

City of Eau Claire 2013 - 2017 Park & Open Space Plan



Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Eau Claire, Wisconsin



RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED CITY OF EAU CLAIRE 2013-2017 PARK AND OPEN SPACE 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 all city park land and open space; policy goals and objectives; and a listing of specific improvements that need to be made in the parks; and

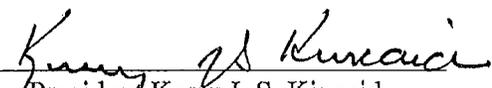
WHEREAS, the Five-year Park and Open Space Plan is a requirement of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in order to qualify for any grant programs such as the Stewardship Program; and

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

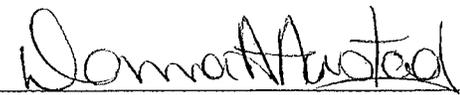
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that the City Council does hereby adopt the 2013-2017 Park and Open Space Plan, a copy of which is on file and available for inspection from the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, and the Community Development Department.

Adopted,

June 11, 2013

(SEAL) 
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL) 
City Manager Russell Van Gompel

(ATTESTED) 
City Clerk Donna A. Austad

City of Eau Claire 2013 – 2017 Park & Open Space Plan



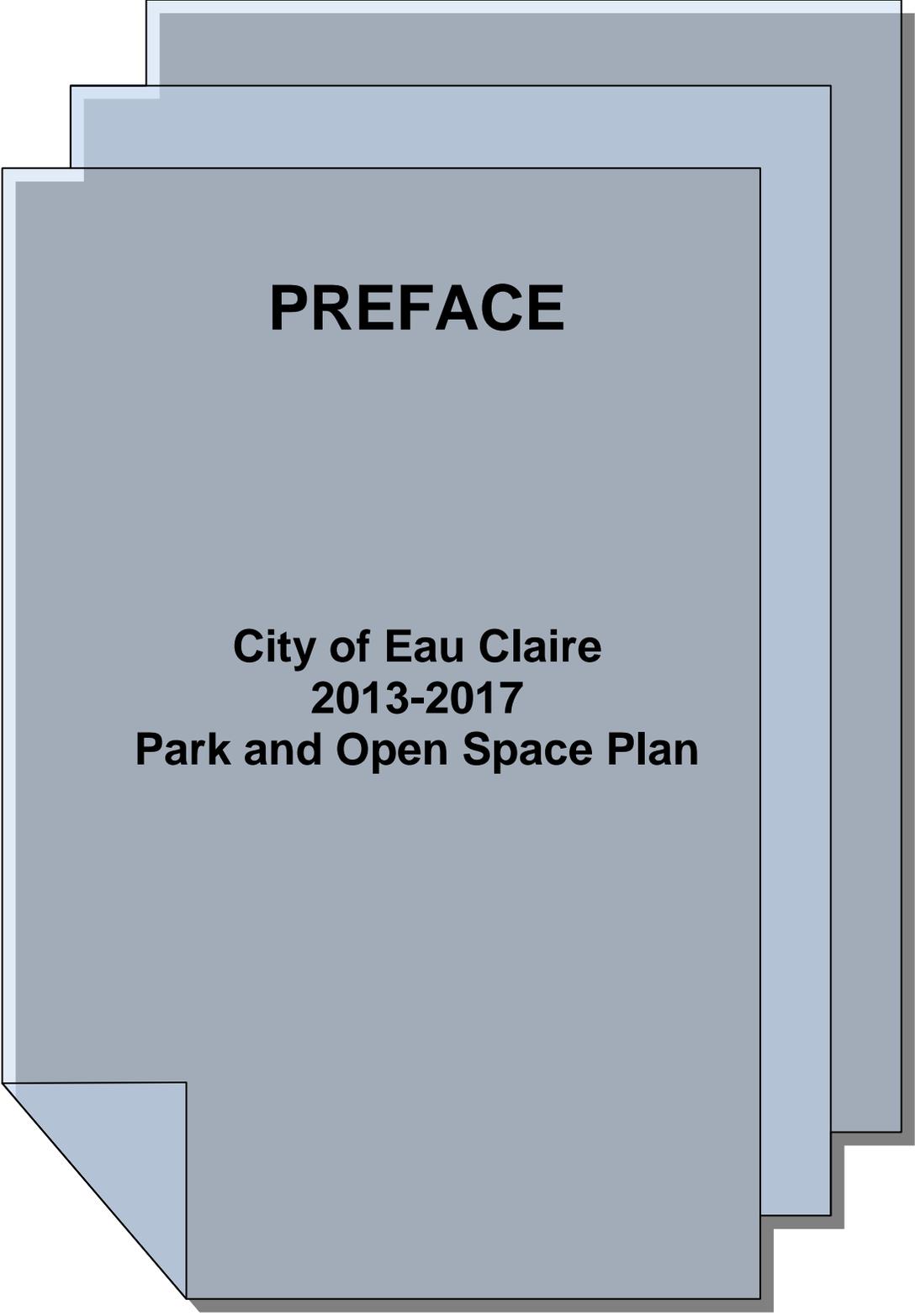
Prepared by:

Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry
Department of Community Development

June, 2013

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PREFACE

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space Plan**

PREFACE

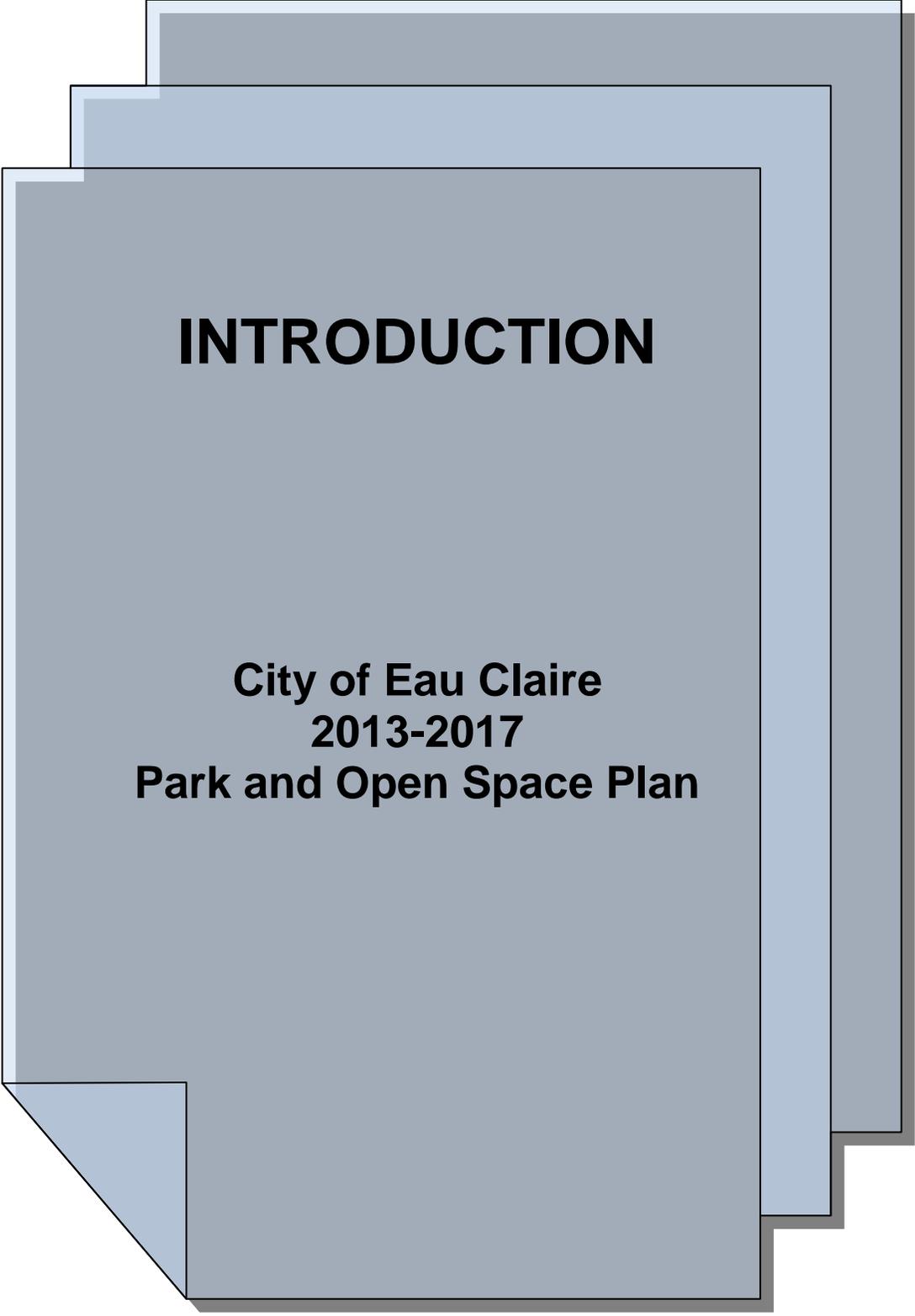
The City of Eau Claire's park and open space areas provide a unique blend of outdoor settings that few cities of comparable size can match. Resources such as Half Moon Lake, Dells Pond, the Chippewa River, Eau Claire River, and the valleys, bluffs and ridgelines provide a strong base for the City's park 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.

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 and open space facilities is essential. In order to address these needs, the City of Eau Claire has traditionally prepared both a long-range parks plan and a shorter-term parks facilities plan. This 5-year Park and Open Space Plan serves as the City's strategic plan to accomplish the goals and objectives of the City Council, Waterways and Parks Commission, and the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.



INTRODUCTION

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space Plan**

INTRODUCTION

This 2013-2017 Park and Open Space 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 of Eau Claire's parks, open spaces, trails and natural areas. This plan updates the 2008-2012 Park and Open Space Plan, which was prepared in January of 2008.

The preparation of this plan has involved a comprehensive review of each of the City's park and open space 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 limited timeframe, this plan focuses on the existing park and open space facilities within the City. However, the acquisition of land that is necessary to address existing deficiencies or those anticipated within the five-year period of this plan is also included.

