as access, neighborhood aesthetics and multiple uses of environmental resources are all elements of park planning.

Purpose

- Establish goals, objectives and policies to serve as the base for subsequent recreation and conservation planning efforts.
- To remain eligible to participate in federal, state and county recreation/conservation programs by updating this plan every 5 years.

Goals

- To provide permanent open space throughout the Village for outdoor recreation, to accommodate a variety of recreational uses for all ages and abilities, provide environmental protection and to encourage the same within neighboring towns.
- To evaluate proposed land to be dedicated for park and open space purposes as new subdivisions develop for contributions to the quality as well as to the quantity of the Village's park and open space system.
- To recognize that the natural environment is an integrated unit comprised of interacting land, water and air resources, and to ensure that the health and stability of this resource system are maintained.
- To regard all land as an irreplaceable resource, and to ensure that its use does not impair its value for future generations

Primary Objectives

- Draft a maintenance schedule to provide and help ensure successful use or reuse of safe accessible playground equipment.
- Continue to provide better pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access to all parks and recreation facilities, including internal linkages between our parks, recreation and conservancy areas.
- Restore and preserve natural areas through continued development, implementation and updating of management plans.
- Continue innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
- Explore ways to better market our parks, conservancies and open spaces to the public through brochures, maps, website, holding of community events, etc.

Key Policies (taken from the 2017 Vil. of McFarland Comprehensive Plan)

- Emphasize use and enhancement of natural drainage systems wherever practical for greater sustainability and value.
- Use environmental Best Management Practices in the management of Village owned properties.
- Utilize extraterritorial authorities and agreements to help ensure that (a) development occurs in the appropriate location, time frame, density, and use type, and (b) conflicts between urban and rural uses are minimized.
- Coordinate utility and community facility planning with land use, transportation, natural resource, and recreation planning.
- Ensure safe and convenient access for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists among McFarland's neighborhoods, parks, waterways, schools, downtown, and commercial and employment districts.
- Preserve and restore areas of native vegetation and erosion prone slopes as passive recreational areas and outdoor laboratories; direct most land disturbance away from such areas and slopes.

Analysis of Existing Facilities

The Village currently provides 16.3 acres of active/passive park and open space facilities per 1,000 persons; which, is greater than the 6.25 – 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons recommended by the Natural Recreation and Park Association. However, with regard to specific park types, the Village falls short of meeting the standard for mini-parks (.25 -.5 ac. per 1,000 persons) with .2 acre per 1,000 persons and just meets the standard (1 - 2 ac. per 1,000 persons) for Neighborhood Parks with 2.5 ac. per 1,000 persons. It should be noted; the Village uses these Standards only as a guideline; while continuing to assess our unique recreational needs to determine the focus of our future needs.

With an expected Village population of 9,335 persons by 2030, the Village would require an additional 19.3 acres of active and passive parkland/open space if we adhere chose to continue to meet the 16.3 acres-per-1,000 benchmark-

Key Recommendations

- The Village should continue to develop a pedestrian interlinked access system with an emphasis on child safe access to parks and playgrounds.
- Place more emphasis on accessibility and the aesthetic function of parks and management of conservancy areas.
- Site and acquire an eastside community park of approximately 20 - 40 acres along the Villages eastside.
- Improvements to existing parks or development of new parks should include features to help make them accessible to the disabled.
- Continue to develop consistent park signage policies throughout the entire park system. Employ the new Village logo when establishing/replacing park signage.

Appendices

- 2018 Parks and Recreation Survey Results
- McDaniel Park and Brandt Park Master Plan
- Updated Urso Community Park Master Plan
- Public Facilities Needs Assessment for Park Improvements
- Conservancy Management Plans
- Indian Mound Policy

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Introductions

Recreation planning has become an essential element of long-range community planning. Increased leisure time, renewed emphasis on physical fitness, and the need to find relief from the pace of life in urbanizing communities has underlined the need for expanded recreational facilities. Parks also serve a valuable function of providing open space in an increasingly urbanizing environment creating important habitats for urban wildlife and laboratories for environmental/conservation education. As a community grows and densities increase, parks also function as the focal point for community aesthetics.

An attempt has been made in planning McFarland's parks and conservancy areas to view outdoor recreation facilities as part of a system serving diverse needs for all members of the community. Parks are no longer viewed as single-use facilities serving only limited groups in a community; rather, there is now, an emphasis on providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities for all ages, social groups, and physical abilities. In viewing parks as part of a system, such issues as access, neighborhood aesthetics and multiple uses of environmental resources become elements of park planning.

As McFarland continues to grow, additional park areas should be acquired and developed. The McFarland Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan provides guidance for the expansion and development in a fiscally responsible manner of McFarland's outdoor recreation facilities. Updates to this document occur every five years in order to remain eligible for financial assistance from federal, state, and county recreation and conservation programs.

The Plan begins with a listing of objectives and policies; followed by a set of definitions and a discussion of criteria used to evaluate the adequacy of park system standards. "Demographics" places park planning within the context of community development population trends and projections. The next section inventories existing park facilities and school recreation areas followed by an analysis of our outdoor recreation needs. The final section proposes acquisitions and sets forth recommendations and a capital improvement schedule.

Public Participation

The Village of McFarland conducted a Survey of Parks in 2018. The survey was available in paper form and on-line through links published in the Village newsletter, website, and in the local newspaper. The survey was open from June 19 to July 16, 2018 and elicited 259 responses. Results from the 2018 survey are incorporated into the general recommendations where applicable:

- A. Findings from the 2018 Village of McFarland parks and recreation survey (see Appendix A) were incorporated in the Plan.
 1. The majority of survey respondents were satisfied with the physical condition of parks and recreation facilities. However, the greatest dissatisfaction resulted from the condition of restrooms. Also mentioned are the condition of furnishings e.g., picnic tables, benches, and water fountains.
 2. Of the 259 respondents, the highest priorities for various actions by the Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Committee were identified as follows:
 - a. Develop outdoor pool /splash pad
 - b. Expand pedestrian & bicycle trails
 - c. Improve access to waterways
 - d. Increased role of Village in community recreational programming which is currently provided by the McFarland School District
 - e. Wildlife habitat

- f. Improve trails (benches, signage, etc.)
 - g. Develop a community/senior center.
 - h. Improve /add playground equipment
 - i. Acquire land for future parks/develop new parks
 - j. Increase park maintenance
 - 3. Walking, bicycling, fitness, reading, swimming, hiking, playgrounds, picnicking, jogging/running and boating were identified as the most popular recreational activities.
 - 4. Repair of our existing hockey rink at Lewis Park.
 - 5. An overwhelming number of respondents supported utilizing tax dollars, donations, and raising fees as a means of financial support.
- B. A public hearing was held on April 25, 2019 to hear comments regarding the contents of this plan.

Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Protection Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The first step in the recreation and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The term goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. It is therefore, appropriate to define each of these terms to eliminate confusion about their meaning. Goals are general in nature and represent conditions which are striven for but which may not be fully attainable. An example of a goal is “clean air and water”. Objectives are more specific and are usually attainable. For example, an objective might be “construction of three new parks in the community during the year”. Policies are rules or courses of action used to ensure plan implementation. An example of a policy would be “all public recreation facilities shall be accessible to the handicapped”.

Goals:

- To provide permanent open space throughout the Village for outdoor recreation to accommodate a variety of recreational uses for all ages and abilities, provide environmental protection and to encourage the same within neighboring towns.
- To evaluate proposed land to be dedicated for park and open space purposes as new subdivisions develop for contributions to the quality as well as to the quantity of the Village’s park and open space system.
- To recognize that the natural environment is an integrated unit comprised of interacting land, water, and air resources, and to ensure that the health and stability of these resource systems are maintained.
- To regard all land as an irreplaceable resource, and to ensure that its use does not impair its value for future generations.
- Provide an adequate supply and maintenance of park, recreation, and open space facilities for the enjoyment of all age groups and capabilities of McFarland residents.

Objectives:

An essential element of any long-range planning process is the development of a set of objectives acceptable to McFarland.

- Draft a maintenance schedule to provide and help ensure successful use or reuse of safe accessible playground equipment
- Continue to provide improved identification signage throughout the system, including trail directional signs relating to the Lower Yahara River Trail
- Manage and protect the natural features within the Penitto Creek, Mud Lake and Door Creek watersheds. These features include such areas as wetlands, prairies and woodlands.
- Continue to provide better pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access to all parks and recreation facilities, including internal linkages between our parks, recreation, and conservancy areas.
- Restore and preserve natural areas through continued development, implementation and updating of management plans.
- Facilitate and participate in linking public lands and trails of various political jurisdictions to McFarland to amplify the accessibility and recreational use of these lands.
- Continue innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
- Explore ways to better market our parks, conservancies and open spaces to the public through brochures, maps, website, holding of community events etc.

- Support energy efficiency and environmental sustainability as a criteria in the design of public facilities in our parks and conservancy areas.

Policies:

These policies encompass those listed in Village of McFarland Comprehensive Plan that relate to recreation and natural resources.

