

2018 - 2022 Park, Open Space, & Recreation Facilities Plan



Department of Community Services
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Adopted by the Eau
Claire City Council on
May 22, 2018



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE 2018-2022 PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION FACILITIES PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire has traditionally adopted a five-year park plan which complements the long-range Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, this plan includes an inventory of city park and open space areas and a listing of park-related improvements that will be considered during the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the plan is a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other funding agencies in order to apply for grant funds for park projects; and

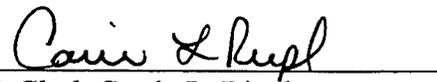
WHEREAS, the Waterways and Parks Commission and the Plan Commission have reviewed the plan and recommended approval.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that the City Council does hereby approve the 2018-2022 Park, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Plan, a copy of which is on file and available for inspection from the Community Services Department and the Community Development Department.

Adopted,
May 22, 2018

(SEAL) 
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL) 
City Manager Dale Peters

(ATTESTED) 
City Clerk Carrie L. Riepl

2018 – 2022 Park, Open Space, & Recreation Facilities Plan



Prepared by:

Department of Community Services
-Forestry, Parks, and Cemetery Division
-Recreation Division

Department of Community Development

May 22, 2018

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PREFACE

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

PREFACE

The City of Eau Claire's park, open space areas, and recreational facilities provide a unique blend of park and recreational facilities that few cities of comparable size can match. Resources such as Half Moon Lake, Dells Pond, the Chippewa River, Eau Claire River, and the valleys, bluffs and ridgelines provide a strong base for the City's park and open space system. This combined with the City's parks, neighborhood playgrounds and special areas and cooperative efforts with the Eau Claire School District and University provide the residents of the community with a wide variety of passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities.



In addition to providing the passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities for the community, the park and open space system also reflects upon how a community is perceived not only by its residents, but also by those who are visiting. A well planned and well maintained park and open space system

can be a source of civic pride and will serve as an integral component in establishing the form and image that the community projects. The City's parks and recreational facilities also have an important economic impact for the community. Finally, studies completed by Visit Eau Claire have demonstrated the economic benefits experienced by the City from events held at venues such as the Ice Center, Fairfax Pool, Soccer Park, and other athletic fields.

In order for the City's park and open space system to continue to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community and project a positive community image, regular planning and assessment of the community's park, open space, and recreational facilities is essential. In order to address these needs, the City of Eau Claire has traditionally prepared both a long-range parks plan (part of the Comprehensive Plan) and this shorter-term parks facilities plan. This 5-year Park, Open Space and Recreational Facilities Plan serves as the City's strategic plan to accomplish the goals and objectives of the City Council, Waterways and Parks Commission, and the Community Department.



INTRODUCTION

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

INTRODUCTION

This 2018-2022 Park, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Plan serves as the short-range element to the City of Eau Claire's Park Plan and provides a detailed five-year guide for the improvements to city's parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, trails and natural areas. This plan updates the 2013-2017 plan that was prepared in June of 2013.

The preparation of this plan involved a comprehensive review of each of the City's park, open space, and recreation facilities and then based upon this review; specific needs and deficiencies have been identified for each of the parks



and open space areas. Since its emphasis is directed towards a 5-year timeframe, this plan primarily focuses on the existing facilities within the City. However, the acquisition of land that is necessary to address existing deficiencies or those identified in the Comprehensive Plan are also included.

This plan has been prepared in conjunction with the goals, objectives and recommendations contained in the Parks, Greenways, and Trail System Chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2015. The Parks Chapter looks at the long-range park and open space needs of the community with an emphasis on identifying the need and location for new park, open space, and recreation facilities in both developed portions of the City and those areas where development will be occurring. The plan is more general in nature than this 5-year plan.

The 5-year plan is also a prerequisite for eligibility for funding for various grant programs offered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In order for the City to maintain its eligibility for these grant programs, this plan should be updated on a regular basis. This plan includes a description of the classification system used to categorize the City's parks and open space sites and the standards that can be used to assess needs and deficiencies. In addition, an inventory of the municipal parks and open space sites as well as facilities provided by the Eau Claire School District and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is also included. Finally, the plan includes the policy plan that serves as

the foundation and direction for providing park and open space areas within Eau Claire.

Background information utilized for the update of this plan is included in the appendices. Included is a detailed facilities inventory of each park and open space site within the City (Appendix A), and a listing of general assumptions and trends relating to current and future park demands and needs (Appendix B). Basic demographic information for the City and playground service areas is contained in the Analysis of Conditions Report of the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. Finally, Appendix C contains a listing of all park and open space projects identified in the previous 5-year plan, which have been completed over this time period. As shown, many improvements and additional facilities have been completed in the past five years.



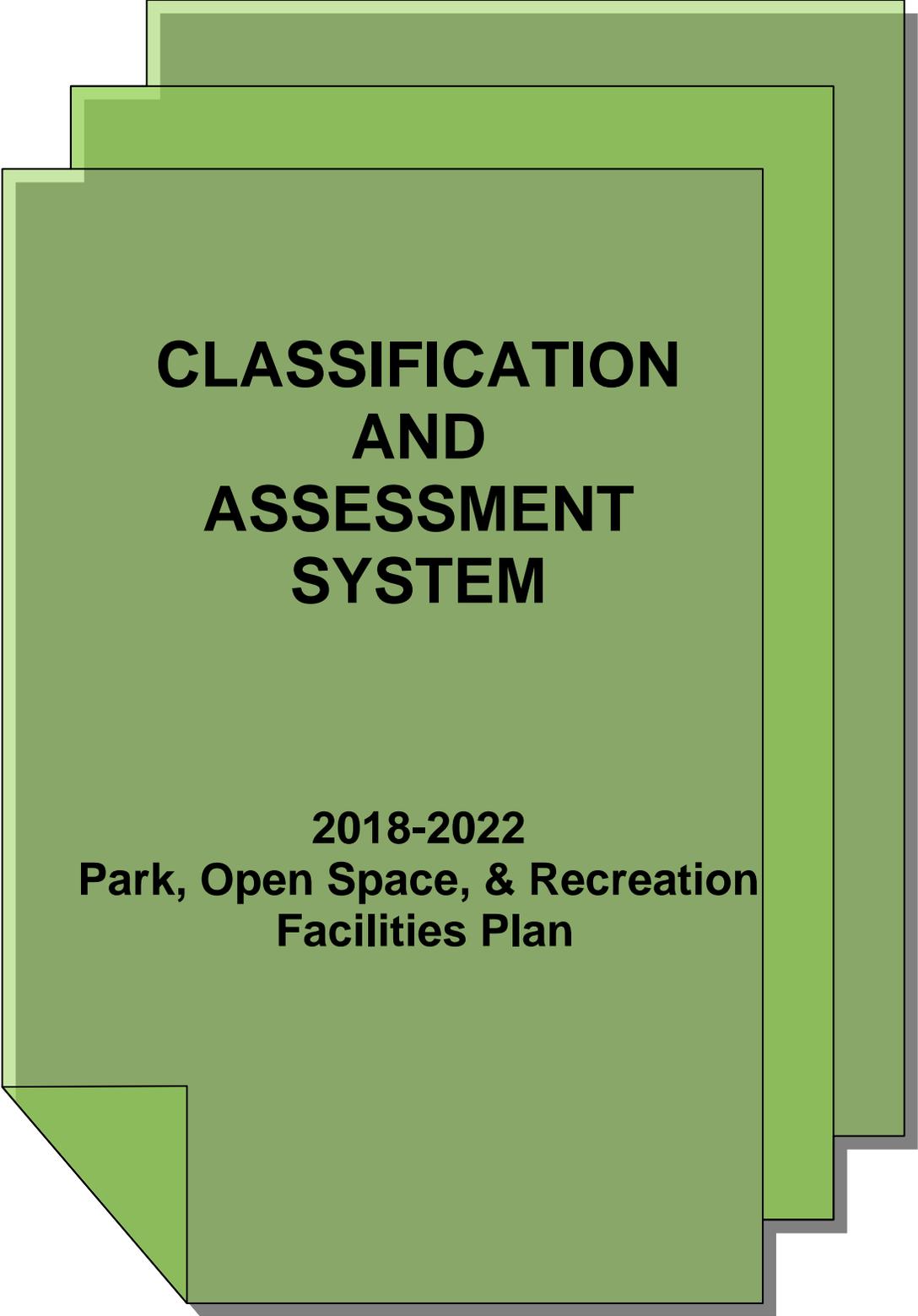
It is important to note that the availability of funds over the next five years will be the determining factor as to which projects can be undertaken. Although, specific cost figures are not provided for each project, it is clear that the combined cost of these projects will exceed funding levels that will be available over this time period. Since it will be possible to complete only a portion of the projects identified, this plan should be used as a guide to aid in deciding which projects should be considered. The priority and completion time-frame for the projects will be evaluated each year at the time the City prepares its annual 5-Year Capital Improvement Program.

The decision to fund a particular project in many cases will be determined by factors such as the availability of certain types of funding not only from general funding sources from the City, but also based on the availability of State and federal grants, local funding from community organizations, and the availability and eligibility of projects for CDBG funds. Other factors may also determine

when a project is undertaken, such as: the timing and scheduling with other projects that might be related, changes in neighborhood or community demographics, changes in community needs or necessities in relation to other projects.

Finally, recent plans prepared by the State of Wisconsin and Eau Claire County have been utilized in the development of this plan. The State-wide plan is called the 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP.) The SCORP plan identifies state-wide and regional recreational needs and establishes overall goals to develop an improved supply of recreation amenities within the State, while also protecting Wisconsin's natural environment for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. It can be viewed at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/planning/scorp/>.

The Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan covers the period 2016-2020. This plan includes an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities in the County and sets forth recommendations for improvements for these facilities. This plan can be viewed at: <http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=11383>.



**CLASSIFICATION
AND
ASSESSMENT
SYSTEM**

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The City of Eau Claire has traditionally classified its park and open space areas into seven different categories or types of facilities. This classification system has been based on standards developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and then adjusted to reflect the level of services that should be provided in Eau Claire. This system dates back to early park plans that were completed in the late 1960's until the present.

The park facility categories and standards for these categories have been based on factors such as site function, size, type of use, service area and degree of facility development in order to determine the adequacy of a community's municipal parks and open space system. Relating these standards to the demographics of a community has provided a method of assessing the needs and deficiencies of the park system. Such criteria have been used in the past to provide a "blanket" approach to make sure that an equitable distribution of facilities has occurred throughout the community. In addition, the standards can be used to evaluate the attainment of the community's goals and objectives with respect to the quantity and quality of the parks.



However, using an approach that is based on national standards has in the past and continues to have some drawbacks. Standards that are not customized to the local community must be used cautiously as many factors critical to assessing need and demand are not incorporated into the standards and are

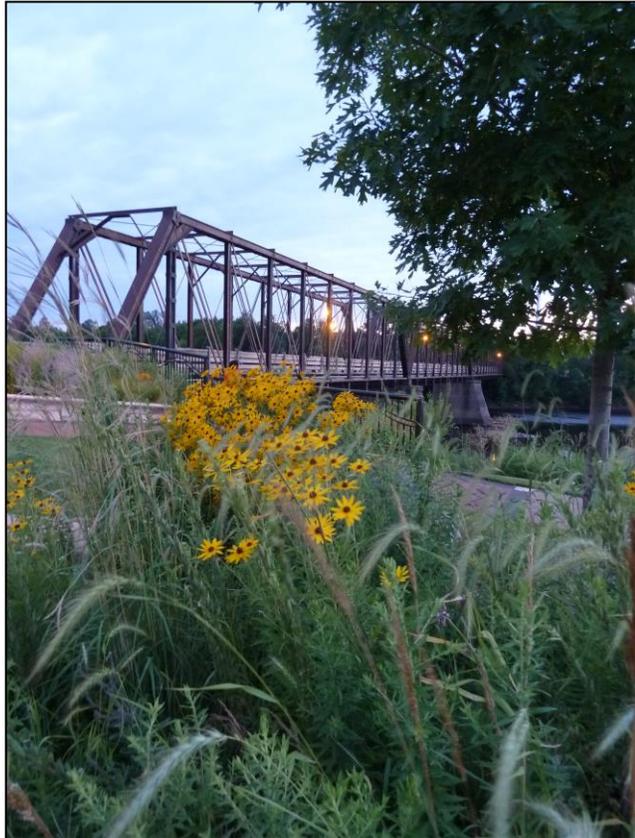
ignored. For example, national standards do not consider factors that may be unique to a particular service area or neighborhood, such as type of housing, density, natural boundaries or features etc. In addition, standards do not consider the availability and quality of the natural amenities available at individual sites or its physical features; such resources and features can play a key role in determining what types of facilities should be developed at a particular site.

Because each community is unique, caution needs to be used when applying these standards. It is important to remember when using any type of standard, that the standard cannot be accepted as the absolute determinant of park and open space needs, but rather as a guide to developing a park and open space system.



The 2015 update of the City's Comprehensive Plan reviewed the classification system of parks and open spaces utilized in the 5-year plans. Upon review and discussion of the classification system, no major changes were made.