This plan has been prepared in conjunction with the goals, objectives and recommendations contained in the Parks Chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2005. 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 and open space 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 five-year plan.

The five-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 with Eau Claire.

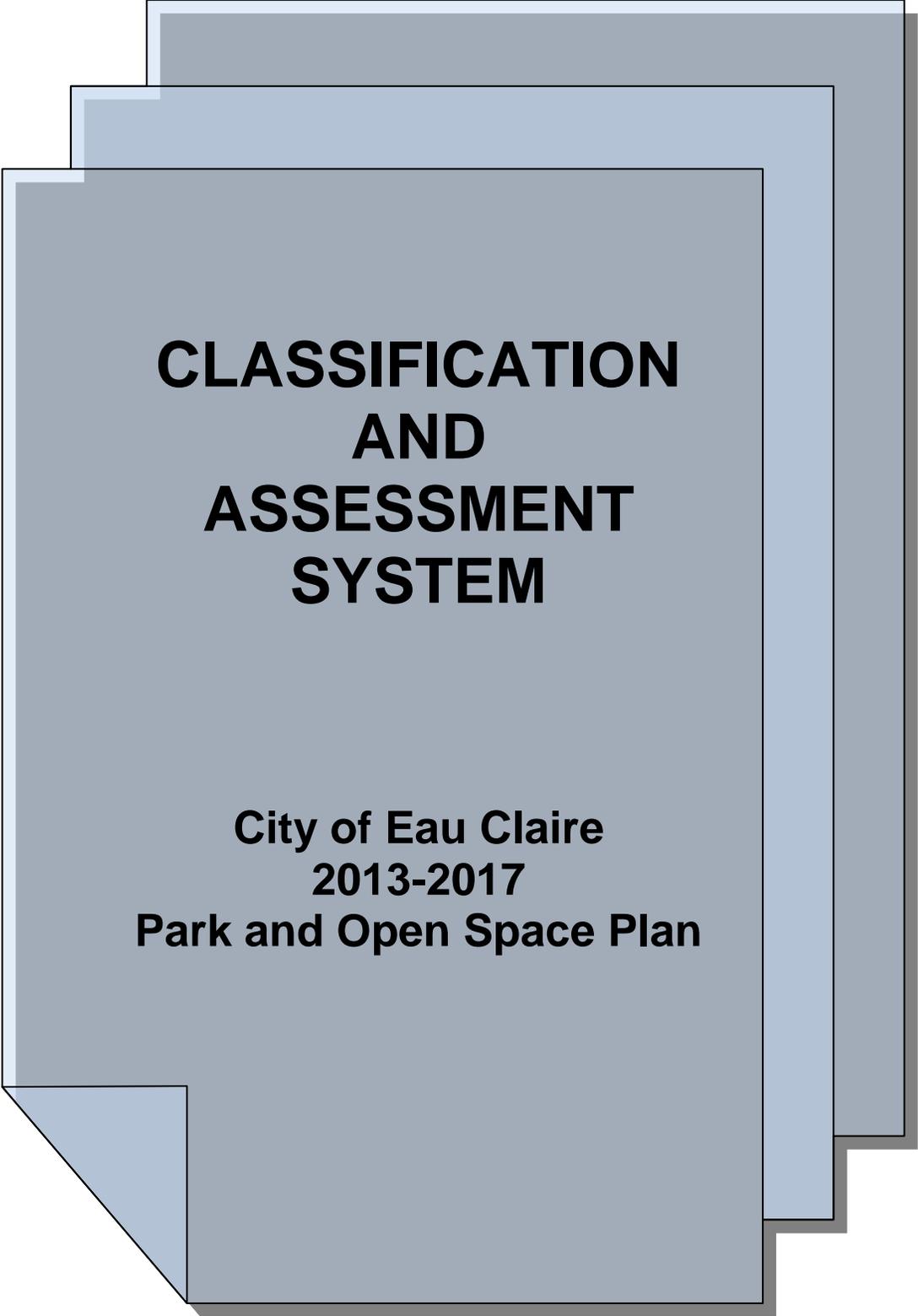
Background information utilized for the update of this plan is included in the appendices. Included is a detailed facilities inventory of each park and open space site within the City (Appendix A), and a listing of general assumptions and trends relating to current and future park demands and needs (Appendix 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 5 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 such as from State grants, the availability and eligibility of projects for CDBG funds, and how a particular project relates to other projects that are being considered.

Finally, recent plans prepared by the State of Wisconsin and Eau Claire County have been utilized in the development of this plan. The first plan is 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. The second plan is the 2011-2015 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan includes an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities in the County and sets forth recommendations for improvements for these facilities.

A complete copy of the SCORP plan can be viewed on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/planning/scorp/>. A copy of the Eau Claire County Outdoor recreations plan is at: http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/CountyDepartments/planning_and_development/docs/2011_CORP_November_2012.pdf.



**CLASSIFICATION
AND
ASSESSMENT
SYSTEM**

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space 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 2005 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. One of the issues discussed by the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee pertained to the size of the optimal service area for the City's neighborhood playgrounds.

Traditionally, the City has utilized a half-mile service radius for playgrounds, and the Committee 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 Committee felt very strongly 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 Comprehensive Plan did recommend several small changes in the classification system:

- Park facilities traditionally called "neighborhood playgrounds" will be referred to as "neighborhood parks." This reflects the fact that these facilities typically provide a variety of amenities in addition to playgrounds. The new terminology reflects the expanded focus of these facilities at the neighborhood level. The recommended size increases from 5-10 acres to 5-15 acres, depending on the characteristics of the neighborhood served.
- Park facilities traditionally called "neighborhood parks" will be referred to as "urban parks." This also better reflects the nature of these facilities.
- A new classification was created, called, "community athletic field." Athletic fields traditionally have been grouped with "special park facilities," but the Committee felt the unique the size and magnitude of these facilities warranted a separate category.

In addition, the "street island" category was eliminated from the classification listing. Street islands are grassy boulevard areas located within the public right-of-way and are generally located in proximity to a street intersection and separate lanes of traffic. They traditionally have been included as part of this plan because they have been maintained by the Parks Division. These areas are no longer included in the listing since no recreational facilities or amenities are provided within these areas and maintenance is now the responsibility of not only the Parks Division, but also the Public Works Department, homeowner associations and condominium associations.

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 (formerly Neighborhood Playground)

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 the 6 to 14 year old children. The unit usually includes a swing set with at least one tot seat. At most sites, the City operates an eight to ten week supervised summer program and an eight to twelve weeks supervised winter skating program.



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 (formally Neighborhood 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, archery, 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 one the special area facility classification. However, it was decided in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan to separate athletic fields into its own classification due to the unique nature of these facilities. The Eau Claire Soccer Park is an example 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.

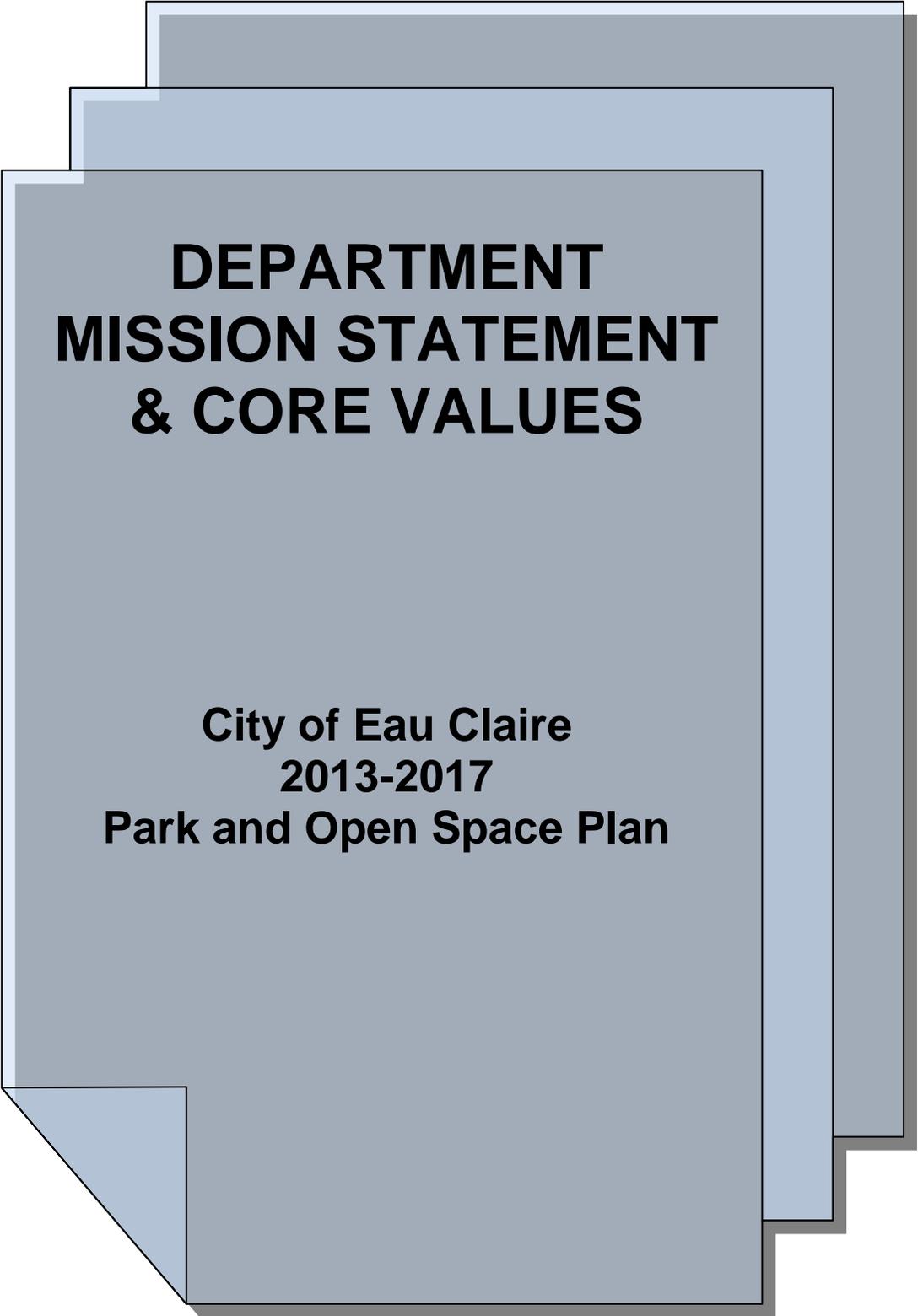
Waterfront and Parkway Areas

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, 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. Refer to the 2012 Waterways Plan which discusses visual and physical access to the waterways in more detail.