- Refer to the Villages naming policy when assigning official names to parks and conservancy areas
- Use major natural areas, such as Lake Waubesa, the Door Creek corridor, Yahara River, and Mud Lake wetlands as long-term edges to community growth and urban –rural transition areas.
- Site future parks in areas that also forward the Village’s natural resource protection goal, objectives, and initiatives
- Preserve and restore areas of native vegetation and erosion – prone slopes as passive recreational areas and outdoor laboratories; direct most land disturbance away from such areas and slopes.
- Emphasize use and enhancement of natural drainage systems wherever practical for greater sustainability and value.
- Emphasize water conservation, groundwater recharge, and infiltration, including using areas with sub-surface glacial till deposits or engineered soils for enhanced infiltration.
- Enforce the Village’s erosion control and stormwater management ordinance and keep this ordinance up to date with County and State standards.
- Use environmental Best Management Practices in the management of Village-owned properties.
- Maintain the urban tree inventory on public lands and be a resource for landowners to manage mature trees and woodlands.
- Utilize extraterritorial authorities and agreements to help ensure that (a) development occurs in the appropriate location, time, density and use type, and (b) conflicts between urban and rural uses are minimized.
- Promote the long-term viability of agricultural uses, including those areas planned for “Agricultural Preservation on Map 6 in the Comprehensive Plan as may be amended, and through activities like community gardening and small –plot farming to provide food for local markets.
- Encourage employment, retail, service, and recreational uses in areas that conveniently serve Village Neighborhoods and the greater McFarland community that includes Dunn and the Madison subdivisions that border the Village
- Clearly and consistently communicate what it means to be in McFarland through quality development, branding, consistent public signage and landscaping, parks, the library, other public facilities, and programming.
- Coordinate utility and community facility planning with land use, transportation, natural resource, and recreation planning
- Combine utility and community facility projects with other projects- like roads, parks, and broadband- wherever practical.
- Promote a continuous, interconnected network of highways, streets, sidewalks, bicycle routes and trails.
- Ensure safe and convenient access for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists among McFarland’s neighborhoods, parks, waterways, schools, downtown, and commercial and employment districts.

- Coordinate transportation system planning and construction with utilities, land uses, recreation, and natural resources.
- Work together with neighboring municipalities; Dane County; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR); Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD); and sportsmen, watershed, and other private associations on lake, river, watershed, recreation, flood control, and habitat projects, including those in the Natural Resources chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, 2018-2023

This plan also incorporates the following goals and initiatives of the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, 2018-2023:

Vision Statement:

Connect people to the land, water, and cultural resources of Dane County

Goals:

- Provide sufficient parkland and recreation facilities to meet the demand of Dane County residents without adversely affecting existing natural and cultural resources.
- Preserve for posterity the characteristics and diversity of the natural, cultural and historical resources of Dane County.
- Preserve large tracts of natural and agricultural rural landscapes at urban fringe areas that will provide regional resource protection and recreation benefits.
- Provide volunteer opportunities and stewardship education to all county residents
- Protect lakes, rivers, and streams, including shorelines, wetlands, high filtration areas and associated vegetative buffers to maintain high water quality, manage water quantity and sustain water-related recreation throughout Dane County.
- Provide an inclusive parks system for all Dane County residents, regardless of age, race, gender or gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, political affiliation, place of residence, veteran status, physical ability, cognitive capacity, or family, martial, or economic status. Several initiatives are considered for maintaining and achieving equitable, inclusive and accessible parks system.

Parks and Open Space Standards

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define a set of minimum standards for such facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meets the needs of its current residents, as well as to project future needs. There are typically three sets of standards.

The first are gross acreage standards, expressed as population ratios, that is, the minimum number of acres recommended per 1,000 persons. Second, are service area standards, expressed as park service radii which differs by park type. Last are activity related standards, expressed as acres per 1,000 population for a specific activity e.g., one baseball diamond per 3,500 persons.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and open space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide in their park and open space planning efforts. While providing guidelines as a resource, the NRPA acknowledges a shift away from reliance on national standards and suggests that they be used only as tools, allowing communities to work within their unique social, economic, and institutional structures in determining the needs of their own community.

The following is a list of various types of park and open space facilities and their recommended standards. Activity standards have been customized for the Village of McFarland based on population and service area using NRPA standards. Generally, the NRPA gross acreage standard is 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed park/open space per 1,000 population.

Totlot

These parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

Desirable site characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.

Desirable size: 1 acre or less.

Acres per 1,000 population: 0.25 to 0.5 acres.

Service area: Less than ¼ mile radius.

Neighborhood Park/Playground

An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, ball fields, adult areas with benches, shelters and game tables.

Trees, open fields and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks.

Desirable site characteristics: Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to the neighborhood population. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a school-park facility.

Desirable size: 1-5 acres.

Acres per 1,000 population: 1 to 2 acres.

Service area: ¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons.

Community Park

An area of diverse uses. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities in community parks include those listed above in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares and also be easily accessible by foot. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park.

Desirable site characteristics: May include natural areas such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Desirable size: 5 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common.

Acres per 1,000 population: 5 to 8 acres.

Service area: Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.

Special Use Area

Areas for single-purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, downhill ski areas, trails, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, sites and objects of archeological significance. Plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways also serve as special use areas.

Desirable site characteristics: Within communities.

Desirable size: Variable.

Service area: No applicable standard.

Activity Related Standards

Activity	Standard
Baseball Diamonds/Skating Rinks	1 per 3,500 persons
Softball Diamonds/Soccer Fields	1 per 1,000 persons
Tennis Courts	1 per 1,500 persons
Basketball Courts	1 per 1,000 persons
Swimming Pools	1 per 10,000 persons

Demographics

The Village of McFarland has a history of steady population growth over the last several decades, outpacing the overall growth rate of Dane County. 2010 Census figures indicate the Village population rose from 6,416 in 2000 to 7,808, or 21.7%. This increase is modest compared to the 80s and 90s. A contributing factor may be the economic slowdown which began in 2007. The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) estimates a population of 8,490 for the Village in, 2020 an 8.7% increase over 2010. During the next 20 years, the population of McFarland is projected to grow slightly faster than the county as a whole, but the rate of growth will be less than growth rates experienced during the 80s and 90s.

Table 1. Population Trends 1970 – 2010					
Year	V. McFarland	Increase from prev. census	% increase from prev. census	Dane County	% increase from prev. census
1970	2,386	--	--	290,272	--
1980	3,783	1,397	58.5%	323,545	11.5%
1990	5,232	1,449	38.3%	367,085	13.5%
2000	6,416	1,184	22.6%	426,526	16.2%
2010	7,808	1,392	21.7%	488,073	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Table 2. Population Estimates and Projections 2015 - 2040					
Year	V. McFarland Population	Increase since 2010	% increase since 2010	Dane County Population	% increase since 2010
2015	8,035	227	2.90 %	505,410	3.55%
2020	8,490	682	8.73%	530,620	8.71%
2025	8,930	1,122	14.3%	555,100	13.73%
2030	9,335	1527	19.5%	577,300	18.28%
2035	9,635	1827	23.4%	593,440	21.58
2040	9,895	2087	26.7%	606,620	24.28

Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration 2013 projections

The City of Madison is an employment center for Dane County, with McFarland primarily a suburban community. In 2000, 86.9 percent of the workforce traveled outside of McFarland, to places of employment; while 13.1 percent worked in the Village. Like most suburban communities, McFarland tends to attract families with children. The average household size in McFarland was 2.63 in 2000, dropping to 2.54 in 2010 with a continuing decline to an estimated 2.49 in 2016. Following nationwide trends reflecting aging baby boomers and smaller families, household size in the Village is projected to continue to decline over the next several years.

Table 3. Household Estimates and Projections 2000 - 2040					
Year	V. McFarland Population	V. McFarland Households	% increase Households Since 2010	Pers./HH (Village)	Pers./HH (County)
2000 census	6,416	2,434	--	2.63	2.46
2005 estimate	7,179	2,720	10.5%	2.64	2.44
2010	7,808	3,200		2.54	2.33
2015	8,035	3,226	81%	2.49	2.29
2020	8,490	3,450	7.81%	2.46	2.27
2025	8,930	3,664	14.5%	2.44	2.25
2030	9,335	3,866	20.8%	2.41	2.23
2035	9,635	4,027	25.8%	2.39	2.21
2040	9,895	4,161	30.03%	2.38	2.20

Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration Population and Household Projections 2013, Wisconsin Future Population Projections for the State, its Counties, and Municipalities, 2010-2040 Dec. 2013.

In addition to growing slower, our population is also aging. Estimates-by age for 2016 indicate 23.6 percent of the population of McFarland was 19 years of age or younger, while 47.7 percent were 45 or older. Our median age was 39.7 in 2010 compared to 37.1 in 2000. An estimated increase to 43.8 years of age was expected for 2016.

The rural areas immediately surrounding the Village of McFarland contributes to demands on Village parks and its open space system. Growth in surrounding areas impacts McDaniel Park, Brandt Park, Lewis Park, and William McFarland Park, all of which are located near our Village limits or near major traffic arteries.

McFarland is predominantly a community of single-family dwelling units accounting for 80% of all residences. However, the proportion of multifamily units in the Village is increasing with 15 percent of total housing in 1980 to 17.3% in 2018. As the housing market continues recovering from the recession, it is questionable whether families will still gravitate towards the single-family housing market or look to duplex and multi-family units to meet their needs.

