

*** All present are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with our City's Core Values ***



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation or Sub-unit thereof.

Notice is hereby given that the Park and Recreation Committee of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU**
Date/Time: **Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 4:00pm**
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403) - Council Chambers**
Members: **Dawn Herbst, Carol Lukens, Tom Kilian, Lou Larson, Sarah Watson**

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (All items listed may be acted upon)

- 1 Call the Meeting to Order
- 2 Public Comment or Suggestions
- 3 Approve Minutes - June 20, 2022
- 4 Discussion and Possible Action on City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update
- 5 Discussion and Possible Action on the Presentation on Invasive Species
- 6 Educational Items
 - A. Wausau Whitewater Park Dedication
 - B. Park Update (City Pools, Dog Park, Forestry, Eau Claire River Conservancy, 400 Block Q-Server, General Maintainance/Routine Operations/Programs)
 - C. Riverside Park Remediation Update
- 7 Future Agenda Items -
- 8 Next Meeting Date - August 1, 2022 407 Grant St, Wausau WI 54403 - Council Chambers
- 9 Adjournment

Jamie Polley, Director

Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may view the meeting live over the internet on the City of Wausau's YouTube Channel <http://www.tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>, live by cable TV, Channel 981, and a video is available in its entirety and can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/WausauCityCouncil>. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Jamie.polley@co.marathon.wi.us with "Parks Committee public comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, if agendized, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6590 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 6/30/2022 @ 4:25 p.m. Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to Jodi Luebke, Park Office (715) 261-1560.

Distribution List: City Website, Media, WSD-Admin, Alderpersons, Mayor, Polley, Dept. Staff, Maryanne Groat, Brad Lenz, Eric Lindman, Lance Leonhard, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Wausau Events, Public Access, Wausau River District

AGENDA SUMMARY

4. Discussion and Possible Action of City Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update

MSA Professional Services has been contracted to assist the City in updating the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The current plan the City has was for 2017-2021. MSA and staff have begun the process with an initial kickoff meeting to set the plan for the update. MSA will attend the July 5th meeting remotely to kick-off the project with the Committee. MSA will review the schedule and scope of the project, the draft community survey, maps, needs and issues or opportunities for the City parks. In your packet you can review the draft survey and provide comments on the issues and opportunities you see for the park system.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Presentation on Invasive Species

The County Conservation Planning and Zoning Department has proposed an invasive species removal effort to help restore native plant species on Barker Stewart Island. The proposed project would be a phased approach that would include removal of the existing invasive plant species followed by replanting these areas with native species that would improve the overall habitat of the island. There has been collaboration with the Parks Dept., Wausau Bird Club, Golden Sands RC&D, and American Bird Conservancy to begin the planning process. The long-term goal is to create improved bird habitat.

Along with this proposed project, Golden Sands is going to provide an educational presentation about some of the common invasive plant species found in our area. The presentation will include tips for identification as well as removal strategies.

Jared Mader from Marathon County CPZ and Chris Hamerla from Golden Sands RC&D will be presenting.

6. Educational Items

6A. Wausau Whitewater Park Dedication

After 9 years from inception to finish the Wausau Canoe and Kayak Corporation believe that Wausau now has the finest whitewater park and competition course in the World.

They want to encourage our young people to stay or return to our community and this is one feature of WaUSAu to help make that happen. Park staff has also been doing a great job with the fine touches on landscaping and is providing the club with information to help them replant the dyke with native, no maintenance, plants and flowers. They are also working with the WaUSAu Chamber on the West Bank improvements.

Attached is the announcement of the park dedication. They will be handing out some State awards to some of the major local companies who made this happen. The Commission members are encouraged to attend.

You can also see what's happening on the course, 24-7, on our live video cam:

www.wausauwhitewater.org Angelcam

6B. Park Updates

City Pools:

Memorial Park Pool was closed for a few days this past week for repairs to the slide matting that came loose from the bottom of the pool.

Dog Park:

Park is substantially open with just a few areas fenced to allow for turn to be established. The entrance and one interior gate were vandalized last week and staff is working to get them repaired. The shelter is planned to be installed by the end of July.

AGENDA SUMMARY

Forestry:

Major storm clean up from the storm on June 15th has continued. Both boulevard and park trees were impacted. We do not have a total count of damaged trees however it is anticipated to be over 100. Planting is underway with anticipated completion of spring planting by early July.

Eau Claire River Conservancy:

Three boardwalks have been constructed for areas where people have made crossings. They will now be installed. The Wausau Bird Club graciously donated \$700 to the project.

400 Block Q-Server:

The server for the fountain has been repaired and the fountain is up and running.

General Maintenance:

ADA compliance work has been ongoing per the recent audit

Routine Operations/Programs:

Building and structure maintenance.
Shelter reservations and Special Events.
Equipment maintenance and repair

6C. Riverside Park Remediation Update

There is no update at this time.

DRAFT

CITY OF WAUSAU – PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: June 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Dawn Herbst (c), Carol Lukens, Tom Kilian, Lou Larson, Sarah Watson

Others Present: Jamie Polley-Parks Director, Eric Lindman-Public Works Director, REI representative

1. In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order by Polley at 4:00pm.

2. Public Comment – Gary Gisselman, 319 Park Avenue, Wausau was disappointed with the street tree cutting during reconstruction on North 4th Avenue and asked that they be more diligent and protective of the urban forest.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2022 – **Motion** by Watson, second by Larson to approve the Park and Recreation Committee draft April 4, 2022 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Electing the Chair and the Vice Chair – Nominations for Chair were opened. Watson nominated Herbst for Chair. Larson nominated Kilian for Chair. Nominations were closed and Lukens, Herbst and Watson voted yes for Herbst, Kilian and Larson voted no. Herbst was declared Chair of the Committee. Nominations for Vice-Chair were opened. Herbst nominated Lukens for Vice-Chair. Larson nominated Kilian for Vice-Chair. Nominations were closed and Lukens, Herbst and Watson voted yes for Lukens, Kilian and Larson voted no. Lukens was declared Vice-Chair of the Committee.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on the Roles, Responsibilities and Authority of the Park Commission and Parks and Recreation Committee – Polley gave history that the City and County has had a joint Director for the Park Department since 1924. In 1973 the State revised statutes to allow the County to have power and jurisdiction over City facilities and parks if both the City and County agreed and provided agreement for that. In 1974 the City relinquished authority over the park system and staffing of the Parks Department to the County and has been on more of a contract basis since then. A new Park Commission was also formed in 1974 with three City Council members recommended by the Mayor to the County Administrator, three County Board members and one member at large. In 2002 the City Park Committee was put in place and was supposed to be advisory or advocate for the parks to the Park Commission. Past practice has been to bring City items to the Park Committee and County items to the Park Commission. It should never have been that way because the Park Commission represented by both entities should see all park related items. City financial or personnel items still will go to City Council if it's a city issue and to County Board if it's a County issue.