**DEPARTMENT
MISSION STATEMENT
& CORE VALUES**

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space Plan**

DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

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

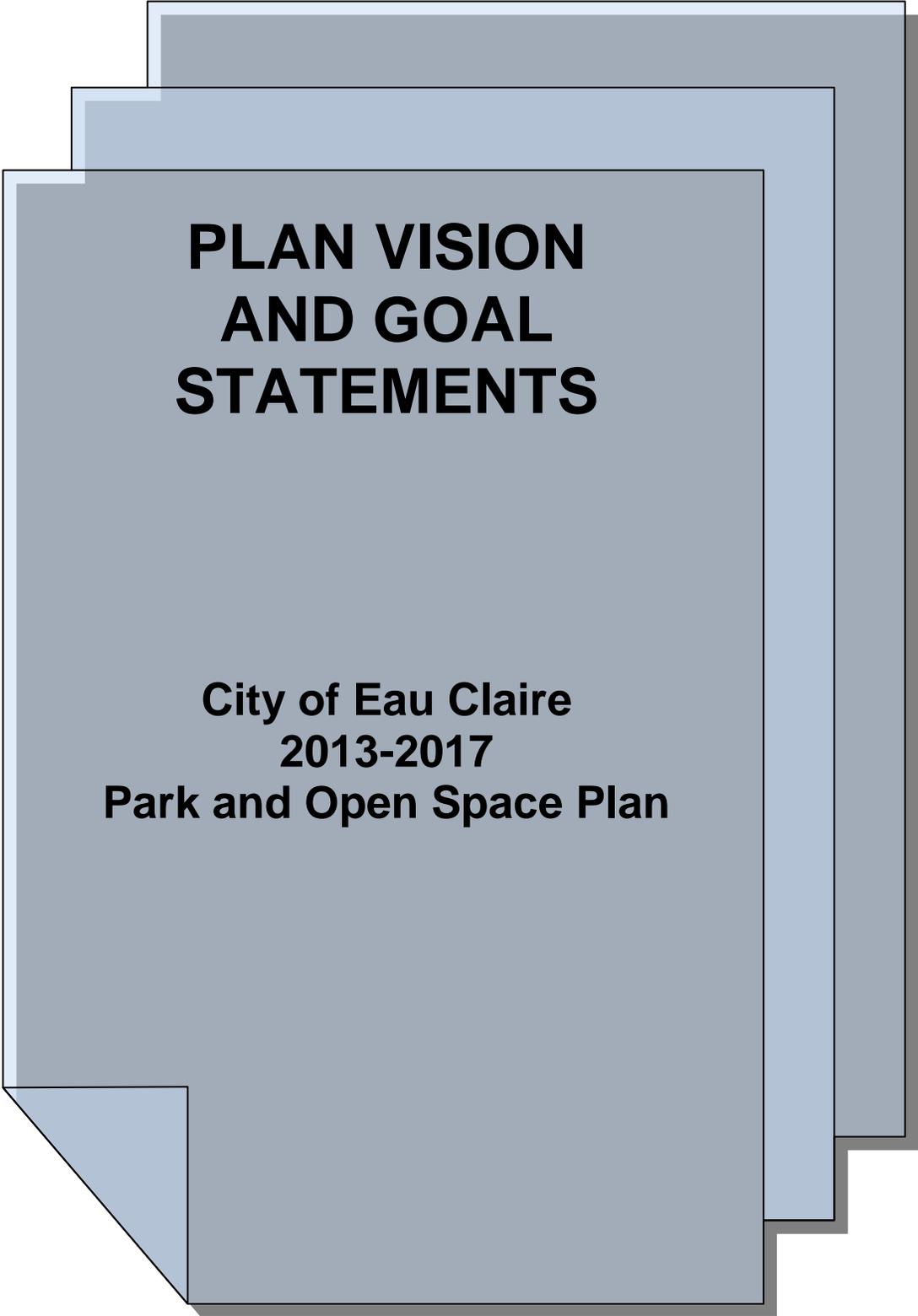
This is accomplished through:

- 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 department objectives.
- Operating the department 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.

DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES

The Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department 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 VISION
AND GOAL
STATEMENTS**

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space Plan**

VISION & GOALS

This plan sets forth the community's vision, 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 recently adopted Waterways Plan.

The policy plan is divided into three types of statements:

- Vision. The vision statement is the community value or aspiration set forth for Eau Claire's parks and open space system.
- Goals. The goals are broad statements of purpose that define what the City is attempting to accomplish.
- Objectives. The objective statements are more specific statements that define what the City is attempting to accomplish in support of the broader goal.

VISION

Develop the City of Eau Claire's parks, waterways, and open space resources to their fullest recreational potential while meeting the diverse recreational needs of the community.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- A. Recognize and accommodate the diverse recreational needs of the community.
 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 and open space facilities need to serve all ages, and be sensitive to the needs of persons with limited mobility.
 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.
- 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 and wildlife management 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 state and federal aid as it becomes 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 as an important factor 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 and access.

1. Continue to acquire properties around Half Moon Lake as they become available until all lakefront property is publicly owned.

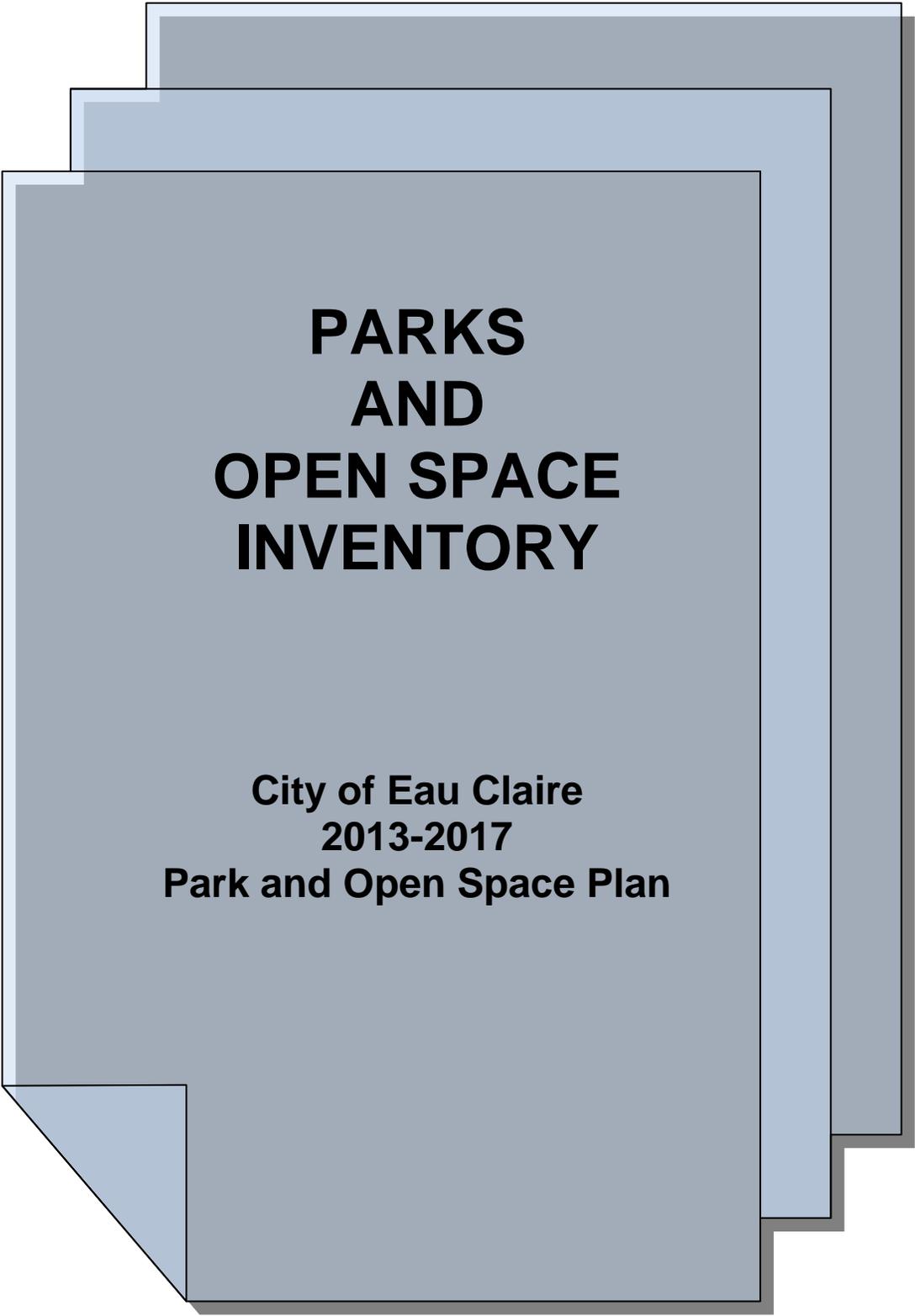


2. Continue to acquire land along the Chippewa and Eau Claire Rivers and other waterway areas, which have been identified in the Comprehensive Plan and Waterways Plan where open space should eventually be provided in the form of a linear open space corridor called the greenway.
3. Continue to develop 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 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 research to assess needs and deficiencies in programs and facilities.

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.