Highway AB appears to be an unofficial boundary for near-term Village expansion. Just north of Siggelkow Road is the expected northern boundary for Village growth based on the recently expired 20-year boundary agreement with the City of Madison. Growth to the northwest has been predominately for commercial development. The strongest residential growth given recent annexations and development of subdivisions continues to be to the east. Growth to the southwest is limited, by the Villages boundary agreement with the Town of Dunn. Some of these areas beyond the Village limits will make use of McFarland's recreation services.

Category	Census 2000	% of Total	Census 2010	% of Total	Est. 2016*	% of Total
Population	6,416		7,808		8,168	
Households	2,434		3,200		3,371	
Avg. Household Size	2.63		2.54		2.46	
AGE						
0-4	412	6.4%	469	6.0%	399	4.9%
5-19	1,615	25.2%	1,787	22.9%	1,529	18.7%
20-24	234	3.6%	284	3.6%	471	5.7%
25-44	2,051	32.0%	2,028	26.0%	1,864	23.0%
45-64	1,595	24.9%	2,438	31.2%	2,651	32.4%
65+	509	7.9%	802	10.3%	1,254	15.3%
Median Age	37.1		39.7*		43.8	
Per Capita Income	\$26,625		\$35,894*		\$38,540*	
Median Household Income	\$62,969		\$73,814*		\$78,009*	

Source: U.S. Census *2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-year Estimate and Quick Facts

Per capita personal income for the Village of McFarland was \$38,540 in 2016 with a median household income of \$78,009. Similar data for Dane County unsurprisingly was lower with a per capita income of \$35,687 and median income of \$64,773.

2019 Grade	School	Total
Early Learning, 4 & 5 KG	C. Elvehjem Ctr.	341
1	McFarland Primary	190
2	McFarland Primary	151
3	Waubesa Intermediate	187
4	Waubesa Intermediate	174
5	Waubesa Intermediate	192
6	Indian Mound Middle	187
7	Indian Mound Middle	194
8	Indian Mound Middle	187
9	McFarland High	185
10	McFarland High	187
11	McFarland High	194
12	McFarland High	170
Total		2539

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Virtual Enrollment 1905 students

Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

A comprehensive inventory of McFarland's existing parks and recreation facilities was conducted in conjunction with the drafting of this Plan. Included in the inventory were municipal and educational recreational areas which contribute to the recreational opportunities (or supply) in the Village.

The following are descriptions of each open space area, conservancy, or park and a summary of its facilities. Using the number to the left of each description, the geographic location of each park and open space can be found on the Existing Park and Open Space Map.

1. **Capitol Springs State Recreation Area Upper Mud Lake Portion of E-Way:** With the exception of a 12-acre parcel owned by the City of Madison, this large (123.6 acres) conservancy area is owned and managed by the State Department of Natural Resources. This floodplain-wetland complex makes up the eastern edge of the E-Way, establishing a greenbelt across the southern part of Madison urban area. A County owned and maintained access of 4.6 acres to Upper Mud Lake was established in 2015 serving ice fishermen. The Terminal Drive location is equipped with a permanent kiosk, porta potty, trash bins, marked trail to the water's edge, and 65 parking stalls. A connection to McFarland's portion of the Lower Yahara River Trail completed in 2017, winds thru Lussier Farm Park and heads south across Lake Waubesa to McDaniel Park.
2. **McDaniel Park, 4806 McDaniel Lane (refer to Master Plan):** This area was acquired by the Village in 1976 and is a community park to complement nearby Brandt Park. Together, the two parks are 13.6 acres in size. McDaniel Park itself is 8.7 acres; of which, the northern portion is wetland intended for conservancy use (7 acres). The southern portion is developed and includes an open picnic shelter, 1 grill, benches, picnic tables, public restrooms, drinking fountains, public pier, wading beach, sand volley ball court, canoe rack, and trail marker and description board – Eagle Scout project Troop 53. There is a lit bike repair station and kiosk. Wood play apparatus was removed in 2006 and new replacement playground equipment was installed in 2008. In 2017 the McFarland trail head of the Lower Yahara River Trail connecting McFarland to Lussier Farm Park via a bridge/boardwalk opened after almost two years of construction and over 10 years of planning and design work. The bridge provides overlooks for viewing /fishing as well as a pathway for biking walking/running. Parking stalls were added to accommodate increased usage.
3. **Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road:** All age groups heavily use this community park. Facilities serving the park include 2 lit and fenced softball fields (upper and lower), bleachers, and park benches. Other facilities include a new shelter constructed in 2009, restrooms, drinking fountain, kitchen facility, numerous picnic tables, a basketball court, 2 backhoes and play structure. The park area covers 4.9 acres. A new playground was added in 2010, with fence improvements along Siggelkow Road. New lighting for the ballfields was completed in fall of 2018
4. **Beckler Street:** - Path, small amount of parking, "Pedestrian access only" sign
5. **Field Avenue:** – Stairs to lake, parking, "Pedestrian access only" sign
6. **Larson Street:** – Poor access, no sign

7. **Lakeview Avenue:** – Bench, limited parking, “Pedestrian access only” sign
8. **Wisconsin Avenue:** – Limited parking, “Pedestrian access only” sign
9. **Bellevue Court:** – Poor access, bench, “Pedestrian access only” sign
10. **Siggelkow Road Park, 5002 Valley Drive:** This passive park area was acquired under the provisions of the Village’s subdivision ordinance. The area (approximately 5.5 acres) has the potential to become a neighborhood park. The western portion of the park is extremely hilly. Protection and maintenance of the Indian Mounds located on the hilltop should be a priority. An Indian Mound Maintenance Policy was developed and adopted in 2010. A second identification sign was added in 2018
11. **Autumn Grove Park, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane:** This park (1.5 acres) on Falling Leaves Lane serves the north-central neighborhood. Play equipment includes 2 tot swings, 2 swings, 2 backhoes, a play module with slides and climbing wall, teeter totter assembly, a sand area, basketball half-court, picnic table, benches and an open playfield. Wood play apparatus was removed in 2006 and replaced with new equipment in 2007.
12. **William McFarland Park, 4820 Marsh Road:** This community park (20.3 acres) contains soccer fields, a pedestrian/bike path, a skateboard facility, and a baseball diamond. An indoor curling facility is located on Village parkland. A nearby play area consists of a sand box, climbing structure, two spring animals and sand diggers with woodchips and picnic tables added in the last few years. The Village and McFarland Soccer Association partnered in the 2018 construction of a 4,000sq.ft. facility encompassing concession and gathering areas. A high school batting cage and outfield fence were added to the ballfields in 2010, along with a state-of-the-art bocce ball court system that includes 3 open air shelters, 4 courts, 2 grills, 1 water fountain, small maintenance shed and horseshoe pits. A camera/security system has been installed. The McFarland Community Ice Arena is located next to the Park.
13. **Waubesa Intermediate School, 5605 Red Oak Trail:** This 24.5-acre neighborhood school provides 18.5 acres for a play area with 2 varsity softball fields, dugouts, concession stand, bleachers, 3 batting cages, 2 sheds, 1 soccer/football field with 2 goals, 6 swings, tether ball, one handicap swing, 1 climbing apparatus, 3 hole frisbee golf and 3 basketball hoops.
14. **Cedar Ridge Park, 5303 Wild Cherry Lane:** This 3.9-acre neighborhood park serves the northeast portion of the Village with a playground of 4 swings, spring animal, bench, sandbox, slides, climbers, backhoe, small gazebo, picnic tables, walking path, open play area, and soccer practice field.
15. **Ridgeview Totlot, 5323 Black Walnut Drive:** Consists of a 0.4-acre play lot serving part of the Ridgeview neighborhood with a playground slide, spring animal, and an open play area.
16. **Woodland Estates Park, 5601 Glenway Street:** This neighborhood park (2.4 acres) serves the east-central neighborhood. The park includes an open-air shelter, an outside grill, a basketball half-court, a play module with slides and climbing wall, 3 swings, 1 tot swing, a volleyball court, picnic tables, a bench and an open playfield with backstop and soccer net. Wood play apparatus was removed in 2006 and replaced with new equipment in 2007.