It was found that the current City Park Committee has no authority, tasks, duties or responsibilities listed anywhere. It will have to be discussed whether this Committee remains intact and has some responsibilities outlined or if items would be handled through the Park Commission. A draft contract for services was done in 1992 and could be redone to current times. Jacobson spoke on what their research found and how things have evolved over time. Kilian and Larson raised concerns about City issues not being heard. Polley said City issues wouldn't get lost with the Park Commission because the Park Commission covers the City and County and if it is a City issue it has to come to the City Council. That's why there is equal representation and the citizen member is chosen together. It's her job as Director to see that all the park issues, City and County, are properly vetted and discussed at the Park Commission. Kilian didn't want to subordinate any City policy matter to the County. Polley said if City Council wants to have policy come to them, then that will be put in the agreement that will come forward. It would not allow the County to make policy for the City or that could be specified. Jacobson discussed some possible options the City could consider moving forward. Polley reiterated that it was the job of the City Council members on the Park Commission to make proposals and recommendations of what comes to the City, that is what they are appointed to do on the Park Commission. The Park Commission has to look at the entire park system. All Park Commission members have to look at the good of the whole Department. Staff is doing its best for the community and the County and City budgets priorities of the Park Commission.

6. Discussion of the Presentation of the Department Overview – Polley gave an overview of the department. She discussed its mission, organizational structure, history, and budget. The Department serves the community through quality of life, tourism and natural resources. The park system is built through the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. The Department receives help through grants, donations, sponsorships, contracts and partnerships with many volunteer hours for maintenance and funding. Polley discussed Department needs/challenges, initiatives/future projects and customers.

7. Educational Items

A. Park Update – Athletic Park: First Woodchuck game is 5/31, staff worked additional hours to get the stadium ready for the season. New signage directing parking has been installed. City Pools: The pools were filled around Memorial Day. The Pool and playground staff installed and tested the pool mechanical equipment to ensure the pool systems were operational for the season. Pools opened 6/4. Dog Park: Agility course is installed. Restoration around the concrete pads is complete and the area has been seeded. Small dog area is open while the seed establishes in the large dog area. Shelter will be installed as time allows this summer. Forestry: Planting is underway with anticipated completion of spring planting by mid-June. Garbage Update: Garbage collection has increased in cost to the point where we have reduced the number of pickups by 40%. Due to illegal dumping, we have also asked our vendor to install different lids at some locations to limit the size of debris that can be deposited. General Maintenance: ADA compliance work has been ongoing per the recent audit. Routine Operations/Programs: Building and structure maintenance, shelter reservations and special events, equipment maintenance and repair.

B. Riverside Park Remediation Update – A report was provided and is currently under review by the WDNR and staff is awaiting their comments/response on how to move forward. Once this document is approved by the WDNR they will be bidding out the work for any remediation necessary. Kilian asked questions about the sampling that was done which were answered by a representative from REI. He expressed concern regarding adjacent residences, was glad that the park remediation was finally being addressed and hoped the City won't take as long in the future to address a situation like this if it would arise again.

8. Future Agenda Items – none brought forward

9. Next Meeting Date – Meeting date determined to be held on Tuesday July 5th at 4:00pm in Council Chambers at City Hall.

10. Adjournment – **Motion** by Watson, second by Kilian to adjourn at 5:25 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 5-0.

To: Wausau Parks & Recreation Committee
From: Becky Binz, AICP, Project Manager
Subject: July 5th Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting – CORP Kickoff
Date: June 30, 2022

MSA and the Parks & Recreation Department have begun the process of updating the City of Wausau's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. MSA will attend your July 5th meeting remotely to kick-off the project. At the meeting we intend to review the following items:

1. **Project Schedule/Scope.** A copy of the project scope is included in your packet.
2. **Draft On-Line Community Survey.** A pdf copy of the survey is included in your packet. The survey will be hosted online via SuveyMonkey and available July 14-August 11. **Please return edits to Jamie by June 11.** We will discuss outreach at the meeting.
3. **Park Maps.** Review Existing Parks and Park Service Areas maps.
4. **Wausau Parks Needs Assessment Highlights.** A summary of initial findings from the quantitative analysis and prospective park user profiles.
5. **Park Assessment Form.** Please tour parks and complete the form in your packet to identify improvement projects in each park. **Please email completed forms to Jamie by August 1.**
6. **Meeting Questions.** Please take a look at these questions before the meeting on the 5th and gather your initial thoughts and opinions regarding issues and opportunities at City parks and desired improvements:
 - a. Thinking about the park system as a whole – what are strengths in the park system?
 - b. Thinking about parks individually or as a whole – what do we need to add?
 - c. What is the next big park project you want to tackle?

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

MSA will provide assistance updating the City's 2017-2021 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The updated plan will be completed in InDesign and formatted the same as the current Marathon County CORP (2020-2024) so that the two plans can be easily combined as one planning document in the future. The following phases and tasks will be incorporated into the updated plan:



PROJECT APPROACH

PHASE 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

TASK 1 | STAFF KICK-OFF MEETING, MEETING #1 (VIRTUAL)

MSA will coordinate a virtual working session kick-off meeting to consider project start-up activities with the Parks Director.

- Review project scope and schedule
- Review draft Community Survey and discuss outreach methodologies
- Review list of available/desired data and planning documents
- Prepare for the first Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC) meeting

TASK 2 | EXISTING CONDITIONS

MSA will review the following plans and incorporate applicable recommendations and policies into the CORP:

- Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2017-2021)
- Wausau Comprehensive Plan (2017)
- Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Individual City park plans, if available
- WI State CORP 2018-2023

TASK 3 | PARK INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT

The City will assist MSA by completing a CORP review document to determine prior recommendations from the 2017-2021 CORP that have either been completed, not completed but still valid, and not completed and are possibly no longer valid. No formal park tour or review will be completed by MSA.

TASK 4 | GEOGRAPHIC/LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

- **Map 1 - Existing Parks and Trails.** An existing parkland map

will be developed that will include the locations of City parks, park land owned by other public or private entities, and any state park and recreational facilities.

- **Map 2 - Park Facility Distribution.** A map visually depicting the type of recreational facilities available in each City park, including whether the facilities are lighted for extended daily use. This map is useful in determining where portions of the City may be under or over served by certain types of amenities.
- **Map 3 - Park Service Areas & Population Served.** A map identifying 10-minute walk areas from each City park and the estimated population within each 10-minute area.