Traditionally, the City has utilized a half-mile service radius for playgrounds, and at times discussed alternatives such as eliminating the concept of neighborhood playgrounds and instead attempting to acquire and develop larger parks to provide such services. The trade-off would have been fewer parks to maintain, could provide more amenities, but these parks would have larger service areas. The 2015 Comprehensive Plan continues the philosophy that park and playground services should be provided at the neighborhood level and that they be easily accessible to all neighborhoods as much as feasibly possible.



The categories of park and open space facilities are described below and Table 1 sets forth the criteria and standards for each category.

**Table 1
Standards and Criteria for Municipal Park and Open Space Areas**

	Play Lot	Neighborhood Park	Urban Park	Community Park	Special Area Facilities	Community Athletic Fields	Waterfront & Parkway Areas
Group Served	Pre-school children (5 yrs. & under)	Neighborhood surrounding playground (primarily those 5-14 yrs. in age)	Neighborhood surrounding park (for all ages)	Entire community (for all ages)	Entire community	Entire community	Entire community
Service Area	1 to 4 blocks on single project	½ mile radius from playgrounds	½ mile radius	Area within 20 min. travel time	No specific service area	No specific service area	No specific service area
Desirable Size	No standard	5-15 acres min.	2 acre min.	100+ acres desirable	Depends on type of facility	Depends on type of fields	Min. width 30 ft., no min. length
Location	High density neighborhood which lack private yards. Interior or residential block or housing development or in corner of neighborhood park.	Near center of neighborhood. Preferably at or adjoining elementary school. Should be accessible by pedestrians.	Near intensely developed areas & areas of high density	Where appropriate sites can be obtained incorporating scenic or other natural features. Should be along collector or arterial streets.	Depends on type of facility	Good site access -- location near collector or arterial street preferred.	Along lake or river shoreline
Facilities & Features	Sandbox, swings, slides, climbing structures, spray pool, benches, open shelter, fences, paved & grass areas. Not considered essential in large-lot residential areas.	Play apparatus area, multi-purpose athletic field, shelter building, skating rinks, and supervised playground programs may be provided at these locations. The goal is to provide both passive and active areas. Off-street parking is desirable.	Shaded areas for quiet activities, plantings, benches, picnic tables.	Active athletic areas similar to playfield but at least ½ should be rustic & provide picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, etc. Off-street parking required. Shelters, swimming pools & quiet passive areas desirable.	Hockey rinks, swimming facilities, archery, skiing, sledding, pedestrian/bicycle trails, scenic overlooks or sites.	Major complexes, such sports as: soccer, softball, etc.	Bicycle/ pedestrian trails, benches, lookouts, small picnic areas.

Play Lot

The play lot is the smallest unit of open space and the area that it serves is generally considered to be a substitute for a backyard. The primary function of a play lot is generally intended to serve preschool children, usually in areas of high density housing such as areas with a high concentration of multiple family housing. It typically is provided by the developer as an amenity for the housing project.

Since most residential areas in Eau Claire have fairly low population densities, the overall need for play lots is currently minimal. The City of Eau Claire has opted to not establish play lots due to the fact that they tend to be small areas with a high level of maintenance required. The City has used the next largest unit, the neighborhood playground or park, as the smallest area where services are provided.

It is recommended that the City require that play lot facilities be required as part of multiple family developments which create high densities and which provide only minimal open space areas for individual dwelling units. They should be located within the development and be maintained by such development. The need for play lots is most critical for housing that is designed to draw households with young children versus housing designed to attract senior citizens. Since play lots are designed for the very young child, this requirement should be made regardless of whether or not there is a neighborhood playground within the immediate area.

Neighborhood Park

A neighborhood park is a “walk-to” facility, serving people within the immediate residential area. The City of Eau Claire has traditionally used a half a mile radius as the guideline as to how far a home should be from this type of facility.

Neighborhood parks may often adjoin and complement school facilities that may be in the same neighborhoods.

The neighborhood park as opposed to an urban park generally is a more active area than passive area and provides recreation facilities such as field areas, basketball or hard court surfaces, skating, etc. In Eau Claire, the standard for neighborhood parks typically includes a neighborhood shelter house, an open field area for activities such as softball or soccer, a hard court surface, play equipment, lighting, landscaping and



off street parking. As new shelter houses are constructed and renovated, the City has been attempting to provide restroom facilities within these buildings.

Some neighborhood parks may have additional amenities or may not have all the normal amenities based on the size of the parcel or the desires of the neighborhood. Play equipment is generally designed for two categories of children; 2 to 5 year olds and 5 to 12 year olds. The units usually include a swing set with at least one tot seat. At most sites, the City operates an eight to ten week supervised summer program and a supervised winter skating program at a reduced number of sites.



In addition to the active types of recreation that typically occur at a neighborhood park, passive or quieter forms of recreation can also be found at many of the sites. In addition, the standard of one neighborhood park within a half a mile of everybody's home ensures that some form of green space is provided and accessible throughout the City.

Eau Claire currently has a variety of sizes of neighborhood parks. The smallest consists of 1.9 acres at Kessler to 11.7 acres at Buffington. The smaller the size of the facility, the less ability the City has in providing needed amenities. Ideally, neighborhood parks should have enough area to provide an active area as well as a passive area. Although many of the older, existing parks may not meet the recommended size standard of five to fifteen acres, the City should strive to acquire sites of this size when obtaining land for new neighborhood parks.

Finally, neighborhood parks should ideally be located in conjunction with an elementary school. By doing so both the Eau Claire School District and the City may be able to acquire less land than if the school is not located with the neighborhood park. It should be noted, however, that the service area for a school is generally much larger than a half mile; therefore several neighborhood parks may be needed within an elementary school service area.

Urban Park

An urban park generally provides areas for more passive recreational activities for all age groups. The primary function of these facilities is to provide open space where population densities are fairly high, where the city is highly urbanized and where green spaces are limited in number or quite small in size.



Therefore, these parks are generally within or in close proximity to intensely developed areas such as the City's Central Business District. Facilities at these parks will vary according to the size of the site. In most instances, picnic tables and/or benches, walkways, special plantings, commemorative plaques or statues and fountains are common.

Eau Claire has no established standard for service area or size for urban parks. Most of the urban parks in the City are parks that were donated to the City in the early part of the City's history and range from 1.2 acres to 2.9 acres in size.

Community Park

A community park in Eau Claire is a facility designed to provide a combination of passive and active recreational activities for the whole City. A community park should also provide a wide variety of activities so that it serves a substantial portion of the community if not all of the community. They are typically destination spots for the residents of the entire community because of either the natural amenities of the park or because of the facilities provided. A community park is larger than a neighborhood playground or park usually consisting of 75 to 150 acres or more; however, some may be substantially smaller (Phoenix Park is an example of a smaller community park.) Amenities of a community park will depend greatly on the natural features of the park and the needs of the community.

Community parks should be dispersed throughout the community; however, their location is highly dependent on the ability to secure a site large enough, which provides the natural amenities and/or physical features. Community parks may be land or water based, but should have an amenity of a large enough nature to attract residents from throughout the City. Amenities of this nature may include but would not be limited to a large group picnic area, a community swimming pool, a boat landing, a large scenic overlook or amenities of similar magnitude.

Community parks should be located on or within close proximity to collector or arterial streets to provide easy access from throughout the community. If the community park is large enough, it may also have an interior road system to provide access to various parts of the facility. Community parks should be well buffered from adjacent residential areas since they are designed to draw large numbers of people.

Eau Claire currently has nine community park areas. They range in size from Carson Park being the largest at 120.7 acres to Phoenix Park at 9.0 acres. It should be noted that although Phoenix Park does not meet the acreage criteria for a community park; it functions as such with amenities such as: the trail head facility, Farmers Market Pavilion, its scenic location along the river and labyrinth, it functions as a community park.



Traditionally, the City has not followed the specific standard relating number of acres of community parks that should be provided for a given population. Rather, the City has attempted to disperse the community parks throughout the City and incorporate unique and scenic natural resources within them. As the City continues to grow, large areas of parkland for community parks should be provided in order to maintain the quality of life that City residents currently enjoy.

Special Area Facilities

Special area facilities play an important role in fulfilling the community's needs for outdoor recreation activities. These facilities are provided for the benefit of the entire community, but because of their specialized nature have not been incorporated into a community park category. Generally, these facilities have been designed to provide one major activity on the site with secondary activities provided only if the area is of sufficient size. Although these areas may operate separately from the other parks in the City, they are an integral component of the entire park system.



Special areas may provide facilities for such activities as hockey, skiing, dog parks, scenic overlooks and/or trails. There is no national standard for the

number or the type of these facilities; rather they are developed based on local need and community interest.

Community Athletic Fields



In the past, athletic fields have traditionally been incorporated into the special area facility classification. However, it was decided during the preparation of the previous 5-year plan to separate athletic fields into its own classification due to the unique

nature of these facilities. The Eau Claire Soccer Park and Jeffers Athletic Fields are examples of this type of facility. The development of major complexes such as this provide benefits in clustering fields in one location by providing greater ease of maintenance and minimizing conflicts between various recreations uses and neighboring properties.

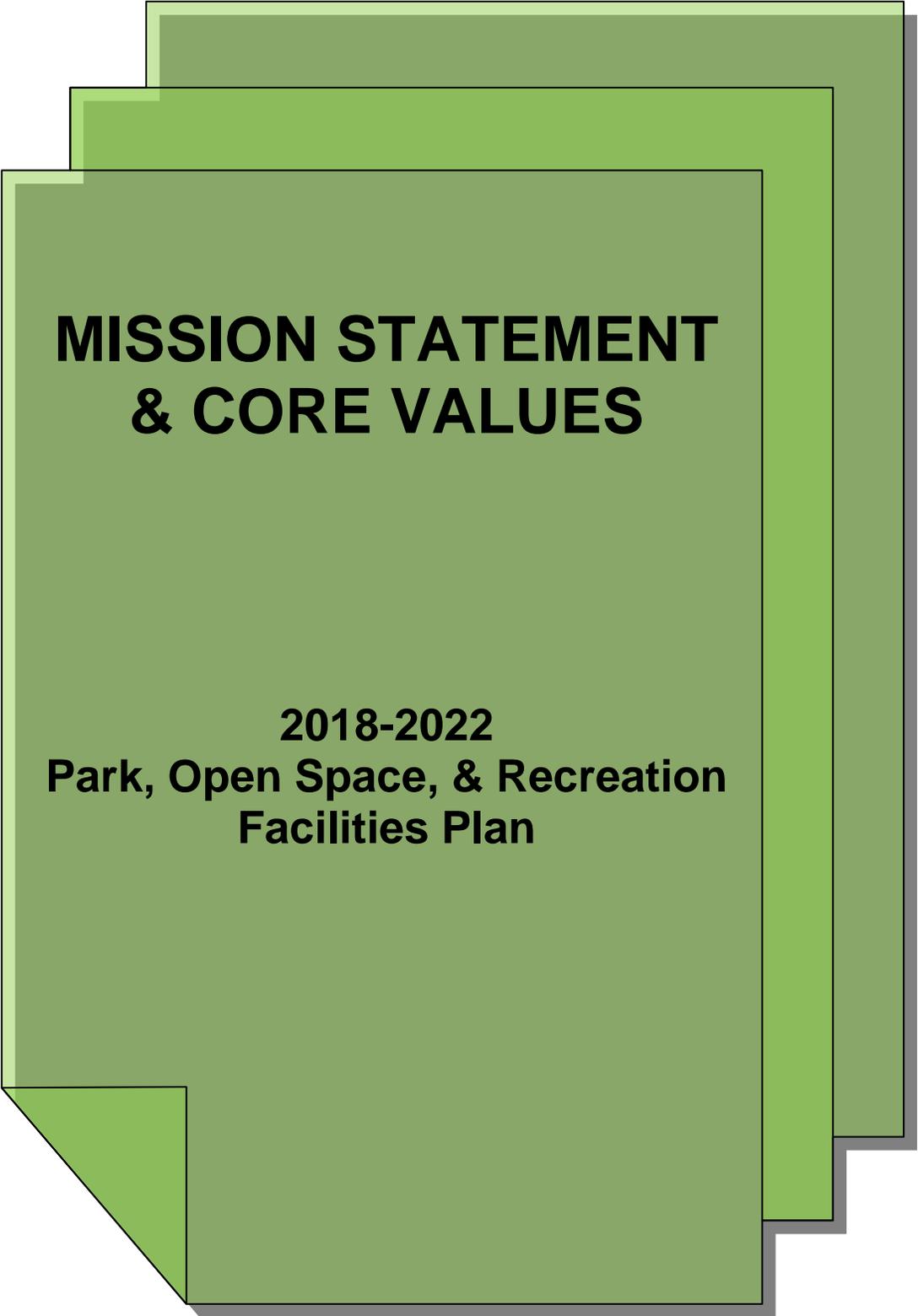
Waterfront and Parkway Areas

Waterfront and parkway areas typically are corridors of land owned by the City, which abut either a lake or river, or connect park facilities. The width of these areas may vary from 10 feet to over 100 feet, dependent on the characteristics of the site. In many cases, these corridors provide an opportunity for public access to portions of the City's waterways.