17. **Highland Oaks Park, 5945 Osborn Drive:** This 2.2-acre park provides an open air park shelter, basketball court, 2 swings, 2 tot swings, 2 benches, sandbox, 2 back hoes, 2 spring animals, play structure with 4 slides, climbing wall, climbing bars, walking path and picnic tables.
18. **McFarland Community Garden, 5710 Anthony Street:** Property owned by United Church of Christ, leased to the Village, developed and maintained by the Friends of McFarland Parks, a private non-profit 501c (3) organization. Garden to be developed in phases over three years. Consists of individual planting beds, 4H youth garden, composting area, pumpkin patch, flower beds, shed, adaptive garden, and McFarland School District garden. This is McFarland's first community garden initiative.
19. **Discovery Garden Park, 5920 Milwaukee Street:** Serving as a neighborhood park (.2 acres), this area was once owned by McFarland State Bank. It was purchased by the Village along with an adjacent bank site to be redeveloped for a park and public library. The area is now home to the E.D. Locke Public Library. The existing park was redeveloped in 2007 and has since undergone a second transformation in 2018 with new playground equipment, safety padding, picnic table and benches.
20. **Arnold Larson Park, 6002 Exchange Street:** This Village redevelopment area (1.4 acres) is located downtown with a gazebo park benches, and picnic tables. It is the home to the community band's summer performances and is now used as a regional stop for the recently completed McFarland segment of the Lower Yahara River Trail.
21. **Valley Totlot, 5100 Broadhead Street:** This one-acre greenway on Valley Drive was filled after installation of storm sewer and developed as a totlot. The play equipment includes 2 tot swings, a play module with slides, a bench and picnic tables. Wood play apparatus was removed in 2006 and replaced with new equipment in 2007.
22. **Taylor Road Conservancy, Taylor Road:** This 5.9-acre hillside conservancy preserves the northeastern slope of the drumlin adjacent to Taylor Road. An Indian mound is located in the area. Limited hiking access is available.
23. **Woodland Commons Conservancy, 5604 Lexington Street:** 5 acres acquired as a result of parkland dedication requirements for Woodland Commons Subdivision. The park is currently used for passive recreation. Two Indian mounds have been identified within the park.
24. **Public Access Site, South Court:** This Village-owned access site located on Lake Waubesa is relatively unimproved and consists of a public right-of-way called South Court, ending at water's edge.
25. **Babcock Conservancy, South Court:** This 16.3-acre Village site located on Lake Waubesa was deeded to the Village in 1986. It is relatively unimproved and consists of natural areas and a public right-of-way called South Court. It provides excellent views of Lake Waubesa and is a popular fishing spot
26. **Babcock County Park, 4214 US Hwy 51:** Babcock Park straddles our southeast border. Named after Stephen Babcock, an internationally known Wisconsin dairy scientist, this 36.4-acre park is

owned and operated by Dane County and is of regional significance. It is recognized as a location which provides picnicking, 25 campsites, boat launches and fishing opportunities.

27. **Indian Mound Conservancy, 6400 Exchange Street:** While serving as a specialized recreation area, this 8.9-acre area is a wooded hill that includes seven Indian mounds (Indian effigy mound cultural tradition) and a Village water tower site. As well as providing a beautiful view of McFarland and the surrounding area, this is an important historical site. The area is limited to passive recreational uses. There are walking trails, some made of asphalt and some of gravel, that allow a walking tour of the area. No vehicle access is allowed. Acreage is classified as conservancy, not as a neighborhood park area. Trail improvements and mound restoration efforts are planned for the forest and mounds. A restoration plan was developed and adopted in 2010.
28. **Thurn Marsh and Conrad Jaeger Conservancy, 6400 Jaeger Road:** Like the Grandview Conservancy Area, Thurn Marsh is a wetland area of approximately 6.2 acres located adjacent to the high school/middle school site. The northwestern edge has a graveled path identified as "Jaeger Hiking and Biking Trail." This trail links Yahara Drive with Highland Drive and Conrad Jaeger Conservancy. This 2-acre conservancy located west of the marsh on the Yahara River is accessible by Jaeger Drive. The site is leased by the DNR to the Village and consists of a paved parking lot, a small boat ramp, and 6 canoe/kayak racks on a concrete pad each capable of holding 6 craft. A bench and pier replacement were done in 2017. Village is responsible for all maintenance activities at this site.
29. **McFarland High School/Indian Mound Middle School, 5103 Farwell/6330 Exchange Street:** This school provides a combination football/soccer field with track-and-field event pits. Surrounding the field is an 8-lane all-weather track with associated lighting, bleachers for 1,200 persons combination press box, concession stand and rest room facility. At the Middle School are basketball courts and swings. About 15 acres of the school's 42 acres are used for playfield activities. Area is currently under construction.
30. **Yahara River Conservancy, 6623 Meredith Way:** This 1.8-acre conservancy area located north of the Yahara River provides pedestrian access to the river and a canoe launch.
31. **Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive:** When combined with adjacent Legion Memorial Park, this area serves the southern half of the Village as a community park. Lewis Park itself provides a volleyball court, one baseball field with backstop, play module, slides and climbing apparatus, benches, picnic tables, 7 swings and 1 tot swing on 6.4 acres. Wooden play equipment was removed in 2006 and replaced with new equipment in 2007. An ice hockey rink with newly upgraded LED lights is available in the winter months.

Located on the western portion of the park is a newly enclosed heated shelter. Constructed in 2016 with public restrooms, a kitchen, several picnic tables, and a glass overhead door which can be left open during warm days or closed during inclement weather while still providing a outside view.

32. **Legion Memorial Park, 5301/5305 Marshwoods Drive:** Like McDaniel Park, this park serves two functions. The eastern 9.2 acres consists of wetlands and woodlands with frontage on Mud Lake. The western 6.6 acres of this 15.8-acre park includes a parking lot (at the end of Highland Dr.), a

lit ice-skating rink, an open playfield by Lewis Park's baseball field and refurbished observation deck along Mud Lake. The Legion also maintains a memorial monument and flag pole in front of the new shelter. The eastern conservancy portion of the park can be accessed from Marsh Woods Drive. Legion Memorial Park, together with Lewis Park (adjacent), serves as a combined 22.2-acre community park for the southern half of McFarland.

33. **Marsh Woods Conservancy, 5301/5305 Marshwoods Drive:** This park is a specialized recreation area located on the 123.6-acre Lower Mud Lake and is predominately a wetland area of 19.2 acres, classified as conservancy use. The wetland area should be used strictly as a conservancy area and is accessible through Legion Memorial Park. The area could best be used for educational purposes. A nature trail constructed of wood chips with benches and informational signage has been completed by volunteer youth groups. Restoration efforts began in 2010.
34. **McFarland Primary School and Conrad Elvehjem Early Learning Center, 6009/6013 Johnson Street:** Serving as a neighborhood playground, this outdoor recreation area serves both schools. The village owned a portion of the property, with the school district holding a 50-year lease. The Village sold this property to the school district in 2017. The site provides playground apparatus (12 various climbing apparatus, 2 slides) 3 basketball courts, 2 lower basketball standards, an asphalt play area with striping for various games, 1 softball field (grass infield) with backstop, and a large grassy open area for activities and recreation. Eight tennis courts were built in 1998. Four courts have lights. The area covers 13.2 acres with 6 acres for recreation.
35. **Grandview Conservancy, 5602 Creamery Road:** This specialized area was acquired in 1984. The southern 25.6 acres were received by dedication and the northern 7 acres by purchase. A small part of the conservancy area south of Creamery Road could be improved for passive recreation purposes. A path and new boardwalk were installed in 2017 providing a connection to Marsh Woods Conservancy.
36. **Egner Park, 5703 Bird Song Court:** This neighborhood park (2.3 acres) serves the southeast side of the Village. Amenities include a well house, shelter house with picnic tables, a basketball half court, and a children's basketball court. In 2018 the playground equipment was completely replaced.
37. **John Urso Community Park, 6201 Elvehjem Road:** consists of 39.5 acres acquired as part of parkland dedication requirements for Park View Estates. A Master Plan for passive recreation areas was completed in 2005 with updates in 2009 and 2018 (see Appendix C). Eight acres were set aside for an off-leash dog exercise area in 2009. Trails were added on the western portion in 2011. A portion of the new Lower Yahara River Trail runs parallel to the dog park.
38. **Orchard Hill Park:** 18.8 acres in size immediately adjacent to John Urso Park was purchased from the Shuetz family in 2008 with stewardship funds. This acreage was originally considered part of John Urso Park, has now been given its own name; however, it is still included as part of the Master Plan for John Urso Park. A parking lot was completed in 2018. A future shelter with restrooms and other amenities is also being planned.
39. **Juniper Ridge Park:** This to be officially named park consists of a mixture of detention basins and open areas for a total of 8.9 acres. The area contains a 0.6 mile meandering paved path with various fitness stations along the way, a 1.5-acre active play area with open air shelter,

playground equipment and a council ring. Restrooms are to be constructed in 2018/2019