PHASE 2

PARK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TASK 1 | DEVELOP PROFILE OF PROSPECTIVE PARK USERS

MSA will provide a statistical analysis regarding past and projected population statistics for the City. MSA will also assess the demographic profiles and projections within each park service area. MSA will analyze how each park contributes to the needs of the population served based on the profile of prospective park users, Maps 1-3, and the Parks Survey.

TASK 2 | QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

MSA will analyze the amount of park land per acre available to City residents based on current and estimated population projections. The results of this analysis will indicate projected deficits or surpluses of total park land, in five-year increments, through 2040. MSA will also compare this data to peer communities across the U.S. utilizing the National Recreation & Park Association's park metrics.

TASK 3 | PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE (PRC) MEETING

#2 (IN-PERSON)

MSA will meet with the PRC to:

- Review project scope and schedule
- Discuss draft Community Survey and outreach methodologies
- Review Maps 1-3 and the summary results of Tasks 1 and 2
- Obtain initial feedback on issues, opportunities, and desired improvements within the City's park system

During the time between the first and second PRC meetings, MSA will invite members to individually tour the City's parks. MSA will provide committee members with a Park Assessment Form (PAF). The PAF will lead committee members through a process to identify improvement projects (wants vs. needs) considering a number of aspects (i.e. parking, signage, equipment, amenities, restrooms, etc.) per park. This process will aide committee members in reviewing the "status" of each City park and will serve to inform the recommendations of the updated CORP.

PHASE 3 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT/QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Results of the survey will be used to develop the profile of existing and prospective park users. It will gauge user preferences and determine potential changes or additions to the parks to better serve the population.

TASK 1 | PARKS SURVEY

MSA proposes using an online survey (administered via Survey Monkey) to gather input/opinions about existing and desired park and recreation facilities. MSA will draft the survey for review by the Parks Director and the PRC at their first meeting. Links to the survey can be provided through the City's official website and promoted via local press release, emails to recreation program participants, social media outlets (e.g. Facebook, Twitter), and tapping into existing email distribution lists (ie. the Wausau School District and local recreation groups throughout the community). The survey would be available for approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks. The City is responsible for printing any hard copies of the survey if needed/desired, as well as entering any hard copy responses into Survey Monkey. MSA will provide a summary report of the survey results once the survey has closed.

PHASE 4 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

TASK 1 | PRELIMINARY PARK NEEDS

Based on the work completed in Phases 1-3, MSA will develop a preliminary list of proposed park and recreation improvements per park.

TASK 2 | STAFF MEETING, MEETING #3 (VIRTUAL)

A virtual working session meeting with City staff will be held to

consider the survey results and review of recommendations.

- Review public engagement input and various outcomes
- Consider and work through potential plan recommendations

PHASE 5 DRAFT PLAN

TASK 1 | PLAN DEVELOPMENT

MSA will begin to draft the CORP, which will include the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1—Introduction:** Summary of the plan purpose and description of the overall planning process.
- **Chapter 2—Description of Wausau:** Matrix of existing parks and open space throughout the City including location, existing characteristics, classification, and amenities; Map 1 (Existing Parks and Trails); summary of local recreational facilities not owned or operated by the City; summary of significant natural resources, such as waterways, greenways, topography, woodlands, summary of existing and projected demographics; summary of other applicable planning efforts/studies and their impacts on park planning. This section will also describe the local economic impact of parks on the City to support the need for a continued focus on funding and political support for Wausau's park and recreation system.
- **Chapter 3—Goals and Objectives:** An update of the previous CORP's goals and objectives based on best practices, changes in industry standards, and City staff/PRC input.
- **Chapter 4—Analysis of Park Needs and Demands:** A summary of the quantitative, geographic, and qualitative analysis completed in Phases 1-4, including Map 2 (Facility Distribution) and Map 3 (Park Service Areas and Populations Served). Determine gaps and deficiencies based on projected future needs. A summary of current and emerging trends in recreational demand and desires (local, state, national, and peer communities).
- **Chapter 5—Recommendations:**
 - Existing Parks. MSA will update the two-page summary sheet for each existing park and ensure format is consistent with the current Marathon County CORP. These summaries will include the following information: name of park; address; park acreage; park type; population served; a summary table of existing facilities including year installed (as provided by staff); generalized condition (e.g. poor-excellent); current issues; a summary table of recommendations including priority (e.g. low, medium, high); and planning-level cost estimates. The park summaries will also include a picture and a map of each park.
 - New Park Facilities. MSA will summarize areas proposed for future City parks, or expansions to existing parks, and new trails as determined through the planning process. MSA will identify the general location of these proposed

improvements on a new map, Map 4-Proposed Park and Trail Facilities.

- Trail Facilities. Identification of proposed trail facility improvements, focusing on connecting existing and proposed multi-use trails to parks and other community facilities, including connections to regional trails. These will be depicted on Map 4.

• **Chapter 6—Implementation:**

- Determine Funding, Operations and Maintenance Feasibility. Identify how existing parks and recreation, operations and capital improvements are developed, prioritized, and funded. Also consider any recommended changes to existing approaches relative to best practices and demand.
- Funding & Staffing Requirements. Similar to what was completed for the Marathon County CORP, MSA will calculate the amount of funding that is needed by year for park land acquisition, and park upkeep and improvement recommendations that are identified during the planning process. Based on the recommendations identified in the plan and analysis of current staff capacity, we will also recommend whether or not additional full- or part-time staff need to be added to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Capital Improvement Summary. A summary table of recommendations from Chapter 5 outlining recommendations per park, estimated costs (planning level/ ball park cost estimates or cost ranges) and priorities. This will include capacity, cost analysis, and level of service scenarios.
- Funding Opportunities. A summary table of existing sources of City park revenue and trends in expenses and revenues over the past 5-10 years with comparisons to data from up to five other communities of comparable size. A summary table of common State and Federal park grant programs including information on maximum awards and application due dates. Identification of other non-traditional funding options to help mitigate potential funding gaps.
- Positioning Strategies. Evaluate and recommend positing strategies for the Department to advocate the functions of the Department to the residents and elected officials.

• **Appendix:**

- Appendix A: Complete Survey Results
- Appendix B: Maps. 11 x 17 copies of the following maps:
 - Map 1: Existing Parks and Trails
 - Map 2: Park Facility Distribution
 - Map 3: Park Service Areas & Populations Served
 - Map 4: Proposed Park & Trail Facilities

TASK 2 | STAFF WORKING SESSION MEETING, MEETING #4 (VIRTUAL) DRAFT PLAN REVIEW

MSA will coordinate Phase 5 & 6 activities with the Parks Director.