These waterfront and parkways areas may be developed with an improved trail system or be kept in its natural state depending on the location. Facilities that can be provided within these corridors include bicycle/pedestrian trails, winter trails, benches, overlooks or lookouts and small picnic areas. Parking and restroom facilities should be provided periodically along the trails.

The City does not have a specific standard for its waterfront and parkway areas. However, it should be the policy of the City that the City owns these corridors and that they are accessible to the residents of the area. Buffers between residential, commercial and other development should be maintained. The Eau Claire Waterways Plan discusses visual and physical access to the waterways in more detail.





MISSION STATEMENT & CORE VALUES

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission or vision of the Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Division is to provide exceptional park, recreation and forestry services that will enrich our citizens and visitors.

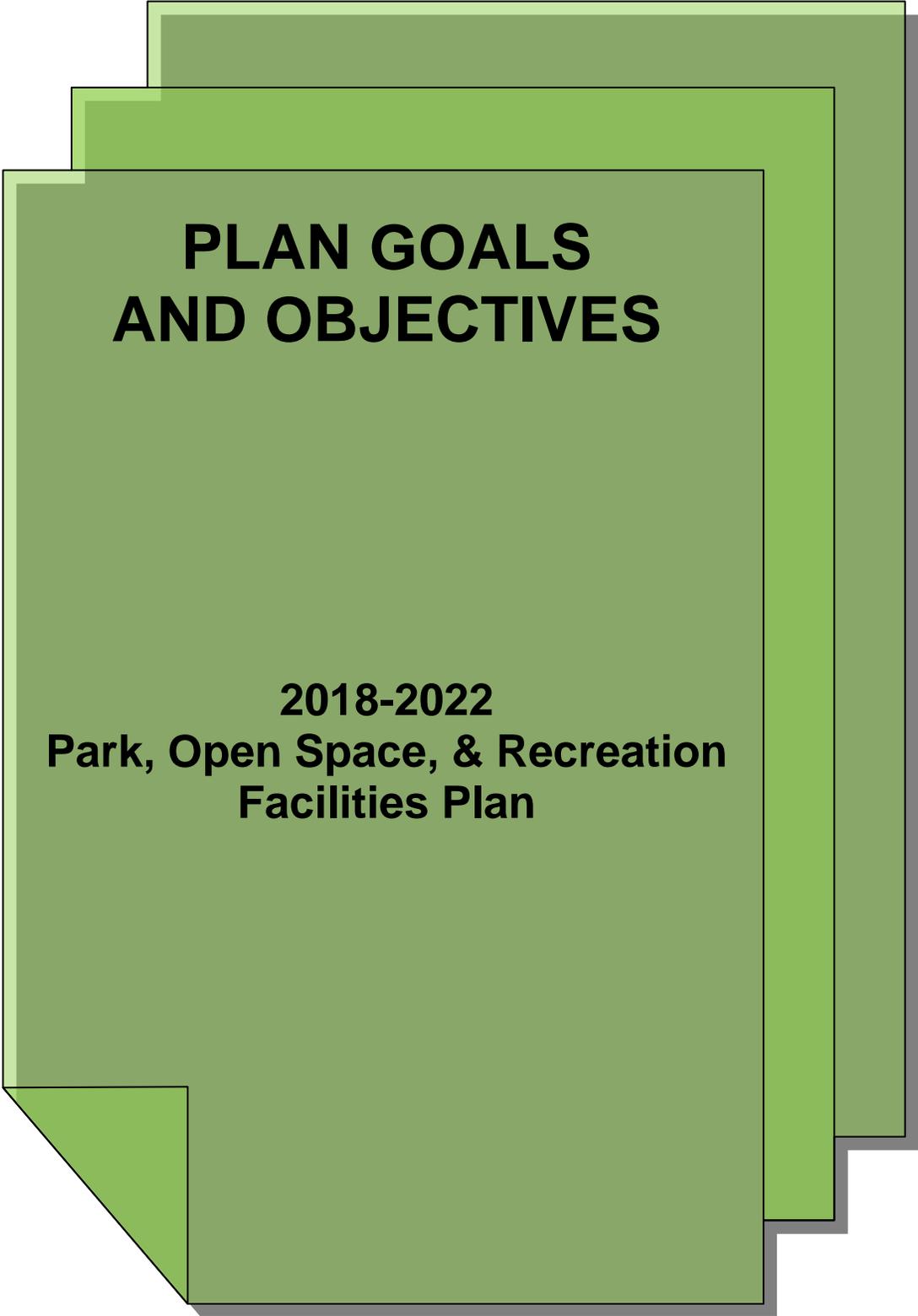
This is accomplished through:

- Maintaining effective relationships with the community.
- Being an ambassador for the City and a steward of the natural environment.
- Providing innovative organizational approaches to providing services.
- Providing qualified and professional staff to direct, supervise, and lead division objectives.
- Operating the division in the most efficient and economical manner possible.
- Providing the best balance possible between the various recreation programs and park facilities through periodic evaluation so that the widest variety of opportunities is available to the community.
- Ensuring that facilities, parks and the community urban forest are acquired, built and used in a planned and systematic manner to meet today's needs and those of the future.
- Providing safe programs and facilities for all residents.

CORE VALUES

The Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Division has established key core values as part of their strategic planning process. These core values are:

- **Accountability** – To maintain open relationships with the community.
- **Responsive** – To provide for the needs of others.
- **Ingenuity** – To be innovative and creative.
- **Professionalism** – To be qualified and prepared to work.
- **Honesty** – To be open and transparent.
- **Health** – To provide quality opportunities for physical fitness and activity.
- **Environmentalism** – To provide healthy spaces and places.
- **Security** – To enforce rules fairly and consistently.
- **Safety** – To minimize accidents.
- **Explorative** – To learn new ways to enhance services.



PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This plan sets forth the community's goals and objectives with respect to the City's parks, waterways, and open spaces. Its purpose is to formalize and describe the City's intentions regarding these areas and provides direction to the City concerning its parks, waterways, and open spaces. These goals and objectives should be used in conjunction with the goals, objectives and policies contained in the Parks Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Waterways Plan as well as the mission statement listed in the previous section.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

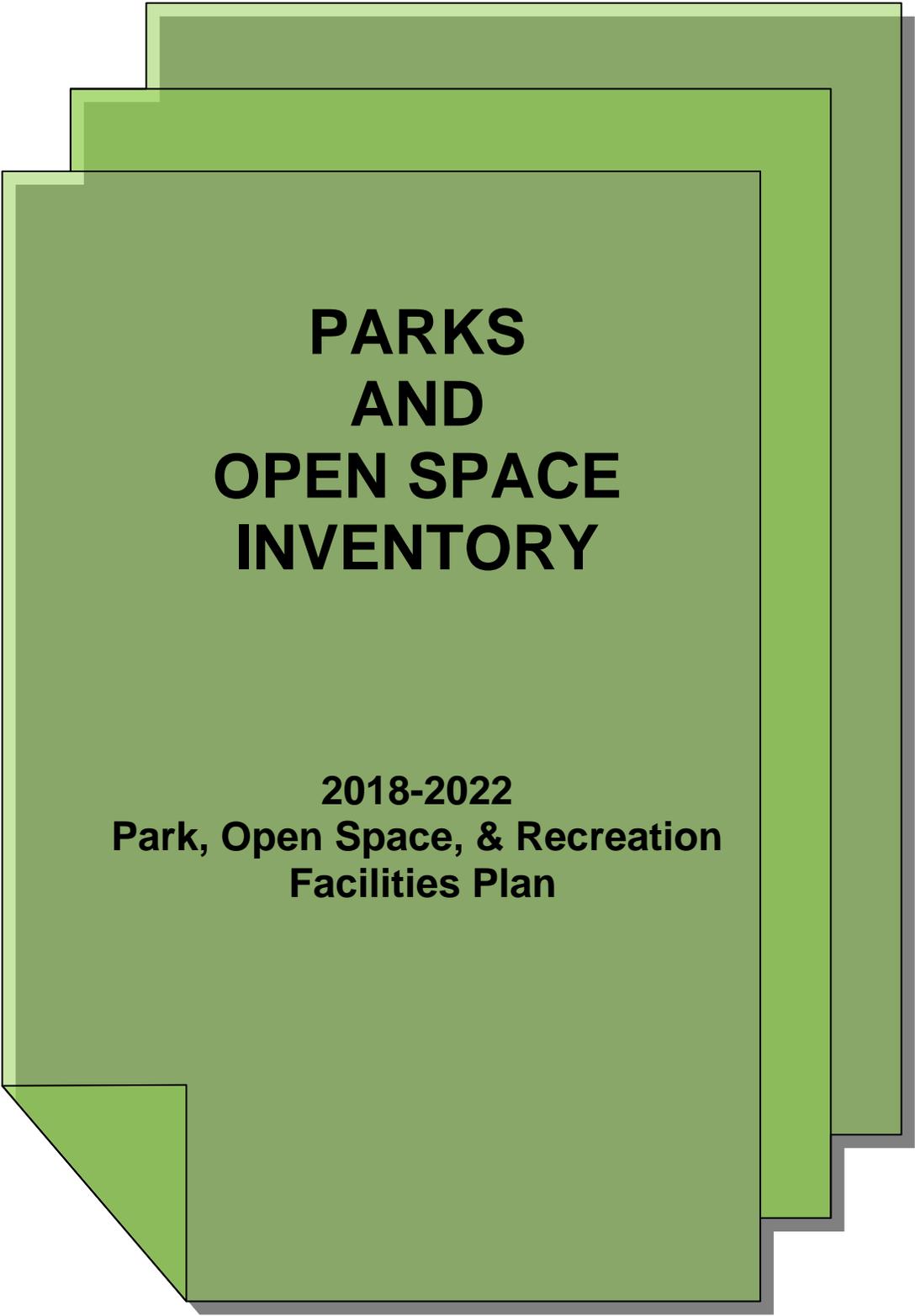
- A. Recognize and accommodate the diverse recreational needs and backgrounds of the community's population base.
 - 1. Neighborhood level recreation facilities should be made available to each household in the City at either a neighborhood park facility or through the joint use of school facilities.
 - 2. Facilities provided at neighborhood parks should reflect the needs of the particular neighborhood or user group within the service area of the park.
 - 3. Park, open space, and recreational facilities need to serve all persons regardless of age or income, and be sensitive to the needs of persons with mobility limitations through compliance with the ADA.
 - 4. The municipal park and open space standards contained within this plan should be used as flexible guidelines to determine open space and facility needs.
 - 5. Access to the parks should be improved by linking these areas with trails, bikeways, and other transportation systems, which enable more people to get to them.
 - 6. Ensure that development occurring next to parks, waterways, and open spaces is compatible with such areas and does not detract from the public's utilization of these parks and open space areas.
 - 7. Park and open spaces are well planned for selection of appropriate amenities consistent with the intended use of the space.

- B. Promote the restoration and preservation of significant and unique natural resources and amenities in the City.

1. Identify, preserve and enhance existing valuable natural areas such as wetlands, woods, hilltops, and prairies and provide for appropriate public use.
 2. Identify naturally valuable lands prior to the preparation of plans for development.
 3. Continue to work with the DNR on fish, wildlife management, and invasive species programs on Half Moon Lake and Carson Park and encourage such programs in other appropriate areas within the City.
- C. Minimize the proportion of the costs for park and open space development and maintenance borne by the City.
1. Promote the development of those parks where the benefited people donate time or money to develop the facility.
 2. Utilize local, state and federal funding sources as they become available to acquire and develop park and waterway facilities.
 3. Promote joint public-private ventures in developing park and waterway facilities.
 4. When appropriate, the park system should be planned in cooperation with the county, school district, and university to enable joint design, development, and operation of areas and facilities for the mutual good of both recreation and education programs.
 5. Consider maintenance and storage as important factors when designing park and open space facilities.
 6. Encourage the formation of “Friends” groups that can assist park improvement, maintenance or funding projects.
- D. Reserve land along the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers, Dells Pond, Half Moon Lake, and other waterways for public open space, access to these resources, and to help and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
1. Continue to acquire properties around Half Moon Lake as they become available until all lakefront property is publicly owned.
 2. Continue to acquire land along the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers and other waterway areas, which have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan and Waterways Plan where open space should eventually be provided in the form of a linear open space corridor called the greenway.

3. Continue to develop the linear system within the greenway, which provides a variety of passive and active recreational activities.
- E. Encourage greater citizen involvement in leisure time activities in the community and promote greater utilization of existing open space and park facilities.
1. Continue to provide a financial assistance program to those individuals that are financially unable to pay for the registration fees for recreation programs and facilities sponsored by the city and promote the fact that this type of assistance program is available.
 2. Continue to monitor attendance and participation levels of the programs and parks to assist in determining the need for recreational programs and facilities.
 3. Conduct periodic surveys and utilization studies in order to assess needs and deficiencies, and identify trends in programs, facilities, and services.
 4. Encourage the formation of a “Friends of the Parks” non-profit group that would be involved in the promotion of the City’s open space system.
 5. Increase public awareness of facilities and programs that are available.
 6. Encourage development that integrates pedestrian and bicycle circulation and access.
- F. Plan and acquire additional land for park, open space, and recreational facilities to accommodate the growth of the City and meet the diverse needs of its residents.
1. Seek to acquire those lands identified in the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Waterways Plan to meet the varying needs of the community.
 2. Work to identify and acquire lands needed for new playgrounds and special facilities prior to development occurring in these areas.
 3. Seek innovative ways to purchase such lands through cooperative agreements with other organizations, user groups, dedications, etc.
 4. Incorporate linear corridors as part of the open space system to connect parks and public facilities.