**PARKS
AND
OPEN SPACE
INVENTORY**

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space 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 1,505.2 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	101.9	
	Urban Parks	10.6	
	Community Parks	519.3	
	Special Areas	166.2	
	Community Athletic Fields	75.8	
	Waterfront and Parkway Areas	138.0	
			1,011.8
Eau Claire School District	Neighborhood School Open Space	80.1	
	Middle School and High School	148.7	
			228.8
University of WI - Eau Claire	Putnam Park	198.5	
	Athletic Field Areas	66.1	
			264.6
TOTAL			1,505.2

Municipal Park and Open Space

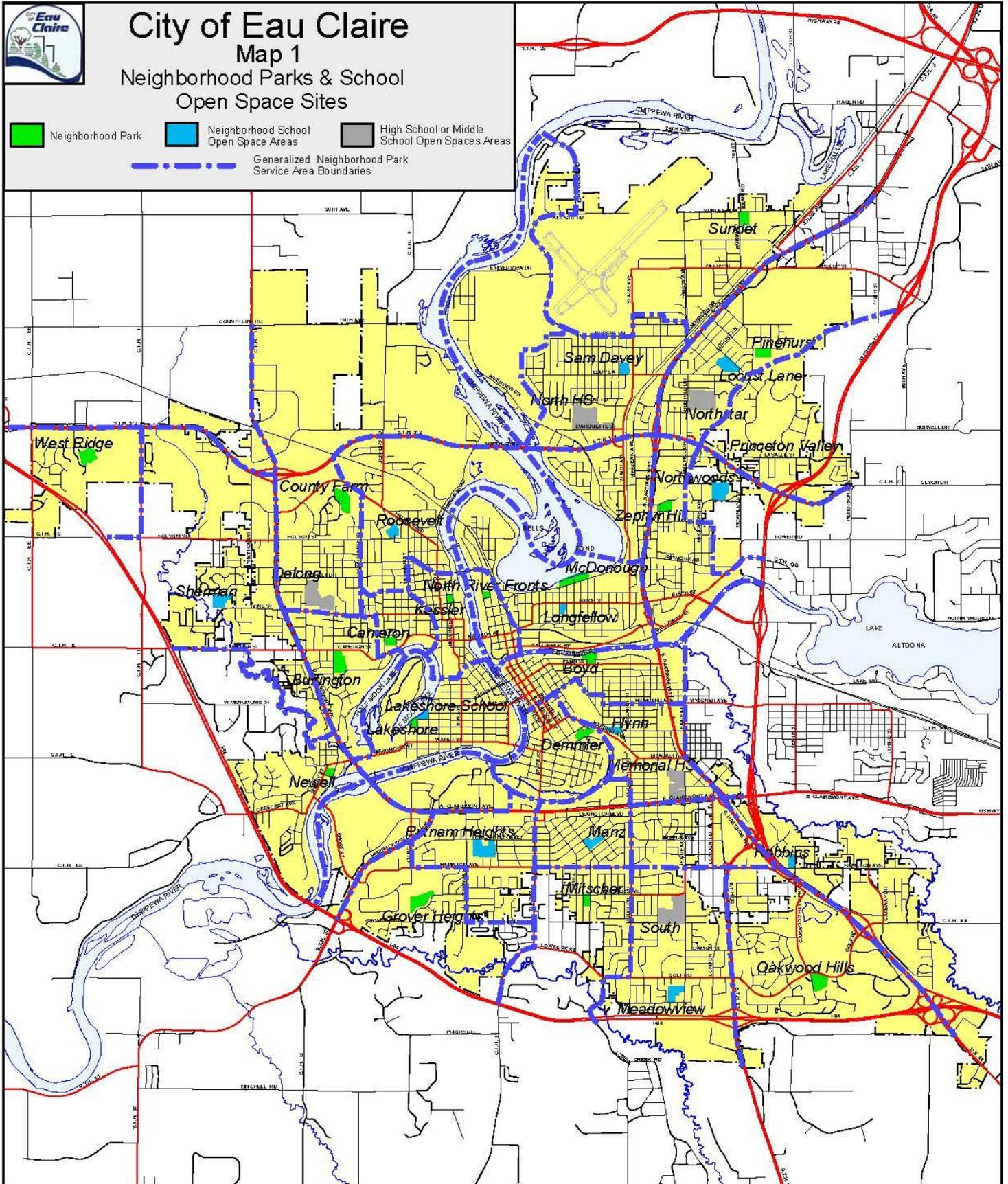
The City of Eau Claire owns approximately 1,012 acres of park and open space areas. This is an increase of approximately 368 acres since 1993. This increase is primarily attributable to the acquisition of the two new community park sites (Northwest and Southeast Community Parks), the acquisition and development of the Eau Claire Soccer Fields located on East Hamilton Avenue, several new neighborhood parks such as Sundet, County Farm, and Westridge and the acquisition of land along the City’s waterways.

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	
	Princeton Valley	2.5	
Sundet	5.1		
Westridge	7.5		
Zephyr Hill	5.2	101.9 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 Entry	9.0	
	Dog Park	9.4	
	Domer Park	6.5	
	Ferry Street	11.8	
	Forest Street	16.8	
	Half Moon Beach & Bayview	4.1	
	Haymarket Park	.5	
	Hobb's Landing	2.4	
	Kappus Park	3.9	
	Kessler Hockey Bowl	1.9	
	Mount Tom	20.2	
	Pinehurst	53.4	
	Shale Pit	11.3	
Veterans Park	7.1	166.2 acres	

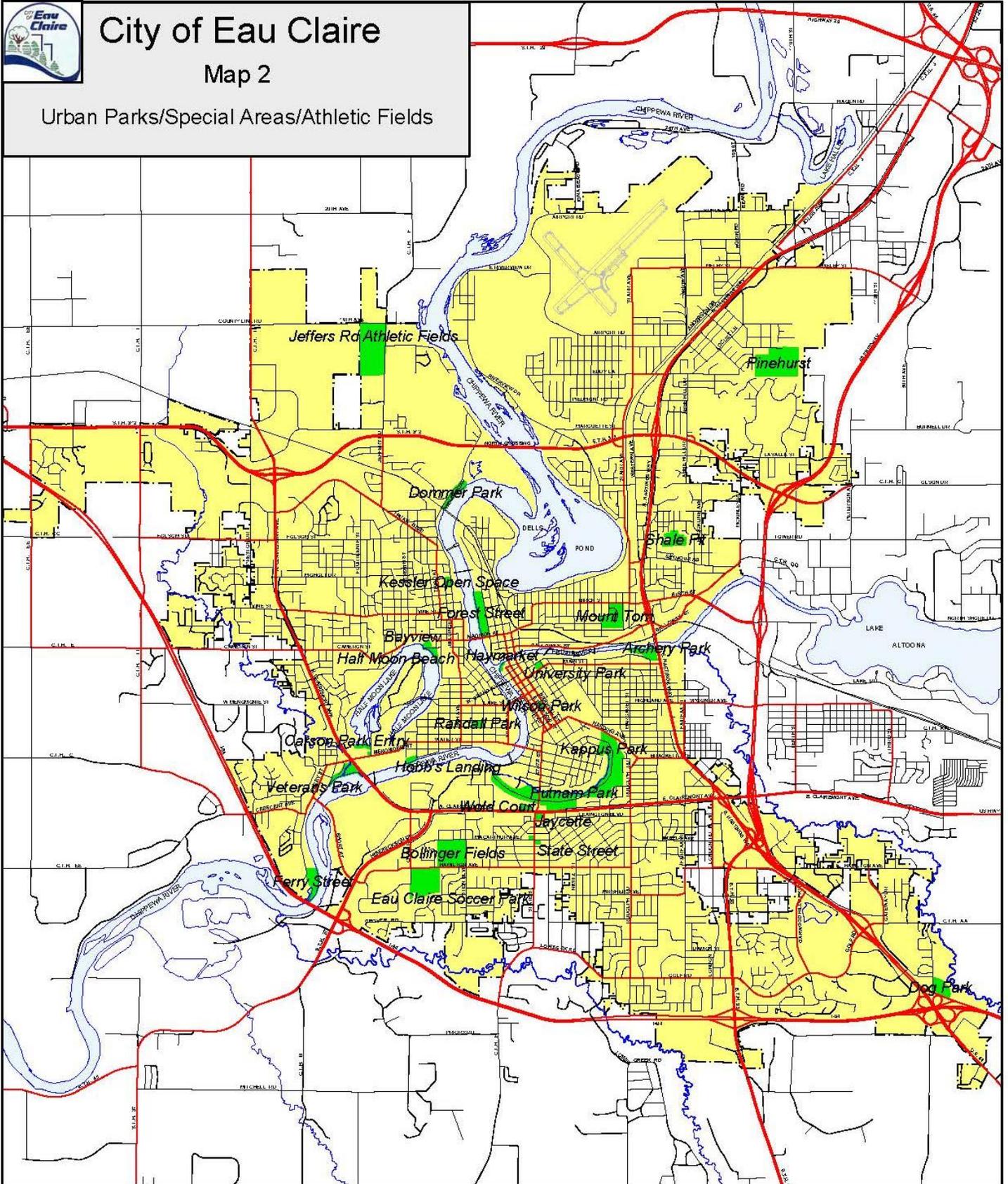
Classification	Name	Size (acres)	Total (acres)
Community Athletic Field	Eau Claire Soccer Park	35.8	
	Jeffers Road Athletic Field	40.0	75.8 acres