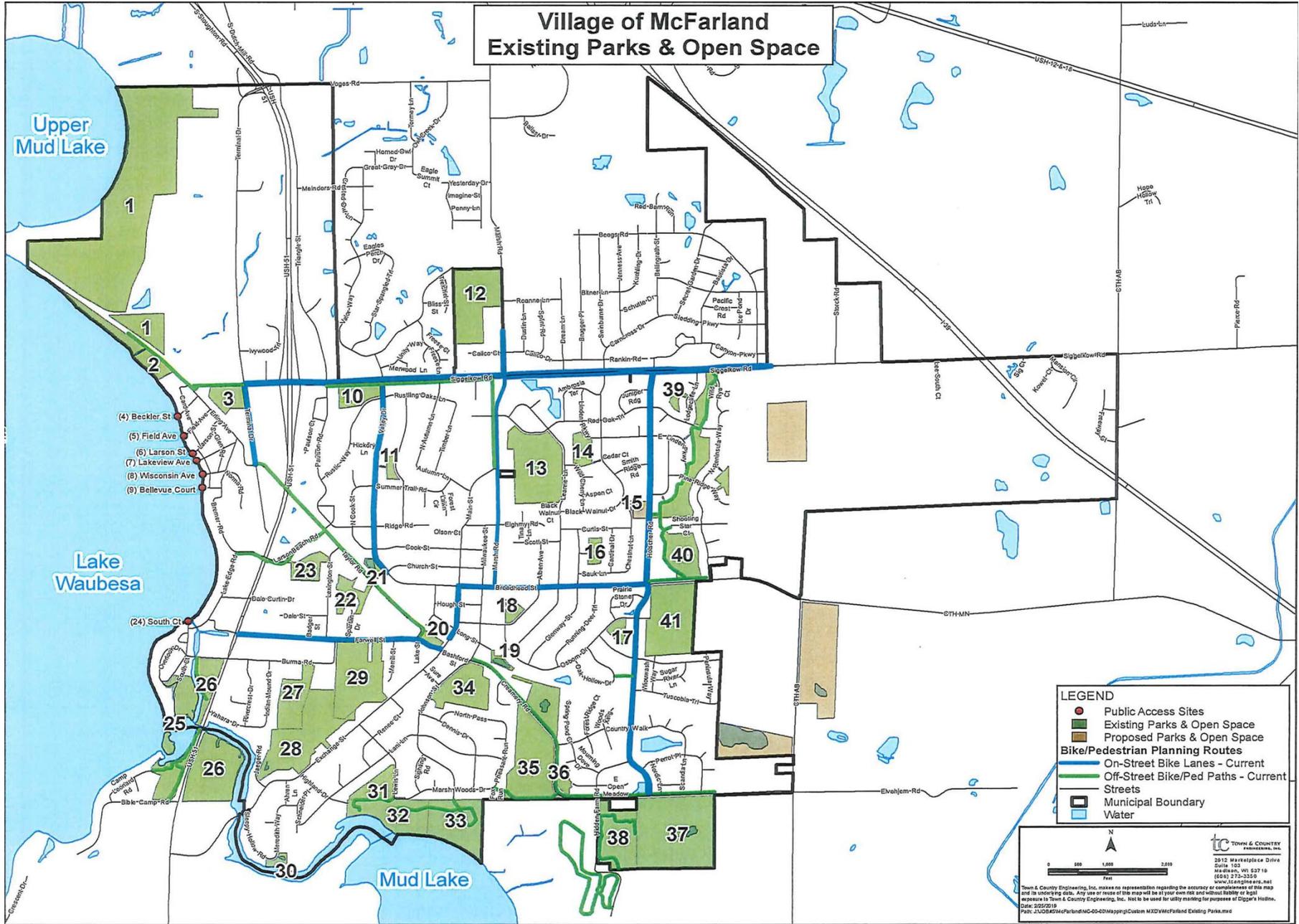
40. **Prairie Place Park:** This to be officially named passive park area is 3.3 acres in size with a 10ft. asphalt trail meandering thru a 6.8-acre wetland restoration area. As part of a development agreement of Prairie Place subdivision, the Village has approved the developers plan to restore wetland areas with a combination of plantings, spot spraying and seeding, removal of invasive species, scheduled mowing /burns and soil surface monitoring.

41. **McFarland School District Baseball Facility, CTH MN:** This site is approximately 23.0 acres and includes two baseball fields; one with artificial surface infield and one with skinned (all dirt) infield. Both fields have dugouts, backstops screens and fencing. The site also includes two large green space areas that support a variety of outdoor activities. Village of McFarland has approved the future development of a concession/storage/restroom facility and lighting.

The following parks are identified by official park signs:

- Arnold Larson Park
- Brandt Park
- Cedar Ridge Park
- Conrad Jaeger Trail
- Egnor Park
- Highland Oaks Park
- Lewis Park
- McDaniel Park
- Orchard Hill Park
- Urso Park
- William McFarland
- Woodland Estates Park

Village of McFarland Existing Parks & Open Space



- (4) Becker St
- (5) Field Ave
- (6) Larson St
- (7) Lakeview Ave
- (8) Wisconsin Ave
- (9) Bellevue Court

LEGEND

- Public Access Sites
- Existing Parks & Open Space
- Proposed Parks & Open Space
- Bike/Pedestrian Planning Routes**
- On-Street Bike Lanes - Current
- Off-Street Bike/Ped Paths - Current
- Streets
- Municipal Boundary
- Water

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Analysis of Existing Facilities

The most commonly used method for measuring the adequacy of a community's park and open space system is to determine if the number of people it serves, or has the capacity to serve, the geographic distribution as well as accessibility, meets the Village's desired standards. This analysis begins by assigning a minimum acreage standard to each type of park and to the system as a whole. *Table 6* below shows the total acreage of land devoted to each type of park in the Village. The table also breaks down the aggregate acreage per park type into five categories of open space. This breakdown more clearly indicates how much parkland in McFarland is devoted to both active and accessible passive recreational activity and how much is comprised of open space areas which serve specialized recreation purposes or provide environmental and/or aesthetic benefits. This plan focuses on the 132.5 acres (totlots, neighborhood and community parks) of active and accessible passive Village recreational areas identified in the first two columns of *Table 6*. The 363.2-acre balance of the Village's 495.7 aggregate acres of parkland (495.7-132.5) includes natural areas, special facilities, and other open spaces that do not relate to park provision standards.

Table 6. Recreation Areas by Ownership, Park Type, and Function						
Type of Park & Ownership	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Natural Area	Special Facilities Area	Water, Wetland, Floodplain	Total Park Acreage
Totlots - Village						
Discovery Garden	0.2					
Ridgeview	0.4					
Valley Greenway	1.0					
Total – Totlots	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Neighborhood Parks – Village						
Juniper Ridge	1.5					
Autumn Grove	1.5					
Highland Oaks park	2.2					
Egner	2.3					
Arnold Larson Park	1.4					
Siggelkow Road	5.5					
Woodland Estates	2.4					
Cedar Ridge	3.9					
Total – Neighborhood Parks	20.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.7
Community Parks - Village						
William McFarland	20.3					
Brandt Park	4.9					
Lewis Park	6.4					
Legion Memorial Park	6.6					
McDaniel Park	8.7					
Woodland Commons		5.0				
Orchard Hill Park		18.8				
Urso Park		39.5				
Total – Community Parks	46.9	63.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	110.2

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Type of Park & Ownership	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Natural Area	Special Facilities Area	Water, Wetland, Floodplain	Total Park Acreage
Conservancy Areas - Village						
Grandview Conservancy			25.6			
Indian Mound			8.9			
Legion Memorial (E)			9.2			
Marsh Woods			19.2			
McDaniel Park (N)			7.0			
Thrun Marsh			8.2			
Taylor Road			5.9			
Yahara River			1.8			
Babcock Conservancy			16.3			
Upper Mud Lake					123.6	
Juniper Ridge Park Conservancy			8.9			
Prairie Place Park Conservancy			3.3		6.8	
Total – Conservancy Areas	0.0	0.0	114.3	0.0	130.4	244.7
School District and Dane Co.						
Primary and Elementary	6.0					
Waubesa School	18.5					
CTH. MN Ballfield	23.0					
McFarland High School				15.0		
Indian Mound Middle School	15.0					
Babcock County Park				36.4		
Upper Mud Lake Access Area		4.6				
Total School Dist. and Dane Co.	62.5	4.6	0.0	51.4	0.0	118.5
Grand Total (All Recreation Areas)	131.7	67.9	114.3	51.4	130.4	495.7

Table 7 includes the NRPA recommended acreage standards for each type of park per 1,000 persons and the existing active and accessible passive acreages per park category in McFarland. The information in this table indicates that the Village of McFarland is currently satisfying the recreational needs of its residents in terms of the ratio of total acreage of active and accessible passive Village recreation parkland to persons.

Specifically, Table 7 indicates that Village public park facilities currently meet the NRPA standard, of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons, with 16.3 acres per 1,000 persons. In terms of the provisions of specific park types, results are mixed, the Village falls just short of the NRPA suggested range for mini-parks, with 1.6 acres, just meeting the standard for neighborhood parks and exceeding the range for community parks. The School District and Dane County provides 8.2 acres per 1,000 persons for recreation activities in special use areas and schools, for which there is no specified NRPA standards.

When active and passive recreational facilities belonging to both the School District and Dane County are blended with the Village's active and passive park facilities for totlots, neighborhood and community parks, a total of 199.6 (131.7 + 67.9) acres of park and open space land are provided for active and accessible passive use. This breaks down to 24.5 acres per 1,000 persons, much higher than the Dane

County gross acreage standard of 15 acres per 1,000 persons. However, it's important to keep in mind school and county facilities serve a larger geographic area and population, than just the Village-proper, and are not under the control of the Village park system.

Table 7. Recreation acres per 1,000 persons

	NRPA Standards	Village Park Facilities		School and Dane Co. Active and Passive Facilities		Total
Type of Park	Acres/1,000 persons	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons ¹	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons ¹	Acres per 1,000 persons ¹
Mini-park	0.25 - 0.50	1.60	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.20
Neighborhood Park	1.00 - 2.00	20.70	2.50	0.00	0.00	2.50
Community Park	5.00 - 8.00	110.20	13.60	0.00	0.00	13.60
Subtotal	6.25 - 10.50	132.50	16.30	0.00	0.00	16.30
Sch. And Dane Co.	None	0.00	0.00	67.1	8.20	8.20
Total	None	132.50	16.30	67.1	8.20	24.50

¹ Used 2016 U.S. census population estimate 8,168 to calculate acres per 1,000 persons

As the Village population increases, deficiencies will be ongoing especially with park types where we are currently falling behind with meeting the acre per 1,000 persons standards e.g., mini-parks and narrowly meeting our needs for neighborhood parks. As our community grows, we must continually reassess our park and open space needs.