- G. Promote sustainable management and conservation practices to reduce energy consumption and protect and preserve the community's natural resources.
1. Incorporate the policies of the City's Sustainability Plan in the management of park, open space, and recreation facilities.
 2. Seek innovative methods to utilize green technologies to maintain the parks, opens spaces, and water resources within the City.
 3. Seek strategies to reduce energy consumption and increase efficiencies in existing buildings and equipment and in the design of new facilities.
 4. Encourage conservation methods that safeguard the natural environment within the City's parks and natural areas.



**PARKS
AND
OPEN SPACE
INVENTORY**

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

In order to assess the needs and deficiencies of the City's park and open space system, it is important to inventory not only the existing facilities provided by the City, but facilities provided by others if available to the residents of the city. A total of 1,579.2 acres of public park and open space land exists within the City of Eau Claire.

The park and open space areas are primarily provided by three entities: the City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire School District, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. These lands are a combination of municipal parks, school grounds, University recreation areas, nature areas, and many specialized recreation uses. The division of acreage by type of facility and ownership is summarized in Table 2.



Table 2
Existing Park and Open Space Acreage

Municipal		<u>Acres</u>	<u>Total (acres)</u>
	Neighborhood Parks	97.6	
	Urban Parks	10.6	
	Community Parks	519.3	
	Special Areas	276.4	
	Community Athletic Fields	75.8	
	Waterfront and Parkway Areas	147.2	
			1,126.9
Eau Claire School District	Neighborhood School Open Space	83.7	
	Middle School and High School	146.7	
			230.4
University of WI - Eau Claire	Putnam Park	172.5	
	Athletic Field Areas	49.4	
			221.9
TOTAL			1,579.2

Municipal Park and Open Space

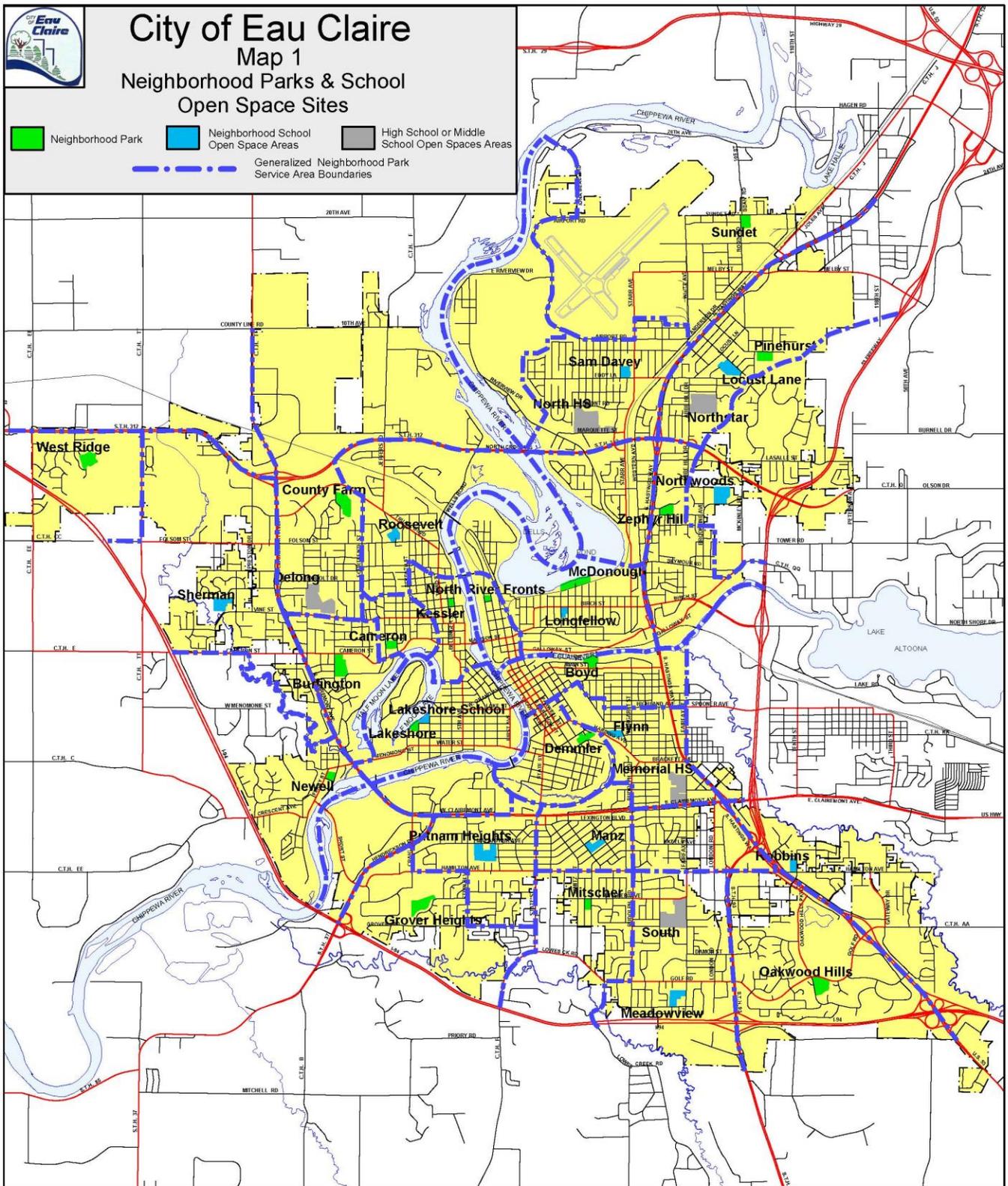
The City of Eau Claire owns approximately 1,127 acres of park and open space areas. This is an increase of approximately 483 acres since 1993. This increase is primarily attributable to the acquisition of the two new community park sites (Northwest and Otter Creek Community Parks), the acquisition and development of the Eau Claire Soccer Fields located on East Hamilton Avenue, the Jeffers Road athletic fields, several new neighborhood parks such as Sundet, County Farm, and Westridge, the acquisition of land along the City’s waterways, and the donation of the Keys property.

A listing of the City’s facilities by functional classification is provided in Table 3. Maps 1 through 4 illustrate the location of the sites. Finally, Appendix A identifies the specific types of facilities that are provided at each site. Table 4 provides an inventory of the segments of the City’s recreational trail by length.

Table 3

Classification of Eau Claire’s Park and Open Space Sites

Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Neighborhood Park	Boyd	7.2	
	Buffington	11.7	
	Cameron	3.4	
	County Farm	10.4	
	Demmler	3.9	
	Grover Heights	8.9	
	Kessler	1.9	
	Lakeshore	2.8	
	McDonough	8.6	
	Mitscher	2.9	
	Newell	3.0	
	North River Fronts	1.5	
	Oakwood Hills	9.9	
	Pinehurst	5.5	
	Sundet	3.3	
Westridge	7.5		
Zephyr Hill	5.2	97.6 acres	



Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Urban Park	Jaycette	2.0	
	Randall Park	2.9	
	State Street/MacArthur	1.2	
	University Park	1.3	
	Wilson Park	1.6	
	Wold Court	1.6	10.6 acres

Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Community Park	Carson Park	120.7	
	Fairfax Park	74.4	
	Mount Simon	71.9	
	NW Community Park	109.2	
	Otter Creek Community Park	60.7	
	Owen Park	17.1	
	Phoenix Park	9.0	
	Riverview Park	27.5	
	Rod and Gun Park	28.8	519.3 acres

Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Special Areas	Archery Park	7.9	
	Carson Park Causeway	.2	
	Cannery Park	16.5	
	Dog Park – Otter Creek	9.4	
	Dog Park –Sundet	9.5	
	Domer Park	6.5	
	Ferry Street	11.8	
	Forest Street	16.8	
	Half Moon Beach & Bayview	4.1	
	Haymarket Plaza	1.0	
	Hobb’s Landing	2.4	
	Kappus Park	3.9	
	Keyes Park	90.0	
	Mount Tom	20.2	
	Mount Washington	4.4	
	Pinehurst	53.4	
	Shale Pit	11.3	
Veterans Park	7.1	276.4 acres	

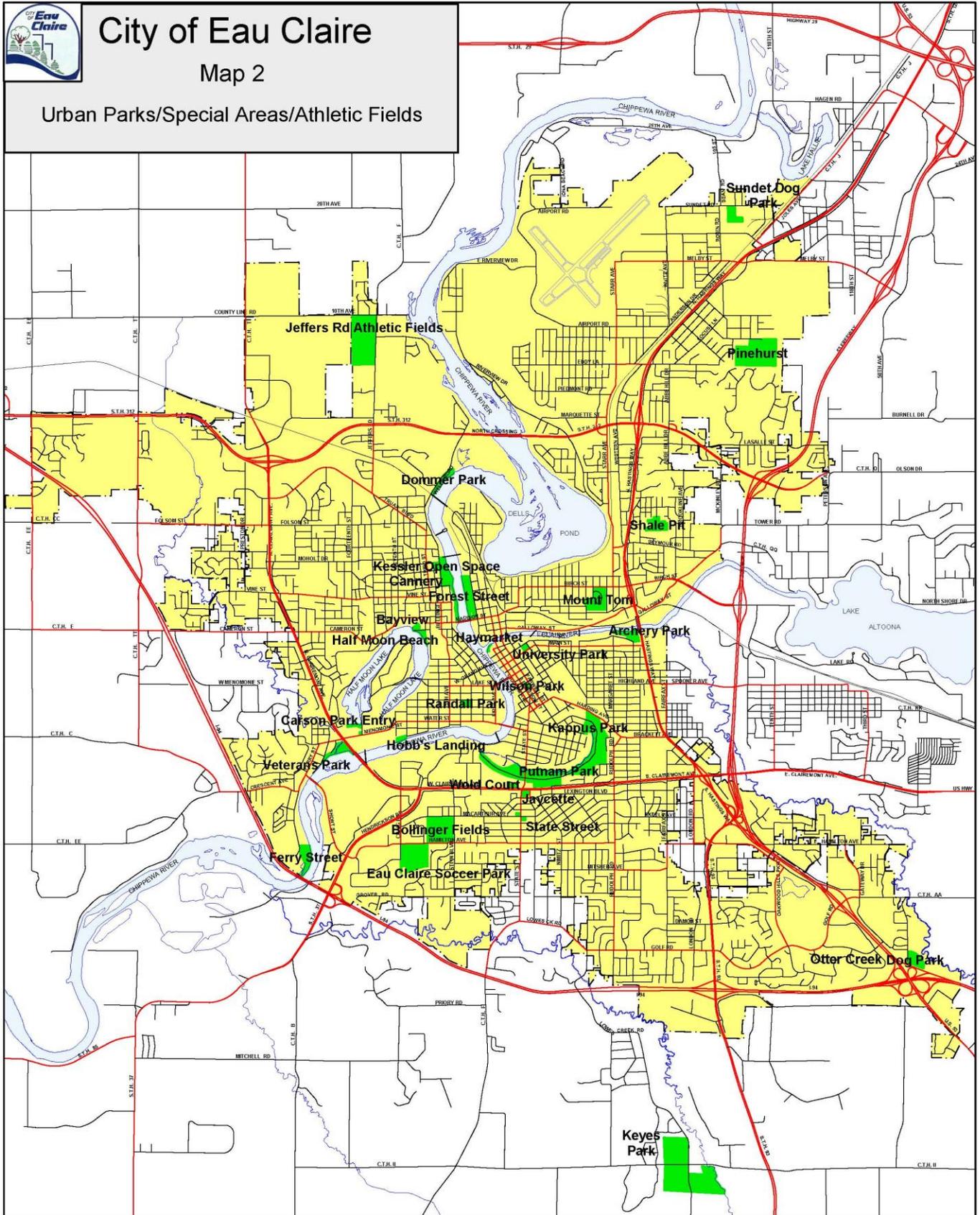
Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Community Athletic Field	Eau Claire Soccer Park	35.8	
	Jeffers Road Athletic Fields	40.0	75.8 acres