City of Eau Claire

Map 2

Urban Parks/Special Areas/Athletic Fields

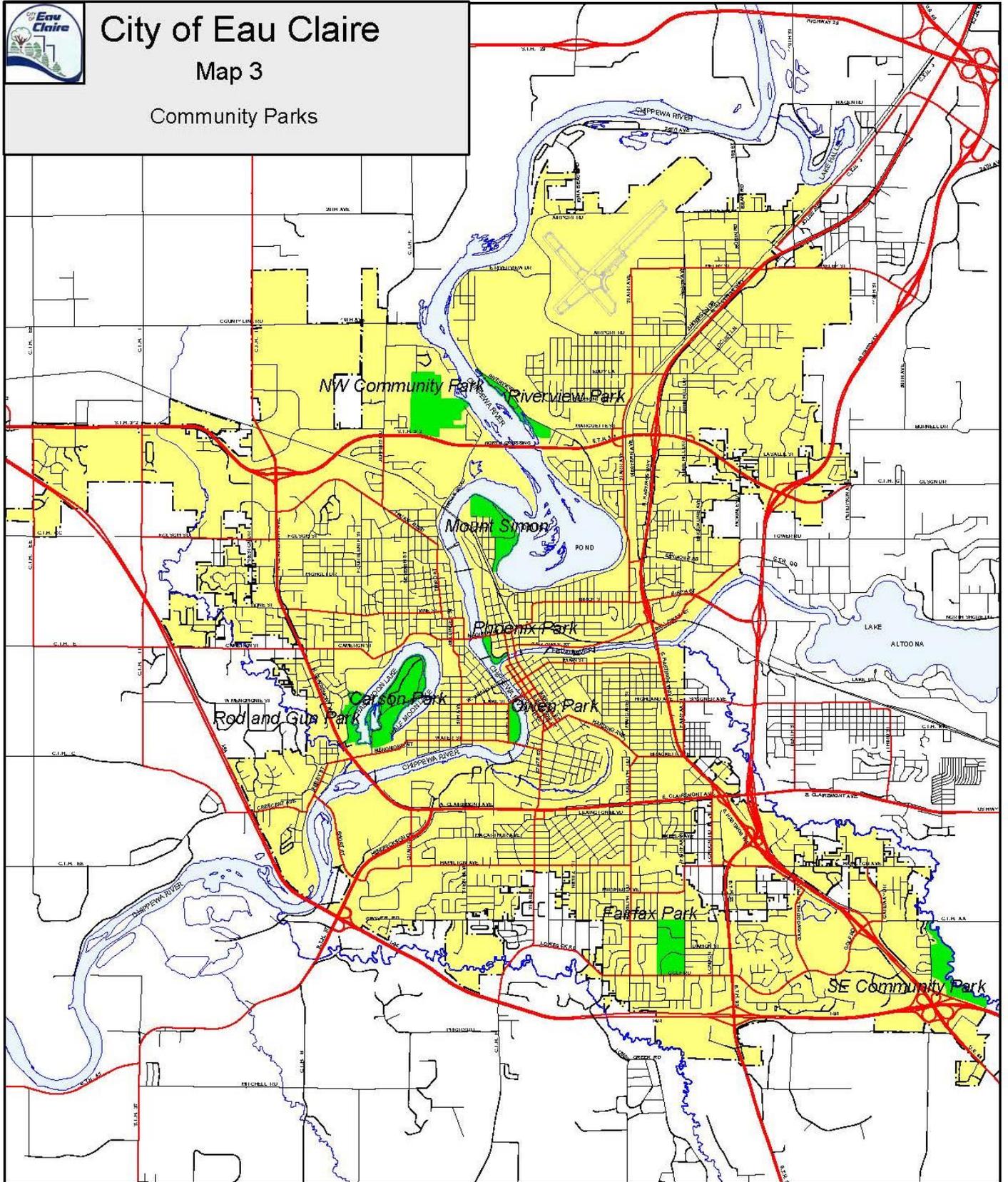




City of Eau Claire

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	
	Trail System (Whipple to 1 st Ave.)	1.6	138.0

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	
TOTAL	165,476	31.34 miles
Putnam Park – Garfield Ave to Putnam Dr.	9,371	
Altoona Pathways	41,592	

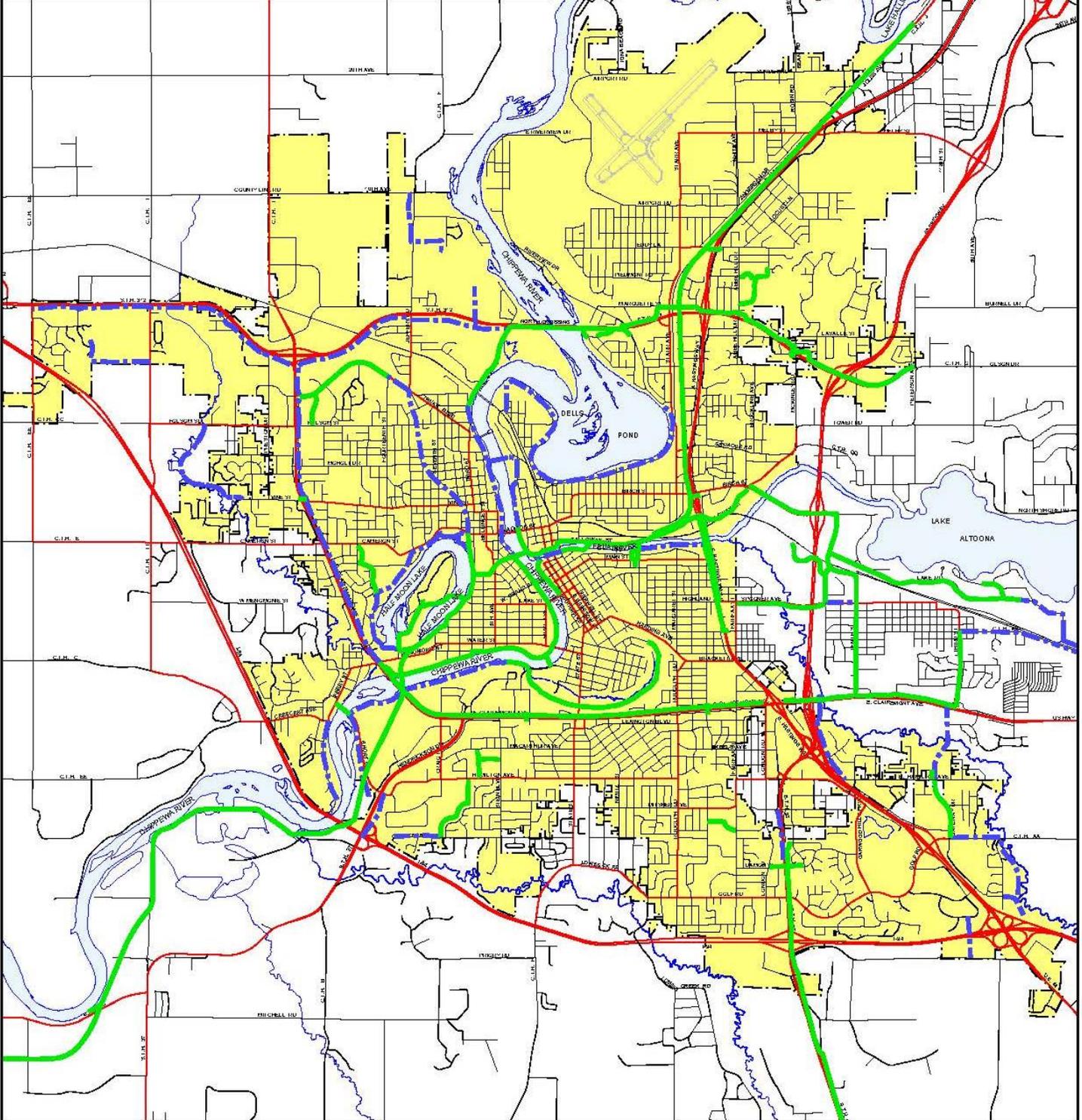


City of Eau Claire

Map 4

Trails and Greenways

Existing Trails/Pathways Proposed Trails/Pathways



School District Open Space

The Eau Claire School District provides approximately 228 acres of recreational open space at 17 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 school sites within the City is summarized below in Table 5. These figures would include the elementary school sites where the City maintains a playground area and operates a summer playground program or operates a skating facility in the winter. 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	
	Northwoods	14.0	
	Putnam Heights	13.4	
	Robbins	5.7	
	Roosevelt	4.5	
	Sherman	8.0	
	DeLong Middle School	30.4	
	Northstar Middle School	40.6	
	South Middle School	27.9	
	Memorial High School	21.4	
	North High School	28.4	228.8

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire owns or leases approximately 264.6 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 198.5-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 four sites totaling approximately 66.1 acres, which are developed for active recreational activities, such as softball, tennis, and basketball. Three of these sites are located on the upper campus area and include Simpson Field, which is located southeast of McPhee Physical Education Center;

ball field facilities north of Sacred Heart Hospital; and an area south of Governor's Hall and Crestwood Commons. These three facilities provide 14 tennis courts, basketball courts, and softball fields, as well as open areas for activities, such as soccer and football.

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.