- Review the Draft 2022-2026 CORP
- Prepare for Phase 6 City Meetings

TASK 3 | PLAN UPDATES

MSA will update the plan per the outcomes of Task 2.

PHASE 6 ADOPTION

TASK 1 | PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING, MEETING #5 (IN-PERSON)

MSA will present the final plan to the PRC for final review and recommendation to city council.

TASK 2 | CITY COUNCIL PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION (IN-PERSON)

Following the recommendation of the PRC, city council will officially adopt the Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan by resolution. MSA can provide the City with a sample resolution. At the City's discretion, city council or the PRC could hold a public hearing before adopting the plan; however this is not a requirement of the WDNR.

TASK 3 | EXECUTE SUMMARY

Upon adoption of the plan, MSA will create an Executive Summary of the 2022-2026 CORP similar to what was completed for the current Marathon County CORP. The Executive Summary will be a collection of each two-page summary sheet for each City park from Chapter 5, Maps 1-4, and a dashboard style summary of Chapter 4.

DELIVERABLES

Throughout the duration of the project, draft deliverables will be provided to the Parks Director in digital (.PDF) format. After plan adoption, MSA will provide a final digital copy of the CORP to the City. *Hard copies of the CORP may be produced per a reimbursable cost for each copy.*

SCHEDULE

The project may be completed in six months. Assuming the contract is awarded in June, MSA anticipates the project completion at the end of November, 2022. The City budgeting process will also be considered when developing the final project schedule.



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Introduction

The City of Wausau is developing a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). This plan will guide the continual improvement of the City's parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The CORP also maintains the City's eligibility for state and federal grants. The City of Wausau realizes the importance and benefits of parks, open space, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and is committed to meeting the needs of its current and future residents. By participating in this survey, you are helping to shape the future of Wausau!



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Respondent Profile

These questions will help us understand how well the survey responses represent the overall population of the community.

1. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65 or older

2. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your home?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Where do you live?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ City of Wausau | ☐ Village of Kronenwetter |
| ☐ City Schofield | ☐ City of Mosinee |
| ☐ Village of Rothschild | ☐ Marathon City |
| ☐ Village of Weston | ☐ Elsewhere in Marathon County |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

4. How long have you lived in the City of Wausau?

- ☐ 0-5 years
☐ 6-20 years
☐ More than 20 years
☐ I don't live in the City of Wausau



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Bike & Pedestrian Facilities

5. How often do you....

	3 or more times per week	1-2 times per week	1-2 times per month	1-2 times per year	0 times in the past year
Walk or run for exercise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bike for exercise	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walk for transportation from home to work, stores, restaurants, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bike for transportation from home to work, stores, restaurants, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

6. What do you see as barriers to **walking** more within the community? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Lack of ADA accessibility
- ☐ Condition or lack of sidewalk
- ☐ Distance too far
- ☐ Too much automobile traffic
- ☐ Other (please specify)

7. What do you see as barriers to **biking** more within the community? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Condition or roads/ease of travel
- ☐ Condition or lack of bicycle lanes or off-road trails
- ☐ Lack of bike parking
- ☐ Distance too far
- ☐ Too much automobile traffic
- ☐ Other (please specify)

8. Is there a specific location or destination in the City of Wausau that needs to be **improved** for bicycle or pedestrian safety?

9. Where would you prioritize the location of **new** bike facilities, routes, or trails?

10. How close is the nearest park or trail to your home?

- ☐ Within reasonable walking and biking distance
- ☐ Within reasonable biking distance, but not walking distance
- ☐ I have to drive
- ☐ Other (please specify)



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Recreational Programming

11. Did anyone in your household participate in recreational programming sponsored by the City of Wausau in the past year? (e.g. youth sports, adult sports, swim, dance, etc.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ No

12. Does the City's current variety of recreational programs and classes meet the needs of your household?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ No (please explain in what ways it is not meeting your needs)

13. Please use the space provided below to identify a type of **new** recreation program or service that the City should consider offering.



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Parks & Open Space

14. When visiting City parks, which activities or facilities do you or members of your household most commonly participate in or use? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Amphitheater/Stage | ☐ Outdoor Pool |
| ☐ Baseball | ☐ Picnic Area |
| ☐ Basketball | ☐ Picnic Shelter |
| ☐ Boat Launch | ☐ Pickleball |
| ☐ Bicycle Parking | ☐ Play Equipment |
| ☐ Biking | ☐ Pump Track |
| ☐ Car Parking | ☐ Restrooms |
| ☐ Dog Park | ☐ River/Lake Access |
| ☐ Drinking Water | ☐ Sand Volleyball |
| ☐ Disc Golf | ☐ Sandlot Backstop |
| ☐ Event Space | ☐ Skateboard Area |
| ☐ Exercise Station | ☐ Sledding |
| ☐ Fishing Area | ☐ Soccer |
| ☐ Football | ☐ Softball/Youth Baseball |
| ☐ Hockey | ☐ Splash Pad |
| ☐ Horseshoes | ☐ Tennis |
| ☐ Ice Skating | ☐ Walking |
| ☐ Obstacle Course | ☐ X-Country Skiing |
| ☐ Open Space | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

* 15. Which of the following amenities would you like to see **added or expanded** to the City of Wausau's parks system? Check up to 6 preferences.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Accessible playground equipment | ☐ Football fields | ☐ Playground equipment (ages 5-12 years) |
| ☐ Archery/Trap shooting range | ☐ Golf course | ☐ Restrooms |
| ☐ ATV trails | ☐ Golf driving range | ☐ Rugby field |
| ☐ Ball diamonds | ☐ Horseshoe pits | ☐ Sand volleyball courts |
| ☐ Basketball courts | ☐ Ice skating/Hockey rink | ☐ Shelters |
| ☐ Boating facilities | ☐ Indoor athletic complex (for multiple programs/sports) | ☐ Sidewalks |
| ☐ Bocce ball courts | ☐ Indoor pool | ☐ Site furnishings (benches, tables, grills, etc.) |
| ☐ Camping areas | ☐ Lacrosse fields | ☐ Skateboarding facilities |
| ☐ Canoe/Kayak facilities | ☐ Lighted Athletic Fields | ☐ Sledding hill |
| ☐ Community center | ☐ Off-road mountain biking trails | ☐ Snowmobile trails |
| ☐ Community gardens | ☐ Off-road walking/biking trails | ☐ Snowshoeing |
| ☐ Cricket field | ☐ On-road bicycle facilities | ☐ Soccer fields |
| ☐ Curling rink | ☐ Outdoor pool | ☐ Splash pad |
| ☐ Disc golf course | ☐ Park landscaping/Trees | ☐ Stream & shoreline restoration |
| ☐ Dog park | ☐ Park parking lots | ☐ Tennis courts |
| ☐ Equestrian Trails | ☐ Park signage/Directional signage | ☐ X-country skiing trails |
| ☐ Exercise Equipment | ☐ Pickle ball courts | ☐ Zipline/Adventure Course |
| ☐ Fishing facilities | ☐ Playground equipment (ages 6-23 months) | |
| ☐ Fitness course | ☐ Playground equipment (ages 2-5 years) | |