City of Eau Claire

Map 2

Urban Parks/Special Areas/Athletic Fields

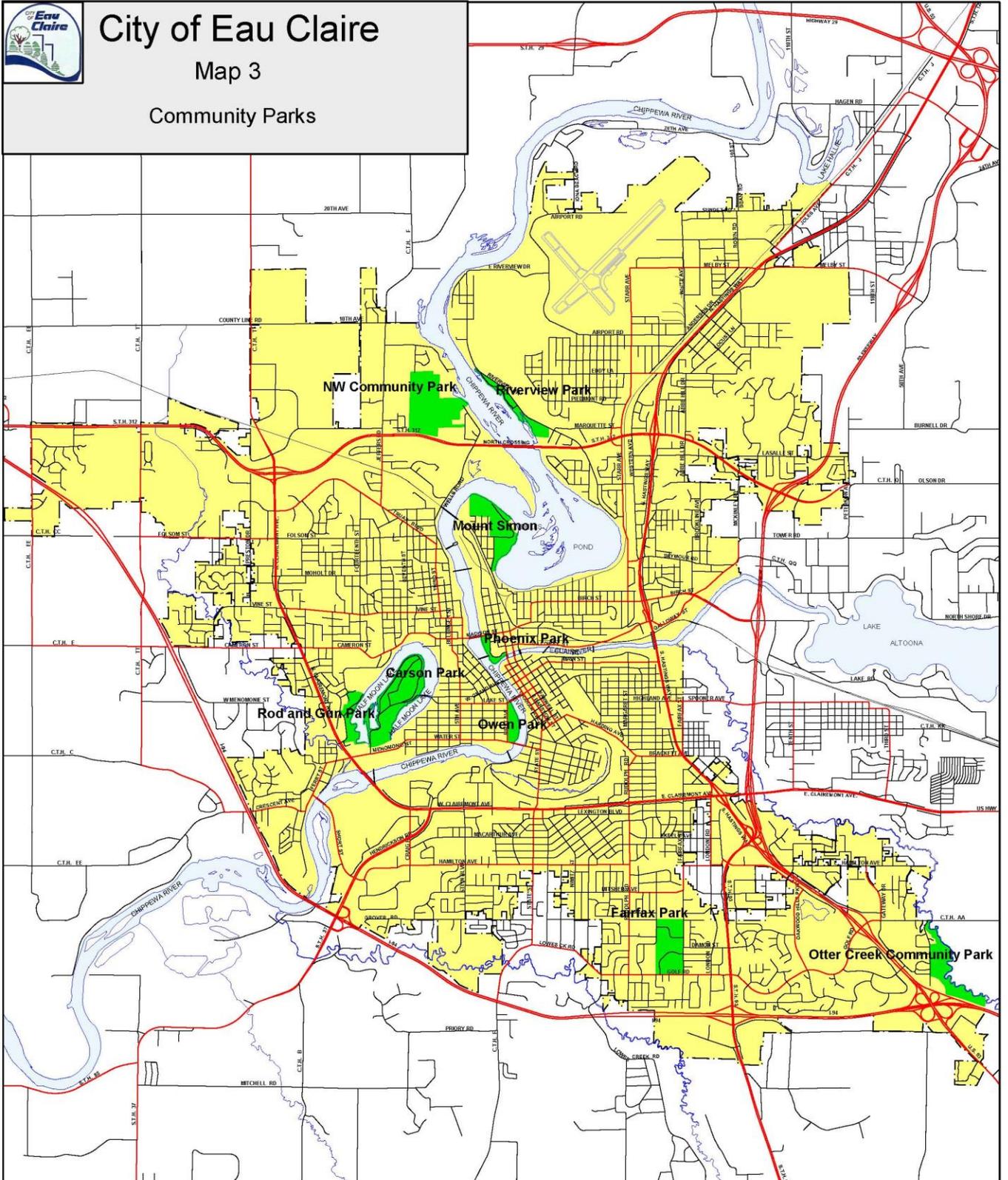




City of Eau Claire

Map 3

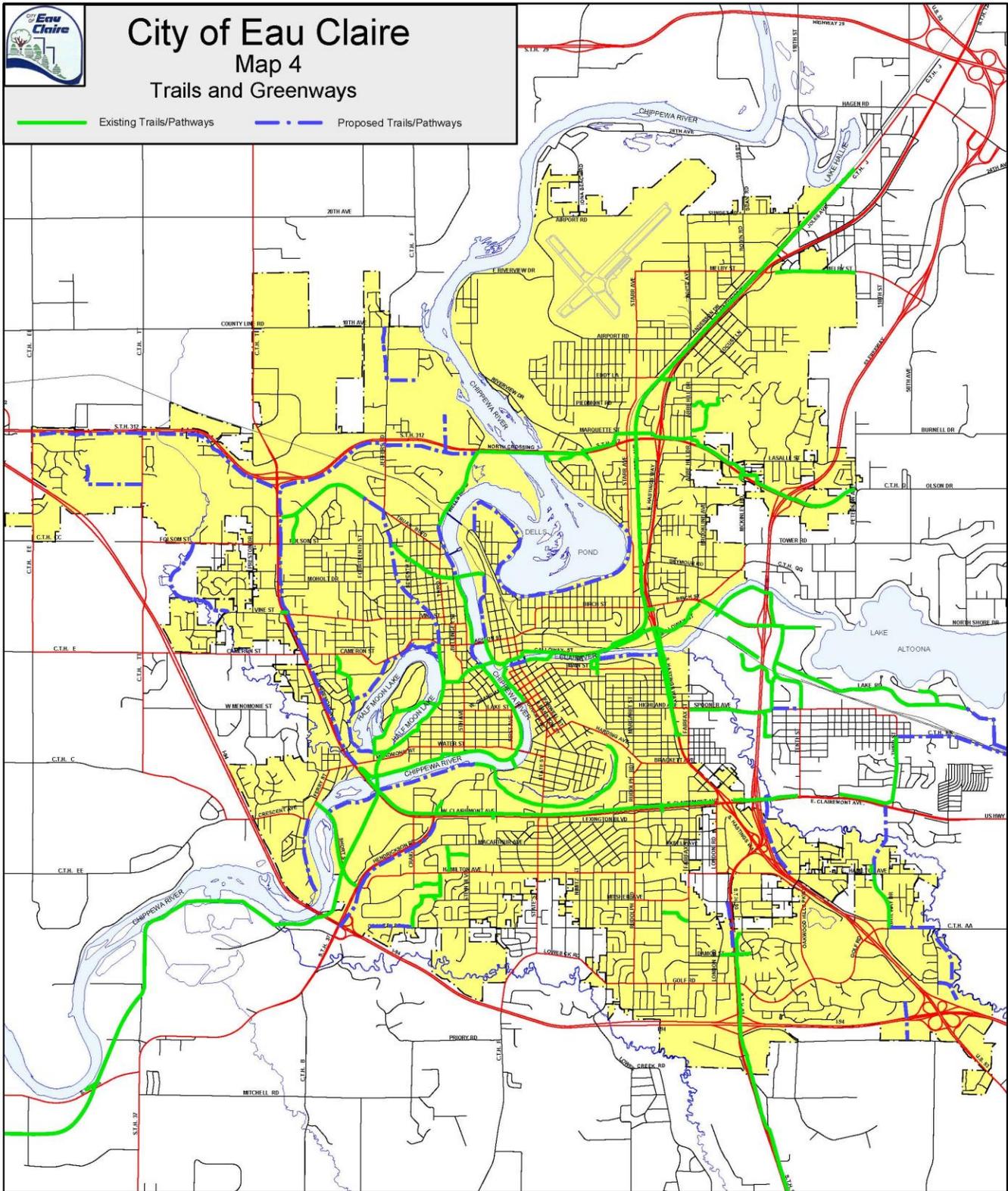
Community Parks



Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Waterfront & Parkway Areas	Thorpe Drive	0.8	
	Graham Ave. (E. Lake to E. Grand)	0.9	
	Graham Ave. (E. Grand to Eau Claire St.)	0.7	
	Farmers Store Park	0.2	
	Library (Farwell to Dewey)	0.2	
	Chamber Building(Farwell to Dewey)	0.3	
	NW Corner of Half Moon Lake	2.1	
	SE Shoreline of Dells Pond	8.0	
	SW Shoreline of Dells Pond	14.1	
	EC River (Boyd Park to Archery Park)	7.2	
	EC River/Trail – northside (N. Dewey to Eddy St.)	36.9	
	EC River – southside (S. Dewey to S-Bridge)	2.5	
	Old Wells Rd. (Folsom to North Crossing)	1.3	
	West Side RR (Cameron to Folsom)	11.5	
	1 st Ave. (Fulton to W. Grand)	3.0	
	1 st Ave. (W. Grand to W. Lake)	1.2	
	Trail System - Chippewa River (Water St. to Clairemont Ave.)	9.7	
	Trail System (Clairemont Ave. to S City Limits)	21.8	
	Trail System - east side Half Moon (Menomonie St. to Cameron St.)	14.0	
	High Bridge to Folsom St.	9.2	
	Trail System (Whipple to 1 st Ave.)	1.6	147.2

**Table 4
Trail Segments – Length**

Section Description	Length/Feet	
Chippewa River – Phoenix Trailhead to 5 th Ave.	9,113	
Chippewa River – 5 th Ave to RR Bridge	4,473	
Chippewa River – RR Bridge to South City Limits	4,512	
Half Moon Lake – RR Bridge to Lake St	4,667	
Half Moon Lake – Lake St to 1 st Ave	3,358	
Half Moon Lake – Fulton to Cameron St	1,834	
Phoenix Park – RR Bridge to Madison St	1,185	
Eau Claire River – Trailhead East to S Bridge	2,388	
Eau Claire River – S Bridge to Crossing of Galloway St	2,825	
Galloway St – North to North Crossing	11,321	
North Crossing to North City Limits	17,292	
South Side of Galloway St to River Prairie Crossing	5,853	
Boyd Bridge and Park Area	2,062	
Dewey St East to East of S Bridge	1,571	
Downtown – East Bank and Grand Ave Bridge	2,464	
UWEC Pedestrian Bridge	566	
Carson Park – Menomonie St to Causeway	5,157	
Buffington Playground to Rod and Gun Park	2,693	
Short Street Bridge	795	
Clairemont Ave – RR Bridge to Craig Rd	4,419	
Clairemont Ave – Craig Rd to S Hastings Way	14,253	
Clairemont Ave – S Hastings Way to East City Limits	651	
Hwy. 93 – Damon St	8,492	
Gateway Dr – Golf Rd to E Hamilton Ave	2,745	
Vine St Underpass	374	
Truax Blvd – N Clairemont to 14 th	4,561	
Epiphany Ln	1,449	
Old Wells Rd – Garden St to North Crossing	4,041	
North Crossing – Old Wells Rd to N Hastings Way	8,151	
North Crossing – N Hastings Way to East City Limits	12,632	
North Star Middle School Neigh Connections	3,353	
Bollinger Fields – Eau Claire Soccer Park Connections	5,463	
South Middle School Neigh Connections	1,392	
S Hastings Way – Eau Claire River to Fenwick Ave	9,371	
Short St – Chippewa River to Hwy 37	3,880	
Eastside of High Bridge to Folsom St	4,950	
Cannery District riverfront – Madison St to High Bridge	3,420	
Melby St – Hastings Way to east city limits	3,975	
TOTAL	181,701	34.41 miles
Putnam Park – Garfield Ave to Putnam Dr.	9,371	



School District Open Space

The Eau Claire School District provides approximately 230 acres of recreational open space at 19 locations within the City of Eau Claire (see Map 5). These areas provide a wide range of facilities including: playground equipment at the elementary schools, tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball, football, and soccer fields, running tracks, large open play areas, etc. In addition, the School District and City have entered into a number of cooperative agreements, which enable the City to utilize various school sites for City-sponsored outdoor recreational activities and events. For example, several of the sites are utilized by the City for their summer playground program and for the winter skating facilities and thus serve as neighborhood parks within the City. They also provide additional open space and play area for the neighborhoods in which they are located.

The size of the open space areas at the school sites within the City is summarized below in Table 5. The City maintains a playground area and operates a summer playground program or operates a skating facility in the winter at several of these sites. Appendix A identifies the specific facilities and activities available at each of these sites.

Table 5

Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
School Sites	Davey	3.6	
	Flynn	5.2	
	Lakeshore	2.7	
	Locust Lane	9.5	
	Longfellow	2.5	
	Meadowview	5.0	
	Manz	6.0	
	McKinley	2.2	
	Montessori	1.4	
	Northwoods	14.0	
	Putnam Heights	13.4	
	Robbins	5.7	
	Roosevelt	4.5	
	Sherman	8.0	
	Delong Middle School	28.9	
	Northstar Middle School	41.1	
	South Middle School	28.0	
	Memorial High School	19.0	
	North High School	29.7	230.4

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire owns or leases approximately 221.9 acres of land, which is used for a variety of outdoor recreational activities for its students and the general public. The largest of the University's properties is Putnam Park. Putnam Park is a 172.5-acre tract of heavily forested land, which has primarily been kept in its natural state. It serves as a natural and wildlife and scenic area for the City of Eau Claire and as a natural arboretum for the University's research and study programs.

The park was donated to the City in 1909 with the provision that it is kept in a natural state. In 1957 the City deeded the property to the then, State Teachers College, now UW-EC. In order to maintain community ties, a Park Commission composed of City and University representatives, subject to the Chancellor's approval, administers the park. A major portion of the park has been declared a scientific interest area.

A self-guiding trail has been built through part of the park and is a valuable resource for nature lovers. Along the trail, and throughout the park, over 400 species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants may be found. Various animal life also has discovered this sanctuary in the middle of the City.