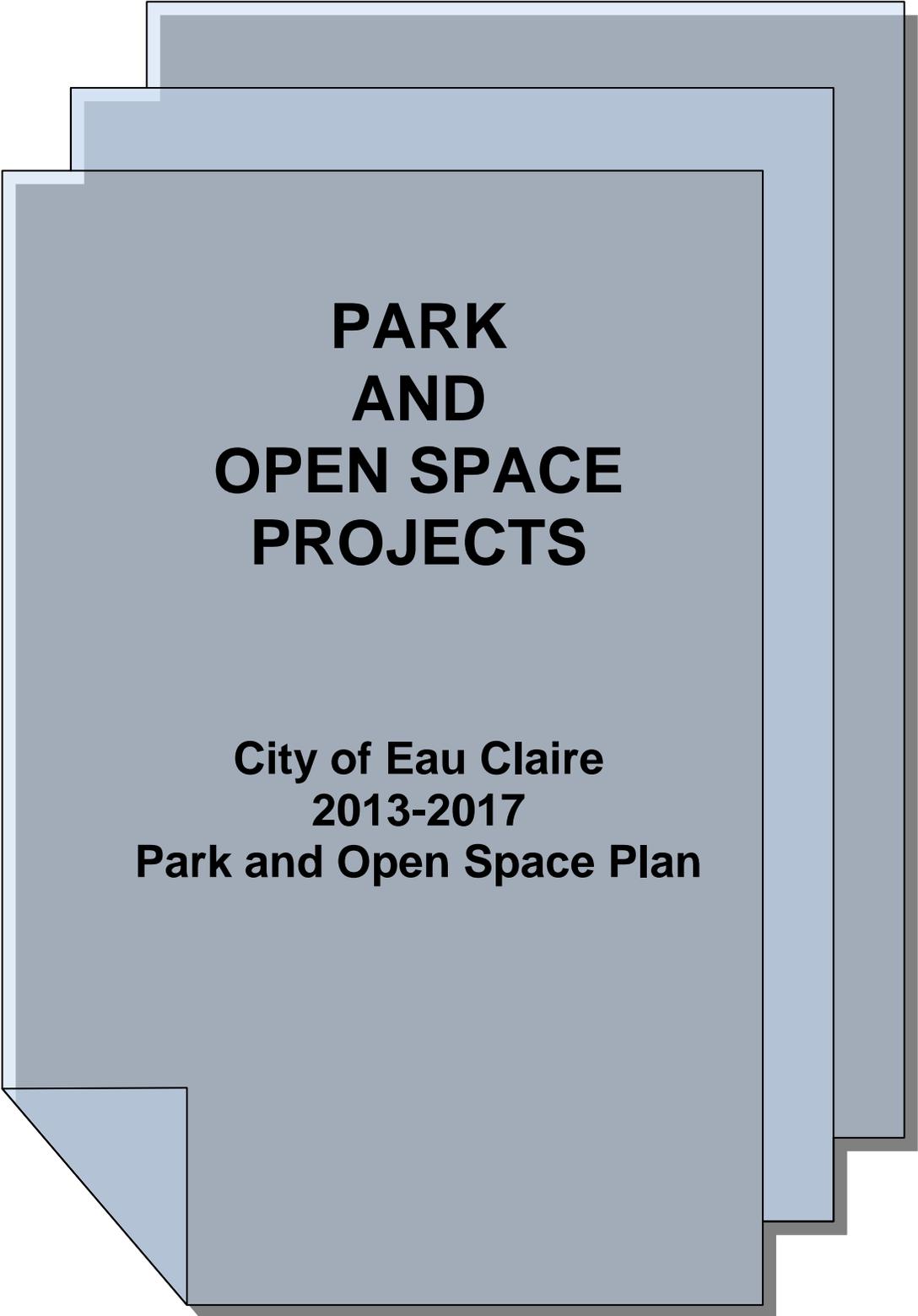
Due to their larger size they offer a variety of amenities and recreational activities, while at the same time maintaining a very natural and wild environment, which generally can't be provided within any of the more urban parks with the possible exception of Carson Park and Mt. Simon Recreational Area. 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 2006-2010 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**

**City of Eau Claire
2013-2017
Park and Open Space 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.

2013-2017 Planned Projects

FACILITY	PROJECT
Archery Park	Improve pedestrian access to & along river
Bollinger Fields	Consider softball field size changes for Bollinger Fields
Boyd	Improve the electrical & lighting
Boyd	Create viewing points along the river
Cameron	Remove perimeter fence
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
Carson Park	Resurface trails
Carson Park	Pave Hobbs softball field lot
Carson Park	Develop and install signage system
Carson Park	Install canopy between football team rooms & concession stand
Carson Park	Pave road to Braun’s Bay
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
Carson Park	Upgrade Pine Pavilion
Carson Park	Upgrade Oak Pavilion (including electrical)
Carson Park	Football seating replacement and press box replacement
Carson Park	Pine Pavilion area irrigation improvements
Carson Park	Erosion control improvements by main playground
Carson Park	Replace playground equipment at main playground
Carson ark	Install bus stop facility for stadiums
Carson Park	Install restroom and garbage enclosure at Braun’s Bay
Carson Park	Replace causeway and make site improvements in the area
Carson Park Entry (Menomonie St.)	Create master plan for land along Menomonie Street & remove Westburne Bldg.
Cemeteries	Develop plan/rebuild the stone entrance gate at Lakeview Cemetery
Cemeteries	Remodel sexton’s office at Lakeview
Cemeteries	Refurbish chapel at Forest Hill
Cemeteries	Repair or abandon retaining wall at Forest Hill
County Farm	Implement master plan
Demmler	Add security lighting
Demmler	Improve parking surface
Domer Park	Development of river access & park development plan

FACILITY	PROJECT
Eau Claire Dog Park	Add a paved parking lot
Eau Claire Dog Park	Add a restroom facility & garbage enclosure
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	Develop crossing at Hamilton north to Bollinger
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Install park facility/entry sign
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Expand field #8 irrigation system
Fairfax Park	Install traffic calming measures on roads for summer use
Fairfax Park	Install lighting for baseball field
Fairfax Park	Install dugout for baseball field
Fairfax Park/Pool	Construct large pavilion
Fairfax Park/Pool	Install new park signage system
Fairfax Park/Pool	Install signs at the entrances of the park
Fairfax Park/Pool	New water slide
Fairfax Park/Pool	Pave the rest of pool parking lot
Fairfax Park/Pool	Picnic area
Fairfax Park/Pool	Splash pad-pool
Fairfax Park/Pool	Install street lighting on north road/parking lot
Fairfax Park/Pool	Remodel or replace the concession stand
Fairfax Pool/Pool	Add play features, slides, shade amenities
Fairfax Pool/Pool	Paint pool (undertaken every five years)
Fairfax Pool/Pool	Install irrigation system
Ferry Street	Develop a master plan for the area
Ferry Street	Develop a boat landing
Ferry Street	Study the feasibility of a dog park
Forest Street Area	Construct trail along the river & through park
Forest Street Area	Install benches
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Access with recreational trail
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Add security lighting
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Define reuse of the bathhouse facility
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 and Bayview	Install erosion control on shoreline of Bayview Park

FACILITY	PROJECT
Half Moon Beach & Bayview	Repair bath house
Half Moon Lake	Continue to implement water quality improvement program
Half Moon lake	Construct a trail section from Rod & Gun Park to Carson Drive
Half Moon Lake	Educational/study facility
Half Moon Lake	Encourage on-site vendors
Hobbs Arena	Replace dasher boards at O'Brien Rink
Hobbs Arena	Replace dasher boards at Akervick Rink
Hobbs Arena	Replace building signage, including digital readerboard sign
Hobbs Arena	Replace water heaters with solar hot water
Jaycette	Pave parking lot
Jeffers Road	Construct softball fields & parking lot
Kessler	Replace backstop
Kessler	Create off-street parking lot
Keyes Property	Develop master plan for the park
Lakeshore	Construct skate plaza
Lakeshore	Construct fishing pier with access for disabled persons
McDonough	Wildlife viewing signage & area
McDonough	Improve vistas for Dells Pond
McDonough	Improve police patrol opportunities with improved lighting, etc.
McDonough	Remove tennis courts & fencing
Mitscher	Asphalt or eliminate parking area
Mount Simon	Pave lower parking lot & boat launch
Mount Simon	Replace lower park playground equipment
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	Develop master plan for lower portion of the park
Mount Simon	Install restroom & garbage enclosure in lower portion of park
Newell Park	Replace the basketball court
Newell Park	Replace the backstop
Northwest Community Park	Acquire property along the river on the north side (Meyers property)
Northwest Community Park	Continue work on improvements to the winter sports facilities
Northwest Community Park	Provide access to the park off of Jeffers Road through the acquisition of land
Northwest Community Park	Construct parking lot

FACILITY	PROJECT
Northwest Community Park	Construct a restroom facility
Oakwood Hills	Replace the play equipment
Oakwood Hills	Make improvements to the shelter building
Other Projects	Develop canoe launch area at old City brush site along the Eau Claire River
Otter Creek Community Park	Develop trails within park
Otter Creek Community Park	Implement Phase 1 of master plan
Otter Creek Community Park	Acquire land east of Otter Creek
Owen Park	Recondition wells (on-going project)
Owen Park	Replace gazebo and finish restoration plan
Owen Park	Implement master plan
Owen Park	Construct new restroom building & pavilion
Owen Park	Replace roof of old restroom & convert to storage
Owen Park	Complete restoration work north of the bandshell
Owen Park	Provide handicapped accessibility for bandshell & stage
Phoenix Park	Install park entrance sign on the south & north sides of park
Phoenix Park	Install electrical service to the central part of park
Phoenix Park	Install bicycle racks
Pinehurst	Improve sledding, skating, & snowboarding facilities
Pinehurst	Reconfigure the roadway and parking lot
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	Replace the landscaping around the statue
Randall Park	Rehab the Adin Randall statue
Recreational Trail System	Resurface all trails as needed
Recreational Trail System	Extend/connect with west, northwest, & southwest parts of the City
Recreational Trail System	Resurface trail through the Water Street area & stabilize/rebuild retaining walls
Recreational Trail System	Develop river overlook at Menomonie St. & 5 th Ave.
Recreational Trail System	Construct trail from Half Moon Beach to Roosevelt Playground
Recreational Trail System	Resurface the North Crossing portion of the trail between Old Wells Rd. & Riverview Dr.
Recreational Trail System	Improve views of the waterways at existing overlooks
Recreational Trail System	Install decking/fencing on the high bridge for trail use
Recreational Trail System	Construct trail from high bridge south to Phoenix Park
Recreational Trail System	Construct trail from high bridge south along west side of river
Recreational trail system	Develop park area along First Ave. trail, south of Grand Ave. bridge
Recreational Trail System	Purchase the former railroad ROW extending west of the high bridge