Park and Open Space Needs Assessment

The future needs assessment is a critical component of the Outdoor Recreation Plan. This analysis is included in part, to assist the Village with planning and budgeting for the development of future parks. Overall, future recreational needs were determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable Village population for the year 2030. By examining how well the Village meets activity related standards as well as the location of existing facilities serving the Village's population, recommendations for future improvements can be developed.

Gross Acreage Requirements

The 2001 Outdoor Recreation Plan recommended the rate of ten (10) acres of parkland and open space per 1,000 persons be raised to more closely parallel the fifteen (15) acres per 1,000 persons used by Dane County. Since 2001, the Village has succeeded in increasing its acreage per thousand acre standard to 16.3 in 2018. By the year 2030, the Village population is projected to increase to 9335 persons. (Given current development trends this figure could be much higher once the 2020 U.S. Census is completed and new projections are calculated.) Excluding school and special facilities, the Village would require a total of 152.0 acres (9.33 x 16.3) of active and accessible passive parkland or an additional (152.0 -132.5) 19.5 acres by 2030 to maintain the current Village standard.

Activity Related Standards

Table 8. Activity Related Standards				
Activity	Standard No./Persons	Minimum Requirements ¹	Current Facilities	Future Needs (2030)
Baseball Diamonds	3,500	3	4	0
Skating Rinks ²	3,500	3	3	0
Softball Diamonds	1,000	9	4	5
Soccer Fields	1,000	9	9	0
Tennis Courts	1,500		8 (one location)	1
Basketball Courts ²	1,000	9	6	3
Swimming Pools ³	10,000	1	1	1

¹ Combination of National & locally adopted standards

² Includes the winter rink at Lewis Park

³ McFarland High School indoor pool is open to the public.

Table 8 indicates the number of activity-related facilities which have a few deficiencies. Mixed into this analysis should be distribution factors, including the need for an outdoor water facility.

Locations of park and open space facilities in relation to Village residents are also an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet community needs. Whereas community parks serve the entire Village, other parks have a more defined service area. For example, totlots have a service area of 1/4 mile and neighborhood parks 1/2 mile. Service area recommendations do not consider barriers such as major roads e.g., Farwell Street, Broadhead Street, Holscher Road, etc. Access barriers must be considered when determining service distances for parks and planning linkages using pedestrian/bike paths.

Park Distribution and Access

When adding to McFarland's Park and Trail System consideration should be given to the following:

- Newer subdivisions on the eastern edge of the Village are generally well served by neighborhood parks. Totlots, however, are in shorter supply. With trends towards smaller residential lot sizes or concentrations of multi-family housing, land becomes a premium. As a result, park distribution is increasingly important. New subdivisions should be scrutinized for park and open space needs relating to park distribution of totlots and smaller neighborhood parks.
- Many neighborhoods lack sidewalks or pathways for safe pedestrian access to park facilities particularly along heavily traveled streets and should be improved.
- Future trail systems should take the form of bike, nature, jogging, walking or multi-purpose systems. Links to existing systems are important if we are to achieve an inter-connected system.
- While the number of tennis courts appears sufficient (see *Table 7* **Error! Reference source not found.**), all eight courts are clustered in one location. Additional courts should be dispersed throughout the Village.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations to improve recreation programs in the Village of McFarland are based on projected growth rates, deficiencies identified in preceding sections, the 2017 update to the Village of McFarland Comprehensive Plan and results of the 2018 Park & Recreation Survey. Recommendations encompass not only parkland acquisition, development projects and the provision of diversified recreational opportunities, but also relate to administration, funding, and land use.

Most of the recommendations are based on the assumption that McFarland will continue its moderate rate of growth and that park and recreational facilities planning should be geared toward serving a population with growing recreational needs. However, the timing of park acquisitions and development should coincide with the actual demand for growing recreational needs. The highest priority should be placed on expanding and improving parks and recreation areas to meet a growing desire for recreational outlets.

General Recommendations

1. Village and school officials responsible for recreation in McFarland should place a continued emphasis on the provision of areas and facilities for those of varying physical abilities and that can support “lifetime” recreational exercise activities. Falling into latter category are activities such as tennis, horseshoes, bicycling, cross-country skiing, skating, walking, running, volleyball, pickle ball, badminton, hiking, swimming and bocce ball. Currently, walking and biking have the highest participation rates as demonstrated by responses to the 2018 recreation survey.

In designing recreation areas, the Village could possibly partner with occupational and physical therapists specializing in working with seniors as well as those affiliated with the McFarland School District who are acquainted with children in the McFarland community in order to be inclusive of the recreational needs of all members of the community.

2. The Village should continue to develop a pedestrian interlinked access system with an emphasis on child-safe access to parks and playgrounds. Access improvements are especially needed where there are no sidewalks. Street improvement programs along collector streets in the developed portions of the Village should include provisions for better parking, interconnected sidewalks/bicycle trails with the goal to provide links to parks, neighborhoods and other destinations through a system of interconnected routes. Where recreation use is heavy, an off-street path linked system may be preferred. Developers of new subdivisions are required to provide sidewalks or pathways. Adequate crossing facilities need to be provided at major road obstacle points during both school and non-school hours. Emphasis will continue to be placed on increasing the use of bicycles within the Village, and interconnectivity of trails within our park system as well as connection to other communities (Madison, Dunn and Blooming Grove. With the completion of the McFarland segment of the Lower Yahara Trail, connection to the Capital Springs State Recreation Area through McDaniel Park is now possible.
3. More emphasis should be placed on accessibility and the aesthetic function of parks and management of conservancy areas. Park conservancy areas provide the largest expanse of green

open space in the community, and in some newer sections of the community they are the only areas of mature vegetation. Many types of recreational activities, particularly “lifetime” activities such as hiking, bird watching and wildlife observations, are greatly enhanced by the attractive environments that conservancy areas provide. A buffer of trees or tall shrubbery around playfields and open area enhances these types of locations and reduces land use conflicts between heavily used parks and neighboring residential areas. Trail entrances should be clearly identified.

The Village has begun to actively maintain or manage conservancy areas or to make them more accessible to citizens for passive recreational opportunities. In the past, these areas have suffered from neglect and from the invasion of undesirable species. In recent years, volunteer groups have contributed considerable time in helping eradicate invasive from park and conservancy areas. The Village has adopted and is implementing management plans (see Appendix F) for these sensitive areas.

An active and continuous tree and shrub planting program for our parks should be sustained. The planting program should emphasize native species with a mix of fast-growing and slow-growing species avoiding overdependence on one or two species, which may fall victim to blight or other diseases. Other considerations in developing a planting program are selecting trees for attractiveness, shade, time and expense involved with maintenance, and the adverse effects of trees and shrubs on surface and underground public utilities.

4. The Village developed and adopted a policy for preservation and maintenance of McFarland’s Indian Mounds at 4 different locations in August of 2010 (see Appendix E). This policy addresses a phased approach to the mounds that included hazard tree removal, invasive control of weeds and brush and new seeding requirements. McFarland places a high priority on its mound maintenance, this should continue to be a high priority both in budgeting and work schedules.
5. The Village should look beyond its present corporate boundaries to the east and south for lands suited to recreational development. This is of particular importance where recent annexations to the east have taken place. Larger community parks are proposed in the Village’s Comprehensive Plan and the East Side Neighborhood Plan. Adjacent parcels to existing parkland should be considered as a means to merge newly annexed lands to increase park acreages. The location for needed totlots and smaller neighborhood parks should be analyzed for our eastside growth area. Advance planning will give added assurance that lands best suited to satisfying recreational demands or protecting vital recreational resources, will be preserved for public use.
6. The Village should utilize community fund raising, volunteer labor and donated materials to the greatest extent possible. Community groups such as the Friends of McFarland Parks, Lions, garden clubs, scouts, and senior citizen clubs often make significant contributions to recreation programs through fund raising. Utilization of volunteer labor is popular and is generally most successful where a single tangible project is involved, such as tree planting, construction of a single facility, or a one-day clean-up and beautification project. Volunteer labor should not be relied on for day-to-day maintenance or routine acquisitions and improvements. The Village has

established a volunteer committee to provide a framework or structure for managing the efforts of volunteer groups. Adequate funds for hiring employees should be budgeted so that the community recreation program can succeed regardless of whether or not volunteer labor is available. There were 141 responses to the survey that supported opportunities for volunteer programs.