The University also owns or leases three sites totaling approximately 49.4 acres, which are developed for active recreational activities, such as softball, tennis, and basketball. Two of these sites which total 12.6 acres are located on the upper campus area and include: Simpson Field, which is located southeast of

McPhee Physical Education Center and ball field facilities north of Sacred Heart Hospital.

The remaining area owned by the University is a 36.8-acre tract of land called Bollinger Field, which is located north of Hamilton Avenue and west of Stein Boulevard. This athletic field complex has been developed for baseball, softball,

and soccer. The City of Eau Claire has entered into a cooperative agreement with the University for utilization of the fields for city-sponsored leagues.

State and County Park and Open Space Facilities

There are a number of parks and open space areas in the vicinity of Eau Claire that should also be considered in the planning process for the City's park system. These parks are summarized below in Table 5 along with the facilities developed at each site. Although not included in the acreage summary of parks within the

City, these areas are regularly utilized by residents of the City.



Due to their larger size they offer a variety of amenities and recreational activities, while at the same time maintaining a very natural and wild environment, which generally can't be provided within any of the more urban parks with the possible exception of Carson Park and Mt. Simon Recreational Area.

Facilities commonly provided

include: camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, nature trails, etc. As noted in the introductory section, a detailed listing of open space facilities is contained in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Table 6

State and County Parks Near Eau Claire

NAME OF PARK	FACILITIES																		
	Camping	Nature Trails	Snowmobiling	Picnicking	Picnic Shelters	Swimming	Canoeing	Boating	Water Skiing	Fishing	Boat Landing	Playground	Drinking Water	Cross Country Skiing	Concessions	Pit Toilets	Flush Toilets	Fitness Trail	Disc Golf
Big Falls Co. Park				●			●			●						●			
Coon Fork Co. Park	●	●		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●		●	●		
Harstad Co. Park	●			●	●		●			●	●	●				●			
Lake Altoona Co. Park		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			●		
Lake Eau Claire Co. Park			●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●				●			
Phillips Co. Park		●		●	●					●				●		●			
Lowes Creek Co. Park				●	●					●			●	●		●		●	
Beaver Creek Reserve	●	●								●			●	●			●	●	
Tower Ridge Co. Ski Trail		●											●		●				●
Lake Wissota State Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



**PARK
AND
OPEN SPACE
PROJECTS**

**2018-2022
Park, Open Space, & Recreation
Facilities Plan**

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

This section sets forth the listing of projects that address deficiencies and needs in the City's park and open space system. It is based on the City's Comprehensive Plan and a detailed review of the current conditions of existing park and open space areas and their facilities. The trends, policies, standards, and background information contained in this plan were also considered in this process.



It is important to emphasize that the actual timing of these projects is dependent upon a number of factors, including:

- the availability of funding from the City's general fund on a year to year basis;
- the availability of grant funds for particular projects;
- the timing of other capital improvement projects in the vicinity of a park facility;
- the timing and availability of private fund raising efforts for projects;
- changes in recreational demands and needs of the community;
- opportunities to consolidate the bidding of projects or materials in an effort to reduce unit costs.

The priority and completion time-frame for the projects will be evaluated each year using these factors as the City prepares its annual 5-Year Capital Improvement Program.

2018-2022 LISTING OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

FACILITY	PROJECT
Archery Park	Improve entrance and pedestrian access to and along river
Archery Park	Provide kayak accessibility to river
Archery Park	Rename park
Bollinger Fields	Consider additional softball field size changes for Bollinger Fields
Boyd Park	Construct skate park facility
Boyd Park	Create viewing points along the river
Boyd Park	Consider community garden
Cameron	Remove perimeter fence
Cameron	Consider community garden
Cannery Area	Implement improvements listed in master plan
Carson Park	Construct restroom at Birch Pavilion (or structure to house porta facilities & garbage)
Carson Park	Improve steps from Birch Pavilion area to tennis courts
Carson Park	Storm sewer improvements – east of tennis courts
Carson Park	Pave parking lot east of football field near Hobbs softball field
Carson Park	Resurface trails
Carson Park	Install canopy between football team rooms & concession stand
Carson Park	Pave service drive to Birch Pavilion (part of causeway project)
Carson Park	Replace bleachers at baseball field stadium
Carson Park	Replace bleachers at Gelein Field
Carson Park	Upgrade Pine Pavilion
Carson Park	Football seating replacement and press box replacement
Carson Park	Erosion control improvements by main playground
Carson Park	Install restroom and garbage enclosure at Braun’s Bay
Carson Park	Replace restroom by main playground facility
Carson Park	Study possible reconfiguration of the athletic fields (football, softball, other amenities)
Carson Park	Install curb and gutter on streets as they are reconstructed
Carson Park	Restore masonry/brick entrance and lighting to original/historic design
City Wells Area	Develop nature/interpretive trail throughout wells area
Demmler	Add security lighting
Demmler	Improve parking surface
Eau Claire Dog Park	Light the perimeter trail
Eau Claire Riverfront	Resolve issues related to the cave east of Dewey Street
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Add security lighting
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Add lighting to some fields
Fairfax Park	Install traffic calming measures on roads for summer use
Fairfax Park	Install lighting for baseball fields
Fairfax Park/Pool	Pave remaining portion (west) of parking lot
Fairfax Park/Pool	Develop area south of pool along Golf Road
Fairfax Park/Pool	Add paved pathways/sidewalks for improved access to pool entrance
Fairfax Park/Pool	Construct large pavilion

Fairfax Park/Pool	Install new park signage system including entrance signs
Fairfax Park/Pool	Extend irrigation system in lawn areas
Fairfax Park/Pool	Replace water slide
Fairfax Park/Pool	Add water amenities (lilly pad walk, etc.)
Fairfax Park/Pool	Replace pool controllers and chemical feeder system
Fairfax Park/Pool	Develop picnic area
Fairfax Park/Pool	Replace pool vacuum system
Fairfax Park/Pool	Install additional shade features
Fairfax Park/Pool	Replace exterior and overhead doors on maintenance building
Fairfax Park/Pool	Install street lighting on north road/parking lot
Fairfax Park/Pool	Renovate or replace the concession stand
Fairfax Park/Pool	Paint pool (undertaken every five years)
Fairfax Park/Pool	Replace lifeguard stands and three meter diving structure
Ferry Street	Develop a master plan for the area
Ferry Street	Develop a boat landing
Ferry Street	Develop dog park
Ferry Street	Install restroom facility
Forest Street Area	Construct trail along the river & through green space
Forest Street Area	Develop Veteran's Tribute Walk
Galloway St Open Space	Develop canoe launch at old City brush site along the Eau Claire River
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Access with recreational trail
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Add security lighting
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Pave the parking lot & boat launch
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Establish a drainage system for the parking lot
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Install erosion control on shoreline of Bayview Park
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Open beach, add lifeguards, concessions
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Make ADA accessible
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Install new dock
Half Moon Lake	Continue to implement water quality improvement program
Half Moon Lake	Study feasibility of constructing a nature/interpretive center at south end of lake
Haymarket Plaza	Implement improvements listed in master plan
Haymarket Plaza	Construct bridge over Eau Claire River to Phoenix Park
Hobbs Arena	Replace dasher boards and glass at Akervik Rink
Hobbs Arena	Install additional signage for the facility
Hobbs Arena	Replace water heaters with solar hot water
Hobbs Arena	Replace floor in Akervik Rink

Hobbs Arena	Develop plan for mechanical room and locker room addition
Hobbs Arena	Install dryland training area
Hobbs Arena	Paint beams in both rinks
Hobbs Arena	Install rubber floor in O'Brien Rink
Hobbs Arena	Replace desiccant wheels for HVAC system
Hobbs Arena	Replace roofing over O'Brien and Akervik Rinks
Hobbs Arena	Replace carpeting and skate flooring in all traffic areas, locker rooms, etc.
Hobbs Arena	Replace refrigeration pump in O'Brien Rink and phase out R22 refrigeration
Hobbs Arena	Replace facility lighting with LED style fixtures
Hobbs Arena	Replace bleachers within both rinks
Hobbs Arena	Conduct an analysis of the refrigeration/HVAC/Plumbing/Structural systems
Jaycette	Pave parking lot
Jeffers Rd Fields	Develop 5K trail around perimeter of complex
Jeffers Rd Fields	Light ball fields
Kessler	Replace backstop
Kessler	Create off-street parking lot
Keyes Property	Develop master plan for the park (possible archery range should be considered)
McDonough	Wildlife viewing signage & area
McDonough	Improve vistas for Dells Pond
McDonough	Improve police patrol opportunities with improved lighting, etc.
McDonough	Pave parking lot and entrance road to parking
McDonough	Develop adult fitness area and develop conceptual plan for active aging amenities
McDonough	Develop trail east along Dells Pond to VFW area
McDonough	Install drinking fountain and restroom by pickleball courts
McDonough	Construct storage building and open pavilion
Mitscher	Asphalt or eliminate parking area
Mount Simon	Pave lower parking lot & boat launch
Mount Simon	Take out backstop-change over to green space
Mount Simon	Acquire the two remaining homes
Mount Simon	Metal light poles – at Babe Ruth fields
Mount Simon	Pave road to upper picnic area overlooking Dells Pond
Mount Simon	Install restroom & garbage enclosure in lower portion of park
Northwest Community	Acquire property along the river on the north side (Meyers property)
Northwest Community	Continue work on improvements to the winter sports facilities
Northwest Community	Construct pathway along Daisy Lane to connect to park.
Northwest Community	Construct parking lot east of Daisy Lane
Northwest Community	Construct a restroom facility
Northwest Community	Construct picnic pavilion
Otter Creek	Develop trails within park
Otter Creek	Implement Phase 1 of master plan
Otter Creek	Acquire land east of Otter Creek
Owen Park	Recondition wells (on-going project)

Owen Park	Continue to implement master plan
Owen Park	Construct new restroom building & pavilion
Owen Park	Replace roof of old restroom & convert to storage
Owen Park	Acquire property west of park for additional parking or open space
Phoenix Park	Install park entrance sign on the north side of park
Phoenix Park	Install additional bicycle racks
Phoenix Park	Consider ice rink at Farmer's Market Pavilion
Phoenix Park	Add year-round restroom and skate changing facility
Phoenix Park	Complete the installation of the history walk markers
Pinehurst	Continue to improve sledding, skating, & snowboarding facilities
Pinehurst	Install new tow rope in partnership with Outdoor More
Pinehurst	Study feasibility of constructing a roof covering the skating rink
Pinehurst	Add lighting of the hill and other areas
Princeton Valley	Acquire property for park space/land
Putnam Heights	Pave the road & the parking lot
Randall Park	Replace the broken concrete in the center plaza
Randall Park	Rehab the Adin Randall statue
Recreational Trail	Resurface all trails as needed
Recreational Trail	Extend/connect with west, northwest, & southwest parts of the City
Recreational Trail	Resurface trail through the Water Street area & stabilize/rebuild retaining walls
Recreational Trail	Develop river overlook at Menomonie St. & 5th Ave.
Recreational Trail	Construct trail from Half Moon Beach/Montessori School to Roosevelt School
Recreational Trail	Improve views of the waterways at existing overlooks
Recreational Trail	Construct trail from high bridge south to Phoenix Park along east side of river that could incorporate the Veteran's Tribute
Recreational Trail	Construct trail from Madison St south to First Ave along west side of river
Recreational Trail	Connection from Carson Park west to Rod and Gun Park
Recreational Trail	Connection from north beach area to Rod and Gun Park
Recreational Trail	Construct trail connection from Lake St north to Haymarket Plaza
Recreational Trail	Study feasibility of extending the trail east of South Hastings Way along the south side of the Eau Claire River
Recreational Trail	Construct trail from S. Barstow St past library to S. Dewey St.
Recreational Trail	Extend trail along Jeffers Road to connect Jeffers Road Fields and the Northwest Community Park
Recreational Trail	Study the feasibility of trail connections and park space north of Harding Avenue, south of Forest Hill Cemetery and west of the Flynn School
Riverview Park	Replace picnic shelter on the island
Riverview Park	Develop area for use between the boat landing and Lions Pavilion
Riverview Park	Develop master plan for the park
Riverview Park	Increase parking for boat launches
Rod & Gun Park	Implement final phase of master plan
Rod & Gun Park	Continue to make improvements to picnic shelter
Roosevelt Area	Develop master plan for relocation of park facilities south of current location
Shale Pit Area	Remove debris piles & re-grade fill piles