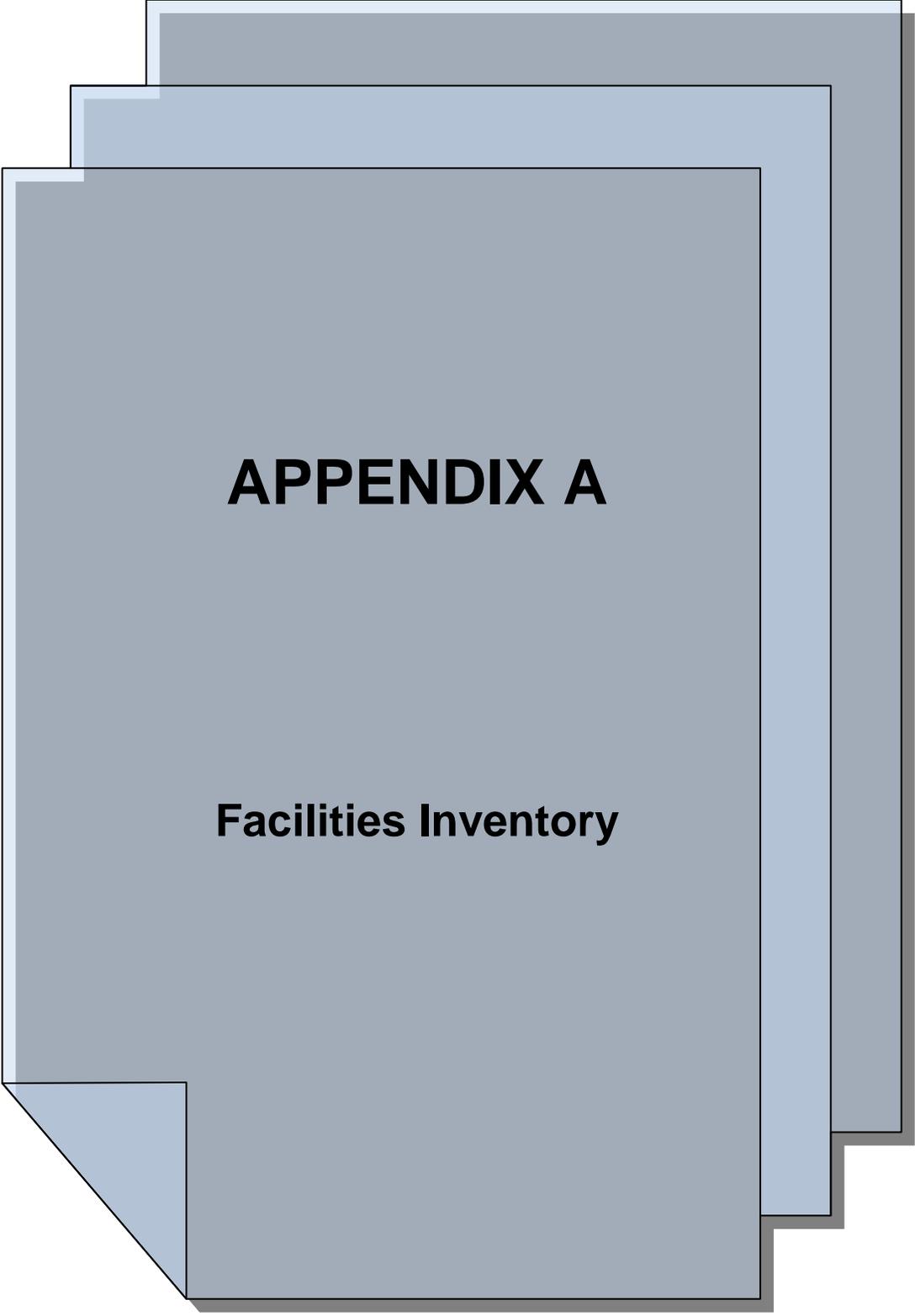
FACILITY	PROJECT
Riverview Park	Improve roadway system in park & improve traffic flow pattern
Riverview Park	Pave parking lots (particularly north end of park)
Riverview Park	Replace picnic shelter on the island
Riverview Park	Develop area for use between the boat landing and Lions Pavilion
Riverview Park	Develop master plan for the park
Riverview Park	Increase parking for boat launches
Rod & Gun Park	Implement Phase 1, 2, and 3 of master plan
Rod & Gun Park	Restore small maintenance bldg.
Rod & Gun Park	Make improvements to picnic shelter
Shale Pit Area	Remove debris piles & re-grade fill piles
Shale Pit Area	Consider renaming the area
Veterans Park	Install a sign
Westridge Park	Repair trails & bridges
Zephyr Hill	Pave parking lot

OTHER LAND ACQUISITIONS NOT LISTED ABOVE

- Acquire houses southeast of hockey rink at Roosevelt 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
- Chippewa River west shoreline/north of Madison Street
- 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.

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)
- Implement park signage master plan
- Provide infrastructure for new community gardens



APPENDIX A

Facilities Inventory

Neighborhood Parks

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Archery	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch	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	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								●																						
Kessler	1.9			2																														
Lakeshore	2.8																															Recreation trail access		
McDonough	8.6			2			●			●																						Access to Dells Pond		
Mitscher	2.9			2																												Backstop & volleyball posts		
Newell	3.0			2																														
North River Fronts	1.5			2																													Educational garden	
Oakwood Hills	9.9			1																												Volleyball posts		
Pinehurst	5.5																																	
Princeton Valley	2.5																																	
Sundet	5.1			2																														
Westridge	7.5			1																														
Zephyr Hill	5.2			2																														
	101.9																																	

Urban Park

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Archery	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch	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	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																														
Wold	1.6																		●												
	10.6																														

Community Park

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Archery	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch	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	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES
Carson	120.7																														Horseshoe cts., RR, & museum
Fairfax	74.4																														Two little league fields
Mt. Simon	70.6																														Baseball complex, frisbie golf
NW Community Park	109.2																														Mostly undeveloped
Other Creek Park	60.7																														Dog park, mostly undeveloped
Owen	17.1																														Bandshell, gazebo
Phoenix Park	9.0																														Farmer's market, access to Chippewa & Eau Claire Rivers, access to recreation trail, inner tubing access
Riverview	27.5																														Island picnic area
Rod & Gun Park	28.8																														Spring-fed ponds, water wheel
	518.0																														

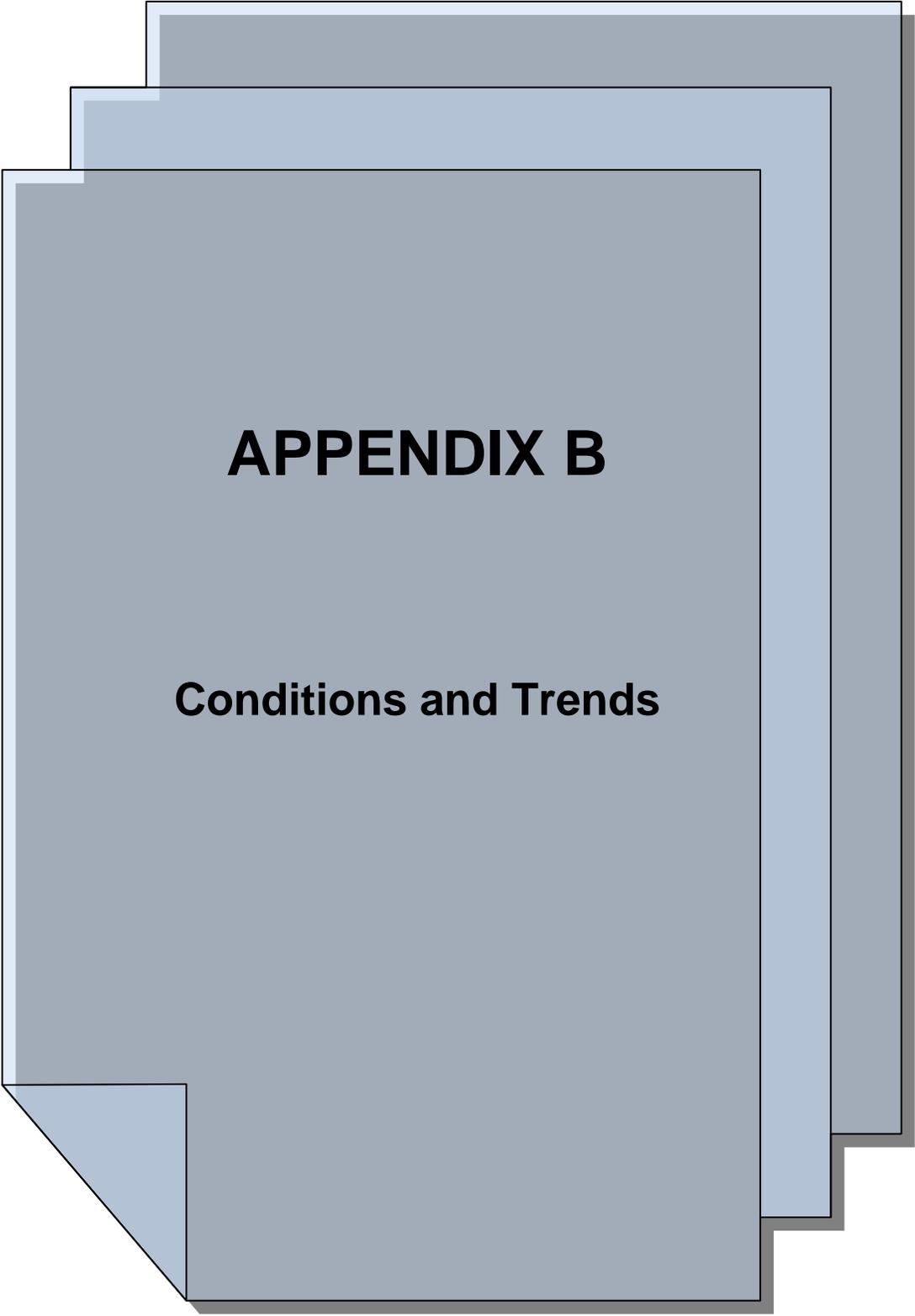
Special Areas/Athletic Fields

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Archery	Baseball (90' field)	Baseball Hoops	Boat Launch	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	Toilet Facilities	Track	Volleyball	SPECIAL FEATURES		
Archery Park	7.9																														Access to Eau Claire River		
Bollinger Field*	36.8		•						•																		•				Joint use with UW-EC		
Carson Park Entry	9.0																														Undeveloped		
Dog Park	9.4														•																Fenced-in		
Domer Park	6.5																														Access to Chippewa River		
E.C. Soccer Park	35.8																														Access to recreational trail		
Ferry Street	11.8																														Undeveloped area		
Forest Street	16.8																																
Half Moon Beach/Bayview	4.1																																
Haymarket Park	0.5																															Access to Eau Claire & Chippewa Rivers	
Hobb's Landing	2.4																															Access to Chippewa River Trail, tubing take-out	
Kappus	3.9																															Mowed open area	
Kessler Area	1.9																															Mowed open area	
Mt. Tom	20.2																															Benches	
Pinehurst	53.4																																
Shale Pit	11.3																																
Veteran's Park	7.1																																Access to Chippewa River
	242.0																																