☐ Other (please specify)

16. What is your **favorite** park to visit in the City of Wausau?

17. Why is this park your **favorite** park to visit in the City of Wausau?



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Park & Open Space

18. Do you have any concerns about safety or accessibility in any of the City's parks?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Yes (please name of the park and describe the concern)

19. Excluding winter months, on average how often do you or members of your household visit or use...

	3 or more times per week	1-2 times per week	1-2 times per month	1-2 times per year	0 times in the past year
City of Wausau Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marathon County Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village of Weston Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village of Kronenwetter Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Village of Rothschild Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
City of Schofield Parks	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
State Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Town of Rib Mountain	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other (please specify)

20. Do you or members of your household commonly (an average of at least once per month) drive somewhere outside of the City of Wausau to use specific recreational facilities?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Yes (please specify where you go and for what activities/facilities)

21. Are there any reasons that you or members of your household **do not participate** in recreational activities? If yes, check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Not interested | ☐ Operating hours not convenient |
| ☐ I'm too busy | ☐ Poor customer service by staff |
| ☐ Facilities are not kept clean | ☐ Do not know locations of facilities |
| ☐ Facilities are not well maintained | ☐ Lack of transportation |
| ☐ Program or service is not available | ☐ Lack of personal resources (money, equipment, etc.) |
| ☐ Park doesn't contain desired features or facilities | ☐ Overcrowding |
| ☐ Security is insufficient | ☐ Medical Condition/Disability |
| ☐ Too far from our residence | ☐ Lack of restrooms |
| ☐ Lack of accessibility | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |



City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Parks & Open Space

22. How do you think the City should allocate funding for...

	Less Funding	Right Amount	More Funding
Special Events	☐	☐	☐
Recreational Activities or Programs	☐	☐	☐
Park Maintenance (maintain existing grounds/facilities)	☐	☐	☐
Installing New Park Facilities/Equipment	☐	☐	☐
Parkland Acquisition	☐	☐	☐
Bicycle Facilities/Trails	☐	☐	☐
Sidewalk Facilities/Pedestrian Enhancements	☐	☐	☐
Tree Plantings	☐	☐	☐

23. Please use this space to provide any other comments relating to pedestrian, bicycle, park, recreation services, or facilities in the City of Wausau.

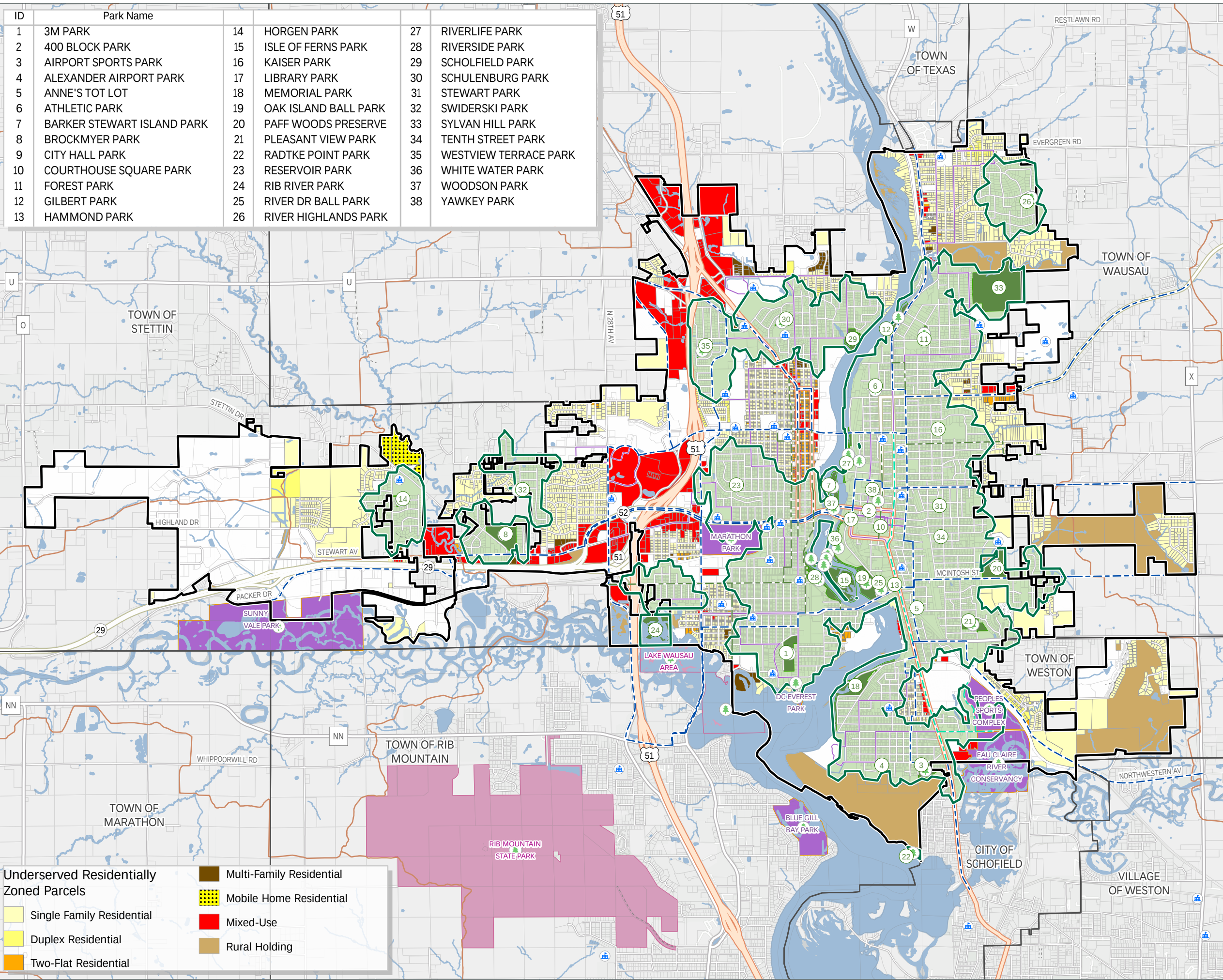


City of Wausau Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey

Thank you!