7. The Village should develop existing recreation facilities concurrent with park acquisition. McFarland has developed a land pool for its parks and recreation facilities, but a few of these areas have not been developed to their full capacity. Concurrent with consideration of expansion of the parks and recreation land base, the Village should assure that all existing facilities fulfill the needs of their designated service areas and consider redevelopment if warranted.
8. The Village should emphasize the development of winter recreation programs and facilities. In the upper Midwest, winter activities should be an essential part of recreation planning. Future trail development will provide many opportunities for cross-country skiing. The trail system could be tied in with nature trails developed for summer and fall use. Sledding and tobogganing hills that are safe and accessible should be developed. Grooming equipment would be needed to develop and maintain a formal cross-country trail system. Two-hundred and seventy-nine (279) respondents were also supportive of more winter sports activities.
9. Improvements to existing parks or development of new parks should include features to help make them accessible to the disabled and seniors where feasible. Features should include ramps, grab rails, traction walkways, poured in place play surfaces special seating, accessible drinking fountains, designated parking and special playground equipment. Currently, many handicapped individuals are restricted in the areas of active and passive recreation. The Village is striving to continue to improve ADA access at each of its parks.
10. The Village of McFarland should continue use of environmental corridors to preserve and connect open space and direct development to lands suitable for construction as shown on the Proposed Park and Open Space Plan Map. Environmental corridors include those lands forming continuous, linear systems of natural resource features and/or public open space and recreation lands. Examples of features within environmental corridors include parks, school playgrounds, Indian mounds and other areas of historical importance, drainage ways, wetlands and floodplains. There were 242 responses to the survey that supported environmental corridor recreations such as hiking and bird watching, while 104 also supporting fishing along McFarland's river and lake shorelines.
11. Distribution of parks and facilities throughout the Village should be considered in addition to service area and per thousand population standards when determining deficiencies. Strict adherence to formal park standards may need re-evaluation when analyzing the distribution of parks (e.g., tennis courts) within the Village. Natural and man-made barriers, e.g. lack of sidewalks and crosswalks, can hinder use by adjacent residents. Heavily traveled roads and

topography can be obstacles to parks posing accessibility and safety issues.

12. The Village of McFarland should explore the creation of a Parks Department that would function as a key department for the physical planning, operations, and maintenance of our parks and conservancy areas. This potential reorganization would utilize the current parks manager and budgeted staff positions within the Public Works Department, with no additional staff requirements. The Village may also consider park recreation programming as a part of this future department.

The current operational structure utilizes the Department of Public Works to coordinate all functions relating to Village parks and conservancy areas. A potential reorganization would utilize the current parks manager and budgeted staff positions within the Public Works Department, with no additional staff requirements. The goal for this change would be to provide more time and better service selected areas in the park system that are currently underserved.

13. The Village should incorporate safety measures using appropriate technology into our park system. The Village looks to modernize its parks by retooling equipment and buildings to meet the evolving recreational needs of its citizens. Safety systems employing cameras, time locks etc. should be employed to protect our facilities.
14. A community park of approximately 20-40 acres in size with proposed a location between Siggelkow Road and County Trunk Highway MN East of the proposed extension of CTH AB is identified for acquisition in the Village's Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the Village should acquire or otherwise preserve lands adjacent to the E-Way, the wetlands and Yahara River frontage located west and south of Legion Memorial Park, natural resources areas adjacent to the Lower Mud Lake Resource Protection Area and explore a downtown family-oriented recreational amenity.
15. Park Signage. The Village should continue to develop consistent park signage policies throughout its entire park and conservancy system. The overall goal of an effective sign policy is to enable Village residents and visitors to locate and enjoy McFarland's vast park system. Signs will also provide information in emergencies and other situations. Aging park signs should be established/refurbished/replaced based on condition and the need for updated information such as the new Village logo. Any new or replacement schedule should include new or replaced wayfinding signage for park facilities.
16. Continue to promote and enhance efforts to keep our designation for Tree City U.S.A. and Bird City Wisconsin. McFarland achieved Tree City U.S.A. in 2009 and Bird City Wisconsin in 2011. Volunteers are active in promoting Bird City through multiple events throughout the season including IMBD (International Migratory Bird Day) held each spring. Residents and visitors have the opportunity to learn about habitat, bird identification along with hands on events for kids. A program established by the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City U.S.A. provides the opportunity to educate people who care about their community, the value of tree resources, the importance of sustainable tree management and engaging the citizenry in advancing tree planting and care

across the urban forest. McFarland should continue to build and promote both of these green initiatives.

Acquisition Recommendations

Acquisition recommendations are identified on the Proposed Park and Open Space Plan Map. Areas shaded in brown are identified for future park and open space as depicted in the 2017 Village of McFarland Comprehensive Plan (see Appendix E).

As the Village looks to the future, demographic changes in overall population and age distribution resulting in differing recreational needs and interests, will demand the Village continuously reassess our facilities to avoid having an outdated park system mismatched to the needs of our citizens.

Specific Development Recommendations

1. **Capital Springs State Recreation Area Upper Mud Lake Portion of E-way** – includes the eastern half of the Nine Springs E-Way from Fish Hatchery Road to Upper Mud Lake.
 - a. Continue to work with the County to extend the Lower Yahara River Trail thru the southern portion of the Village exiting our southern boundary and continuing on to Lake Kegonsa State Park.
2. **McDaniel Park, 4806 McDaniel Lane** – Continue implementation of Master Plan (see Appendix B)
 - a. Develop additional picnic areas
 - b. Increase woodland buffers with additional tree plantings
 - c. Plan and construct second shelter/storage building
 - d. Add larger outdoor grills, informational kiosks and trash cans
 - e. Maintain pier and construct second public pier
 - f. As time and money permit replace and add trees Add camera/security system
 - g. Look for opportunities to expand the park when adjacent parcels are up for sale.
 - h. Add boat racks for small boats
 - i. Continue to explore innovative possibilities to enhance the area
3. **Brandt Park, 4601 Siggelkow Road**
 - a. Continue to add trees to filter setting sun
 - i. Update ball field fencing, add 2-5 year age-appropriate playground equipment, and underground utilities
 - ii. Supply internet access
 - iii. Acquire the adjacent house on the Siggelkow Road for added parking
 - iv. Add camera/security features
4. **Beckler Street** - Path, small amount of parking, “Pedestrian Access Only” sign
5. **Field Avenue** – Stairs to lake, parking. “Pedestrian Access Only” sign
6. **Larson Street** – Better access and “Pedestrian Access Only” sign

7. **Lakeview Avenue** – Bench, limited parking, “Pedestrian Access Only” sign
8. **Wisconsin Avenue** – Limited parking, “Pedestrian Access Only” sign
9. **Bellevue Court** – Poor access, replace stairs, bench, picnic table, “Pedestrian Access Only” sign
10. **Siggelkow Road Park, 5002 Valley Drive**
 - a. Provide plan for development as a passive area
 - b. Landscape the flat section: garden areas with corner entryway emphasis
 - c. Develop hiking trails through the wooded sections with benches
 - d. Implement Indian Mound Policy for this park
 - e. Explore the idea of establishing a community garden and athletic field
 - f. Add park benches, picnic tables, and kiosk
 - g. Possible new location for tennis/pickle ball court
11. **Autumn Grove Park, 5207 Falling Leaves Lane**
 - a. Add park benches and trees
 - b. Add main park sign
12. **William McFarland Park, 4820 Marsh Road**
 - a. Maintain rain garden
 - b. Add two water fountains
 - c. Relocate skate park facility
 - d. Add benches and trash receptacles
 - e. Improve pedestrian access with sidewalk and crosswalk
 - f. Add pickle ball / tennis court
 - g. Continue working with the Soccer Association to implement a field maintenance program
 - h. Improve condition of parking lot
 - i. Update the Master Plan
13. **Waubesa Intermediate School, 5605 Red Oak Trail**
 - a. Continue cooperation between Village and School District to develop or improve sports fields and play area
14. **Cedar Ridge Park, 5303 Wild Cherry Lane**
 - a. Continue to implement park master plan
 - b. Replace gazebo
 - c. Provide park benches
 - d. Add additional playground equipment
 - e. Explore the addition of restrooms and water fountain
 - f. Add ice skating rink
15. **Ridgeview Totlot, 5323 Black Walnut Drive**
 - a. Maintain
 - b. Install trees near park bench and play area
 - c. Add park sign
 - d. Explore the addition of a water fountain

16. **Woodland Estates Park, 5601 Glenway Street**
 - a. Add water fountain
 - b. Reconfigure basketball court
 - c. Add restrooms

17. **Highland Oaks Park, 5945 Osborn Drive**
 - a. Plant additional trees and landscaping
 - b. Provide informational kiosk
 - c. Explore the addition of restrooms and a water fountain
 - d. Possible location of tennis/pickle ball court

18. **McFarland Community Garden, 5710 Anthony Street**
 - a. Continue Village support for this effort.