*Owned by UW-EC

School District Open Space Sites

FACILITY NAME	# of Acres	Archery	Baseball (90' field)	Basketball Hoops	Boat Launch	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	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		●						●						●								●										
Northstar	40.6		●						●						●								●									Trails	
Northwoods	14.0														●								●										
Putnam Heights	13.4			2									●		●								●									Play equipment for handicap	
Robbins	5.7		●												●								●									Backstop	
Roosevelt	4.5			4									●		●								●									Adjacent to township park	
Sherman	8.0			●											●								●										
South	27.9														●								●										
	228.8																																



APPENDIX B

Conditions and Trends

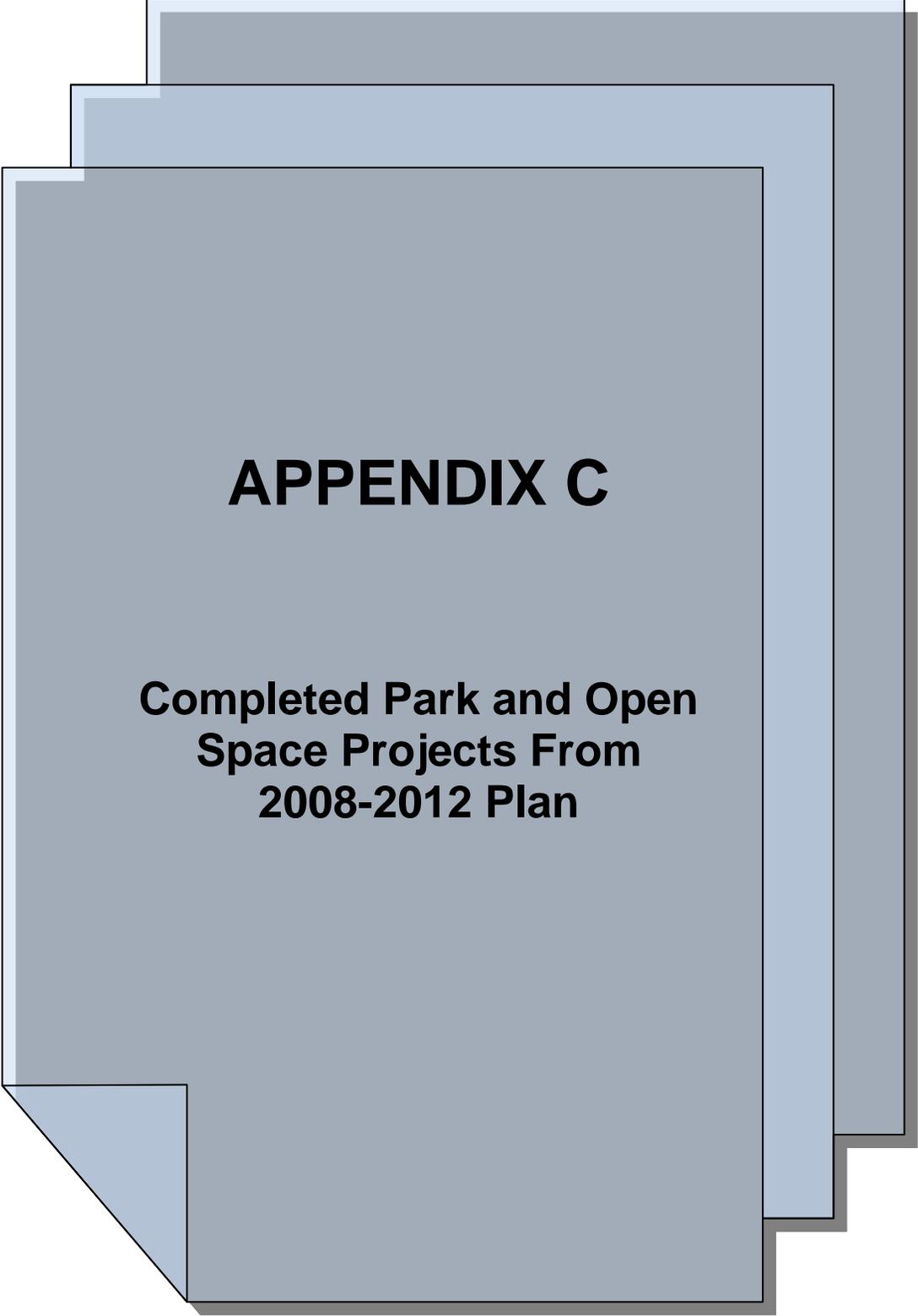
CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

The 2013 – 2017 Park and Open Space 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. See the City of Eau Claire's Comprehensive Plan and annual development reports for additional background information on demographic and growth trends for the City.
4. Residential construction within the City will be focused within the southwest and northwest quadrants of the City. We will also see residential growth to the east of the City with the redevelopment of the former Hillcrest Golf Course and to the northeast in the Village of Lake Hallie.
5. Commercial and residential construction will continue along the Highway 53 Freeway both within the City of Eau Claire and City of Altoona. Growth will continue to the southeast in the Oakwood Mall area and south along Highway 93 to the south of Interstate 94.
6. The City will continue to experience growth through annexations in similar fashion as the City has experienced in recent years.
7. Neighborhood associations will grow in number. This will place an increased emphasis on the neighborhood playgrounds and open space and will result in higher levels of expected service.
8. 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.

9. Downtown redevelopment and growth will continue in the Phoenix Park area.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. There will be an increased demand for higher risk recreation facilities such as skate parks, climbing, kayaking, etc.
13. The Eau Claire School District has experienced small increase in enrollment over the past couple years. It is anticipated that this trend will continue.
14. The number of people with the ability to pay for services and facilities will increase. However, the number of people unable to pay will also increase. Facilities and activities for both groups will need to be balanced.



APPENDIX C

**Completed Park and Open
Space Projects From
2008-2012 Plan**

Projects Listed in 2008-2012 Plan - Completed

FACILITY	PROJECT	STATUS
Boyd	Plant trees	Completed
Buffington	Change playground sand to wood fiber	Completed
Buffington	Move backstop	Completed
Cameron	Change playground sand to wood fiber	Completed
Cameron	Remove backstop	Completed
Cameron	Define and asphalt a parking lot	Completed
Carson Park	Install 100' infield lights at baseball stadium	Completed
Carson Park	Main lot restroom – improve approach surfaces	Completed
Carson Park	Installation of new entrance sign on Menomonie Street	Completed
Carson Park	Resurface trails	On-going
Cemeteries	Make improvements to maintenance building at Lakeview Cemetery	Completed
Cemeteries	Map Section L: Lakeview Cemetery	Completed
Eau Claire Dog Park	Add trees	Completed
Eau Claire Dog Park	Add segregated area for smaller dogs	Completed
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Pave trail	Completed
Eau Claire Soccer Park	Irrigate and improve Field #8	Completed
Fairfax Pool/Pool	Paint pool and pumphouse replacement	Completed
Fairfax Pool/Pool	Construct pavilion at the pool	Completed
Grover Heights	Continue to plant plantings to screening of the industrial area	Completed
Half Moon Beach and Bayview	Replace sand on the beach	Completed
Half Moon Lake	Continue to implement water quality improvement program	On-going
Half Moon Lake	Construct a boat launch on southeast shoreline near Lakeshore Park	Completed
Half Moon Lake	Acquired properties on northwest corner of the lake.	Completed
Hobbs Arena	Add lobby, lockers, offices, and increase the seating capacity	Completed
Hobbs Arena	Paint the building	Completed
Hobbs Arena	Install new ground signs	Completed
Keyes Property	Acquisition of Keyes property adjacent to Cty Rd II.	Completed
Mount Simon Park	Purchase of residential properties on Dells Pond (one purchased)	Completed
Newell	Shelter house – reside, reroof, and needs a door change	Completed
Northwest Community Park	Develop Park Master Plan	Completed
Northwest Community Park	Winter sports facilities	Partially completed
Other Projects	Central Maintenance Building – construct storage bins	Completed
Other Projects	Transfer park storage from Carson Park to CMF	Completed
Otter Crk. Community Park	Prepare master plan for park	Completed
Owen Park	Replace Elms – replant annually with diseased resistant variety	Completed
Owen Park	Recondition wells	On-going
Owen Park	Resurface tennis courts	Completed
Phoenix Park	Construct restrooms near pavilion and provide storage space	Completed
Phoenix Park	Upgrade electrical service	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Complete trail sections from Barstow St. to Birch St.	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Construct trail from Grand Ave. to Owen Park	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Widen the trail under Lake Street bridge	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Complete main trail from Eddy Lane to northern City limits	Completed
Recreational Trail System	Develop plan/acquire land for trail in 600 block of Menomonie St.	Completed
Sundet Park	Landscaping and grass needed	Completed
Westridge Village Park	Develop neighborhood park	Completed
Wilson Park	Install automated irrigation system	Completed
Wilson Park	Remove trees with severe crown die back summer 2007	Completed
Zephyr Hill	Convert to girls fast pitch field and improve the infield material	Completed