Thank you for helping shape the future of parks and recreation in the City of Wausau! If you have any questions please contact the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at (715) 261-1550.

Data Sources:
Marathon County GIS (2022)
Basemap: ESRI



Park Service Areas

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

City of Wausau
Marathon County, Wisconsin

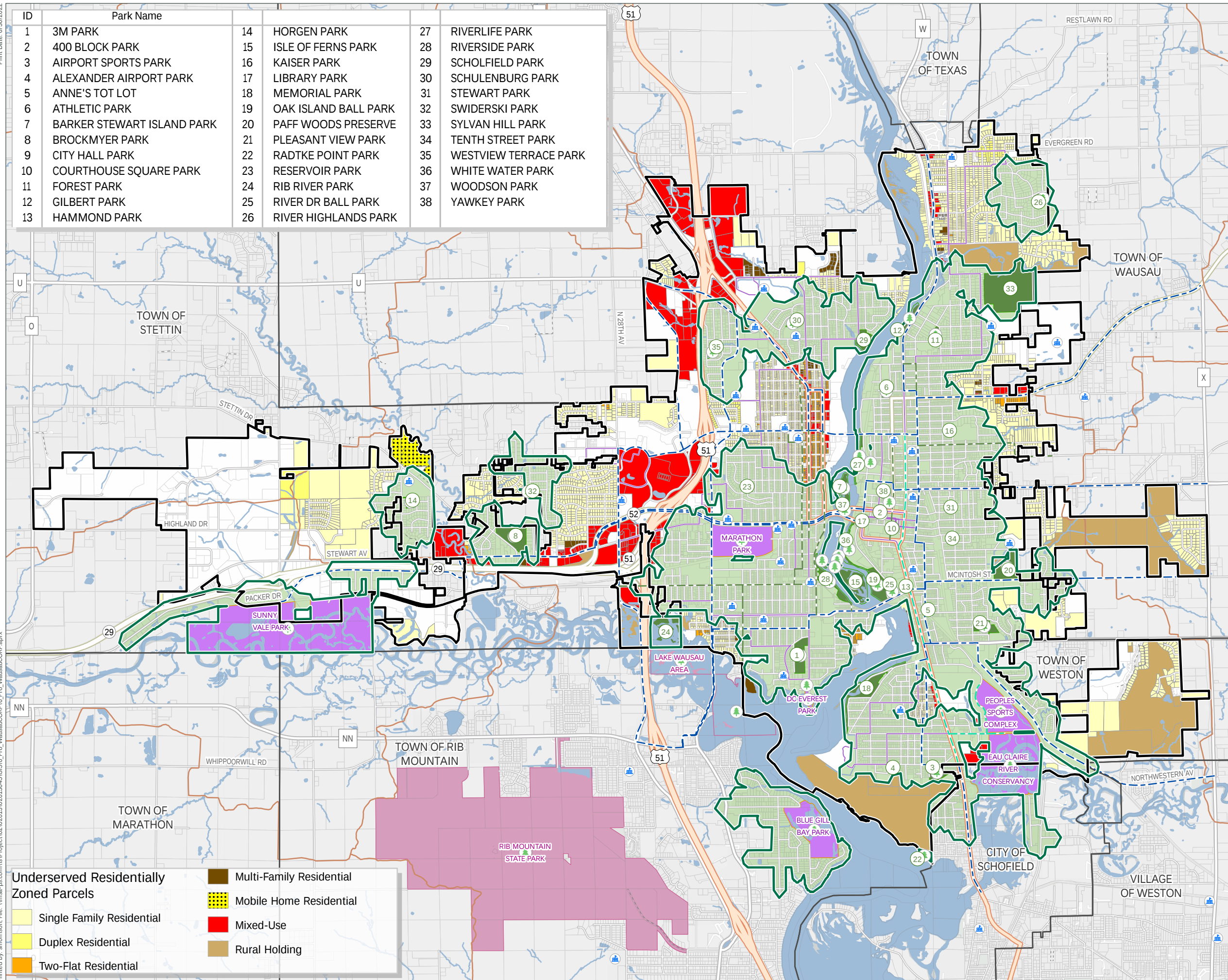
- School
- Local Bike Route
- Regional Bike Route
- Accomodate Bike Route
- Bus Route
- Snowmobile Trails
- Parcel Boundary
- City of Wausau
- Surrounding Municipality
- 10-Minute Walk Time to Park
- Park Type**
 - City Park
 - County Park
 - State Recreation Area

Data Sources:
Marathon County GIS (2022)
City of Wausau Zoning (created Feb 2020)
Basemap: ESRI



City of Wausau
Marathon County, Wisconsin

ID	Park Name				
1	3M PARK	14	HORGEN PARK	27	RIVERLIFE PARK
2	400 BLOCK PARK	15	ISLE OF FERNS PARK	28	RIVERSIDE PARK
3	AIRPORT SPORTS PARK	16	KAISER PARK	29	SCHOLFIELD PARK
4	ALEXANDER AIRPORT PARK	17	LIBRARY PARK	30	SCHULENBURG PARK
5	ANNE'S TOT LOT	18	MEMORIAL PARK	31	STEWART PARK
6	ATHLETIC PARK	19	OAK ISLAND BALL PARK	32	SWIDERSKI PARK
7	BARKER STEWART ISLAND PARK	20	PAFF WOODS PRESERVE	33	SYLVAN HILL PARK
8	BROCKMYER PARK	21	PLEASANT VIEW PARK	34	TENTH STREET PARK
9	CITY HALL PARK	22	RADTKE POINT PARK	35	WESTVIEW TERRACE PARK
10	COURTHOUSE SQUARE PARK	23	RESERVOIR PARK	36	WHITE WATER PARK
11	FOREST PARK	24	RIB RIVER PARK	37	WOODSON PARK
12	GILBERT PARK	25	RIVER DR BALL PARK	38	YAWKEY PARK
13	HAMMOND PARK	26	RIVER HIGHLANDS PARK		