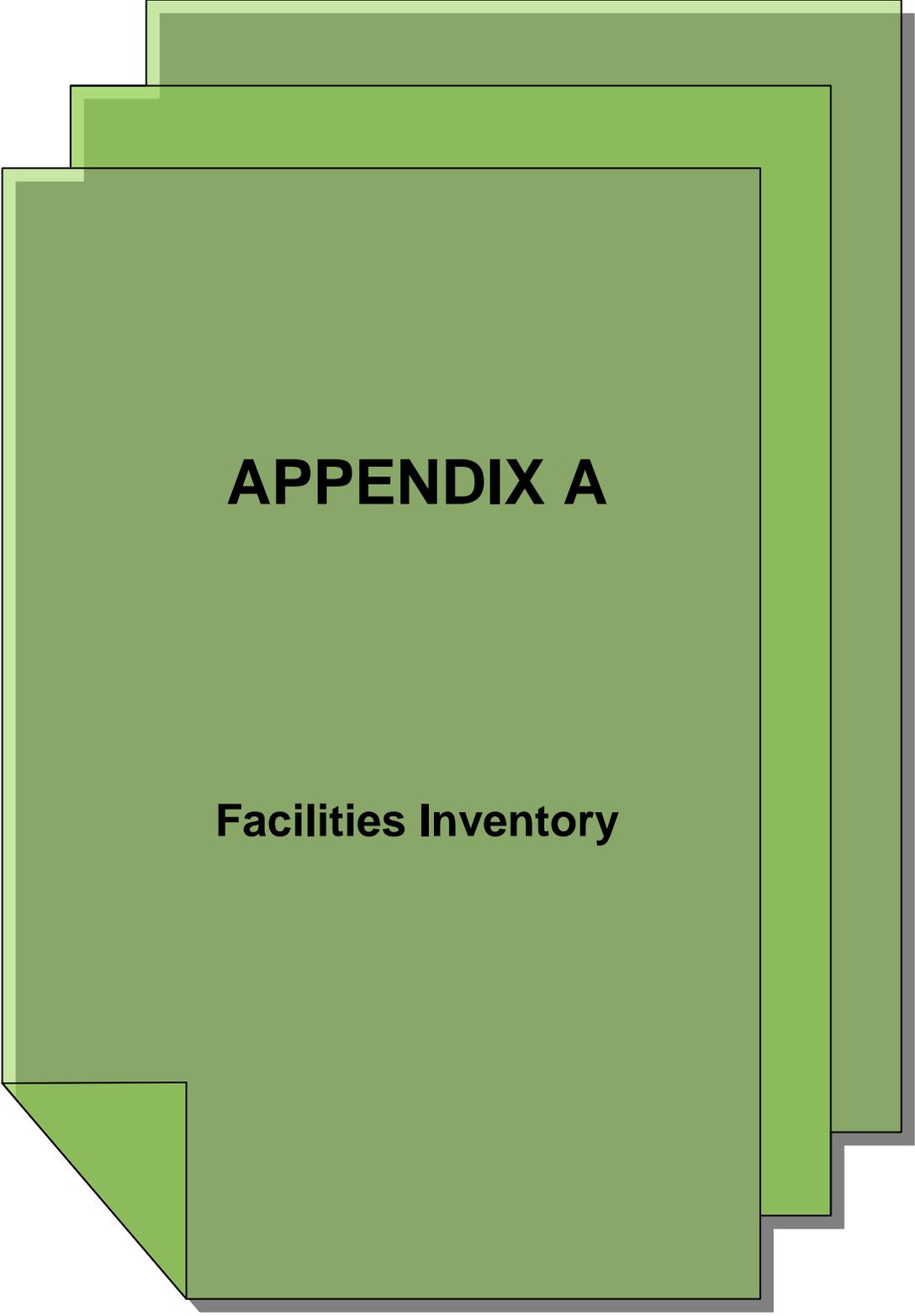
Shale Pit Area	Consider renaming the area
Sundet Park	Develop dog park
Veterans Park	Install a sign
Westridge Park	Repair trails and bridges
Zephyr Hill	Pave parking lot

OTHER LAND ACQUISITIONS/PROJECTS NOT LISTED ABOVE

Acquire houses southeast of hockey rink at Roosevelt Playground
Acquire land south of Folsom Street and Roosevelt School to relocate playground
Acquire land for trail on south side of Chippewa River (University property west to Clairemont Ave.)
Acquire remaining two residential properties abutting lower Mount Simon Park area
Eau Claire River & Lowes Creek shoreline
Half Moon Lake shoreline – land acquisition or easement
Neighborhood Park/Playground – East Hamilton/Otter Creek area
Neighborhood Park/Playground – Northwoods School/Princeton Valley area
Neighborhood Park/Playground – Sherman School Area
Neighborhood Park/Playground – Taft/Kay area
Properties east of First Ave./Fulton to Randall St.
Multi-purpose field – land acquisition
Kubb Fields -Develop an area to accommodate the game of Kubb
Develop a splash pad area at one of the community parks or special area locations
Develop a second brush site area on the south side of the City
Add kayak/canoe launch areas along the waterways
Continue collaborative work with both the School District to have utilization of gym and pool facilities and UWEC in continuing to develop and improve athletic facilities and managing shared facilities
Redeck and make improvements to the Grand Avenue pedestrian bridge
Construct pathway and open space improvements as part of the Sonnentag development
Install decorative lighting on pedestrian bridges (Haymarket Bridge, and Grand Ave. bridge)

OTHER SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Improve lighting at parks/trails to increase use during winter
Improve views & safe access to rivers & lakes whenever possible
Create connections to the State trail system from neighborhoods
Create trails that move people to/from living centers & not just reusing old rail corridors (safe routes to schools & parks)
Encourage neighborhoods to use parks & other green spaces such as gardens with educational components (signs, classes, demonstrations)
Continue to implement park signage master plan
Provide infrastructure for new community gardens
Create additional vistas along the waterways as outlined in Waterway Plan
Continue to replace aging playground equipment and play courts
Install security and surveillance camera systems
Develop a vegetation control plan to address the control and removal of invasive vegetation
Encourage sustainable and conservation practices during facility planning and the development of facilities
Study the feasibility of developing smaller-scale dog parks in the vicinity of Downtown



APPENDIX A

Facilities Inventory

Neighborhood Parks

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Biking (Off-road)	Boat Launch/Canoe/kayak	Concession Stand	Fishing	Flower Garden	Football	Garden Plot	Hockey - Boarded Rink	Hockey - Snowbanked Rink	Ice Skating	Nature Trails	Parking Lot	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Recreational Field Area	Scenic Views	Skate Plaza	Ski Trails	Shelter House	Sliding Hill	Soccer	Softball/Little League Field	Swimming	Tennis Courts/Pickleball	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES		
Boyd Park	7.2		2				•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•						Prairie area			
Buffington	11.7					•																									Paved walking path			
Cameron	3.4		2																												Backstop			
County Farm	10.4															•																Community gardens		
Demmler	3.9		2							•																						Access to trail & soccer park		
Grover Heights	8.9		2									•														•						Recreation trail access		
Kessler	1.9		2																													Access to Dells Pond		
Lakeshore	2.8						•			•																						Backstop & volleyball posts		
McDonough	8.6		2																															
Mitscher	2.9		2									•																						
Newell	3.0		2																															
North River Fronts	1.5		2																														Educational garden	
Oakwood Hills	9.9		1										•																				Volleyball posts	
Pinehurst	5.5																																	
Sundet	3.3		2																															
Westridge	7.5		1																															
Zephyr Hill	5.2		2																															

Urban Park

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch/Canoe/Kayak	Concession Stand	Fishing	Flower Garden	Football	Garden Plot	Hockey - Boarded Rink	Hockey Snowbanked Rink	Ice Skating	Nature Trails	Parking Lot	Petanque	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Recreational Field Area	Scenic Views	Ski Trails	Shelter House	Sliding Hill	Soccer	Softball/Little League Field	Swimming	Tennis Courts/Pickleball	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES
Jaycette	2.0																														Artwork
Randall Park	2.9																														Statue, picnic tables
State Street/MacArthur	1.2																														Picnic tables, drinking fountain
University	1.3																														Fountain with decorative lighting
Wilson	1.6																														Native Plantings
Wold	1.6																														

Community Park

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Baseball (90' field)	Baseball Hoops	Boat Launch/Canoe/kayak	Biking (Off-road)	Concession Stand	Fishing	Flower Garden	Football	Garden Plot	Hockey - Boarded Rink	Hockey - Snowbanked Rink	Ice Skating	Nature Trails	Parking Lot	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Recreational Field Area	Scenic Views	Ski Trails	Shelter House	Sliding Hill	Soccer	Softball/Little League Field	Swimming	Tennis Courts/Pickleball	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES	
Carson	120.7	●				●	●	●	●					●	●	●	●	●	●		●										Horseshoe courts, RR, & museum	
Fairfax	74.4	●				●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●	●	●	●		●										Two little league fields	
Mt. Simon	71.9	●		●		●	●							●	●	●	●	●	●		●										Baseball complex, frisbie golf	
NW Community Park	109.2				●									●	●	●	●	●			●										Mostly undeveloped	
Otter Creek Park	60.7													●	●	●	●	●			●										Dog park, mostly undeveloped	
Owen	17.1													●	●	●	●	●			●										Bandshell, gazebo	
Phoenix Park	9.0						●	●							●	●	●	●													Farmer's market, access to	
Riverview	27.5			●			●	●							●	●	●	●		●											Chippewa & Eau Claire Rivers, access to recreation trail, inner tubing access	
Rod & Gun Park	28.8						●	●						●	●	●	●	●														Island picnic area
																																Spring-fed ponds, water wheel

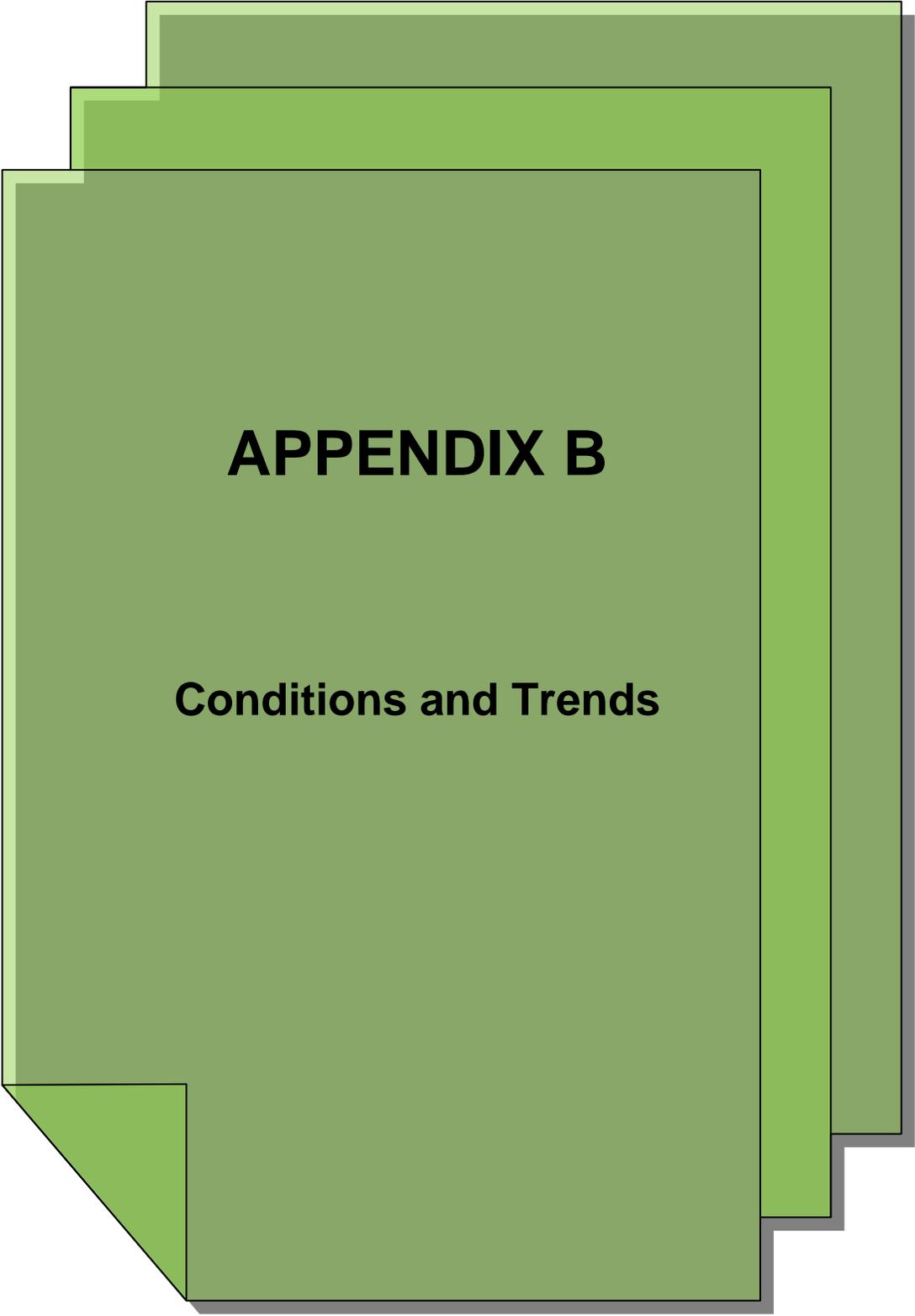
Special Areas/Athletic Fields

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch/Caneo/Kayak	Concession Stand	Fishing	Flower Garden	Football	Garden Plot	Hockey - Boarded Rink	Hockey - Snowbanked Rink	Ice Skating	Nature Trails	Parking Lot	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Recreational Field Area	Scenic Views	Ski Trails	Shelter House	Sliding Hill	Soccer	Softball/Little League Field	Swimming	Tennis Courts/Pickleball	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES		
Archery Park	7.9																															
Bollinger Field*	36.8	•			•			•																		•				Access to Eau Claire River Joint use with UW-EC		
Cannery Park	16.5																													Trail, Access to Chippewa River		
Carson Park Causeway	0.2			•																										Access to Half Moon Lake		
Dog Park (Otter Creek)	9.4			•																										Fenced-in area		
Domer Park	6.5			•																										Access to Chippewa River		
E.C. Soccer Park	35.8				•																									Access to recreational trail		
Ferry Street	11.8			•																										Access to Chippewa River		
Forest Street	16.8								•																							
Half Moon Beach/Bayview	4.1			•																												
Haymarket Plaza	1.0																														Access to Eau Claire & Chippewa Rivers	
Hobb's Landing	2.4			•																											Access to Chippewa River Trail, tubing take-out	
Jeffers Athletic Fields	40.0				•																										Miracle Fields	
Kappus	3.9																														Mowed open area	
Keyes Park	90.0																														Undeveloped	
Mt. Tom	20.2																														Benches	
Mount Washington	4.4																														Ski Jump Facility	
Pinehurst	53.4																															
Shale Pit	11.3																															
Sundet Dog Park	9.5																															Fenced-in area
Veteran's Park	7.1																															Access to Chippewa River