19. **Discovery Garden Park, 5920 Milwaukee Street**
 - a. Add perimeter fence
 - b. Add shade trees near benches and picnic table

20. **Arnold Larson Park, 6002 Exchange Street**
 - a. Explore the addition of restrooms
 - b. Add trees and fencing on north side to screen railroad to prevent crossing of railroad tracks

21. **Valley Totlot, 5100 Broadhead Street**
 - a. Maintain
 - b. Add signage
 - c. Explore the addition of a water fountain

22. **Taylor Road Conservancy, Taylor Road**
 - a. Implement a conservancy management plan
 - b. Implement the Indian Mound Policy for this park
 - c. Prune pine trees
 - d. Provide park sign
 - e. Develop a forest management plan

23. **Woodland Commons Conservancy, 5604 Lexington Street**
 - a. Develop a Master Plan
 - b. Implement the Indian Mound Policy for this park
 - c. Provide informational kiosk
 - d. Provide park sign
 - e. Develop Lexington St, access path
 - f. Update vegetative management plan

24. **Public Access Site, South Court**
 - a. Maintain
 - b. Add signage

25. **Babcock Conservancy, South Court**

- a. Add park identification sign
 - b. Provide informational sign
 - c. Provide benches
 - d. Develop a management plan
26. **Babcock County Park, 4214 US Hwy 51**
- a. Support County development of trails linking boat ramp to Camp Leonard Road through to Bible Camp Road
27. **Indian Mound Conservancy, 6400 Exchange Street**
- a. Continue to implement the Indian Mound Policy .
 - b. Continue to involve the school in any development and maintenance plan.
 - c. Update signage at trailhead
28. **Thrun Marsh and Conrad Jaeger Conservancy, 6400 Jaeger Road**
- a. Maintain trails
 - b. Add a bench and trees
 - c. Concrete pads installed in 2018
 - d. Provide maps and kiosk information about area
 - e. Add signage
29. **McFarland High School/Indian Mound Middle School, 5103 Farwell/6330 Exchange Street**
- a. Continue cooperation between School District and Village
 - b. Develop plan for eliminating invasives
 - c. Install new signage
30. **Yahara River Conservancy, 6623 Meredith Way**
- a. Add informational sign
 - b. Add a bench
 - c. Develop a management plan
 - d. Install new signage
31. **Lewis Park, 5012 Highland Drive**
- a. Provide lighting for hiking/biking path
 - b. Develop shaded areas near playground structure
 - c. Provide additional benches especially near skating rink
 - d. Add restrooms
32. **Legion Memorial Park, 5301/5305 Marshwoods Drive**
- a. Improve hiking/biking path to include boardwalk
 - b. Maintain grass walkway and construct boardwalk to Marsh Woods Drive
 - c. Implement the Conservancy Management Plan
 - d. Add signage
 - e. Continue to implement a vegetation management plan for the shoreline
33. **Marsh Woods Conservancy, 5301/5305 Marshwoods Drive**
- a. Maintain hiking trails
 - b. Implement the Conservancy Management Plan

- c. Add trail signage
 - d. Add park main sign
 - e. Improve informational kiosk
 - f. Implement a vegetation management plan for the shoreline
 - g. Add boardwalk between Marsh Woods Park and Legion Park
34. **McFarland Primary School/Conrad Elvehjem Early Learning Center, 6009/6013 Johnson Street**
- a. Continue cooperation between School District and Village
35. **Grandview Conservancy, 5602 Creamery Road**
- a. Update and implement the Conservancy Management Plan
 - b. Complete trail system with signage, with a connection to Marsh Woods Park
 - c. Add park sign
36. **Egner Park, 5703 Bird Song Court**
- a. Maintain
 - b. Add water fountain & restrooms
 - c. Replace sign
 - d. Seal basketball court
37. **John Urso Community Park, 6201 Elvehjem Road**
- a. Ensure Master Plan addresses ADA standards
 - b. Continue expansion of the off-leash dog exercise area
 - c. Provide trail signage and improve trail surfaces
 - d. Provide informational kiosk
 - e. Continue to work with Dane County to establish connection to Lower Yahara River Trail
 - f. Explore addition of a water fountain
38. **Orchard Hill Park**
- a. New disc Golf Course
 - b. Restrooms
 - c. Parking lot
39. **Juniper Ridge Park (Juniper Ridge Subdivision)**
- a. Add restrooms
 - b. Establish name
40. **Prairie Place Park (Prairie Place Subdivision)**
- a. Establish name
41. **McFarland School District Baseball Facility**
- a. Concession/storage/restroom facility
 - b. Lighting

42. **Future Eastside Park 20-40 acres**

This park while only in the concept stage would encompass a very large area. Major improvements along with various utilities will be needed to develop the area. The area may be a mix of useable and low land. The park may contain the following amenities.

- Agility Course
- Amphitheater
- Archery area
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Basketball Courts
- Batting cages
- Bike Trails
- Bocce Courts
- Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Board Rack
- Climbing Tower
- Concession Stand (s)
- Council Rings
- Cross Country Running
- Cross Country Skiing
- Disc Golf
- Dog exercise area
- Exercise Areas
- Field Hockey
- Horseshoe Pits
- Ice Skating
- La Crosse Field
- Meditation areas
- Municipal Campground
- Natural Areas
- Natural Areas with Water Features
- Observation Platforms
- Off road biking areas
- Outdoor Art
- Parking Lot
- Pickle Ball Courts
- Play Structures
- Rest Rooms
- Sand Play Areas
- Shelter(s)
- Skate Park
- Snowshoeing
- Soccer Field
- Tennis Courts
- Various Seating Amenities
- Volley Ball Courts
- Walking Trails

FUNDING PARKLAND ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Parkland Dedication or Fees-in-Lieu of Parkland Dedication

As part of its subdivision regulations, the Village of McFarland requires developers to dedicate land for public parks. The dedication standard used by the Village is one acre per fifteen dwelling units.

For development projects where the dedication of land serves no benefit to citizens of the Village, a fee-in-lieu payment may be required as an alternative. The amount of this payment is reviewed annually and is based upon development activity in and around the Village to appropriately measure the cost the Village would incur to acquire parkland for recreational purposes.

Prior to a recommendation by the Plan Commission as to whether land dedication or fees-in-lieu is appropriate, development projects are typically referred to the Village's Park and Recreation Committee for review. Recreational needs created by the proposed development are assessed. Opportunities to fulfill needs expressed in the Outdoor Recreation Plan are also taken into consideration.

Park Improvement/Impact Fee

In order to fund improvements (other than land acquisition) for future parks and recreational areas, the Village Board in April 2004 adopted an ordinance establishing a park improvement/impact fee.

Wis. State Statutes 66.0617 establishes the authority for municipalities to charge impact fees. Prior to imposing a new or revised fee, a public facilities needs assessment must be prepared. Such an assessment must include:

- An inventory of existing public facilities including identification of any existing deficiencies.
- Identification of new public facilities or improvements/expansions of existing public facilities that will be required because of land development for which impact fees may be imposed.
- A detailed estimate of the capital costs of providing new or expansion to existing public facilities.

While the fee is commonly referred to as a "Park Impact Fee", the actual assessment covers impact fees for future bike trails, expansion to the public works facility as well as for future park capital costs.

The total Park Facility Improvement Impact Fee per single-family home is \$731.47 and for multi-family units is \$443.93 per unit. Actual monies are collected at the time a building permit is issued.

Note: In 2019 the Village has budgeted monies to analyze the methodology for charging fees in lieu of parkland dedication as well as updating our park impact fees. Recent changes to state law have identified various impacts that need to be considered when determining both of these fees. The latest evaluation process for fees in lieu of parkland dedication essentially mimics the way impact fees have historically been determined. The Village has retained a consultant to assist in determining a methodology and resulting fee structure that complies with the new legislation.

**Table 9. Five-Year Proposed Parks Capital Expenditure Plan
2019-2023**

2019				
Projects	Description	Funds	Funding Type	Amount
General Improvement	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 50,000
McDaniel Park	Add 2nd Shelter, Internal Paths, Facility Addition	Capital, Parks	Borrowed, Impact	\$ 235,000
McFarland Park	Master Plan Study	Capital	Borrowed	\$ 25,000
Park Equipment	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 10,000
Park Signage	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 5,000
Property Acquisition	East Side Park Purchase, Duplex Adjacent to Trail	Capital, Parks	Borrow, Reserve, Grant, Impact	\$ 2,775,000
Urso/Schuetz Park	Disc Golf, Dog Park, Woodland Restoration	Capital	Borrowed	\$ 350,000
Total for 2019				\$ 3,450,000
2020				
Projects	Description	Funds	Funding Type	Amount
Community Park	Master Plan Study	Capital	Borrowed	\$ 50,000
General Improvement	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 50,000
Park Equipment	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 10,000
Park Signage	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 5,000
Property Acquisition	Considered annually as opportunities arise.	Capital	Borrowed	\$ -
Urso/Schuetz Park	Internal Trail Development, Restoration	Capital	Borrowed, Grant	\$ 500,000
Total for 2020				\$ 615,000
2021				
Projects	Description	Funds	Funding Type	Amount
Brandt Park	Parking Lot Addition	Capital, Parks	Borrowed, Impact	\$ 200,000
General Improvement	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 50,000
Park Equipment	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 10,000
Park Signage	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 5,000
Property Acquisition	Considered annually as opportunities arise.	Capital	Borrowed	\$ -
Urso/Schuetz Park	Facility Development, Restoration	Capital	Borrowed, Grant	\$ 350,000
Total for 2021				\$ 615,000
2022				
Projects	Description	Funds	Funding Type	Amount
General Improvement	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 50,000
Park Equipment	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 10,000
Park Signage	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 5,000
Property Acquisition	Considered annually as opportunities arise.	Capital	Borrowed	\$ -
Urso/Schuetz Park	Facility Development, Restoration	Capital	Borrowed, Grant	\$ 1,250,000
Total for 2022				\$ 1,315,000
2023				
Projects	Description	Funds	Funding Type	Amount
General Improvement	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 50,000
Park Equipment	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 10,000
Park Signage	Applies to various parks as needed.	Parks	Impact	\$ 5,000
Property Acquisition	Considered annually as opportunities arise.	Capital	Borrowed	\$ -
Total for 2023				\$ 65,000