Data Sources:
Marathon County GIS (2022)
Basemap: ESRI

Parks Needs Assessment Highlights *draft*

City of Wausau CORP

July 5, 2022 Parks & Rec Meeting

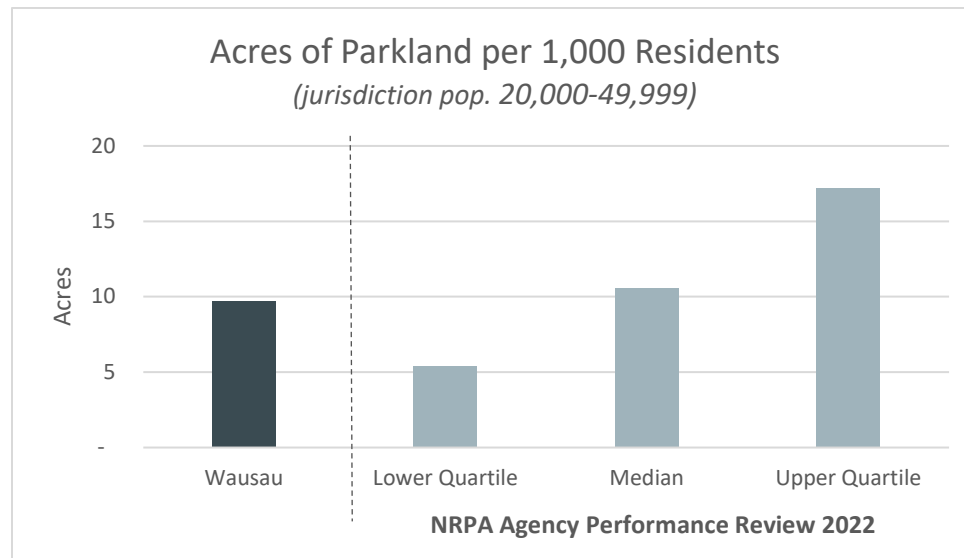
1. Quantitative Analysis

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit – Current Standard (10.5 acres/1,000 residents)

Total Park Acreage Surplus/Deficit (in acres)					
Year	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	39,994	40,627	41,012	40,973	40,597
Total Supply (acres)	386.9	386.9	386.9	386.9	386.9
Demand (10.5 acres/1,000)	419.9	426.6	430.6	430.2	426.3
Surplus (10.5 acres/1,000)	-33.1	-39.7	-43.8	-43.3	-39.4

- Currently the City is providing approximately 387 acres of parkland, not counting school facilities, county facilities or private facilities. This includes neighborhood parks, community parks, nature preserves, and special use parks.
- Currently the City is providing 9.7 acres per 1,000 residents. If no new parkland is added by 2040, the City will be providing 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Service Level Comparison to Similarly Sized Jurisdictions



2. Prospective Park Users

Profile of Prospective Park Users - 10 min walk radius										
Parks	Acreage	2021 Population	2026 Projected Population	Projected Population Change (2021-2026)	2021 % Non-White Population (race only)	2026 Projected % Non-White Population (race only)	Projected Non-White Change 2021-2026 (race only)	2021 % 17 years old and under	2021 % Over 65 years old	2021 Median Household Income
City of Wausau Total	372.01	39,429	40,053	624	19.5%	21.3%	1.8%	21.9%	19.5%	\$47,022
Mini Park	3.2									
Yawkey Park	0.8	2,367	2,460	93	28.7%	31.6%	2.9%	21.5%	11.8%	\$33,080
Lincoln Tot Lot	0.9	2,798	2,788	(10)	29.9%	31.8%	1.9%	25.1%	12.3%	\$37,870
City Hall Park	1.3	2,185	2,271	86	28.6%	31.5%	2.9%	19.9%	12.0%	\$31,496
Anne's Tot Lot	0.2	2,172	2,202	30	22.4%	24.9%	2.5%	23.9%	19.9%	\$35,958
Neighborhood Park	37.2									
Woodson Park	1.7	1,112	1,123	11	30.2%	32.7%	2.5%	21.5%	11.2%	\$29,542
Westview Terrace	4.1	582	596	14	20.8%	23.0%	2.2%	24.0%	21.0%	\$37,307
Tenth Street Park	0.1	2,694	2,770	76	23.1%	25.6%	2.5%	19.9%	17.9%	\$33,877
Scholfield Park	5.2	907	917	10	19.3%	21.1%	1.8%	18.3%	24.2%	\$51,239
River Highlands Park	5.0	525	534	9	7.7%	8.8%	1.1%	18.5%	22.6%	\$87,151
Reservoir Park	4.1	1,742	1,875	133	22.0%	23.7%	1.7%	22.3%	17.0%	\$41,396
Hammond Park	1.4	1,790	1,825	35	23.3%	25.7%	2.4%	21.5%	18.1%	\$34,796
Forest Park	4.3	1,492	1,500	8	12.3%	13.3%	1.0%	18.7%	27.2%	\$63,100
Big Bull Falls Park	2.5	1,164	1,175	11	30.1%	32.7%	2.6%	24.0%	11.4%	\$29,617
Alexander Park	2.5	1,116	1,117	1	7.5%	8.6%	1.1%	19.2%	28.0%	\$57,192
Airport Park	6.3	799	800	1	8.4%	9.4%	1.0%	19.1%	26.8%	\$54,939
Community Park	193.5									
Slyvan Hill Park	70.6	204	208	4	8.9%	10.0%	1.1%	17.2%	30.4%	\$79,103
Riverside Park	14.6	1,500	1,485	(15)	30.4%	32.6%	2.2%	26.7%	11.6%	\$38,561
Riverlife Park	14.6	417	430	13	31.1%	33.7%	2.6%	26.4%	10.4%	\$34,347
Pleasant View Park	6.7	892	902	10	26.7%	29.3%	2.6%	28.1%	16.0%	\$40,417
Oak Island Park	22.1	217	225	8	18.5%	21.3%	2.8%	21.4%	22.3%	\$35,732
Memorial Park	23.4	1,258	1,249	(9)	9.3%	10.5%	1.2%	22.0%	21.5%	\$57,939
Brockmeyer Park	25.5	200	202	2	12.0%	13.0%	1.0%	22.1%	19.1%	\$83,230
3M Park	16.0	2,125	2,107	(18)	28.5%	30.8%	2.3%	25.7%	13.6%	\$40,819
Special Use Park	15.5									
White Water Park	0.5	618	629	11	28.0%	30.9%	2.9%	18.3%	12.8%	\$29,885
Two Hearts Dog Park	2.0	893	912	19	24.4%	27.0%	2.6%	18.9%	16.3%	\$32,692
Stewart Park	1.6	2,640	2,747	107	22.7%	25.2%	2.5%	20.3%	16.9%	\$37,218
Schulenberg Park	3.6	708	714	6	21.3%	23.1%	1.8%	17.8%	21.5%	\$47,247
Kaiser Pool	1.0	2,664	2,721	57	21.5%	23.7%	2.2%	25.1%	14.1%	\$55,015
Boileau Field Park	1.6	1,636	1,609	(27)	24.3%	26.8%	2.5%	27.4%	14.0%	\$43,248
Athletic Park	3.8	2,238	2,220	(18)	25.2%	27.5%	2.3%	27.2%	13.0%	\$41,630
400 Block Park	1.3	2,167	2,251	84	27.4%	30.2%	2.8%	18.7%	13.2%	\$31,231
Conservancy & Natural Area	122.7									
Paff Woods Nature Preserve	28.0	498	513	15	22.5%	24.8%	2.3%	23.7%	20.1%	\$39,596
Fern Island Park	24.0	134	139	5	18.9%	20.9%	2.0%	18.9%	21.2%	\$35,850
Gilbert Park	6.4	754	764	10	11.2%	12.6%	1.4%	17.7%	29.5%	\$69,535
Eau Claire River Conservancy	49.3	114	113	(1)	8.0%	9.8%	1.8%	21.6%	18.9%	\$60,489
Barker-Stewart Island Park	15.0	489	501	12	31.3%	34.2%	2.9%	23.1%	9.9%	\$28,156
Undeveloped Parks*	45.8									
Rib River Park	39	289.0	285	(4)	32.4%	33.5%	1.1%	18.9%	20.9%	\$49,624
Horgen Park	4.4	622	613	(9)	14.0%	15.2%	1.2%	21.9%	19.0%	\$89,257
McIndoe Park	0.1	1,330	1,354	24	28.2%	29.6%	1.4%	18.9%	10.6%	\$29,054
Swiderski Park	2.3	246	243	(3)	14.2%	16.3%	2.1%	20.1%	21.4%	\$86,624