*Owned by UW-EC

School District Open Space Sites

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch/Canoe/Kayak	Concession Stand	Fishing	Flower Garden	Football	Garden Plot	Hockey - Boarded Rink	Hockey - Snowbanked Rink	Ice Skating	Nature Trails	Parking Lot	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Play Equipment	Recreational Field Area	Scenic Views	Ski Trails	Shelter House	Sliding Hill	Soccer	Softball/Little League Field	Swimming	Tennis Courts/Pickleball	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES
Davey	3.6		5									●		●			●	●	●				●	●	●					Small ballfield
DeLong	30.4	●						●												●			●	●			●			Shelter house in school
Flynn	5.2		3																				●	●						Adjacent bike trail
Lakeshore	2.7		●																				●	●						Wooded area
Locust Lane	9.5		●																				●	●						
Longfellow	2.5		●																				●	●						
Manz	5.0		9																				●	●						Sandbox
Meadowview	6.0	●	7																				●	●						Sandbox
Memorial H.S.	21.4	●						●															●	●						
North H.S.	28.4	●	●					●															●	●						Trails
Northstar	40.6	●						●															●	●						
Northwoods	14.0		●																				●	●						
Putnam Heights	13.4		2							●		●											●	●						Play equipment for handicap
Robbins	5.7	●	●																				●	●						
Roosevelt	4.5		4							●		●											●	●						Backstop
Sherman	8.0		●																				●	●						Adjacent to township park
South	27.9							●															●	●						



APPENDIX B

Conditions and Trends

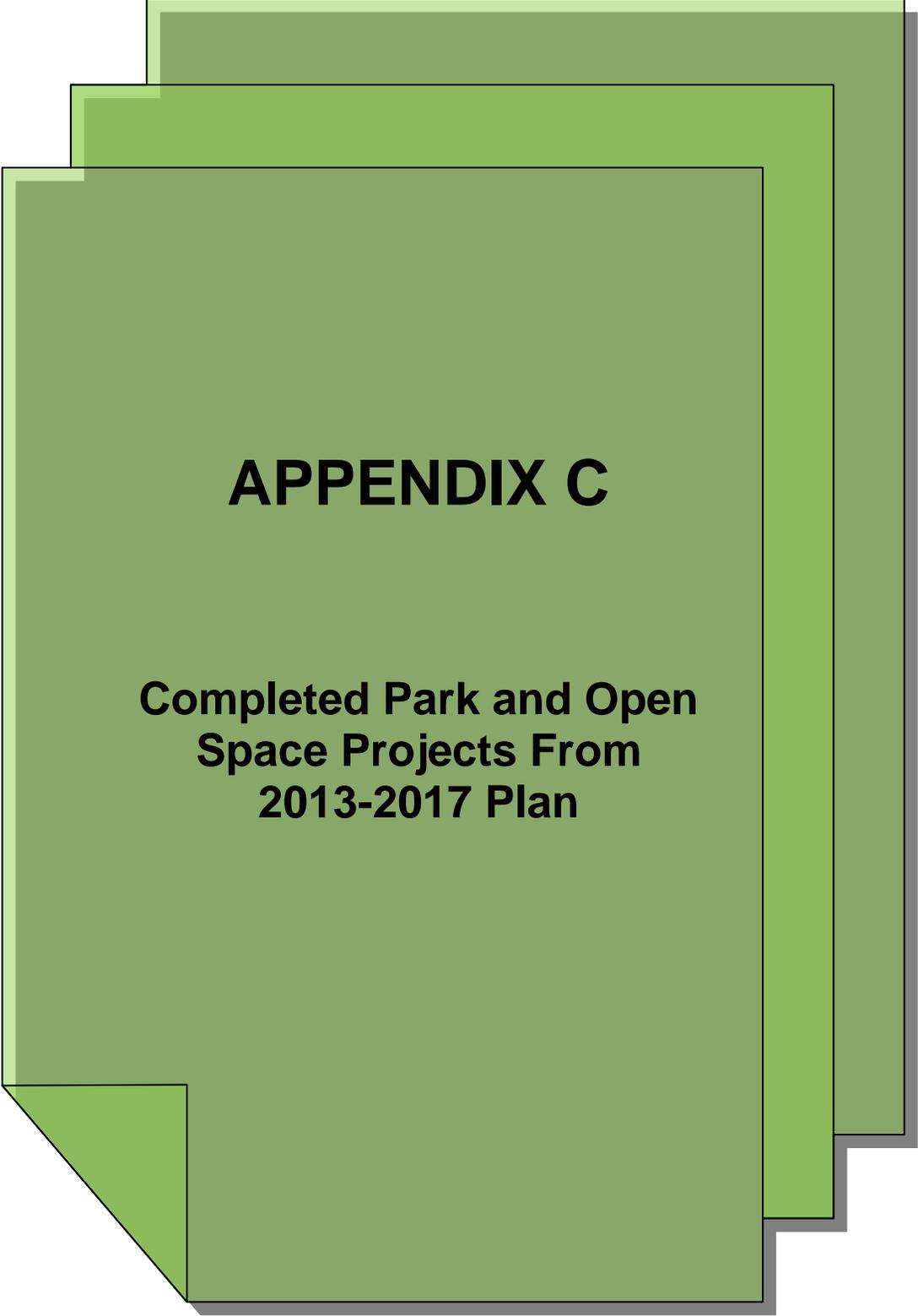
CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

This plan is based on a number of broad general conclusions, which relate to existing conditions and trends that are expected through the timeframe of the plan. Some of the assumptions identified in the last plan remain the same, while others have been revised to reflect conditions and trends that have changed since the previous plan.

The following is a list of general conditions and trends that will serve as a basis for considering project demands and the availability of resources to complete such projects over the next five years.

1. The demand for family activities and facilities will increase.
2. Competition for the tax dollar within the City will continue to increase as shared revenues and CDBG funds decline. The need for interagency cooperation in providing and maintaining parks and other recreation facilities will need to increase.
3. Over the next five-year period, Eau Claire's population will continue to grow at a rate slightly less than one percent per year, which is similar to that experienced in recent years. The City's Comprehensive Plan and annual development reports provide additional background information relating to the demographic and growth trends for the City
4. Commercial and residential construction will continue along the Highway 53 corridor both within the City of Eau Claire and City of Altoona. Growth will continue to the southeast in the Oakwood Mall area, south along Highway 93 to the south of Interstate 94, west along Highway 312 in the vicinity of Kane Road, and northwest along Jeffers Road.
5. The City will continue to experience growth through annexations in similar fashion as the City has experienced in recent years.
6. We will see a greater emphasis to improve the City's older neighborhoods. This will place an increased emphasis on providing higher quality neighborhood parks and open space areas.
7. On-campus enrollment at the Chippewa Valley Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire will not significantly change over the next five years.
8. Downtown redevelopment and growth will continue in the North Barstow/Phoenix Park area.

9. Tourism will continue to grow in Eau Claire creating demand for facilities and activities that can accommodate large numbers of people. These activities will draw people to the City.
10. The Senior Citizen population will continue to increase creating greater demand for facilities and activities for this population group. In addition, the Senior Citizen population will be more active than past generations thus creating further demand for facilities.
11. The Eau Claire School District has experienced small increases in enrollment over the past couple years. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.
12. The number of people with the ability to pay for services and facilities will increase. However, the number of people having a limited ability to pay will also increase. Facilities and activities for both groups will need to be balanced.
13. Additional community and park user information was obtained from the 2016 City of Eau Claire Park and Open Space survey. Results of the survey are available at the following link: <http://www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=23371>



APPENDIX C

**Completed Park and Open
Space Projects From
2013-2017 Plan**

Projects Listed in 2013-2017 Plan - Completed

FACILITY	PROJECT	STATUS
Bollinger Fields	Changed the field size of one of the softball fields	Completed
Boyd	Improve electrical and lighting	Completed
Carson Park	Developed and installed signage system	Completed
Carson Park	Paved Braun's Bay road	Completed
Carson Park	Upgraded Oak Pavilion including electrical	Completed
Carson Park	Installed irrigation improvements in the Pine Pavilion area	Completed
Carson Park	Replaced the playground equipment at the main playground	Completed
Carson Park	Replaced causeway with multiple site improvements	Completed
Carson Park Entry	Removed Westburne building along lakefront	Completed
Cemeteries	Remodeled sexton's office at Lakeview Cemetery	Completed
Cemeteries	Refurbished chapel at Forest Hill Cemetery	Completed
County Farm	Implemented master plan for park with multiple improvements	Completed
Domer Park	Developed river access and improvements to the park	Completed
Eau Claire Dog Park	Paved parking lot	Completed
Eau Claire Dog Park	Added restroom facility and garbage enclosure	Completed
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Added crosswalk at Hamilton north to Bollinger	Completed
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Installed facility/entry sign	Completed
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Installed irrigation to field #8	Completed
Fairfax Park/Pool	Installed dugouts for baseball field	Completed
Fairfax Park/Pool	Added play features, slides, and shade amenities	Completed
Fairfax Park/Pool	Painted pool	Completed
Fairfax Park/Pool	Installed irrigation system around pool area	Completed
Fairfax Park/Pool	Upgraded mechanical for the pool system	Completed
Half Moon Beach/Bayview	Repaired and upgraded bathroom	Completed
Half Moon Lake	Updated food truck policy	Completed
Hobbs Arena	Replaced dasher boards at O'Brien Rink	Completed
Hobbs Arena	Replaced water heaters with solar hot water	Completed
Jeffers Road Fields	Constructed softball fields, concession stand, and parking lot	Completed
Jeffers Road Fields	Constructed Miracle League Field	Completed
Keyes Park	Installed signs and small parking lot	Completed
Lakeshore	Constructed fishing pier with ADA accessibility	Completed
Lakeshore	Constructed skate plaza and install bicycle repair station	Completed
McDonough	Converted tennis courts to pickleball courts	Completed
McDonough	Constructed 6 additional pickleball courts	Completed
McDonough	Graded area for new parking lot	Completed
Mount Simon	Replaced lower park playground equipment	Completed
Newell Park	Replaced basketball court	Completed
Newell Park	Upgraded backstop	Completed
NW Community Park	Continued to make trail improvements throughout park	On-going
Oakwood Hills	Replaced playground equipment	Completed
Oakwood Hills	Made improvements to shelter building	Completed
Owen Park	Replaced gazebo and installed bicycle repair station	Completed
Owen Park	Completed restoration work north of bandshell	Completed
Owen Park	Provided handicapped accessibility to bandshell and stage	Completed
Owen Park	Installed identification signage	Completed
Phoenix Park	Installed entrance sign at south end of park	Completed
Phoenix Park	Installed electrical service to central portion of park	Completed
Phoenix Park	Installed bicycle racks and repair station	Completed
Pinehurst	Improve sledding, skating, and snowboarding facilities	On-going
Pinehurst	Reconfigure access road and parking lot	Completed
Randall Park	Replaced landscaping around statue area	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Continued resurfacing of trails as needed	On-going
Recreational Trail System	Spray patched North Crossing portion of trail along Highway 312	Completed

Recreational Trail System	Decked high bridge for trail use	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Constructed Cannery Trail from High Bridge to Madison Street	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Developed park area along First Avenue south of Grand Avenue	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Constructed trail west of High Bridge to Folsom Street	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Acquired land along Chippewa River east of Lazy Monk Brew Pub	Completed
Riverview Park	Improved roadway system in park	Completed
Rod and Gun Park	Made improvements to picnic shelter	Completed
Rod and Gun Park	Completed parking lot reconstruction and improvements	Completed
Rod and Gun Park	Completed trail and pathway improvements	Completed