Key Findings

- Pleasant View, Boileau Field, Athletic, Riverside, and Riverlife Parks– over 25% of the prospective user population is youth (under 17). Pleasant View Park is the highest at 28% of the population considered youth.
- Lincoln Tot Lot has the highest total prospective user population.
- Rib River Park has the highest percentage of prospective park users who are non-white (32%). This is projected to increase to 34% by 2026.
- Barker-Stewart Island Park has the lowest median household income out of all prospective park user group areas at \$28,156.
- Sylvan Hill and Gilbert Parks have the highest percentage of prospective park users age 65 and older at 30%.

City of Wausau

2022-2027 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

PARK ASSESSMENT FORM

During June/July MSA encourages members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to take some time to tour local parks to observe and document potential park improvements to incorporate into the update of the City's CORP. This form is intended to guide your visit.

The second page of this form includes each park's name followed by a box to indicate desired improvements considered a *need* versus a *want*. **Needs generally address maintenance, access or safety items but can include installation of new or replacement equipment or facilities. Wants generally address something you would like to add to a park but may not be as essential in the short term.**

As you tour each park consider the following:

- External access to the park (sidewalks, trails, bike routes etc.)
- Signage (including wayfinding to the park and onsite signage)
- Parking & circulation (vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle)
- Internal access to the park (accessible paths to play equipment, shelters or ball fields)
- Shelters and restrooms
- Support facilities (benches, picnic tables, water fountains, grills, etc.)
- Lighting
- Diversity of play equipment or recreational facilities
- Condition of play equipment or recreational facilities
- Location of play equipment or recreational facilities
- The size of the park and any opportunities for expansion
- The main users of the park and opportunities to increase their enjoyment of the park
- Opportunities to attract other users to the park
- Use of the park for special events and special event needs
- The demographics of the surrounding neighborhood and their potential needs
- How the park fits within the entire Park System

If you identify more than one want or one need for each park feel free to number each based on your determination of priority (one being the highest).

Mini Parks

City Hall Park

Wants	Needs

Lincoln Neighborhood Tot Lot

Wants	Needs

Anne's Tot Lot

Wants	Needs

Yawkey Park

Wants	Needs

Neighborhood Parks

Airport Park

Wants	Needs

Alexander Park

Wants	Needs

Big Bull Falls Park

Wants	Needs

Forest Park

Wants	Needs

Hammond Park

Wants	Needs

Reservoir Park

Wants	Needs

River Highlands Park

Wants	Needs

Scholfield Park

Wants	Needs

Tenth Street Park

Wants	Needs

Westview Terrace Park

Wants	Needs

Woodson Park

Wants	Needs

Community Parks**3M Park**

Wants	Needs

Brockmeyer Park

Wants	Needs

Memorial Park

Wants	Needs

Oak Island Park

Wants	Needs

Pleasant View Park

Wants	Needs

Riverside Park

Wants	Needs

Sylvan Hill Park

Wants	Needs

Riverlife Park

Wants	Needs

Special Use Parks**The 400 Block Park**

Wants	Needs

Athletic Park

Wants	Needs

Boileau Park

Wants	Needs

Kaiser Pool

Wants	Needs

Schulenburg Pool

Wants	Needs

Stewart Park

Wants	Needs

White Water Park

Wants	Needs

Two Hearts Dog Park

Wants	Needs

Conservancy, Parkways, & Natural Areas**Barker-Stewart Island Park**

Wants	Needs

Gilbert Park

Wants	Needs

Eau Claire River Conservancy

Wants	Needs

Fern Island Park

Wants	Needs

Paff Woods Preserve

Wants	Needs

River Edge Parkway/Trail Corridor

Wants	Needs

Undeveloped Parks**Rib River Park**

Wants	Needs

McIndee Park

Wants	Needs

Horgen Park

Wants	Needs

Swiderski Park

Wants	Needs



WaUSAu Whitewater Park

WELCOME

*To Our Rebuilt & Enhanced Whitewater Park
& World Class Whitewater Slalom & Freestyle
Competition Waterway*

After nine years of planning, designing, fund raising, construction and testing, we have finished a major reconstruction and enhancement of our whitewater park and raceway. It has been 48 years (1974) since the inception of the idea of a world class whitewater course in downtown Wausau. Our waterway is now ready for another 50 years of "Best in Class" whitewater enjoyment by our world-wide community. The sponsors shown below stepped up to help achieve this 100% private donations goal.

Please join us for the formal dedication.

Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 9:00 am

WaUSAu Whitewater Park – 350 River Drive

CONSTRUCTION SPONSORS

Judd S. Alexander Foundation – Dudley Foundation – Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation

Abbybank – B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation – CFONCW Enhancement Grant – Land Art

Becher Hoppe - County Materials Corp – Michels Corporation – Precision Grading – Wausau Tile

Wisconsin Public Service Foundation – R. & L. Deffner – Paul J. Rogers – Merrill Tool & Water Jet

WAUSAU KAYAK & CANOE CORP. www.wausauwhitewater.org - Roger #715-571-0888